SEE LOY NORRIX STYLE PAGE 10



New enforcement of old rules has Norrix in an uproar. Where did this come from, and what do students think?

SEE HATS AND PHONES
PAGE 3

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT** 



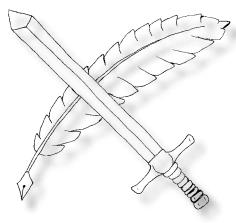
The Loy Norrix women's soccer team is diving into the spring season headfirst.

**SPORTS** 

SEE **SOCCER** PAGE 17

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 4 MAY 2017

## LOY NORIX



## KNIGHT LIFE

SINCE 1960

## SYRIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS: FACING THE UNBEARABLE



PHOTO CREDIT / CHLOE LUPINI

Syrian refugee students Abdallan Al-Hariri, Wedad Al-Hariri, Zelal Zemal, and Asmaa Zemal stand together in Steven Howell's English Second Language class. Their classmates attempt to make them laugh during what they all liked calling a "photoshoot."

## **CHLOE LUPINI** COPY EDITOR

"No one would say anything but you could see it in their eyes and their reaction to us. [You could see it in] their faces, like we were not normal. It's that we aren't accepted [in America], that is a strange thing," said Loy Norrix freshman Asmaa Zema. Asmaa is a Syrian refugee.

The Syrian Civil War began in 2011 when Syrian citizens demanded a democracy and an end to corruption. Now it has erupted into a war between the government and rebels opposing Bashar Al-Assad, the president of Syria since 2000, both of whom are still in the fight against the Islamic state (ISIS). Syria was home to more than 20 million citizens, now their home is in ruins. Since 2011, more than 12 million Syrians have fled the country in desperate need of a safe place to stay. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, over 207 thousand civilians have been killed in the

civil war.

It's easy to look away when we hear about the bad in the world. We hear about all the suffering and pain that people are going through and we tend to change the subject, but what about when that pain and sorrow moves into our own backyard? Do you still look away?

In Loy Norrix teacher Steven Howell's English Second Language (ESL) class, students from all around the world learn about the new environment they have been tossed into.

"My class is pretty much a two way street," said Howell. "I learn from them and they learn from me. There is always a way to speak with them even when I am not fluent in the 57 languages spoken in this school."

Learning a completely new language in a different country can be tricky. Constant meetings take place with translator Shadia Kanaan, who was present at this interview, making communication as easy as possible.

"It was difficult to come in the beginning, not knowing your language, but the attitude that we found among the staff helped us to like it, learn from them and to communicate with them," said Loy Norrix freshmen Zelal Zema.

Zelal, along with her sister Asmaa and two other ESL students, Wedad Al-Hariri and her brother Abdallan, were forced from their home in Syria due to the unsafe conditions. After years of awaiting approval of their immigration papers and finally being able to enter the United States, all four were brought here to Kalamazoo, where they would then meet each other.

"Loy Norrix is very very good, very nice," Abdallan proudly stated in English. "I can speak with most all, but it is still hard at times."

SEE **REFUGEE STUDENTS PAGE 16** 

## HAIL TO THE HEYL: LOY NORRIX STUDENTS RECEIVE THE SCHOLARSHIP OF A LIFETIME

## ERIKA WAGONER STAFF WRITER

On February 22nd, 2017, four students from Loy Norrix High School were offered one of the greatest scholarships awarded to future college students of Kalamazoo (K) College or Western Michigan University (WMU)'s Bronson School of Nursing. This scholarship is known as the Heyl.

Students who plan to go to K College for math or science related subjects or WMU's Bronson School of Nursing, which is all about training students to become highly skilled nurses, can apply for the scholarship to get a full ride at either of the two schools. Two Loy Norrix students who were offered and accepted the Heyl scholarship to the WMU Bronson School of Nursing are Reace Hammel and Julia Townley. Hamza Turkistani and Jesse Pollens-Voigt are the students offered the Heyl scholarship to K College but have declined it. Hannah Pittman has since been offered the scholarship and has accepted it.

Requirements over the years to be considered for the Heyl scholarship are a minimum GPA of 3.5, a challenging high school curriculum that includes one year each of biology, chemistry, and physics, four years of math, and an interest in math, science or nursing. The scholarship is typically awarded to eight students, but this



PHOTO CREDIT / ERIKA WAGONER

Senior Reace Hammel gets ready for her internship at Bronson Hospital. She is in the second year of her health science EFE.

year it has been offered to nine students scholarship opens up so many opportunit

from Loy Norrix or Kalamazoo Central High School.

Townley plans on becoming a nurse

when she completes college at WMU.

"I don't get any of the Kalamazoo
Promise, so being awarded the Heyl

scholarship opens up so many opportunities for my future," explained Townley. "I won't have to worry about loans or debt throughout college. It's truly a gift that I'm forever going to be grateful for."

SEE **THE HEYL PAGE 6** 

# KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS MAKES MAJOR CHANGES TO WEAPONS POLICY

## Kalamazoo Public Schools

## **BAILEY HANDLEY**A & E EDITOR

On Thursday, February 2, 2017, the Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) Board of Education approved changes to the school district's weapon policy. In the end, all 7 board members were in favor of changing the KPS weapons policy.

Michigan law states that people with concealed carry licenses can carry firearms in schools. However, on December 16, 2016, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled that schools and school districts have the legal authority to ban all types of firearms from school grounds. This new law also applies to school events that are held after the school day.

This change in Michigan law is what allowed KPS to change their weapons policy. Before the policy change, individuals with concealed carry licenses were allowed to carry concealed firearms on school grounds. However, it is the change in Michigan law that allowed the KPS Board to create a new policy.

Michigan law still states that school districts can allow individuals with concealed carry licenses to carry firearms in schools. The biggest revision is that school districts now have the power to ban all firearms in schools, regardless of a concealed carry license. Under these circumstances, law enforcement are the only people that may carry firearms.

Multiple people from the community spoke at the KPS Board meeting in favor of the change to the policy. No one spoke against the policy.

Bernardo Campus, a Loy Norrix High
School graduate and father of two Loy Norrix
students, was in attendance at the KPS board
meeting. He explained that he is a hunter
and gun owner and that guns are tools for
shooting things. Campus believes the only
reason to carry a gun is if you intend to shoot

something.

Trustee Carol McGlinn thanked everyone who attended the meeting and reported that not one person who contacted her considered the policy a bad idea. She felt like it was common sense to not have guns in school and said that she was happy to support the weapons policy.

Just like the KPS board and the speakers at the meeting, there are students at Loy Norrix who agree.

Lamont Goodman, senior at Loy Norrix, is happy with the changes that have been made by the KPS board.

"I feel like banning weapons from schools will be better for the safety of the school. It can decrease the likelihood of future school shootings." Goodman continued, "I believe this is one of the first steps to making the school a safer place and we will continue to see changes from the KPS Board."

James Rinehart, a senior at Loy Norrix, feels differently than most people on the change to the KPS weapons policy.

"Individuals lose enough of their rights when they step foot onto school grounds and defending yourself shouldn't be one of them," said Rinehart. "If you're responsible enough to carry everywhere else, then you're responsible enough to carry at schools."

SEE WEAPONS POLICY PAGE 8

## MU JOINS THE FIGHT TO SAVE THE

**MAGGIE LAGER** ASSISTANT WEB EDITOR

"There just isn't any natural way possible that could explain this [global] warming," explained Western Michigan University (WMU) professor David Karowe to a full and attentive audience on April fifth.

Regardless of what political leaders in the United States want us to believe, with approximately 97.5% of climate scientists in agreement when it comes to whether or not climate change is real and who it is caused by, there is no longer a true debate. Climate change is real, and it is caused by humans.

On Wednesday, March 22nd at the Bernhard Center, WMU students and staff educated on the topic of climate change, as well as guest speaker Shannon Sykes, regional coordinator for the league of conservation voters and Kalamazoo City Commissioner, gathered to present and have open discussion with concerned members of the community. They called the event "The Climate Crisis: Trump vs. Truth."

Presenters included WMU professors Ron Kramer, David Karowe and Shannon Sykes and WMU students Nicholas Miller, Allie Spring, Abbie Bristol and Loy Norrix alumni Ginny

## Climate change is real, and it is caused by humans.

Students and professionals presented in intervals of 20 minutes. Students focused primarily on why climate change matters to them personally while the other speakers focused on the bigger picture and providing information on the subject.

"We went to the highest point in Australia and there were these signs for bushfires. I went to the Great Barrier reef and it's bleached. Half of it is just dead. I want to be able to take my kids to someplace beautiful," said a passionate Miller on why climate change is an important issue to him.

After each 20 minute session, the room was opened up to event attendees to ask questions and spark open discussions with the presenters and others in attendance.

There were four main topics covered at the event:

- Recent facts that have surfaced on climate change and the "alternative facts" coming from Washington
- The people who will make climate policy decisions under President Donald Trump's administration.
- How their decisions will affect WMU students, Kalamazoo residents and others around the world.
- The voices of WMU students concerned about climate change.

With President Trump himself having recently said that he is "not a big believer in man-made climate change," the



PHOTO CREDIT / ISAAC RUBIN

Loy Norrix alumni Ginny Creamer looks into the crowd as her classmate Nicholas Miller answers a question from the audience. In an effort to bridge the gap between students and staff members, students conducted the Q&A session.

topics covered at the event came as no surprise.

Not only is President Trump a climate change denier, but many of his cabinet members are as well. To name just two, Nikki Haley, Ambassador to the United Nations, and Mike Pompeo, Director of the CIA, have both publicly spoken about the environment being low on their list of priorities.

> "I went to the Great Barrier Reef and it's bleached. Half of it is just dead. I want to be able to take my kids to someplace beautiful," said Miller.

In President Trump's short time in office he has already threatened to reduce the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) Standards, abandon Obama's Clean Power Plan, pull out of the Paris Agreement, withdraw support from the Green Climate Fund, increase support for extraction of fossil fuels and overturn the Cali Tailpipe Greenhouse Gas Emissions

It's looking pretty unlikely that President Trump will be able to stay true to his word, but the fact that these are changes he would support shows exactly where he and his cabinet stand on environmental issues.

At "Trump Vs. Truth" the message was clear: if the United States government isn't going to save the planet, people are going to have to take matters into their own hands. As people educate themselves as well as others and begin taking action, attendees at the event still have hope for the planet.

During his talk, Kramer emphasized the importance of developing a "unified progressive social movement" by supporting and joining national and local organizations, showing up at protests and demonstrations, countering denial and taking direct action through nonviolent civil disobedience.

Want to join the movement? Now is the time. There are plenty of ways to get involved in the Kalamazoo Community, from The Climate Change Coalition, who frequently host meetings open to anyone in the community, to Western's new Recognized Student Organization (RSO) "CHANGE."

## MICHIGAN NATIVE TAKES A SEAT IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CABINET

## **SEBASTIAN RODRIGUEZ** STAFF WRITER

Donald Trump was inaugurated as 45th president of the United States on January 21st, 2017. Every president has a Cabinet, which is a group made up of the vice president and 15 department heads. One of these department heads is a Michigan native.

Betsy DeVos was born on January 8, 1958 in Holland, Michigan, which is northwest of Kalamazoo. DeVos has been chosen by President Trump to be the United States Secretary of Education.

The hearing in order for DeVos to assume her position was a historic one in the sense that this hearing was the first time that a cabinet pick had to be decided by the vice president of the United States. There was a 50-50 split in the Senate on DeVos' confirmation as Secretary of Education, so Vice President Mike Pence had to step in to decide the outcome.

With DeVos as Secretary of Education, many of the staff and students at Loy Norrix might be affected by some of the decisions that she could make regarding education.

> "I don't really understand what her qualifications are for this position. For education secretary we are used to having people with a little experience make the policies," said Porco.

DeVos is an avid supporter of educational vouchers. An educational voucher is a form of government money given to the parents of a child in order for the parent to choose what school to send their child to. These can be used to pay for private school

According to Congress.gov, representative Steve King from the U.S House of Representatives created a bill called H.R.610 which would allow federal funds for elementary and secondary education in the form of vouchers for eligible students. This bill would also move to change a certain nutrition standard relating to nutrition standards in schools. The change in the nutrition standards would increase the availability of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat or fat free milk in school meals. This would reduce the level of sodium, saturated fat and trans fat in school meals while still meeting the child's nutritional need within their caloric requirements.

According to Romper.com, H.R.610 could also have an affect on children with disabilities. This would occur because H.R.610 would abolish the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) which was passed in 1965 by former president Lyndon B. Johnson. The basic purpose of ESEA is

for the government to have some sort of power in public education. The bill also created an opportunity for equal education for everyone. Since 1965, this bill has been modified. In 2001 President George W. Bush passed the No Child Left Behind Act.

In 2015, President Obama modified this bill and called it the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The repeal of ESSA would affect students with disabilities because without this bill the students with disabilities would no longer be guaranteed the equal opportunity to education that they have right

Private schools are not funded by tax dollars. They are generally funded by charging the students for tuition. According to CAPE, the average private school tuition in 2011-12 was \$10,740 for all levels of education, \$7,770 for elementary schools, \$13,030 for secondary schools and \$13,640 for K-12

The use of vouchers would encourage students to leave public schools and switch over to private schools which would affect public schools.

Matthew Porco is the current AP U.S History and AP European History teacher at Loy Norrix. As a public school teacher, Porco has strong opinions on what qualities a good Secretary of Education should have.

"I voted against vouchers when they were on the ballot in Michigan. I think that they are an attack on public schools which is a cornerstone of our democracy," said Porco.

Michael Wright is the current Government, AP Government and American Military History teacher at Loy Norrix. As a government teacher, Wright has high standards for what qualities he believes a good Secretary of Education needs.

"I believe that a parent should have the right to take their child to whatever school they choose. I think that there are parts of voucher programs that I like but there are also parts of voucher programs that I don't like. I have seen where school of choice, for instance, has hurt schools on the Eastern side of the state," continued Wright, "From what I've seen vouchers have been successful where they have been tried so I am willing to give them a shot. However, I would hate to see schools lose funding but I also see where schools waste funding."

The voucher program was on the ballot in Michigan in 2000 under the name Proposal 1. Proposal 1 was voted down with a total percentage of 69.1 votes no, while there was a 30.9 percent yes vote.

If DeVos decides to implement some type of voucher program, Kalamazoo Public Schools might lose some of its budget as well as some of its students.

Many people feel that DeVos is unfit to be the Secretary of Education due to her lack a supporter of the Common Core State of experience in a public school environment. Standards Initiative which is an educational



Betsy DeVos speaks at a conference for the American Conservative Union. (Fair Use)

"Well, honestly I think that she is too much of an unknown quantity. There is a lot about her that gives me cause for concern. The fact that she has never been in a public classroom, but I could say that about 9/10ths of the people who make education policy," said Wright, "They are either never teachers or they were teachers for too short of time to know what it's like. So I will watch what she intends to do with a great deal of precaution."

"I don't really understand what her qualifications are for this position. For education secretary we are used to having people with a little experience make the policies," said Porco.

There were many speculations as to who would replace DeVos had she not won the nomination in the Senate.

"I think Dr. Larry Arnn, who is the President of Hillsdale College," said Wright about who he believed would have been a better fit for Secretary of Education.

> "Well, honestly, I think that she is too much of an unknown quantity. There is a lot about her that gives me cause for concern. The fact that she has never been in a public classroom, but I could say that about 9/10ths of the people who make education policy," said Wright.

According to Betsy DeVos, she is not

initiative in the United States that sets the standard for what students should know in mathematics and English Language Arts at the end of each grade. But many of the groups that DeVos supports are in favor of the Common Core.

Wright is not a supporter of Common Core. "I hate Common Core and I think that it should be abolished from our schools," said

Both of these teachers have a diverse opinion on Common Core.

"I think that Common Core is a curriculum designed to bring our students into the 21st century. It's not perfect and it will need revision, but much of the opposition to it seems to be political," said Porco.

DeVos is also quoted with saying some pretty radical things. According to NBC News, while being interviewed by members of the Senate at her confirmation hearing, DeVos was asked if she believed that guns should be in schools. DeVos is quoted with saying the following, "I think probably there [Wapiti, Wyoming] I would imagine that there's probably a gun in the school to protect from potential grizzlies."

This quote received negative criticism on social media.

"I think that guns in schools are inappropriate by non-law enforcement officials under any circumstances," said

The presidential cabinet members do not have a specific term limit. Cabinet members are generally selected by the president at the beginning of their term and they tend to serve all 4 years. When the president leaves office, the cabinet members tend to resign, although it is not mandatory.

While DeVos might seem to be unqualified to be the Secretary of Education due to a lack of experience in a public school setting, she will still continue to be the Secretary of Education for the foreseeable

NEWS 3

## EDITORIAL: ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER CELL PHONE PROCEDURE ONE STUDENT INVESTIGATES AND REACTS

#### **RACHEL ZOOK LAYOUT EDITOR**

On Monday, February 27th, a new procedure regarding cell phones was introduced to Loy Norrix High School. The basis of this procedure is that the use of technology is strictly prohibited without permission during instructional hours, though the specifics of the new procedure are unclear.

According to an official draft of the procedure entitled the "Acceptable Cell Phone Use Procedure," which took effect on the first day of the third trimester, "Both teachers and students need a learning environment that is free of the distractions that cell phone usage has previously created in Kalamazoo Public Schools. Our goal is to help students be fully present within the classroom setting in order to get the most out of their education."

Though the intentions of this new procedure seem to be enough on paper, the reality of what prompted this suddenseeming crackdown on technology is unclear with only the draft of the procedure to answer some general questions.

The real reason for the change in policy is a concerned parent bringing up the use of cellphones in class during a Parent Advisory Council meeting. A survey on the issue was conducted by School Improvement Chairperson, Rachel Vote.

"Teachers were concerned that there wasn't an up to date policy [procedure] because what we had on the books did not match technology at all," said Vote.

From students, to teachers, to principals, these worries are shared by almost everyone at Loy Norrix.

"There's been some concerns by teachers and parents by the amount of cell phones used during instruction," said Loy Norrix Principal Rodney Prewitt when asked about the reason for the strict new procedure despite there already being a rule against students using electronics during instructional hours in the student handbook.

It seems that every year Loy Norrix students are inundated with various levels



PHOTO CREDIT / RACHEL ZOOK

Nathan Campbell looks at his phone during instructional class time. This will result in disciplinary actions under the new phone procedure.

of enforcement of the cell phone procedure. The big question is what prompted the new enforcement this year, especially with the end of the school year just around the corner.

While students do understand and empathize with Kalamazoo Public School administrators who genuinely want to minimize distractions and create an optimal learning environment, students would also appreciate transparency about all of the objectives of these new procedures that are nonexistent one week and then strictly enforced the next.

Students and staff alike all deserve to understand the real motives behind the new procedure. As a student, keeping up with the new rules that seem to be imposed randomly throughout the school year is difficult at times. The lack of consistency when it comes to these rules is what makes these changes appear for the most part as nothing more

than quick, temporary solutions to whatever is deemed a problem within the student body at any given time.

The intention to address such concerns and rectify them is understandable, but many students feel like these rules and several others (such as the ban on hats or the strict bathroom schedule) feel juvenile. The fact that there are students in this school who are old enough to be trusted to vote in a national election, join the military, and hold a job but not mature enough to have access to their phone is ironic. Hopefully students and administrators can gain a mutual understanding and empathize with the others' perspective when it comes to the implementation of these stifling rules.

A common misconception is that teachers want to completely remove the ability of students to have access to their technology. However, Vote said, "We want to integrate technology into education in a

way that's meaningful."

Some of the specific details of the draft brought up some questions, such as the phrase, "Cell phones are not for use in locker rooms or bathrooms at any time as this is a safety concern."

According to Principal Prewitt, this does mean that using a phone while going from class to the bathroom during instructional time can result in a campus security officer confiscating it. Passing time from class to class and during lunch, however, is an appropriate time to be using one. What is acceptable usage in class is up to teachers to decide.

"There's been some concerns by teachers and parents by the amount of cell phones used during instruction," said

Principal Prewitt.

"With the new procedure we're hoping that teachers still have leeway in their own classrooms to use technology in a way that

they think is appropriate," said Vote.

The restriction on cell phones may seem unfair to many students who don't see their usage of electronics as a problem, but when you think about the bigger picture, it helps put things into perspective. When learning comes second to texting or when events get recorded and spread via social media that create false rumors and speculations, Loy Norrix's reputation that the staff and all of us as students work to uphold is tarnished. Students get sick of constantly hearing people trash Loy Norrix and not recognizing all of the great things that go on at this school.

"Schools who have all of these negative images portrayed to the public [are] very hard to deal with. They let the actions of 10 percent or less paint the picture for 1,600 kids," said Prewitt.

So, if this is what it takes to get people to start giving our school a little more credit, even though it may not be a popular procedure, we should all make an effort to adhere to it.

## FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE ASTRONAUT VISITS KALAMAZOO



PHOTO CREDIT / CHRISTIAN BAKER

Mae Jemison gave a press conference at Western Michigan University regarding her upcoming talk at the university as well as her work with One Hundred Year Starship. Jemison also emphasized the importance of different perspectives in science.

## **GRACE MARSHALL** WEB-EDITOR-IN-CHEIF

"I wanted to be involved because just like every little kid, I've looked at the stars and wondered what they were and I felt that I had a right to be there and that I could make really great contributions." Jemison continued, "If there had been thousands of people of every color and type and gender and ethnicity and geography in space, I'd have been like 'I want to go! I want to go! and if there had never been one person I would [still] have wanted to go."

On October 17, 1956, Mae Jemison was born in Decatur, Alabama, to Charlie and Dorothy Jemison. Little did they know that their daughter would become the first African American woman to go to space.

Jemison grew up in Chicago, Illinois, at times Jemison expressed an interest in being a scientist when she grew up, at other times she said she wanted to be a professional dancer.

At only age 16, Jemison went to Stanford University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering and fulfilled requirements for a Bachelor of Arts in African and Afro-American Studies. Jemison got her Doctor of Medicine degree in 1981 at Cornell Medical College and interned and worked as a general practitioner at Los Angeles County-University of South Carolina Medical Center.

After getting her medical degree, Jemison joined the Peace Corps where she served as a doctor for three years. In 1987 Jemison was accepted to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) space program as one of fifteen candidates chosen out of around 2 thousand applicants. She made history as the first African American woman to go into space as the science mission specialist on the mission STS-47 Spacelab-J, a cooperative mission between the United States and Japan from September 12 to 20, 1992.

"If there had been thousands of people of every color and type and gender and ethnicity and geography in space, I'd have been like 'I want to go! I want to go! and if there had never been one person I would [still] have wanted to go," said Jemison.

After resigning from NASA in 1993, Jemison began her work educating mainly children and getting as many people as possible involved in science and the arts. Jemison felt that science and the arts were not as different as people made them appear.

A famous quote of Jemison's from her TED talk explains it best, "The difference between science and the arts is not that they are different sides of the same coin even, or even different parts of the same continuum, but rather, they are manifestations of the same thing. The arts and sciences are avatars of human creativity."

Jemison's current work includes leading the project known as 100 Year Starship and traveling to give talks on both her experiences as an astronaut and her current involvement in science. On March 23, 2017, Jemison came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, to give one of a series of talks called Science and the Human Endeavor.

At a press conference a few hours before the talk, Jemison spoke to a combination of student and professional reporters.

The main highlight of Jemison's talk was the significance of individual perspectives. At the press conference, Jemison spoke about how as a black woman, astronaut, scientist, kid from the southside of Chicago, doctor and dancer, she has had many experiences, each giving her a new perspective to "bring to the table," or contribute to conversations between world leaders, scientist, and other important minds, about how to solve the world's problems.

"The perspectives you grew up with, the perspectives that you learned along the way, influence how you see problems and how you solve them," said Jemison.

At her talk, Jemison expanded on her ideas. In her opinion, it is important to have as many people involved as possible in order to best solve problems; however, Jemison also noted that perspectives can only be heard if people speak their mind.

"What difference does it make if you get a place at the table and you mind your table manners like everyone else," said Jemison at

"Right now we look at science fields, STEM-science, technology, engineering, mathematics- any of those fields for actually helping us solve the world's problems, and yet at the same time we don't have as many people involved as we should. We don't have the perspectives that we could get, and so for me, it's always been really important to try to get many people involved. That's across all kinds of fields," said Jemison.

Shortly after she left NASA, Jemison started The Earth We Share International Science Camp for middle school and high school students.

"It was called 'The Earth We Share' because even though I'm really, really excited about space exploration, and that's where a lot of my work lies, it's not gonna solve our problems except for as we apply them to life here on Earth," Jemison continued, "Most of us are going to be on this planet and then the shattering news is we have to share this planet no matter what."

Jemison's goal was to get more kids involved in the pursuit of knowledge through science literacy. Science literacy is not solving complex equations but being able to look at information on a page relating to science or technology and understanding

what you are looking at.

As a child Jemison was often encouraged to do her own learning and discovery by her parents.

"My mother would always challenge me to read new things, and whenever I thought I was just a little too bright, she would give me something that I didn't know the answer to and challenge me to go find it, and also support me when I was going to find it as well," said Jemison.

Jemison's father would often encourage her to read books and join card games with him and his friends despite her young age.

"Both my parents, my mother and my father, were very important. You know, I chose my parents well... I think we come out of the shoot inspired. I think children are, as I said, very motivated and the big thing is to not demotivate them or take their energy away," said Jemison.

During the press conference Jemison responded to questions from reporters about children and their "addiction to technology." Jemison was quick to point out that children's interest in technology stems from seeing their parents use technology and having movies and shows placed in front of them from a young age to make it easier to watch them. Jemison repeatedly stressed that technology was "NOT a kid's problem".

Jemison went a step further by relabeling adults' struggle to understand technology as a resistance to learning.

"There's something that adults must stop saying, cause they think it's cute, you know, when they say, 'I can't program my blueray player but my grandbaby can.' None of that's cute, it's just not cute, and it's telling a five year old that you don't expect to grow and learn once you get to be a certain age. That's absurd," said Jemison.

Jemison also spoke of her current work as the president of a program known as One Hundred Year Starship. The project's goal is to achieve interstellar space travel or travel between stars (and their solar systems) in the next hundred years. To help explain the magnitude of this project- every star is the center of its own solar system, our planet Earth is a part of the solar system that revolves around the Sun, which is a star.

Mars, a planet also in our solar system, is 54.6 million kilometers away, and humans still haven't walked on it. In comparison, the nearest star to Earth is trillions of kilometers away, so far away that the distance is measured in light years- or the speed at which light, the fastest thing in the universe, travels- and is 4.24 light years away. The One Hundred Year Starship project members are trying to think through the massive challenges that would be faced by people on an interstellar voyage.

SEE **JEMISON PAGE 4** 

## FOREIGN PERSPECTIVES ON THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT

#### **SEBASTIAN RODRIGUEZ STAFF WRITER**

President Donald Trump has had one of the most controversial rises to power in the history of the United States of America. When Trump announced his candidacy for the presidency of the United States on June 16, 2015, some people believed that he would eventually become president. Trump has also had an effect on foreign countries. Many of the foreign students here at Lov Norrix can shed light on how our neighbors and associates across the sea and around the world are feeling.

#### FINNISH STUDENT SARITA NIEMINEN CONCERNED WITH TRUMPS TIES WITH RUSSIA

Senior Sarita Nieminen is a foreign exchange student from Finland. Nieminen has been in America since August 2016.

"I thought really America? Really?" Nieminen said about her first thoughts when she found out that Trump had been elected.

In Finland the people vote directly for the president while the parliament votes for the prime minister. Finland is considered a unitary parliamentary republic which is why there is a president as well as a prime minister.

"The current president is Sauli Niinistō who has been in office prime minister usually handles the problems in the country while affairs."

"We are a small country so we need the support of the west and with Trump as President, we might not have that support," The "New York Times" recently wrote an article that talks

since 2012," said Nieminen. "The the president deals with foreign

> since we are right by Russia said Nieminen. about some of Trump's campaign aides having communications with Russian officials during the presidential campaign.

"In Finland we think that he is a smart businessman and he is one of the types of people who only thinks about himself,"



Sophomore Paula Diezguez Fernandez is a foreign exchange student from Spain. Fernandez has been in the United States since August 2016, but followed the election from home before she arrived.

"I wanted Bernie Sanders to win because I really liked his ideas," said Fernandez.

Fernandez paid attention to the election before coming to the United States as did most of Spain. "My family and most of the people in Spain don't like him

[Donald Trump]. A lot of people think that he is racist and sexist," said Fernandez.

Spain has a unitary parliamentary onstitutional monarchy which includes a king and a queen as well as a prime minister.

> "The current prime minister is Mariano Rajoy, the king is King Felipe XI, and the queen is Queen Letizia I," said Fernandez regarding Spain's monarchy and government, "In Spain the prime minister must win by 2 times more than the second place candidate."

Mariano Rajoy has been the prime minister of Spain since 2011. In 2011 Rajoy beat Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba, according to Wikipedia.

added Nieminen.



"I was afraid I was going to get deported," said Leonardo Gutierrez Caceres, a senior at Loy Norrix and foreign exchange student from Bolivia, of his first thoughts when he found out that Trump was elected. "The current Bolivian president is Evo

Morales and the vice-president is Alvaro Garcia-Linera," said Caceres. The Bolivian electoral system is very similar

to that of the United States, but there are a few differences according to the Political Database of the Americas. This database is run by Georgetown University that contains information on all of the 35 countries in the Western Hemisphere. In Bolivia it is mandatory for the citizens to vote in presidential elections while in the United States it is not.

Evo Morales has been the president of Bolivia since 2006. President Morales is currently serving in his 3rd term that ends in 2019.

"In Bolivia we are afraid that we will no longer be allowed into the United States," said Caceres, reflecting the fears of the Bolivian people on Trump's presidency. "I wanted Hillary Clinton to win because I felt that she was a better fit to the presidency."

Donald Trump beat out Hillary Clinton by 77 electoral votes. Prior to the election, Clinton was viewed as the favorite to become the next President of the United States.

All of these countries have diplomatic relations with the United States. According to the U.S. Department of State, Finland-United States diplomatic relations began in 1919 following Finland's declaration of independence from the Russian Empire. Bolivia and the United States diplomatic relations began in 1849 following Bolivia's independence from Spain. Spain and the United States diplomatic relations began in 1783 but were briefly severed between 1898-1899 due to the Spanish-American war.

While all of these students are from around the world, Trump as president might still have an effect on their respective countries.

According to David Cord, an American journalist and author, many Finnish people fear that Trump and little too friendly with one another. During the Winter War Russia invaded Finland in 1939 in an attempt to claim parts of Finnish territory. There is the fear that Russia will begin to pressure Finland and attempt to achieve what Russia could not during the Winter War, which is domination of Finland. This would be possible because Russia would not fear American intervention due to the friendly relationship between Trump and

Miguel A. Buitrago's blog, Mabblog, claims that Bolivia could be slightly affected by the withdrawal of

## A GIRL GIVING HOPES FOR CURES AND CARING



PHOTO CREDIT / IZZE FAHL

Sophomore Ophelia Smith shows a photo of her grandma and explains her complex career as a microbiologist. Ophelia is inspired to be a successful woman because of her grandmother's influence.

## **IZZE FAHL** GUEST WRITER

Ophelia Smith, a sophomore at Loy Norrix, solemnly walks into her first hour class, distraught, with tears streaming down her face. The student who appeared to never struggle was in the midst of a mental breakdown. The young woman who was everyone's shoulder to cry on felt alone.

This January 7th, Ophelia's grandma, her

inspiration, passed away from a progressive type of breast cancer that rapidly continued to grow stronger in her lungs. A dedicated student, Smith came to school despite the tragedy.

"I came to school not only to continue my perfect attendance, but I also knew that a lot of people have it a lot worse off than I do," said Smith.

Not only did Smith learn to be caring and have pride from her grandmother, but she also excelled in learning, which has further inspired her to want to become an oncologist. The career choice also came from watching the struggles her grandmother went through.

"I want to make the process of treatment and remission easier for the client," said Smith.

Smith wants to attend Yale for college because she's heard of their prestigious oncology and hematology programs. According to the Yale Cancer Center, the college's oncology studies play a vital role in the advancement of the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) goal of reducing the mortality rate from cancer using scientific research, cancer prevention and innovative cancer treatment.

"A lot of people in my family have passed from cancer and they never deserved it," said Smith, her face damp with tears in the corner of her eyes on the verge of dropping down. "There needs to be more cures discovered. I feel that scientists and doctors are going the long way for cures that can be easily solved with things I've learned in my high school level chemistry classes."

If you haven't seen Smith around school, you can count on seeing her in the future and finding ground-breaking cures for cancer patients nationally. Although you'd never want to be treated for such a destructive disease, you can feel safe in Smith's hands, knowing the compassion she already has for her future career and everyone around her.

the United States in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP.

According to The Local, the United States is currently Spain's biggest trade partner outside of the European Union, better known as the EU. There are many fears that if Trump makes good on his word of cutting off U.S. involvement in the Transatlantic Trade &

Investment Partnership (TTIP), Spain would

suffer, as it is one of the biggest beneficiaries

in the deal. The United States also has several bases in Spain which bring roughly \$600 million dollars into the Spanish economy. However, Trump has stated that he wants to reduce military presence in foreign countries. This action could result in a great loss of money

for the Spanish economy. If Trump decides to take any radical actions against foreign countries with executive orders against travel like promised, Loy Norrix may be unable to continue hosting foreign exchange students anymore.

## FROM **JEMISON PAGE 3**

Jemison supports this project because she believes that the work done by people today can change the future. As Jemison repeatedly pointed out, any technology, any scientific knowledge we have today is all based off of what people discovered five, ten, one hundred years ago. She believes that any small steps we take today will provide the basis upon which our descendants can continue to progress. Any progress, no matter how small, is progressand can come from anyone, anywhere, at any time.

## STUDENTS SHARE THEIR DATING DEALBREAKERS

**SIDNEY RICHARDSON NEWS EDITOR** 



"Having longer hair than your girlfriend."

Leah Dunham, junior



If they're too controlling.

Westin Grinwis, freshman



"If they have bad taste in music."

Everybody has at least one thing that they just can't look past in the dating realm. As open as you want to be, there's always something that you immediately look for when scoping out a prospective partner — or traits that make them an immediate "no." Some of the reasons may be shallow and some may have a deeper meaning, it just depends on the person. Everyone has at least one deal breaker, but few have the courage to go on record with it. Here are a few of the brave souls who shared their dating deal breakers:

Jazhara Ademodi, freshman



"Definitely cheating."

Jack Cruz, freshman



"If they have a bad attitude."

Joe Hruska, senior



'When they hate the 'Bee

#### Joe Trimner, junior



"If they don't like pizza."

Lily Whalen, sophomore



"A lack of trust."

Andrew Dehaan, senior



"When she likes Two Fellas more than Mennas."

#### Brigetta Bernhard, junior



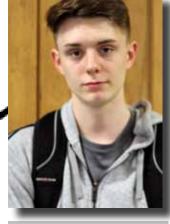
"If they have a bland personality."

Morgan Hawkins, senior



"If their breath stinks."

Nate Doersheler, sophomore



"Appearance is key."

## PEACEJAM'S LITERACY PROJECT COMES FULL CIRCLE

**BILL BOWSER** ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER

Not many students experience the rewards that come with giving and receiving for a good cause. Cecilia Mireles Caballero, is one of the lucky individuals who has.

Cecilia is a freshman at Loy Norrix who is involved with various extracurricular programs, including PeaceJam. However, before her time here at Norrix, she attended Edison Elementary and was one of the students involved in the Literacy Project.

Now, along with her PeaceJam work, she is an active participant in the Literacy Project. The Literacy Project initiative is designed to increase student literacy and make reading a fun activity, and it involves high school students who travel to various KPS elementary schools and read with 4th and 5th graders to help them with reading.

"We go to a school like Edison, and you read to the student you're assigned to. The goal of Literacy Project is to get younger readers to enjoy reading instead of seeing it as a task for school," explained Caballero.

According to the website "ProLiteracy," of adults who can't read, 43 percent live in poverty and 70 percent of adult welfare recipients have low literacy levels. The Literacy Project helps to solve this by going to schools that are in higher poverty areas to boost reading levels. This is done by inspiring a love for reading and will, in turn, increase the academic success of younger KPS students.

"My favorite memory was

"We go to a school like Edison, and you read to the student you're assigned to. The goal of Literacy Project is to get younger readers to enjoy reading instead of seeing it as a task for school," explained Caballero.

meeting the PeaceJammer who would be reading to me because they were so nice. It was such a big surprise,"Cecilia continued, "When you're younger you look up to the older kid who comes in and reads to you. Now the kids look up to you. It feels nostalgic really, remembering you were a kid like them once."

Sveri May, organizer of Peace Jam and director of the Literacy Project, is very excited to have not

> "To have someone like Cecilia with us, it's amazing to know we've gone full circle. It's so great she's going to be able to help 4th graders of her own," said Sveri May



PHOTO CREDIT / SVERI MAY

Last year's Literacy Project group works with their students at Edison Elementary school. Reading with their students is a fun and memorable task for many of the volunteers.

only a new project member but also someone who truly knows how positively the literacy project

impacts students "Literacy project has added so much more to conversation about being a good student," said May. "It opens the door to success in life through comprehension but we do it all in such a fun way."

May stresses the importance of the Literacy Project to all of her volunteers

"It's done so much more than improve reading. It improves behavior, attendance and grades amongst the students we help," said May.

May credits the success of the Literacy Project to the dedicated

work of the volunteers.

"To have someone like Cecilia with us, it's amazing to know we've gone full circle. It's so great she's going to be able to help 4th graders of her own," said Sveri May through teary eyes. "When you give the gift of reading, you give them help in every aspect of their lives."

## FROM KAMPALA TO KALAMAZOO: ROBERT SSEBUGAWO BRINGS A NEW PERSPECTIVE TO LOY NORRIX

#### **RACHEL ZOOK** LAYOUT EDITOR

After spending nearly four years here at Loy Norrix High School, it's easy to forget how many people are around me that I have never met. Sometimes I think that I get so wrapped up in my own life and the lives of my friends that I forget that there are countless other lives going on around me, each that belong to people with unique perspectives and captivating stories to tell. That being said, it's not every day that I get the chance to meet someone who is exceptionally interesting.

> "When I go there [to Kampala] I helped to mentor the students to show them a bit of direction in life," said Ssebugawo.

Fortunately for me, I had the opportunity to meet one of Loy Norrix's security guards, Robert Ssebugawo.

Coming from California and originally hailing from Kampala, Uganda, Ssebugawo came to Michigan with his wife and two sons. Soon after arriving, Ssebugawo became a security guard here at Loy Norrix, a position that he sees as a stepping stone of sorts to fulfilling his ultimate dream of becoming an educator.

"My future goal is to become a global youth educator so, working here I could learn more about kids' behaviors, desires and passions," said Ssebugawo with passion.

After sitting down with him and listening to the way he talked about education and connecting with kids, it was easy to see that working with young people is his passion. I was surprised by Ssebugawo's

plan, as I had never considered a security guard position as a transitional stage into becoming an educator. However, after hearing Ssebugawo's vision, I became a firm believer that becoming a security guard is a great way to gain a comprehensive understanding of kids and their behavior in preparation of becoming a teacher.

"When I go there [to Kampala] I helped to mentor the students to show them a bit of direction in life," said Ssebugawo.

In addition to his position as a security guard here at Loy Norrix, Ssebugawo is also a bodybuilder and was a volunteer at the University of Southern California's 2013 World Health Day LA. Ssebugawo is also a published writer, and he currently has two novels available for purchase online, "Living & Inspiring Poetry," and "Love Is a Journey."

Learning about the differences between life in Michigan versus life in Uganda was a very interesting experience. Contrary to popular belief, things aren't all that different.

"The easiest way to deal with kids or any human being anywhere is to be friendly because that's the best way for them to trust you to come to you with their problems," said Ssebugawo.

"The students in Kampala focus on fulfilling their human potential

which is the same message I try to tell the students here because discipline comes with responsibility and there's no way to achieve anything without discipline here as well," said Ssebugawo.

Ssebugawo says the adjustment was not as difficult as one might think and that there are many more similarities than there are differences.

"The easiest way to deal with kids or any human being anywhere is to be friendly because that's the best way for them to trust you to come to you with their problems," said Ssebugawo.

The ability to meet such worldly people at my own school and learn about the differences and similarities between such divergent cultures and societies is something that I believe is unique to Loy Norrix, and I am very grateful for



Robert Ssebugawo can be seen joking with students. He makes it his goal to make students feel comfortable and welcome at Loy Norrix.



PHOTO CREDIT / RACHEL ZOOK

Security Guard, Robert Ssebugawo regularly interacts with students at lunch. He can be seen interacting with students of all grades.



PHOTO CREDIT / JOEY WELCH

Sophomore Madisyn Caldwell (left) receives her DECA blazer at a meeting. The blazers are given to students who participate in the business competitions that DECA attends.

## A SOPHOMORE ON HER WAY TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## **OLIVIA MEARS** GUEST WRITER

It's a normal weekend in the Caldwell's apartment. Madisyn and her younger sister, Kamryn, run through the door from a walk outside, a small black puppy bouncing closely at their heels. The house is warm and smells of sugar. Madisyn runs to the kitchen, excited to help her dad put the finishing touches on her favorite dessert, oreo cheesecake.

"My dad owns a cheesecake business," Caldwell said with a laugh. "It's called 'My Favorite Desserts.""

After watching his mother whip up cheesecake after cheesecake in the kitchen during his childhood, Caldwell's father made the decision to take on this hobby and turn it into something more.

Madisyn and her family moved to Kalamazoo when she was in fifth grade. Now a sophomore, she is a member of DECA, Distributive Education Clubs of America, a club that offers support and opportunities to students who have plans to pursue a career in

business, or just get a leg up in the world of future employment. This type of program is exactly what Caldwell was looking for.

Growing up watching and helping her father in the kitchen, Caldwell has been considering taking over the business herself one day, or one like it.

"It seems fun to do and he really enjoys doing it," Caldwell said. "I always help him with stuff in the kitchen. I would maybe start my own business one day too, if I find something that's really interesting to me."

Aside from feeding her ambitions in business, Caldwell's father is an extremely encouraging role model in her life.

"He always teaches me how to do things in school the right way. He helps me set goals for later in life, and taught me that you should always take notes, and always ask questions when you don't understand something," Caldwell said.

These lessons in setting and

pursuing your goals and aspirations shows in Caldwell's lengthy list of achievements, including her trophy shelf of 19 track medals, and two trips to the Junior Olympics to top it off. She also maintains a glowing GPA, with plans to attend the University of Michigan when she graduates.

"DECA helps me think about being in a business, or starting one," said Caldwell. "It helps you think about what you have to do to get there and succeed."

This small club at Loy Norrix has showed Caldwell what she is capable of and has given her a set of skills that will be crucial if she one day decides to follow in her father's footsteps and start her very own business.

As her junior year rapidly approaches, Caldwell has no intention of slowing down. Her goals continue to grow and flourish with the help of her family, her teachers, and of course, her own exceptional ambition.

## FROM THE HEYL PAGE 1



Hamza Turkistani has declined the Heyl scholarship to K College.



Jesse Pollens-Voigt has declined the Heyl scholarship to K College.



Julia Townley is going to WMU's School of Nursing.



Hannah Pittman is going to K College to pursue biology.

Pollens-Voigt who has been offered the scholarship to attend K College is grateful as well.

"I feel honored to receive such an incredible opportunity that builds on top of the Promise. It makes a very enticing offer," said Pollens-Voigt.

Turkistani has almost the exact thoughts as Pollens-Voigt. Both students declined the Heyl, giving Hannah Pittman the chance to take advantage of the Heyl for herself.

There is nothing more rapturous than being able to go to college and have it all paid for.

Hammel, who also plans on becoming a nurse after completing college at WMU, gives thanks for the Heyl as well.

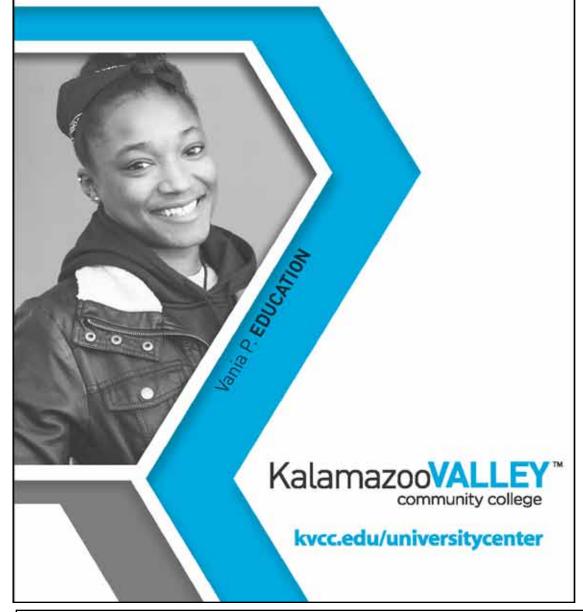
"I feel honored to receive such an incredible opportunity that builds on top of the Promise. It makes a very enticing offer," said Pollens-Voigt.

"It means the world to me because it's going to pay for a lot of the costs that I'm going to have to take care of anyway, like paying for all the books and schooling," said Hammel. "I'm grateful for it to provide for me with opportunities to have fun in college and experience more than I would have without the money because this way they have the program all set up for me to be in the nursing program."

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## CHANCE THE RAPPER MAKES HISTORY AT THE 2017 GRAMMYS



PHOTO CREDIT / BAILEY HANDLEY

Chance the Rapper performs at his concert in Detroit, MI on September 25, 2016. This concert was part of his Magnificent Coloring World Tour.

#### **BAILEY HANDLEY** A & E EDITOR

On the night of the 59th Annual Grammy Awards, the energetic and jubilant Chance the Rapper made history. He brought home three Grammy awards, becoming the first artist in Grammy history to win an award without selling any of his music. Chance gives all of his music out for free because he feels he is able to lead other artists to their independence from record labels. He has built a reputation as an independent artist by not signing to any record label, which might explain his unique fan base.

Chance won Grammy awards for Best New Artist, Best Rap Performance for his song "No Problem" and Best Rap Album for his gospel-infused hip-hop mixtape, "Coloring Book." For Best Rap Album, Chance beat out multiple hiphop powerhouses, including his mentor, Kanye West and Drake. All of the other albums up for the award were backed by major record labels, while "Coloring Book" was released by Chance himself.

Chance makes his money via touring and selling merchandise. He sells the popular "3" hats that he is always wearing, which are typically on backorder for five to six weeks. Even though this is an untraditional way of doing business, it allows him to do what he pleases with his music. He is able to work with the artists he chooses to work with, which allows him to create his own unique sound.

> Chance won Grammy awards for Best New Artist, Best Rap Performance for his song "No Problem" and Best Rap Album for his gospelinfused hip-hop mixtape, "Coloring Book."

In "Coloring Book" he had a gospel, hip-hop mixed sound. The theme of Chance's lyrics have transformed in each mixtape. In his freshman mixtape, "10 Day," he recorded the whole mixtape on the topic of being suspended from school while he was on a ten day suspension from his high school.

In his second mixtape, "Acid Rap," he has a variety of ideas and wordplay displayed throughout. He goes from rapping about God's cell phone battery to racial politics, all while putting insane rhymes together. In his most recent mixtape, "Coloring Book," he raps about God, love, Chicago and dance. He grew more religious upon learning his girlfriend was pregnant with their first child. It was his love for God and Chicago that helped him create his Grammywinning mixtape.

Chance's three Grammy wins would not have even been possible if the Grammy committee didn't relax its rule last year that only albums released on Apple Music or Spotify could be up for an award. This relaxation of the rules may allow for more independent artists to be nominated and win Grammy awards.

"This is for every Indie artist!" Chance shouted as he received his Grammy for Best Rap Album.

Chance is insistent on keeping control of his own music. After the release of his second mixtape, "Acid Rap," he had plans of signing to a label, but after meeting with three major labels, he figured that the best thing he could do for his music is release it to listeners without any constraints.

> "This is for every Indie artist!" Chance shouted as he received his Grammy for Best Rap Album.

With Chance's influence on the change in Grammy rules, he is becoming one of the most influential hip-hop artists in the rap game. His three Grammy wins were a big victory for independent artists, and these artists might start to receive the respect they deserve from the Grammys and other music awards committees.

## EXPLORING KALAMAZOO VALLEY MUSEUM'S PLANETARIUM

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum has a lot to offer the public including historical exhibits, interactive displays and planetarium shows. A planetarium is a dome shaped viewing room that projects a video onto the walls and ceiling through LED lights, giving the viewer the opportunity to watch films entirely surrounded by sound and picture. The shows and projects of the planetarium have been sharing the wonders of the universe since 1959 using technology such as slide projectors and digital projection systems. The planetarium in

downtown Kalamazoo's museum offers many exciting shows that take the viewer into different worlds for only 3 dollars a visit. The planetarium has a schedule of shows that change throughout the seasons. They offer a variety of shows, some are educational while others are just for entertainment.

Recently, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum upgraded the planetarium for better viewing quality in the spirit of providing high quality shows to the public. The planetarium has replaced its sound system, added new LED lights and upgraded the "star-projection" system to the latest version of Digistar, a trademarked program planetariums run on. With this in mind, right now is a very good time to catch one of the planetarium shows at the museum.

"The planetarium is a unique experience because it allows visitors to get an amazing look into the intriguing secrets that space



PHOTO CREDIT / JONNIE PALONE

Chairs at the Kalamazoo Valley's Planetarium line up row by row facing toward the dome of the planetarium. They lean back as the viewer watches for a 360 degree view of the program.

has to offer that visitors may otherwise not notice from the naked eye. The planetarium really shows me how pure space is and gives me a much larger picture of what's really out there," said senior Noah Machin.

There are a few shows that the Kalamazoo Valley Museum is offering to the public right now, all of which the planetarium takes to the next level. The planetarium lets the viewer experience shows in a different way than they're used too.

A family program, "The Little Star That Could," has viewings on Monday through Friday at 11 a.m., Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. This program explores the changes of the seasons, the concepts of day and night, our Earth, its Moon, neighboring planets and familiar constellations such as the Big Dipper. This program started on March 18th and runs until June 16th.

Another show at the

planetarium right now is "MI Spring Skies." This stargazing program is shown on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3 p.m., and Saturday at 2 p.m. This program is a simulation of the Michigan sky. This show will help locate constellations around Michigan skies. This show is available to the public on March 18th until June 16th.

The featured program at the planetarium is called "Ice Worlds." "Ice Worlds" explores the role of ice in the universe. This program ran Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 3 p.m. "Ice Worlds" ran until March 17th.

The last programs running at the planetarium are the music light show programs. Right now the Kalamazoo Valley Museum has two light shows from the band Pink Floyd. This program displays Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here" like never before. The planetarium runs through the

entire album with exciting visual representations of the music. This show is only on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and runs until June 11th.

"The planetarium is awesome because they play Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin songs while showing a light show. It's a great experience to take in and visualize such iconic songs. If you haven't gone, you need to make it a top priority to go, especially if you enjoy classic rock," said senior Vaughn Taylor.

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum Planetarium takes stargazing, music light shows and overall digital viewing to the next level. The planetarium is definitely something to experience if you've never been. There's always a program for everyone. The planetarium has shows for kids of all ages and is fun for the whole family.

**SYDNEE ARRASMITH STAFF WRITER** 



PHOTO CREDIT / BUSINESS INSIDER

Gaston holding LeFou in the village tavern in the new 2017 live action film.

In 1991, Disney produced the highly successful animated film, "Beauty and the Beast." Disney has now released a live action adaptation on March 17, 2017 and many people were outraged. The scene that caused such uproar features LeFou, played by Josh Gad, Gaston's accomplice, dancing with a man. The scene lasts just a few seconds before the end credits. In the Disney cartoon released in 1991, Lefou and Gaston also danced pressed together singing "Gaston."

Was it okay for the cartoon version to have men dancing together? The scene in the cartoon lasts longer than the scene in the live action film, so why are people angered by it? No one paid much attention to the two men dancing in the cartoon version because it was mostly directed towards a younger audience who wouldn't interpret the scene as a statement promoting homosexuality. However the live action film was directed towards an older audience who may think this scene is trying to convey a message of gay acceptance.

"LeFou is confused about what he wants. He's somebody who's just realizing that he's feeling this way," said movie director Bill Condon in interview with "Attitude" magazine. "LeFou one day wants to be Gaston, then another day wants to kiss Gaston."

Many believe that homosexuality shouldn't be featured in a Disney movie that young viewers will watch. It's not just about hiding homosexuality from children, some believe it goes against their religion.

"I think it depends on your views and beliefs of the Bible. I don't think movies should be canceled because of something like this," said senior Christian Baker, a Christian at Loy Norrix explaining his thoughts on the scene.

The outrage grew to petitions, boycotts and cancellations of the film. People aren't taking the scene lightly, as viewers believe the scene is a bit too much for a Disney movie. A lot of religious views are falling into light.

According to the CNN article, Alabama theater shuns "Beauty and the Beast" over "gay moment." Henagar drive-in movie theatre in Alabama is refusing to play the highly anticipated film stating that if they can't sit through a film with the Lord beside them then they have no business showing it.

"Alabama is very conservative, it's their culture. They're deeply rooted in their beliefs and not very open minded," said Loy Norrix Principal Rodney Prewitt, a former resident of

Russian officials are being pressured into banning the film as well, to prevent a "gay moment" from evolving, wh is in response to the "homosexual propaganda" law set in 2013, the law bans the distribution of materials displaying "nontraditional" sexual relations to minors.

According to an article on "New York Times," Disney refused to cut the scene for Malaysia government censors to follow their Malaysian guidelines of showing LGBT free movies. The Malaysian Censorship Board believes the scene promotes homosexuality.

"I want to say that I'm really getting sick of this," said film director Bill Condon. "It's been seen. It's the smallest thing being blown out of proportion."

Some really seemed to enjoy the film, despite all of the controversy. The movie is great for those who are willing to watch despite the so called "gay moment."

Sophomore Marissa Jacquez, who didn't even notice the gay moment, adored the film, "Oh, I loved that movie, my favorite scene is when they were singing 'Be Our Guest.""

Even though many have been angered by the film, it has gotten a lot of great reviews since its release. The film received a 3 out of 4 rating from "Rolling Stone Magazine." The film opened with \$462 million gross in box office according to "Forbes" magazine. The scene doesn't seem like it was a problem for those who watched it.

Could a few second scene really be that noticeable, especially to children? The live action film was very close to the 1991 animated version but also very similar to the book by Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve, published in 1740 where Belle's father was imprisoned by the Beast for stealing one of his roses for Belle. The film is loaded with songs and fun characters that will have you laughing and smiling throughout the film.

## FROM **WEAPONS PAGE 1**

Organizations like the National Rifle Association (NRA) have a stance that is similar to Rinehart's. Ever since the tragic event at Sandy Hook Elementary in Sandy Hook, Connecticut, the NRA has said they believe more guns should be in schools to protect students and teachers from future school shootings.

"Some will want police officers there. Others of them will want private security guards," said NRA President David Keene in a 2012 interview with CNN. "There may be some place they want volunteers to do it. We're willing to work with everybody on these questions."

With the change in the policy, the district gives the KPS superintendent, Dr. Michael F. Rice, the power to report anyone to law enforcement who violates this policy.

KPS also has a general ban on weapons included in the student code of conduct. The term "weapon" means any object which is intended to be used, or is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of people.

The new policy does not apply to law enforcement on campus, theatrical props used in appropriate settings and starter pistols used in sporting events.

## LOY NORRIX STUDENTS TAKE SCHOOL BY STORM WITH THEIR NEW BRAND EXOTIC TRENDSS



PHOTO CREDIT / EMMA WHITEHEAD

Will Keller, Joe Mosley, and Robert Isacksen pose in front of a brick wall outside in downtown Kalamazoo after a long day of taking photos for Exotic Trendss.

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

Fashion: it's what our society revolves around, whether you have the trendiest clothes or the latest name brand shoes. Celebrities, cultural icons, royalty and musicians have always influenced the way we dress. Starting at a young age, we see celebrities everywhere and we look up to them and their fashion. From Marilyn Monroe to Kylie

their fashion. From Marilyn Monroe to Kylie Jenner, we've been looking up to celebrities for generations. Creativity in the way we dress is so crucial because it shapes the way we see ourselves.

A few students at Norrix have taken fashion into their own hands, making it fun and affordable with a brand that they started: Exotic Trendss.

Exotic Trendss is a clothing brand inspired by Loy Norrix junior Joe Mosley's ideas.

Mosley started Exotic Trendss in his basement during his freshman year. It started out small, with him sketching his ideas and coming up with a plan but soon grew into something much more.

Mosley gathered a team of eight members to help him

with his business. The members include sophomores Will Dales, Will Keller, Robert Isacksen and Zayne Apperley, junior Joel Hooker, senior Mark Peterson, and Norrix graduate Miles Preussel. Mosley created this as an outlet for himself and others to express themselves in a unique and alternative

Exotic Trendss really breaks the typical clothing standards by using original multi-colored screen prints like for his Dog Dreams hat that features a cartoon dog. His designs are unique and quirky which makes them stand out from other brands.

"I really thought it was a necessary thing to do because I love clothing and fashion so I might as well take my ideas and create my own," continued Mosley. "Fashion is super important to me, it's a huge part of my life. My inspiration

for this whole thing is wanting to make people happy by making clothing. Not only that, but I have a huge drive to be successful and it's a huge dream of mine to get to do that every day, so I try my best to make that happen."

Even though Exotic Trendss is a business and the team takes it seriously, Mosley and his team make sure to have fun and enjoy the whole process along the way.

"I just want to maintain the team and the relationships and just have a good time with it. My team means everything to me. They help encourage me to do my best and always keep it real when it comes to whatever I'm working on or dealing with. We make sure to do a lot of different things, like we may go out to eat and hang out," continued Mosley. "If it's not fun then why do it? I just want to make sure at the end of the day it's all love."

Joel Hooker is in charge of team support and helps market sales. For Hooker, Exotic Trendss is all about friendships and close connections.

"My favorite part of being involved in Exotic Trendss is probably being able to help my friend succeed. Exotic Trendss is not only a clothing company but it also brings us together in some ways and, really, it's just a fun time and that's what makes it worth doing," said Hooker.

For Keller, his favorite memory of Exotic Trendss was when they went on their photo shoot.

"In January we did this little photo shoot with the Dog Dreams hats at Bronson Park, and we just goofed around and had a good time," said Keller.

Keller sells merchandise and delivers products, helps the brand with expansion and makes connections over social

Exotic Trendss offers a variety of different merchandise. They offer hats called Dog Dreams, hoodies with the Exotic Trendss logo, and have a long-sleeved t-shirt coming soon. The Dog Dreams hat comes in pink, blue, orange and purple, and costs \$20. The Exotic Trendss hoodie comes in black or gray, and costs \$30. The long sleeve will cost \$30 as well when it's released.

The team really hopes to see big things for Exotic Trendss in the future. They've come so far and are doing very big things. It definitely won't be a surprise if they do make it big.

"If Joe keeps up the work he's doing and keeps getting all the love and support and growth he has now, I can see people really loving it. Who knows? Hopefully it will really take off," said Keller.

Mosley sees a very bright future for Exotic Trendss. He definitely has high hopes for the brand and team.

"I honestly see big things for Exotic Trendss, I think it's going to be pretty successful. I think with the right marketing tools and good strategies and with a good audience and ways to communicate with people and really grab their attention," said Mosley. "It can definitely grow and become something really big.

## NEW THRILLER "GET OUT" CALLS OUT SOCIETY'S SOCIAL DEMONS

## IZZE FAHL ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Many hair raising thoughts about being black in America and almost fearing what could happen to the black population rushed through my mind after seeing Jordan Peele's newly released thriller, "Get Out." Walking out of the movie theatre as a white person helped me understand the fears of black men. Even though I didn't and won't ever know what it's like to live in that reality, it was a surreal experience to see this film.

Although I'm an intersectional feminist, which is feminism that focuses on equality for people of all racial identities and backgrounds, I fully realize that I will never endure the struggles minorities face daily. This frightening movie addresses many social institutions that have made people of color, especially black men, fear America more than ever.

"Get Out" is a horror movie with a message, a commentary on social issues that you wouldn't normally see addressed in a standard thriller. Peele, director of "Get Out," hopes to continue to address modern issues in more mainstream projects.

In an interview conducted by "Forbes," Peele said, "We go to the theater to be entertained, but if what is left after you watch the movie is a sort of eye-opening perspective on some social issues, then it can be a really powerful piece of art."

Chris, the main character, travels upstate with his girlfriend, Rose, to meet her family. As a black man, Chris fears the idea of meeting his white girlfriend's parents because of their perceived superiority in being white and privileged. When he first arrives, Chris sees a black man tending to the family's enormous property and a black woman serving food and drinks to the

Everything seems to be off, and the longer he stays at the family's estate, the more strange things become. In the end, Chris finds himself in a tourtuous situation he will have nightmares about forever. Chris ends up in a tortuous situations that will cause him nightmares for the rest of his life.

Even after seeing the movie and feeling as if you're in the main character's shoes, the portion of White America who will go to see "Get Out" will never understand the way Chris, played by Daniel Kaluuya, felt during a trip that was supposed to be a good time. Instead it was his worst nightmare. White people won't experience the terrifying situations, such as police brutality, where being black in America makes individuals



PHOTO CREDIT / UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Daniel Kaluuya's character Chris Washington sits wondering if he'll make it out of his girlfriend's family's estate.

bigger targets for racial profiling.

Director Peele's goal for viewers is not only to notice the social injustice but to also do something about it. Some argue that the movie is "anti-white" and portrays the white characters poorly. Many half-star reviews were published to sites, including Rotten Tomatoes, explaining ideas such as "not all whites are bad," which only indicates a viewer who has completely missed the point.

In the "Forbes" interview with Peele, he continued to explain, "It [this movie] is designed to lift the facade of post-racial America and showcase the ugliness that lies beneath"

I wouldn't hope for anyone to end up like Chris, but I do hope that people will come out of the movie theatre and do something about racial issues. Peele has brought light to personal racial issues that many will continuously face. Peele plans to keep creating more films.

"It [this movie] is designed to lift the facade of post-racial America and showcase the ugliness that lies beneath," said Peele.

"I have four other social thrillers that I want to unveil in the next decade," Peele continued during his "Forbes" interview, "The scariest monster in the world is human beings and what we are capable of, especially when we get together. These innately human monsters have been woven into the fabric of how we think and how we interact."

## THE '90S WAS THE LAST ERA OF GOOD MUSIC



## SYDNEE ARRASMITH STAFF

You don't want to be riding in the car with your grandma and have sexual innuendos playing on the radio. Your grandma will start asking you what kind of music you listen to and if you do the types of things that the lyrics say. Please don't give your grandmother a heart attack. If you listen to music from the '90s you don't have to worry about such things.

"Nineties, I love it better than new school," said senior Rontaya Phillips. "I was raised off of it. It has a better rhythm."

Many people prefer '90s music over today's music because the songs seem to show a higher level of morality in the lyrics, such as "Free Your Mind" by En Vogue or "Black or White" by Michael Jackson. These '90s songs focus on equality and being open minded about differences, a big reason I think '90s music is better.

"I think the quality has diminished," said government and history teacher Jay Peterson in regards to music today.

Today, a majority of the songs produced are mostly about getting money, women and being drunk. Songs like "Young, Wild and Free" by Wiz Khalifa show no morals when he says "So what we get drunk? So what we smoke weed? We're just having fun."

Not all of the songs from today's generation are bad, but the majority are. For instance, artist Nicki Minaj really overdid it with her lyrics in her remake "Anaconda" of Sir Mix A Lot's "Baby Got Back," one being, "I let him hit it 'cause he slings cocaine."

The message from the original song was about appreciating women with a fuller figure but now the song encourages girls to like guys because they do drugs.

"Today's music is about money, sex and drugs. Back then it was about dancing, it was just more classy. There wasn't any cussing," said Phillips.

Today's generation needs a lesson on the quality of music. It seems all people really care about is if the artist is attractive or not, and that's what sells albums. Girls love Justin Bieber, but most of his songs are about a different relationship girls.

"I think with the advent of Youtube, the focus is more on how the band looks," said Peterson.

"Today's music is about money, sex and drugs. Back then it was about dancing, it was just more classy. There wasn't any cussing," said Phillips.

Many great songs have been produced since the 1990's. Music genres have expanded, opening people up to the world of many new styles of music. Many artists from the '90s stopped producing music. P!nk is one artist who began as a '90s artist, She has published music in many genres, including the styles and sounds of modern music. Her music has both morals and good messages in the lyrics, as well as songs about partying and drinking, catering to both sides of the spectrum.

Artists today should really think about the messages they are sending out in their songs and who their listeners are.

## WHAT STYLE MEANS TO LOY NORRIX

#### **B. KEON FOSTER II** GRAPHIC EDITOR

Everyday at six O'clock in the morning my alarm goes off, aggravating me with the most annoying sound ever, forcing me to wake up and get ready for school. I sleep walk to the bathroom where I shower, brush my teeth, and debate whether my hair is going to look presentable or not. Heading back to my room I realize today is Friday, the second best day of the week, then the crust magically falls out of my eyes and a wave of energy shoots through me. I know for a fact sweatpants and shirt is unacceptable for today,

I think to myself, "I have to be crispy today."
Rambling through my clothes looking for

Rambling through my clothes looking for an outfit that tops any other outfit I've worn this week, I come across a great outfit that complements my style and my style only.

Style often comes in many different forms. You could have on a similar shirt to someone else, yet they're different brands. Even though these shirts are the same, the styles are totally different due to how an individual wears it. One guy likes Polo and the other likes Nautica, one girl likes Wet Seal, the other likes Forever 21.

Maybe two people like the same thing as each other, but that style might look different on each person. Everyone's style can seem one of a kind, but that doesn't mean your style can't be mimicked by someone else.

"I hate it [wearing the same thing as someone], you have to be yourself," said junior Jordan Larkin. "You can't dress like everybody else in the world."

Like Larkin, most people don't like their style being mimicked or copied by someone else due to the fact they want to be one of a kind. It is understandable that everyone wants to be

Jon Wilson shows off

a classic Polo Ralph

Lauren outfit, which

Polo T-Shirt, a Polo

are from

button up, and Polo

socks. His jeans

American Eagle

and his shoes are

Vans. To top off

a shark tooth

flashy rings.

necklace and two

his outfit he adds

includes a striped



B. Keon Foster II

Here I display a Polo Raph
Lauren outfits. This includes
a blue, white and yellow Polo
collar shirt to match my
yellow watch. I also
included a black Gucci
belt to match my all
black "Black Cat" Jordan
Retro 6's. To add on to
the outfit I wore a pair
of tan pants; rolled into
shorts, that corresponded
with my tan Polo Ralph

Lauren baseball cap.

Takary Dreams
gives you a look at
his "Lazy Day
Adidas Fit"
which
includes an
Adidas Michigan
Universty of
Michigan
T-Shirt and
all black
Adidas
trap sweats.

remembered for something great. One of the best and most known ways to become a great is to be different from others. This could be achieved by adding pins to your jacket or even just changing the way you wear your laces in your shoes. This is known as building your own style.

Building your own style can often take a long time to achieve because you don't know exactly what you like until you've tried a couple different things. Some people build their style off of what the people around them wear, which is very common in our youth.

To avoid dressing like other people, junior Zakeura Thomas shops out of town.

"I have my own style," said Thomas.

"It's boring when everyone is wearing the same thing."

Seniors Dennaisa Dixon and Marcel Bell have different views on seeing people wearing the same clothes as them.

"I'd probably ask them to flick up [take a picture]," said Dixon.

This is normal for seniors because they're trying to make good memories of their last year in high school. With that being said, there's still people in our school who like to stand out from the crowd.

Junior Nick Luttrell and senior Sharnez Williams both believe that even if someone was to wear the same thing as them, they'd still pull it off better than the other person. Although Luttrell had a slightly different view on why he'd pull it off better than the next person,

"They're my fans," said Luttrell, "What other reason would they want to dress like me."

McCollouh
displays a
classic grey Polo
jacket, which
compliments
the gray on
his blue and
gray Jordan
Retro 5's.
McCollouh
adds on to his
outfit with a

pair of tan

ripped and

zipper jeans.

Madisyn Caldwell displays a

calm causal outfit,

including a black and

of an long red shirt,

grey jean jacket on top

with a pair of ripped

blue jeans and to

all black

Converse.

match her jean

jacket she adds

Antwion

Jordyn Carlton wears an all white t-shirt to match his all white Vans and black jeans to contrast with his shoes and shirt.



**Germar Howse II** shows off his "Black and Melo" outfit, which contains a black Jordan jacket to match his "Black Metallic Retro Jordan 5's" that are complimented by green camo joggers.

**Shontrel Pritchett** gives you a look at

fashions latest trend, with the fury ball hanging from the belt loops of the Rock Revival jean. He wears a Matthew Stafford home jersey, with the well known Wheat Timberland boots. Pritchett shows homage toward his Godmom Tawana; who passed away in the recent years.

**Voronica Lipsey** displays a mulititude of colors including a pair of tan knee high boots that match her tan purse. She also wears pair of white jeans and with red shirt under an open jean jacket.

Jada Fair gives us a clean look at her latest outfit she likes to call "Rollie with a Dab of Ranch" this outfit consists of a very flashy watch that easily catches the attention of the viewer. She also adds an all black jacket by "The North Face" and a pair of blue jeans rolled up just enough to show off her low top Converse.

Willian displays too lazy up early p which inclusions sweatpant a pair of free

William Wright
displays his "I'm
too lazy to wake
up early package"
which includes the
2017 senior hoodie &
sweatpants set, and
a pair of freshmen
noise cancelling
Apple headphones.



Jakia Edmonson
shows off a button up shirt/dress, and a pair of knee high black boots for a simple but unique outfit.

## PEACE, POWER, AND PEOPLE

Martini's Kalamazoo in collaboration with Loy Norrix student journalists presents A neighborhood spotlight on local dreams

## GRAYLING CERAMICS STUDIO SHOWCASES LOCAL ARTIST

Kalamazoo is fortunate to be a thriving artist town and is a wonderfully supportive community for creatives. However, none are quite like the joyful Shay Church.

> "For the last 20 years I've considered myself an artist and worked towards that," Church said.

Church is the owner and founder of Grayling Ceramics, a local ceramics studio and shop on the north side of Kalamazoo. Church graduated from Western Michigan University and then went on to found Grayling Ceramics back in 2014 after he was offered the opportunity to renovate and rent out the current studio space at 213 E. Frank St. Kalamazoo.

"For the last 20 years I've considered myself an artist and worked towards that," Church said.

Church opened Grayling Ceramics two years ago thanks to generous sponsors from Kickstarter, a website where people post their ideas in hopes of receiving funding. Church's sponsors helped him raise \$20,000. This was enough money for him to renovate his current studio space, along with buying kilns and a small amount of raw clay.

Church received a lot of help and support from his family members in making his dream of owning a studio and business a reality.

"I could not do it without my wife Mora. My mother was also a huge supporter in helping me make everything work," said Church.

Church's favorite products to create tend to be large and bold.

"The bigger things that I can make on the wheel are my favorites because it's more work," said Church.

Church definitely enjoys making large pieces of art, including the many life size whales and other animals made out of clay that are left wherever they were built to decay away. He has participated in the Grand Rapids Art Prize and also designed a large whale that is still on Western Michigan's campus.

However, now in the studio, clay is his media of choice. Church's best sellers are the handmade beer steins, which may be a natural outcome of Kalamazoo having so many local micro breweries and the city's love for craft beer.

Church explained how his education, along with his travels, have helped him become a better artist and a better teacher at Western Michigan, where he teaches ceramics part-time. His first goal is to own a profitable business, which for him means "being able to pay ourselves and further invest into our business."

Church said his second goal is, "to be making really strong and functional ceramics."

> "There is a little something for everyone; however, I wish we had a few more galleries and restaurants." Church continued.

Church explained his company's stance



PHOTO CREDIT / JOSH WILD Finished Growlers in Church's studio. They are now ready for sale.

on product design stating, "We stand for thoughtful design and durable product." He continued, "We want to make less products and make our current products last even longer than what they already do."

One of Church's favorite memories since opening and owning Grayling Ceramics is the overwhelming community of supporters for

"When we have events and seeing people coming down and checking out the studio," Church reminisced.

Church often encourages everyone to stop by and meet him and check out his studio and store space above the studio. Church explains how he loves to sell his ceramics at the Bank Street Farmer's Market too because he keeps getting the opportunity to meet new and interesting people that share his passion for art.

"I love that it feels that it's growing organically, and that we can use our ideas and learn from our customers what works best from them and what they're looking for to help provide them better products," said Church.

Church explained how in Kalamazoo "There is a little something for everyone; however, I wish we had a few more galleries and restaurants." Church continued, "San Jose was the best place to live at and be an artist."

When asked about what the hardest part of owning a business is, Church said, "Keeping it all together and making it all happen and create a brand and getting through some growing pains."

Kalamazoo is an amazing place for both small business startups and local artists trying to get their name out into the world. Thankfully, Kalamazoo is a great place to live, work and grow.

Church explained, "Kalamazoo is a very supportive place to open a business. Remember to start very small and see if there is a market for your product or service."



PHOTO CREDIT / JOSH WILD

Chruch placing lids on finished grolwers. This is the final touch of his artwork.

## UDENT GUITARISTS AT LOY NORRI

**JONNIE PALONE** A&E EDITOR



Honey Burst Fender Telecaster
Growing up listening to music really influenced me to want

to pick up an instrument and start playing. I personally like the guitar because it is a perfect instrument to express my feelings and there are so many techniques and skills to learn with it that it is virtually impossible to be perfect. The guitar is an instrument that I am very passionate about and it makes me who I am.



I started playing six years ago just because I wanted to. I love Rock n Roll and music so much that I decided I wanted to play along with it. I have learned to really love the feel of my guitar personally. After having them for so long, you really learn the ins and outs and all the kinks about guitars. Plus they sound great and suit my play style. I like to play a diverse genre from melodic acoustic songs to hard rock and metal on electric.



Roadworn Fender Stratocaster

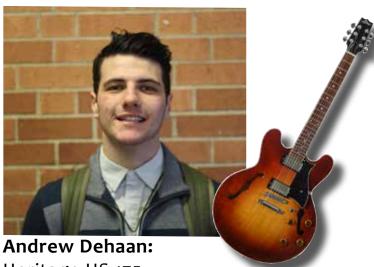
I mostly stick to electric guitar. Nothing really influenced me, I've just always been drawn towards the guitar. I love the weight, the action, and the distressed look of my guitar. I play a lot of ambient, punk and alternative stuff.



I first started playing guitar sometime in school. I started on a crappy acoustic guitar, but the one I play the most is a Fender Stratocaster. My dad was my influence to start playing. He taught me and gave me my first guitar. I really like the feel of the Fender, it's formed to you and it has a great sound. It's American made and has a great finish.



Fender Modern Player Telecaster Plus I started playing because I had a guitar from a while ago, and I didn't have anything better to be doing so that's pretty much what I did for a long time. Lots of practice, practicing is the most important factor in getting better. I like to play blues the best but I don't limit myself. I play pretty much anything.



Heritage HS 175
I started playing in 5th grade after I broke my arm. I started out on a Taylor Classical guitar, and now I still play that same guitar along with a Fender Srtat and a Heritage HS 175 double cutaway. Growing up around my family listening to classic rock influenced me to start playing guitar.

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Direct letters to: Loy Norrix Knight Life 606 E Kilgore Kalamazoo, MI, 49001

Submit to Room K6

**GUIDELINES:** 

-250 words or less -Must contain author's name, 3rd period, and ID number

pankoptl@kalamazoopublicschools.net

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## THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD GRABS LADY LIBERTY BY THE...



**CHLOE LUPINI COPY EDITOR** 

You keep your eyes locked on your car as you walk through the dimly lit parking lot, keys clenched tightly between your white knuckles. The fear of who might lie in the shadows quickens your pace, adrenaline beating its way through your every step. Taking quick glances over your shoulder, you start to question your uneasiness; am I being irrational? Shifting your gaze around the lot you recall countless examples of women being attacked e at night. You begin to wonder: if someone attacks me, could I really defend myself? Would anyone hear my cry for help? You reach your car and quickly maneuver yourself into the seat. You immediately lock the door and breathe a sigh of relief as you start your car. You can't help but look in your rearview mirror as you pull out of the parking lot. Is this really the world we live in?

In the United States, one in every five women have been or will be sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime. Only 30 percent of those crimes are reported and less than one percent of perpetrators will face jail time. We as a society have deemed rape culture socially acceptable. There are jokes made in the hallways and in classrooms that are laughed off rather than shamed. Rape culture is swept under the rug, those affected live in fear and prefer to stay quiet rather than report what happened. Yes, this is the world we live in.

"It's just so ridiculous," said Loy Norrix senior Veronica Verity. "We are people you know. We have feelings. It's hard enough for us to respect and love our own bodies. Men should respect our bodies too."

In an old video footage released during his presidential campaign, President Donald Trump was recorded saying, "When you are a star they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab them by the p\*\*\*\*. You can do anything."

Trump later excused his words as "locker room talk" and "male behavior."



**GRAPHIC / NORA HILGART-GRIFF** 

"This was locker room banter, a private conversation that took place many years ago," said Trump.

"It is terrible and completely inexcusable," said Loy Norrix athlete Adam Dorstewitz. "Having been in locker rooms and played sports, I don't know what kind of locker rooms he has been in. It's completely inappropriate and should have been much more explosive for him then it was. But he got to play it off because he was, you know, liable to 'male behavior.'"

In the society that we live in today, the objectification of women's bodies is socially acceptable. Our recently elected leader is an example of this inexcusable social norm. He claims women fawn over him because he is wealthy and powerful, but when they do not support his bigotry, they are said to be "lonely" or "miserable." He uses his power to turn women into sexual objects and appropriate rape culture, and it is not and should not be acceptable.

Although many consider Trump's remarks to be inexcusable, countless people believe that his words should not affect overall opinions on our President.

"What he said was uncalled for, but should not affect people's overall feelings toward him," said freshman CJ Carver. "Trump said that he was not proud of it [his comments] and it is something that he was ashamed of. I know he said it was locker room talk, but it was said from behind closed doors probably with the expectation of privacy. He does not physically show that he believes in those actions to this day. When you believe in something, then you take actions in those beliefs."

"In America, we do not have a rape culture," continued Carver. "A rape culture is where rape is normalized. And here rape is usually punished. And when allegations are made those follow you around for your entire life. I would consider that to be a

According to the Bureau of Justice, only ten percent of sexual assault crimes committed are reported to law enforcement, only four percent faced trial, two percent were faced with jail and two out of every 1,000 rapists are to be falsely accused. Part of rape culture is oppressing victims of sexual assault, and that's why so many women are staying silent.

"One of the fundamental concepts at the heart of 'rape culture' is the idea that rape is inevitable, that men can't help themselves

> "lt's just so ridiculous," said Loy Norrix senior Veronica Verity. "We are people you know. We have feelings. It's hard enough for us to respect and love our own bodies. Men should respect our bodies too."

and women must therefore work to protect themselves against it," wrote Time Magazine Reporter Zerlina Maxwell. "Within the context of rape culture, the idea that men are entitled to sexual experiences is deeply entrenched."

Often rape culture is overlooked and ignored. Time after time, accusation after accusation, death after death, nothing is

SEE RAPE CULTURE PAGE 16

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH LOSES GROUND IN SCHOOL CURRICULUM



**JAKIA EDMONSON** STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From the marching of their feet and the bass in their voices, to the violence of people who disagreed, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X all played a role that led to a more equal society where people of all races could begin to collaborate together as

February 1st through February 28th, Black History Month, is reserved for honoring many African American activists around the United States, many of which have contributed to the rights of African

Transitioning from elementary to middle school, education on Black History Month started to fade away. Many teachers would just play "My Friend Martin," a short film about Martin Luther King's road to legacy, but this didn't actually touch on Black History Month. Some students had no clue about the purpose of Black History Month, just showing a film didn't help them understand more. This left students who didn't know about Black History Month clueless.

Today, with how our world is broken, you would think knowing about history would be important, but not many care as a result of the lack of education on the subject. Many won't take the time to learn about Black History on their own. These challenges have

made Black History Month a ghost and often touch base on Black History Month and a topic ignored in schools.

In elementary school, Martin Luther King Day, however, was a day off school that was celebrated for the legacy and life of a man who brought hope to America. This celebration did not continue in middle school or high school. Kalamazoo Public School students now attend school on this day.

"It's not fair, we always are told 'never forget 9/11," said seniorMarcell Bell. "Yet when the horrendous history of black people becomes a topic of discussion, we're told 'let it go' because it happened so long ago."

Many people would argue "Why take school off when it's what MLK wanted for us?" This is true. In middle school, we started the trend of going to school on MLK day. This left many of us unsure about our American history, Black History Month itself, and wondering why we weren't honoring MLK. This has taken a toll and shows the educational system as insensitive.

"I feel like I know a bit about black history but not enough, and although we have a month dedicated to us, not everything is spoken on or taught about. Especially throughout the educational system," said senior Marcell Bell.

Bell feels that it's unfair that we don't

doesn't like that it isn't taught to the students as regular curriculum throughout the school year. Bell also said, "It's as important to history as anything else that has happened on American soil."

"It's not fair, we always are told 'never forget 9/11," said Bell. "Yet when the horrendous history of black people becomes a topic of discussion, we're told 'let it go' because it happened so long ago."

Listening to the opinions of other students and how they feel they know little to nothing about Black History Month, it seems as if the month should be structured with required events as part of the school

"I feel that I'm not educated enough on Black History Month, and I feel like being black we need to know about our roots and what black people went through," said senior Natasha Mahonie.

Some teachers don't acknowledge Black History Month in the classroom which makes students feel as if it isn't appreciated. Another concern is educators just look at the negatives and suffering of American blacks. It can be expanded in many different ways like knowing that many people chose to sacrifice their lives to heal and reconstruct America. Many legacies of great people fought for African Americans. Caucasians and Hispanics are part of the fight for all of us to mix and unite as one, in equality and leadership for the people.

We, as people, should come together to push Black History Month back into the educational system to educate our young about key cultural aspects of being African American.

## KNIGHTS uuuuu """ SPEAK



Deshawndra Spivey, 11th

'I like B lunch because you get a break from class that makes the class go quicker."

## What is your favorite lunch and why?



John Krieder, teacher 'It [B lunch] works really well for me right now with the link crew class. But with

other more core focused

classes it can be difficult."



Abigail King, 10th 'Definitely not B lunch. B lunch is horrible, probably C lunch because there aren't as many crazy people."



## B LUNCH IS LIT

**ISAAC RUBIN** OPINION EDITOR

"B Lunch has some benefits that many people fail to consider."

I love B lunch!
There, I said it! I'm not afraid to come out with sometimes unpopular opinions. You might think B lunch is the worst lunch, but you're wrong.

The most common complaint about B lunch, that I hear, is that it interrupts class. Well,

some classes could use a big interruption, if you know what I mean. It can make third hour fly by!

Third hour starts at 10:05 a.m. B lunch starts at 10:39 a.m. which is 34 minutes later. You go back at 11:15 and third hour ends at 11:50, which is 35 minutes. So you divide 3rd hour into two halves of 40 minutes.

If you think 10:39 is too early, well, A lunch starts at 10! No thanks, that's still breakfast. B and C lunch start right around brunch time, then you can have a real lunch when you get home at 2:40 or so. We eat super early in the morning for lunch, and that isn't a good thing.

Now, you might say, "What if we have a test?" Well then just leave the test, or let the teacher collect the test to prevent cheating. It's not particularly hard to work around. If you worry about getting interrupted and losing the "test taking state of mind," don't leave for lunch and stay in the room.

Eating in the middle of the class period also gives me some energy to complete the rest of third hour. I can't be the only person who is totally devoid of the will to work by the end of third hour when I have C lunch.

According to an article from the website Buffer titled "The Science of Taking Breaks at Work: How to Be More Productive By Changing the Way You Think about Downtime" by Courtney Seiter, you actually retain information better when you've had a break. So there is definitely a learning benefit to getting a break in the middle of class.

B lunch has a good number of benefits with only a few negatives. If you get a cool teacher and don't want to eat the school food, you can stay in your classroom. This is especially great if you hate the lunchroom, which may well be the physical incarnate of purgatory.

The lunchroom isn't even that bad in B lunch. It is (mostly) devoid of screaming kids, it is pretty empty and there's still food leftover. The lunch staff rarely run out of food like they do in C lunch, and you don't have to deal with all those screaming manchildren in A lunch.

I think most people complain about B lunch simply because it feels different. They're not used to having lunch in the middle of a class. I say, try out a new experience. Even if you don't like it, you'll probably only

have it for one trimester.

Only 17 teachers currently have B lunch assigned to them. It was so empty this trimester that Dean Christopher Aguinaga had to switch several classes to B lunch that don't typically have it. That's how much people don't want it, they have to be forced into it by the administration.

Well sir, I volunteer my third hour to be placed there. Actually my third hour, which happens to be Knight Life, is in it already. We were actually just placed in it for the first time in several years.

In a perfect world, students would eat lunch during 4th hour. That would be the ideal time to eat because it would actually be around then normal time people eat lunch. The first lunch would start at 11, B lunch at 11:45, and C at 12:20 with a snack period after 2nd.

According to an article by "Time" titled "When To Eat Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner," the best times to eat breakfast is around 7:00 a.m. with lunch between 12 and 1. We eat lunch far too early no matter which lunch we get. However that's not how the school decided to set it up, so we have to make do with what we have.



## B LUNCH IS HIT

**ZACH LIDDLE** HEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

"B Lunch detracts from instructional time during 3rd-hour."

You've studied for days. You're in third hour, the test has been handed out. You're just starting to get into the zone when the bell rings and it's time for lunch, but wait, it's only halfway through the class.

directly in the middle of 3rd hour which can disrupt learning and prove to have a negative effect on academics for students. Teachers already have problems getting students to settle down at the beginning of class, imagine the issues they face after the students return from lunch.

"The students spend less time on task, right before and right after lunch," said college readiness teacher, Jim Bellware. "Students are more likely to attend multiple lunches, skipping the first or second half of class, which results in more disciplinary referrals and, therefore, more teachers' time wasted."

A "Brainenhancements," article "Lack of Focus in Teens," explains how losing focus

during class can really have an effect on grades. "Particularly during teenage years, a lack of focus can be detrimental towards studies and overall academic performance," as stated in the article.

In Doctor Julie Schwartzbard's published article "Factors That Affect Focus and Concentration," she talks about different variables that can affect your level of attention, one being environment.

A stable environment can make a huge difference on a student's focus.
Kids can't get that stable environment if they switch from their quiet class to a loud and obnoxious school cafeteria then back again.

A stable environment can make a huge difference on a student's focus. Kids can't get that stable environment if they switch from their quiet class to a loud and obnoxious school cafeteria then back again.

"I hate having to stop class in the middle of a lesson," said sophomore Cade Peterman.

Now that the teacher has gotten their students back on track, they realize that multiple students are absent. B lunch can also have an effect on the attendance because it gives students 30 minutes to figure out how to skip class.

Another issue that can occur is students can be sent into a tired state from downing all of the carbs at lunch. How are you supposed to focus if you are put into a food coma? Granted, food can give you more energy for class, but that's only true if you don't eat the greasy pizza or chicken sandwiches that the school serves.

Currently there is no way to fix the issue of B lunch currently because that would force A lunch students to eat ] after first hour at 8:45 a.m or make C lunch students eat after 4th hour which would be at 11:49 a.m. Both of these are terrible options. One is far too early and the other is far too late.

One way to fix this this issue is to change our schedule to match the middle schools. We would need to adjust our schedule from five classes to six classes. Our classes would be adjusted so no lunch would be in the middle of a class. Like the middle schools, the first first lunch could start at 10:40, the second lunch at 11:45 and the third lunch at 12:49.

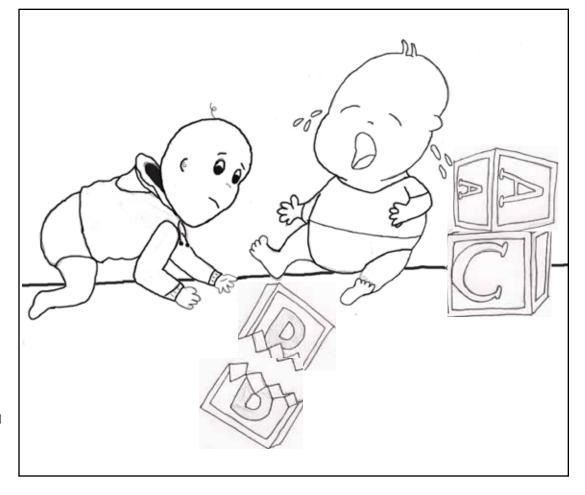


ILLUSTRATION / ZACH LIDDLE

## TRANSPHOBIA IN COUNTRY WIDE WOMEN'S MARCH DISPLAYS IGNORANCE IN MODERN-DAY FEMINISM



**CONNOR WILGER**GUEST WRITER

On January 21, millions gathered in major cities across the globe in protest of Donald Trump's inauguration. Many had signs declaring they won't tolerate any bigoted agendas or oppressive politicians.

"I think it was an important event because it [Trump's inauguration] brought issues into light like Trump's sexist and misogynistic ideals and the fear of what can happen to women's rights during Trump's presidency," said junior Glenna Aldag.

Popular signs, designed by Shepard Fairey, depicted portraits of women of black, Hispanic and Muslim descent, proclaiming statements such as "We the people / are greater than fear," "We the people / protect each other," and "We the people / defend dignity." Although there were protests across the world, I'd like to focus on the protests led in the United

The idea of the Women's March started in Hawaii until Tamika D. Mallory, Carmen Perez, Linda Sarsour, and Bob Bland acquired a permit to have 200 thousand people march in Washington D.C. Many joined the popular trend of knitting pink beanies with cat ears to help fend off the cold, giving them the clever title of "p\*\*\*\* hats." In fact, it seemed the biggest theme in the women's march was "p\*\*\*\* power," reminding everyone that not only was it a march by women, for women, it was a march by cisgender women, for cisgender women.

The term cisgender, for those who don't know, means the person identifies as the gender they were assigned at birth. "Your gender matches your parts," is a way to think about it. Although the majority of protest goers were indeed cisgender, there were also transgender women and transgender men that felt excluded and attacked.

"Assuming that all women have vaginas and all men have penises is extremely transphobic and shouldn't be a motto of a march that promotes equality," said junior Adrienne Evans.

The phrase "P\*\*\*\* Power" isn't only a quick go-to catchphrase. It has history. It all started with President Trump's infamous audio tapes with Billy Bush in 2005. On the tape Trump makes lewd comments about married woman he tried having sexual relations with. "I just start kissing them [beautiful women]... I don't even wait... When you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything... Grab them by the p\*\*\*\*, you can do anything," said Trump.

The tapes resurfaced during his campaign, but people were quick to defend him, saying it was "just locker room talk." Nevertheless, many citizens will not let it slide, with good reason.

And so, the terms, "p\*\*\*\*
power," "p\*\*\*\* grabs back,"
"resistance is fertile," and the
iconic "p\*\*\*\* hats" were born.
However powerful this can be for
some, the very idea that feminism
and the female gender can only

be achieved with a fertile vagina is exclusive to cisgender women and therefore, transphobic.

The "genitalia is equal to gender" fight is one that has been fought as far back as the Stonewall Riots. It has caused the boycotts of the retailer Target and hate crimes committed in public bathrooms. The constant mindset of "genitalia is equal to gender" is a big struggle in the fight to end the stigma against the transgender community because there are trans people who chose to not go through the surgery of genital change, whether it be because of costs or other personal reasons. The idea of "you need these parts to be this gender," can cause gender dysphoria and a larger barrier between the LGBT community and activists like the protesters holding up signs that said "resistance is fertile," "the future is female," and "p\*\*\*\* power."

Yes, the march was organized by women and many of the messages were those focused on the advocacy for women's rights. But shouldn't the most iconic messages be ones that are inclusive to all women?

Many feminists try to disassociate themselves with radical feminism, which incorporates transphobia and trans-exclusive practices into their beliefs. However, with one of the largest protests of this year being riddled with microaggressions- the indirect or unintentional discrimination towards a marginalized group-like signs and slogans disregarding transgender women's inability to reproduce (resistance is fertile), disrespect transgender men by exclaiming that being a cis female is better than men can ever be (the future is female, we're all nasty women), and perpetuate the idea of "genitalia is equal to gender," (p\*\*\*\* power, p\*\*\*\* grabs back, grow a pair [of ovaries]) it's hard to not think it was trans-exclusive.

I understand that activists don't intentionally commit these microaggressions towards the LGBT community. I know a few transgender people and transgender celebrities approved and enjoyed the Women's March and what it stood for, but if we really want equality, then we need to abolish these transphobic ideas.



Evan Clark, 9th

"3rd lunch is the best lunch because there's always a mystery substance on the table everyday."



Miranda Cole, 9th

"Probably B Lunch [is the best] becuase it's a break from class. Learning, break, learning."



Travis Grube , 12th

"B lunch is a complete waste of time. I think that we should be in class the whole time. It gives students a higher opportunity to skip out on



## Kelly Stetten, Teacher

"I think for some students [B lunch] can be a nice break in the middle of class, but occasionally it can become a bit of a distraction when you have to start a class again. "

**OPINIO** 

## FINNISH VIEW THE UNITED STATES



**SARITA NIEMINEN** STAFF WRITER

The United States has always been known as a land of dreams and opportunities. In Finland we have always seen the U.S as a wonderful place. However, now that I have been in the country for seven months, it's hard for me to find things that are better here than back in Finland.

If we start with ordinary things like dates, I can only ask why the U.S. citizens put month/day/year? It doesn't make sense to me. In Finland it goes day/month/year and the reason for that is simple: smallest to

Next is the counting system. Why are things named like foot, inches and yards? Not only that, but the way to count them is confusing. The metric system goes by tens. The U.S. system? I have no idea.

Another problem is the way U.S. citizens describe the weather temperature in fahrenheit. Where does 32 F even come from? In Celsius it's easier to understand. Zero is the freezing point and 100 is the boiling point. All the freezing temperatures are negatives and others are positive and it makes perfect sense. The U.S. is the only country who uses fahrenheit and the positional decimal system (the U.S. system of counting).

## It's the United States, why can't you be United *People too?*

Finland has the best education system in the world and that's why I feel that I'm free to say anything about that subject. In Finland we don't have standardized testing, we trust our teachers' ability to teach. We don't get so much homework or get credits. The teacher doesn't check if we have done our homework. They teach us what we need to know and in the finals, we show how well we have studied. We also have five to six semesters in the year and school can't start before eight, it's in the law.

Standardized testing doesn't work with everybody. It makes students study only for the test, not for life. The information goes to your brains and stays there only a short period of time. Is that what school is for? Just getting the good grade on tests? No! Schools should teach students how to use this information in their lives, so they would actually survive and not just be book smart, but street smart too.

Homework and credits are stressing people out. Students have a long school day, and after school they may have other activities like sports. When they get home they are tired and want to relax, not stress out over homework. There are days when you don't have time to do your homework or you don't make it to school because of vacation or sickness. Those things makes you lose points in the class. Students may actually be interested in the homework and classroom assignments, but aiming for credits in the class makes them do it without much thinking because they want it to just be done by the deadline.

Also the fact that I can't get fresh air during the school day is annoying to me. You're not allowed to go outside, not even open the door for a minute. In Finland it's recommended to go outside during the breaks. The teachers in Finland say that going outside and getting fresh air will make your brains work better, and you will feel more

In a Finnish point of view, Americans care too much about politics. Sometimes I feel that's all people can talk about. Everybody has some kind of opinion about it. In Finland, we may not even know who our prime minister is.

Instead of having two main parties, in Finland we have six main parties. There are always three parties that are going head to head at the same time. People vote for the ruling parties every four years. The president is selected every sixth year and it doesn't matter what party he/she is in, it doesn't

SEE **FINNISH VIEW PAGE 15** 

## HATS AND PHONES: OVERREGULATION LEADS TO STUDENT RESISTANCE



**GUEST WRITER** 

Do most people consider the wearing a hat or the use of a cell phone to be on par with harassment or bullying?

Effective Monday, March 13, Loy Norrix has considered the wearing of a hat within the building as well as any use of a cell phone without extremely explicit permission to be on par with harassment and bullying, category 2 offenses also referred to as "Serious Misconduct" in the student code of conduct, punishable with up to 10 days suspension, or, under repeated offenses, consequences ranging from longer suspensions to expulsion. This means that wearing a hat or using a cell phone is also considered to be a single step down from offenses such as Arson as well as Criminal Sexual Conduct.

This is too far. In my years as a student, yes, I have seen cell phone usage detract from the educational environment. But to the point that those who use a cell phone without permission should be removed from school for multiple days? Never.

To the point that the plugging in of cell phones to charge (far from where any student might be able to use them) should be outlawed? Never.

Have I ever seen someone wearing a hat and thought to myself gee, that sure detracts from my ability to learn? Never.

I myself prefer to wear a hat in school, knitted by my very own mother, to keep my nearly bald head from getting cold. Why? Because a cold head impedes my ability to learn far more than a hat.

Not only are these new rules excessive in the first place, but the punishments for these crimes are beyond ridiculous. Up to 10 days suspension with the possibility of expulsion for multiple infractions—for using a cell phone? Suspension removes students from the educational environment entirely, which is far more of a disruption to their learning than cell phone use.

In the Loy Norrix Weekly Bulletin there is a table that shows how many students are in each grade each month, and every month, there is a slight drop in students. Adding more regulations to the student body not only decreases the morale keeping many from dropping out of high school, but also contributes to the school-to-prison-pipeline, a plague on our society perpetuated by bureaucratic, one-size-fits-all rules such as this one.

For those unfamiliar with the school-to-

**SEE HATS AND PHONES PAGE 15** 

#### LOY NORRIX INSTALLS NEW TELEVISIONS AROUND THE SCHOOL

Oh look, Big Brother and the Inner Party bringing it back to 1984 with those shiny new telescreens!





**ILLUSTRATION / KIERNAN DEAN-HALL** 

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## STUDENT REPLIES TO OPINION

Dear Vanessa Rodriguez,

The main point of contention I had with your article is how you attempted to justify feminism with the gender ratio of congress. You represented it as some kind of injustice, perpetuated by sexism, except you left out a crucial detail: congressional bodies are democratically elected. For officials to be elected, women must participate in the voting process. Women voted to construct congress this way, along with men. I fail to see the misogyny in women choosing to

Furthermore, it would be sexist to undermine these decisions for it suggests:

- 1) Women are incapable of freely determining their leaders.
- 2) Men are incompetent when it comes to representing diverse population

To remedy this supposed "problem," a unique form of gender-based totalitarianism would have to be implemented within our government. Officials would be appointed, not elected. Diversity quota would replace merit, rendering democracy irrelevant. I urge you to reconsider the views you currently hold, as they're incompatible with equality.

Josh Killingsworth, junior

#### STUDENT PROMOTES CELL **PHONES IN CLASS**

Dear Editor,

I read "Cell Phones do not Belong in the Classroom" article by Sydnee Arrasmith. I agree with all of the points she made in her article about phones, but I don't agree with how she hopes to solve the problem. If a student comes to class and is on their phone, they've already declared that they won't be engaged in their work. Taking phones or banning them altogether won't change a child's willingness to learn. I do however think certain teachers should enforce limited cell phone usage more in class if they're having a phone problem.

Ciera McClenton-Langston, sophomore

#### STUDENT ENJOYS WORKING ON MUSICAL

Dear Michaela Whalen,

I enjoyed reading your article, "Loy Norrix Knights are 'All in This Together' for the Spring Musical," not just because I'm in the musical, but our cast has been working

really hard to be able to perform the best show for everyone who comes out to see it. I very much appreciated your interest in the musical and basically help promote it as well. The only thing I would have changed was a picture of the new set and all the "cliques" together. But overall I thought it was great, and I can't wait to see all the other articles/ topics you may write.

Reibekah Welch, senior

## STUDENT APPRECIATES OBITUARY

Dear Editor,

I really enjoyed the article about Alex ["Loy Norrix Loses a Classmate in Yet Another Tragedy"]. The emotion and time put in it really showed. I found myself laughing at some moments and crying at others. It takes a talented writer to do that. The article must have been really hard to write, but it captured every emotion and what his family, friends and teachers did and what they are doing to help others.

I enjoyed "Take a Look at a Few of the Groups of Loy Norrix." The article was very well put. The reason why I came to Norrix was for the diversity. My mom and dad went here for high school and they felt at home some people judged but we are all accepted. The article captured just that, we can't all be the same but we can all be different

Mikayla England, freshman

#### STUDENTS REPLY TO MESSAGES OF HOPE

Dear Editor,

I really like how teachers are there to help students that are suffering ["Messages of Hope From Loy Norrix Faculty"]. It makes school comfortable for those students knowing they have someone to talk to. I like how the article was made and based on something really important going on. I think the article could have been a little bit better if they would have said more things you could do instead of talking to someone. Since some students may not like people knowing their problems and just get their mind off of those things.

I think some things that could help are doing things you love, listen to happy music, walk and enjoy nature, bake, sleep and just cry. Believe it or not, crying can help fix the problem by just getting your emotions out.

Overall, I think the article is great. I really think a lot of effort was shown. Also I'm pretty sure someone at Norrix can benefit from this article.

Stephanie Basurto, freshman

Dear Editor,

I read "A Message to Those Who Feel Little Hope" and I thought it was exactly what everyone needed. I really liked the quote "pressure makes diamonds." I know a lot of teens feel like they're under so much pressure dealing with school stress and at home stress both at the same time, and I think Norrix should put a short "article of encouragement" in every paper.

Last year, one of my teachers made the students write a nice note to someone else in the class on Friday and she'd give the note to the person on Monday. She's the only teacher I've known of that's done that, but I always looked forward to it. Everyone always had fun thinking of who to write their note to and how they could make the other person's day when they got the note on Monday. I wish more teachers did little stuff like that, just to bring in some positivity.

Bailee Smith, sophomore

#### STUDENT FEELS EMPOWERED BY WOMEN'S MARCH

Dear Editor,

I read "Millions March Worldwide for Women" and I really enjoyed it. I especially liked how we got stories from girls who participated. I got a clear picture of the day and I could almost feel what the people there were feeling. These personal stories made me actually want to read the newspaper because it made me feel something powerful and was not just reading a lame news article.

Sydney Apperley, junior

Dear Editor,

The featured article, "Millions March Worldwide for Women" in this Loy Norrix newspaper truly helped me to understand what a revolutionary moment this day was. Starting as a retired attorney's small idea to meet up with a few friends, and then snowballing into 10,000 people just overnight, proves to you how many people are passionate about this subject and how they will put themselves out there to get their messages across to the public and especially the new president. I found reading about the women's march to be inspiring

and should provoke more individuals into putting what they believe in their hearts and souls before anything the new president or government puts in front of us.

Westin Grinwis, freshman

## STUDENT REPLIES TO THE STAFF

Dear Editor,

The last newspaper that I read, I thought was very bland and was always the same thing. The same questions were asked and the same people were interviewed. Overall, I thought that newspaper was very bland. But this paper on the other hand, I thought was very diverse. I read the female wrestlers column and I was very pleased and happy with what I saw. The paper overall was very nice. I didn't like a couple of the sections like the feminism and cell phone use sections but only because I feel like both, especially the feminist topic, just reached a personal level. I also appreciated the Alex tribute. Overall, really liked the newspaper.

Sierra Misner, sophomore

#### STUDENT DISAGREES WITH **POPULAR TRENDS**

Dear Editor,

I don't believe in the popular trends at Norrix are all on a 100% scale because there are a lot of students in the school and only 42 percent likes shoes? That can't possibly be true. In our day and age, shoes are way more important than windbreakers and/ or sweatshirts. Mostly all students at Loy Norrix High School likes the brands Jordans, Nike's, New Balance and other brands which would be considered as (shoes).

Now about social media, it says in the article that Snapchat is a popular trend but it listed 58%. Teens and teachers might also have (snapchat). I would rate it as an 80% because who doesn't have Snapchat? Instagram was at a 12%. I agree with that only because no one uses Instagram anymore because of all the recent social media apps. Twitter? Is about the right percentage, 30? People rarely use Twitter at Loy Norrix again because of the new advanced apps. I agree with this article only on some of the trends that were picked out

Re'yonnia Hicks, freshman

SEE EDITOR PUBLICATION POLICY PAGE 12 TO SUBMIT YOUR OPINION

**OPINION** 

## SENIORITIS CAN BE CURED



**ERIKA WAGONER STAFF WRITER** 

As I sit in my seat, listening to Tisha Pankop talk to her journalism class, I struggle to pay attention. My mind wanders off to other things as I lose focus on the task at hand. As a senior almost done with the second trimester, "senioritis" is the biggest obstacle I have to overcome. According to The Northwood Omniscient, "78 percent of seniors say they have senioritis."

As a freshman, sophomore and junior, I constantly heard seniors talk about how unmotivated they were and how bad their "senioritis" was. I had not realized how real the sickness was until I became a senior myself. Now I am struggling with my work ethic entirely.

Not only is my homework getting done last minute, the quality of it is slowly diminishing from excellent, well thoughtout work, to "at least it is completed and has some thought put into it." It is hard to want to keep the best effort up when you're so close to graduation. It seems almost pointless. Going to school and still

putting in 100 percent of the effort seems irrelevant when you have already been accepted into college.

The next struggle is simply going to high school. Being tired, it is inevitable that sleeping in seems to be the "right thing" to do when you have a car and can go to school whenever. Missing classes and having to make up the work isn't bad enough to outweigh the bliss of having the day to just sleep in. The term "senioritis" is used to describe and explain the weariness and fatigue of a senior in high school.

I use to think that I had a case of senioritis hit me as early as a junior — oh how wrong I was. I was naive to think that doing homework at a later time instead of right after school was senioritis.

> According to The Northwood Omniscient, "78 percent of seniors say they have senioritis."

Though it is hard to get through senior year and maintain the motivated mentality you had as a freshman or sophomore, it is possible with a few tricks. A way to help your work ethic is to put your phone away, make plans with friends later and try to get things done like homework and

BLUE LIGHT DISRUPTS SLEEP

important school work while you have the time so that it is more time efficient for vourself.

Try to put more effort into assignments while doing them. Though it may seem useless to turn in A+ quality papers, it helps you improve as a writer and proves that senioritis can't stop you.

Going to school is just as challenging, but if and when you have the thought to skip the day or even 5th period, just think about the attendance policy or having to make up the missed work that you already lack the work ethic to complete. A day going to school is a day closer to graduating.

> A day going to school is a day closer to graduating.

Though senioritis is the hardest part of the high school experience, it shouldn't be the thing that causes problems. Graduation should be on your mind every day and that should encourage you to do the best you can while you are still in school.

Senioritis is just an excuse to be lazy, but with a good mindset and the end goal right down the road, it isn't hard to overcome the obstacle in the way and to graduate to the best of your ability with hard work and dedication.

#### FROM RAPE CULTURE PAGE 12

"I constantly get paranoid that I am being followed home," said sophomore Ophelia Smith. "At one point last year my sister and I would walk home together, when she would not ride the bus there would be a red van and after she graduated it was there everyday. Not once did I see someone in the van but I felt as though someone was watching

Denying rape culture is where we are going wrong. In the United States alone 600 people are raped in a single day, according to the Bureau of Justice, one person every two minutes. One of six women are victims of sexual assault, and only 30 percent of those crimes are reported. This has to be recognized in order to make a change. Women should not be told that it was their fault. It was not what you were wearing, boys will not just be boys. As a society, we have to stop telling women how to dress and start teaching people not to rape.

"Young men in America are looking at him and what he is saying," said Dorstewitz. "And they are thinking 'oh, well, he is the president so what he is saying must be okay, and it must be the right thing.'

Donald Trump's opinions towards women have been profoundly straightforward. He has never tried to hide his opinions, no matter how controversial the topic may be. He implies unabashedly that women are sexual objects and are to be judged as such.

"A person who is flat chested is very hard to be a 10," said President Trump.

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Donald Trump's actions and remarks are not only influencing the advancement of rape culture but the younger generation of our country as well. When he comments on the way a woman looks or calls her names to tear her down, it is teaching kids that those actions are okay, that it is acceptable to treat a woman as nothing more than a body.

**DAGNIJA TOMSONS CHIEF COPY EDITOR** 

Imagine lying awake at night, unable to fall asleep. You toss and turn but can't seem to get your mind to settle down. You eventually lie on your back and stare at the ceiling, cursing yourself for the lack of sleep you're getting at that very moment. You wonder what can you do to get your body to shut down. Something could have disrupted your circadian rhythm, the internal cycle that tells you when to sleep

and when to get up. Ever wonder why on a nice Saturday morning you wake up at 8:00 a.m. instead of sleeping in like you had planned? That's your inner clock telling you it's time to rise and shine. You can either choose to ignore it or wake up when it tells you to, but the amount of time you spent on your phone could have been the problem.

The amount of light that is transferred to your eyes delays the processing of the sleep hormone, melatonin and causes you to stay awake longer. This light is called blue light, the shortest wavelength on the visible light spectrum, that is transmitted from your phone to your eyes which can cause damage over time. One of the major problems is digital eyestrain syndrome which can lead to blurry vision, difficulty focusing, dry and irritated eyes, headaches, neck pain and back pain.

Blue light causes harm to your circadian rhythm, delaying your sleep by a few hours as it stops your body from processing melatonin, the hormone produced by the pineal gland in your brain that regulates sleep and wakefulness.



PHOTO ILLISTRATION / CHRISTIAN BAKER

Sophomore Grace Marshall stares at her phone in a darkened room while the blue light wavelengths travel to her eyes. Staring at a screen at night is

Blue light can be found on many devices including digital devices such as flat screen TVs, smart phones, computers and laptops.

"Yeah, it will affect the vision but no one's gonna stop doing it. It's still gonna happen no matter the warnings. People are still gonna stay on their phones," said junior Zavionna Woodruff on whether or not students would stop looking at their phones before bed.

Woodruff agrees that even if people know about the risks of blue light, she and everyone else, would still continue using their phones.

Blue light helps regulate your circadian rhythm, the part of your body that regulates sleepiness and wakefulness, during the day by keeping you focused on your tasks and lifting your mood. It also helps with memory and cognitive

"I already have terrible eyes so it doesn't bother me personally, that much," continued senior Beth Gbogi, "but I can see this to be cause to limit screen time for younger ones."

The cons outweigh the pros, but there are ways to still use your technology while getting little damage to your eyes: turn down the brightness of your device, switch to reading a book for an hour before going to bed, turn off your phone two hours before sleeping, use devices with smaller screens, avoid looking at bright screens or use dim red light for night lights because red light has longer wavelengths and causes little to no damage to your eyes.

> "I already have terrible eyes so it doesn't bother me personally, that much," said senior Beth Gbogi.

That being said, there's nothing to stop you from using your devices before bed. There are some things you could accomplish in this time instead of staring at your phone, one being to read that book that you've been meaning to get around to. Another thing you could do, if you don't like reading, is start talking to your parents or play with your pets, anything to give your eyes a rest from the daily staring contest we have each day with our technology.

Even if it's only for a few minutes, you'll find yourself more rested and have less time to complain about how little sleep you got. It all takes just a little effort and control, and soon you'll be shaking your head at your friends the next time they're up late and whining about how they can't get to sleep.

## FROM HATS AND PHONE PAGE 14

prison-pipeline, the American Civil Liberties Union, defines it as "a disturbing national trend wherein children are funneled out of public schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Many of these children have learning disabilities or histories of poverty, abuse, or neglect, and would benefit from additional educational and counseling services. Instead, they are isolated, punished, and pushed out." Continual suspension for what are, in reality, minor offenses will only lead to perpetuation of this plague.

This rule not only targets the actions of students but also lays the groundwork for punishing teachers for using common sense in noting the individual cases and lives of students.

A memorandum was sent to every teacher the week of March 6th, stating that effective March 13th, school administrators will be performing random classroom checks for hats and phones and will be writing up any teachers who fail to comply with the new school regulations. Not only is this a waste of time, and to a further extent money, but it's also blatantly disrespectful to every teacher in Loy Norrix. Every teacher has a unique classroom environment that cannot be regulated. If a teacher is having any issues with specific students or classes, they will let the appropriate parties know so it can be dealt with properly. Any other action by the administration is superfluous and pedantic.

If the administration's goal is less about the hats and more about profane references or the like, that's already covered in the student dress code. If it's really just about hats, then it's only a lame grab for dominion over the student body. All they accomplish by implementing these rules is have the student body grow to hate them as time goes on. Most people, when painted into a box, will inevitably try to break out of it. All the administration can gain from these power hungry moves is further resistance.

"Young men in America are looking at him and what he is saying," said Dorstewitz, "and they are thinking 'oh, well, he is the president so what he is saying must be okay, and it must be the right thing.' So all Trump is doing is perpetuating a society where rape culture is already really relevant and is teaching these young boys that it is okay to do that."

"This was not just a lewd conversation. This wasn't locker room banter. This was a powerful individual speaking freely and openly about sexually predatory behavior," said Michelle Obama.

Junior Ferren Olmsted explained her experience of objectification in the halls of Loy Norrix.

"Here at school there are a lot of people who will try stuff," stuttered Olmsted. "There was this guy in one of my classes, and he would come up from behind me and grab me and try to kiss my neck, and I said no. Then he tried to put his hand like down my area, and I said no. Then he tried to put his hand up my shirt, and I kept telling him no. He didn't say anything, he just did this, didn't think, just did it. We were just in the middle of class; it's just not appropriate."

For our President's actions to be as influential as they are, these sexual remarks demeaning women are in no way acceptable. For Trump to talk about women as emotionless objects here only for the pleasure of others, is an endorsement of abusive behavior. His words do have an impact on others, and that needs to be recognized.

"You know I'm automatically attracted to beautiful women. I just start kissing them. It's like a magnet. Just kiss. I don't even wait," said Trump.

His comments include condoning misogyny, fat shaming, attacking a woman's appearance, sexual assault, to rating women on a numerical scale, the list just keeps going. In Trump's world, women are things. And when he wants them, he wants them. Saying "Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything," is exactly what rape culture looks like.

"What Trump described in these tapes amounts to sexual assault," said Dawn Laguens, Executive Vice President of Planned Parenthood. "Trump's behavior is disgusting and unacceptable in any context."

"I think it's awful [rape culture], it is just terrible that women in this country are scared to even walk out to their cars," said Dorstewitz.

Donald Trump is simply ill-suited to occupy a job in which his support is necessary in the fight for equality. Our President needs to be someone who will advocate for all of us regardless of ethnicity, sexual orientation, race or gender.

"This was not just a lewd conversation. This wasn't locker room banter. This was a powerful individual speaking freely and openly about sexually predatory behavior," said Michelle Obama. "Hope is important. Hope is important for our young people. And we deserve a president who can see those truths in us -- a president who can bring us together and bring out the very best in us."

We live in a world where women are afraid to simply be. Where it is way too easy for those to abuse their position of power while people look the other way. But change is possible. Make your voice heard, because there is hope.

## FROM FINNISH VIEW PAGE 14

make any difference in the government.

In Finland we also have a parliament that has 200 members and 41.5 percent are women when in the U.S. only 19.4 percent are women. Finland seems more equal and to be honest, we had a woman president for twelve years. She was awesome. We

still love her. After her we almost got a gay president. It didn't happen but it was close. He got 44 percent of the votes, so I could say Finland is a pretty open-minded country. I'm not saying that America is not, but your problems are bigger. In Finland we don't list people's ethnic

backgrounds. If you're Finnish then you're Finnish, it doesn't matter what your skin color or religion is. Of course 95 percent of the population are white nordic people and ¾ belongs to the Protestant Lutheran Church, but there are other people too.

One of my best friend's dads is from India and my coach is Chilean. We also have a large gypsy culture in Finland. If you live in Finland and speak Finnish, you're a Finn.

In the U.S. if you go to the doctor, you need to fill out papers and tell if you're Asian, African-American, White, Mexican or other. I can't understand why in a country where everybody, not including Native Americans, are basically immigrants, people can't just make it work and stop categorizing people by their ancestors.

It's the United States, why can't you be United People too?

#### FROM **REFUGEE STUDENTS PAGE 1**



Loy Norrix students Wedad, Zelal, and Asmaa illistrate the love for the places they have called home. These students are learning English which includes learning to use our letters rather than the Arabic letters used in their home language. Many words will be sounded out phonetically at first.

"All of the death and destruction is always on my mind," stuttered Abdallan. "People leaving home fearing dying, then crossing the ocean only to drown, it's always on my mind."



Syrian refugee student Abdallan Al-Harri depicts the images he witnessed both in his home country and on his journey to reach safety.

All four students have had a hard transition to their new lifestyle in the U.S. but have adjusted well to their new environment. They all still wish to be home promoting peace and not war.

Before the war, their lives weren't so different from that of the average American kid. Going to school during the day then coming home and spending time with friends and family. Just like everyday people, they would ride bikes, go on walks and go to the beach.

After the war started, Asmaa and Zelal's school was shut down and it was not safe for them to leave their house. They had no electricity and supplies were scarce due to the danger of going outside.

Wedad and Abdallah's school stayed open through the start of the war. They would walk to school every day, the difference being they had to stop at a set of checkpoints along their way to improve their chances of surviving the rest of the walk to school.

"No, no, no," said Wadad on the brink of tears. "I do not wish to talk about this anymore. I do not wish to talk about this."

Through the loss and heartache caused by the war, these students never lost hope. All four students plan on returning to their home country in order to rebuild what they once saw before the start of the war.

"I am here, and I am okay," said Abdallan, spinning a pencil between his fingers. "But I will always wish to be there."

It is hard to imagine what the people of Syria are going through. Hundreds of thousands of people are being killed, and

they are just trying to reach safety.

As U.S. citizens, we are all so lucky to be living in a democracy with the freedoms we have been granted. We are not going through a war with each other, and we are not watching our country, our home, crumble

We cannot be scared of refugees. With their country in shambles they are reaching out for help, and we are able to supply them with the help they need. We live in a country that we call the land of the free and the home of the brave, where we can live the American Dream. How can we call ourselves the home of the brave when we are too scared to let people who don't know if they are going to survive the next day, past our border?

For a refugee to enter the country they first have to register with the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR. The UNHCR identifies vulnerable people in difficult situations, while also taking into account their biographical information and amount of medical attention they might require. Once the U.N. refers a refugee, a U.S. government funded refugee center will then receive the application and continue to pursue the multiple background checks and to ensure they are fleeing their country in search of safety.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population will take in referrals from UNHCR but has full authority in whether or not refugees are admitted. Since the civil war broke out in 2011, 23 thousand refugees have been referred to the United States from UNHCR, and only 2,281 have been approved.

"I would watch children dying under the rubble," said Wedad, tears coming to her eyes. "I just wished I could go out and do something and help and make a good life for myself to then come back and help. It was very to difficult to sit and watch death and destruction all the time."

Emotions quickly set in among the four students as Abdallan went on to explain the effects of the war on both him and his sister Wedad, recalling the thousands of refugees who have died at sea.

"All of the death and destruction is always on my mind," stuttered Abdallan. "People leaving home fearing dying, then crossing the ocean only to drown, it's always on my mind."

"Crossing the streets because of the snipers, we never knew if we were going to make it to the other side. So we would say a prayer before going because we just wouldn't know if we were going to make it or not," said Zelal.

Many children our age can not imagine facing the day to day struggles Syrian refugees and Muslim minorities face everyday.

"When we first came here wearing the headdress the attitude from the other students was like I was not an intelligent person, like I was not a competent person," said Wedad. "I felt not accepted for my culture and what I stand for. That really affected me a lot."

As Middle Eastern Muslims coming into the U.S. Wedad, Abdallah, Asmaa, and Zelal were not expecting good treatment due to the pre-existing assumptions U.S. citizens have made post 9/11.

The attacks on September 11, 2001 have been affiliated with people of Middle Eastern descent and of the Muslim religion, negatively representing Muslim culture to the American eye. The radical Islamic group organized by Osama Bin Laden in the late 1999s known as Al-Qaeda, was held responsible for the attacks. As a result of this ISIS, also known as the Islamic State, splintered off from Al-Qaeda forming its own Islamic extremist group devoted to establishing an independent Islamic state.

Unlike Al-Qaeda, ISIS has proven to be more brutal and more effective at controlling territory. According to CNN, ISIS is putting governing structures in place to rule the territories the group conquers once the dust settles on the battlefield. ISIS is now known for killing dozens of people at a time and carrying out public executions, crucifixions and other acts.

The attacks we hear about on the news claimed by groups such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS and conducted by Muslims and Middle Easterners often leave Americans with the assumption that all Muslims, over seas and law-abiding citizens of the U.S., can also be a threat. This stereotyping can also lead to acts of discrimination against those live in the U.S.

The frustration of being judged by their

religious affiliation and ethnicity gave Abdallan, Wedad, Asmaa, and Zelal incentive to work harder to get accustomed to their new home.

"The people who criticized me initially are now my friends and there is a good communication between us. We are learning from them, and they are learning our culture and respecting it," said Wedad.

Through all of the hard times these four students have faced, they have never given up hope for the future of their country.

"I imagine for the wars to be over and for my country to be rebuilt, and I want to be there to be a part of rebuilding and the serving my country," added Abdallan.

"I wish for time to go back and to be reunited with my friends and family," continued Asmaa. "I wish to go back to Syria and help people learn to stop fighting and get people to believe in more positive ways of life not fighting and killing. I wish to rebuild my country."

"I just want to stop the bloodshed," stuttered Zelal.

"I am here, and I am okay," said Abdallan, spinning a pencil between his fingers. "But I will always wish to be there."



PHOTO CREDIT / CHLOE LUPINI

Loy Norrix students (Asmaa Zamel, Wedad Al-Hariri, Abigail Castaneda, Gabriela Ocampo, Honorine, Fredy Raymundo, Ms. Ibarra, Ali Ahmadi, Abdullah Al-Hariri, and Simon Imanishimwe) from around the globe gather in Steven Howell's ESL (English Second Language) class for their last hour of the day. As they become comfortable with the camera, they begin to pose and make one another laugh.

## FROM **RAPE CULTURE PAGE 12**

before our eyes.

done. Students all around us, in our very own school, are scared to walk somewhere alone in fear of being approached.

"I constantly get paranoid that I am being followed home," said sophomore Ophelia Smith. "At one point last year my sister and I would walk home together, when she would not ride the bus there would be a red van and after she graduated it was there everyday. Not once did I see someone in the van but I felt as though someone was watching me."

Denying rape culture's existence where we are going wrong. In the United States alone 600 people are raped in a single day — one person every two minutes. One of six women are victims of sexual assault, and only 30 percent of those crimes are reported. This has to be recognized in order to make a change. Women should not be told that it was their fault. It was not what you were wearing, boys will not just be boys. As a society, we have to stop telling women how to dress and start teaching young men not to rape.

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## LOY NORRIX LADY KNIGHTS READY TO ROCK THE FIELD

**SARITA NIEMINEN** STAFF WRITER

Spring has arrived, and for the Loy Norrix Women's soccer team it means putting their cleats on and running out to the soccer field. Soccer is a team sport where every individual matters. You're expected to work hard and be in good condition. Practicing with your teammates makes the tough practices easier and shared results makes it more fun.

After the team's success last year including winning districts, both the team and the coach, John McKenzie, are excited about the upcoming season and are ready to rock the field.

The women's team started conditioning for the season in January by working out in the weight room and running in the school. Now that the season has officially started, the team is practicing every weekday for two hours when they



PHOTO CREDIT / DEANNA PUCA

Maria Egloff plays center mid-field. Egloff has played for Lady Knights Soccer all four years. The Knights lost to Mattawan 1-0. don't have a scheduled game.

Having a good fitness level is very important in soccer. You're expected to be fast, strong and have good endurance. The game doesn't stop to wait for you to be ready, it continues no matter what and you need to stay focused.

"The team fitness level is pretty good," said Coach McKenzie.

That is where the importance of good team spirit comes along. The team needs to trust each other and work well together in order to stay focused.

Soccer is a team sport where the players need to make their decisions with the idea of what is good for the team, not only for the individual player. Everyone needs to be available and concentrated on the game even when they don't have the ball or they are on the bench.

"Players have to make most of the decisions. Those teams that don't have good team chemistry are not going to be that good," said McKenzie.

This year is a rebuilding year for the team. They lost nine seniors at graduation last year, but a lot of new freshmen have secured a place on the team, including freshman Maggie Grabemeyer.

Grabemeyer has played soccer on Midwest Union since she was four. This year she can finally play as a Knight. She's excited to play through her time at Loy Norrix, and she feels happily welcomed to the new team.

"I like the people, it's fun to hang out with them everyday," Grabemeyer said.

As a new and younger player on the team Grabemeyer has learned a lot from her new coach and teammates. For her, working hard does not feel so bad when you have others supporting you all the time.

"The freshman class this year has some really high-quality, committed players who adapted well to the team. I like to think we are all one big soccer family. We have always had good team atmosphere," said senior and team captain Maria

Next fall Egloff will be attending Hope college and is excited to be a part of the Hope soccer team. This is her last year as a Knight and she has hopes for the championships

"We did really well last year, we won the district championship. We lost nine seniors, but I believe we can still achieve a lot this year," Egloff said.

Both the team and McKenzie agree that this year's goals are winning both district and the conference championships. The team knows that the competition is going to be tough. They have plan to work hard to achieve their goals.



PHOTO CREDIT / DEANNA PUCA

Maggie Grabemeyer junior varsity goalie and field player deflects a Mattawan player from geting the ball. This is Grabemeyer's first year playing as a Knight.

The girls varsity soccer team has already played the first game of the season against Sturgis and won 8-o. They had home game against Mattawan that they lost 1-0. They played Stevensville Lakesore, losing in double overtime 3-2. The lady Knights varsity are 4-5. They are hoping that Loy Norrix soccer fans will come to cheer them on.

"We usually have a good student section turn out to home games. The enthusiastic fans make it even more fun to come out play for a school which supports its student athletes," said Egloff.

## SOPHOMORES HELP TO REBUILD VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAMS

**DENNASIA DIXON OPINION EDITOR** 

The feeling of Friday night basketball games have become all too familiar to sophomores Nmeso Nnebedum, Steffon Dunigan, DeAndre Worthy, Abigail Roberts and Ebube Okpechukwu. Hard work, dedication and leadership are all qualities that led these second year high school students to become a part of the men and women's varsity basketball teams, and even were the reason two of the players, Steffon Dunigan and Abigail Roberts, played starting positions.

## **MEN'S BASKETBALL**

Nmeso Nnebedum has been playing basketball since he was 13 and on the 7th grade team at Maple Street Middle School. His goal has always been to make varsity at Norrix and with his hard work and determination in the summer, and the help of his coaches developing him into the type of physical and aggressive guard they need, he has accomplished his goal. One of Nnebedum's biggest struggles was the pace of the game.

"You have to read and react within a split second," said Nnebedum.

Being one of the youngest on his team, Nnebedum dealt with a lot of constructive criticism, and although it frustrated him sometimes, he knew it was only to make him and his team better, so he kept pushing. Before moving up to varsity, Nnebedum was placed on the junior varsity (JV) team as a freshman. The in-game experience for him on the varsity level was very different for him compared to the lower JV level. This is



PHOTO CREDIT / ABBY FARRER

Sophomore Abigail Roberts, number 32, helps defend a Kalamazoo Central player. This was her first game played at Western Michigan's field house.

very interesting so far.

"There are stronger and faster D1 bound guys on you, chest to chest, trying to get that rock from you," Nnebedum explained.

Steffon Dunigan, Nnebedum's teammate, was a starter on the men's varsity team. Dunigan also played on the JV team as a freshman. He feels the game is so much faster playing with varsity rather than the slower JV

"I lost my breath quicker and my expectations were way higher," said Dunigan. His favorite memory was when they took a 77-74 win over Lansing Waverly on February 28th. The team's leading scorer was senior guard DJ Swift with 35

"It was the greatest

feeling we have had," Dunigan mentioned.

DeAndre Worthy, another sophomore on the men's varsity team, as a freshman, played on the men's freshmen team. The varsity coaches showed interest in him and invited him to play on their summer league team. It didn't take long for DeAndre to realize that he had to be confident in his ability to play because the crowds were larger and louder. This also meant he had to focus much more so he didn't get distracted by the loud crowd and cheering. One of DeAndre's many favorite memories is when he was playing against Kalamazoo Central and blocked multiple shots of University of Michigan's

commit, Isaiah Livers.

The boy's team struggled with chemistry on the court this season but there's room for improvement within the next two years for these sophomores.

"The season was a little frustrating. I had to be patient because they were young and inexperienced, but all in all it was a fun experience," said Swift.

## **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

Last year with eight seniors graduating, the women's basketball coach, Casey Rost-Danzy, knew she had a lot of spots to fill, especially at the power forward position. She was looking for players who could contribute a significant number of minutes on the court, and Abigail Roberts' and Ebube Okpechukwu's

hard work and great

attitudes stood out.

Abigail Roberts was a starter on the women's varsity team this season which meant she had to adjust quickly and step out of her comfort zone. Roberts, as a freshman, played for the freshman team and was one of the leading scorers and rebounders. Her experience on varsity helped her learn a lot because the whole feel and experience was new to her. From the drills, to learning plays faster and playing against bigger or more experienced girls. Coming from a freshman team directly to varsity, Roberts had to adjust to the pace of the game. She knew her coach expected more from her on a higher level so she always gave it her all.

> "We just became so close as a team, we became a family," said Roberts.

Her favorite memory is when in the annual Holiday Hoops tournament on December 27th, when they played and beat Benton Harbor, 59-56. She liked the fact that it was a really close game and the enthusiasm of the bench kept the team going. Roberts also enjoyed hanging out with the rest of her teammates and team bonding.

"We just became so close as a team, we became a family," said Roberts.

Ebube Okpechukwu started playing basketball at the age of 13 in the 7th grade at Maple Street Middle School. As a freshman, she played for the freshman

team with Roberts. This year on varsity, she was nervous playing with older girls that were more experienced than her. When given constructive criticism from teammates, she took what they said and tried to apply it when she practiced. She learned that the varsity level was a lot faster and more intense than playing on the freshman

Okpechukwu's favorite memory was playing the shirts relay during practice. The shirts relay is a game where coach lays out practice jersey's along the baseline and splits everyone into two teams. The two teams get one ball each and take turns shooting from a place on the court named by coach. Whoever makes the shot, takes a jersey from the baseline back to their side of the court. The team with the most jerseys wins. Coach Rost-Danzy knew that working them as sophomores would make them even better and ready to contribute more their junior years.

"Overall I think they did an amazing job and greatly improved," Coach Rost-Danzy explained.

Although Norrix hasn't had the history of winning many games lately, the current student athletes have potential and a lot to offer to the program. The leadership and hard working qualities that these athletes contribute to the program will hopefully lead Norrix to the top in the next season.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

## **Varsity Baseball**

5/13 Kalamazoo City Tournament at 9:00 HACKETT

## Women's Tennis

5/9 against Kalamazoo Central at 4:00 AWAY

## Track & Field

5/5 Saline Invitational at 10:00 AWAY

**Varsity Women's Soccer** SMAC games 5/15 at 6:45 TBD

5/17 at 6:45 TBD

Women's Lacrosse 5/14 against Vicksburg at 6:00

KALAMAZOO CENTRAL

#### Men's Lacrosse 5/4 against Portage Central at 6:00 KALAMAZOO CENTRAL

## RECAP OF THE 2016/2017 LOY NORRIX WINTER SPORTS SEASON

**BOWLING** Trevor Morgan



"We had a great season. We had a lot of fun. We worked hard and I think we proved we worked hard at the end when we won the conference," said junior Trevor Morgan, captain of the bowling

The bowling team was very successful this year. They won the conference for the first time in school history. The bowling team's season record was 7-1 making it an outstanding season.

**CHEER Brittany Day** 



"We had an amazing season with a lot of improvement. Everyone on the team got to know each other really well. I'm very proud of how the season ended," said senior cheerleader Brittany Day.

The cheer team had a tough season with a record of 2-10. The team practiced everyday and put forth their best effort in every competition. They're hopeful that next year will bring more members and a stronger team.

**BASKETBALL** Delano Swift



"This season was a little disappointing but at the same time we are all having fun and growing a lot. One thing that would make the season better is if we won a little more," said senior basketball player Delano Swift.

Swift came to Norrix at the beginning of his junior year from Waverly High School. The basketball team's record is 3-16. Their season ended on March 6, 2017 in the first round of districts to Battle Creek Lakeview.

**HOCKEY** Jacob Remelius



"The season was verv extraordinary, especially when we won the league title for the first time ever in program history," said senior hockey player Jacob Remelius.

Remelius is one of the captains on the Kalamazoo United hockey team. Their season ended on February 27, 2017, with an outstanding record of 22-3-1.

**SWIMMING** 



"We worked really hard and we ended up coming out with the win at conference for the first time in Norrix and KPS history," said sophomore Isaiah Hobson, a Norrix swimmer.

Hobson is a second year swimmer who admired how the seniors led the team. Hobson swam the 50 freestyle and the 100 freestyle. He looks forward to next year and hopes to lead the team to another conference championship.

WRESTLING Kalen Robinson



"Wrestling was a real blast this year. We had a lot of fun but at the same time improved and got better towards the end of the season," said junior wrestler Kalen Robinson.

Robinson's record this season was 13-12. Robinson has been wrestling since he was in 8th grade and can't wait for his senior year to lead the team.

## BOWLING THEIR WAY TO A NEW CHAMPIONSHIP BANNER

#### **SIDNEY RICHARDSON NEWS EDITOR**

The 2016-2017 Loy Norrix Men's Bowling team will be raising a conference championship banner after they complete their season. The bowlers just capped a conference title win over the Portage Northern Huskies and are ranked third in the state.

Led by junior Trevor Morgan and seniors Connor Thomas and Nick Reed, the Knights almost achieved perfection this season, their only blemish being in their loss against the Huskies, who are ranked ninth in the state, at the end of the season. This is the program's third conference championship.

The bowling team often flies under the radar as it is one of the less flashy sports played at Loy Norrix. Regardless of the lack of publicity that the team had, their talent and accomplishments show through. A conference champion in any sport at Loy Norrix is a rarity and the bowlers have managed this great feat almost flawlessly.

Bowling is a relatively new sport at Loy Norrix. It was a long time club sport before becoming an official team sport in 2006. They

compete and practice at Pinz, a local bowling alley off Stadium Drive. The bowlers make the trip to the bowling alley everyday to practice and polish their technique. Bowling is a team sport where teammates play frames and their added scores are compared to the competing teams.

The bowlers will be able to look back on this run as a memorable one for quite some time. For seniors like Thomas, it was a great way to go out.

"[My best memory was] beating Portage Northern. They were our only real competition and it felt good to come out on top," said

The team could repeat their success next year as most of the team members will return, including junior and leader, Trevor Morgan. Morgan is a three year letterman and fell just 5 spots short of a breath in the state finals as a sophomore last season. He emphasizes the need for team chemistry in ensuring success.

"It's very important, if we didn't gel as a team, we wouldn't be where we are. It's a team sport and we have to work together and win as



PHOTO CREDIT / JOEY WELCH

back with a sweep of the

Huskies in the tiebreaking

best two out of three roll

off, a type of shootout, to

secure the title. They will

level in Lansing to secure a

spot in the state finals. The

compete for a spot as well.

Huskies will be there to

The bowling team listens intently to junior Trevor Morgan and coach Mike Brandt's gameplan. The team finished their season with only one loss.

a team," said Morgan.

The pivotal moment of the season was their loss to the Huskies and the subsequent tiebreaker win over them for the conference title. It was a moment of adversity for this young team. The feat was all the more difficult, considering that these matches were back-to-back on the same

"It was very difficult. We had a team meeting and got our confidence back. We knew what we had to do and we went out and did it," said Morgan.

They more than bounced

now compete at the regional

Senior Connor Thomas bowls during practice. The team practices at Pinz Bowling Alley off Stadium Drive. Thomas has been bowling since his freshman year at Loy Norrix.

## MEN AND WOMENS LACROSSE TEAMS PREPARE FOR A BETTER SEASON

## **ERIKA WAGONER STAFF WRITER**

There's two minutes left on the clock. Kalamazoo United (KU) lacrosse is down one point against one of their biggest competitors. Men are lined up in position for the face-off ready to redeem the game and take home a win. With the ref's whistle and men checking left and right as KU gains possession of the ball, one of the attackmen gets the opportunity to shoot and tie the game. The ball is ripped towards the goal and hits bar down when the goalie stops the ball and throws it to the opponent. The last 20 seconds diminish as KU falls short of a win.

March 13th, 2017, the beginning of high school spring sports and the first day of practice for both men's and women's lacrosse. Both teams have struggled in the past to improve their game statistics and are looking to improve themselves and the team this upcoming season.

Both men's and women's Kalamazoo United lacrosse teams are made up of players from Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central and are based at Kalamazoo Central High School, where the players practice and host home

Loy Norrix senior Nick Loken, who played on the Kalamazoo United (KU) Men's Lacrosse team last year and continues this season, has hope for the team's improvement.

"We got new coaches this year that have a lot of experience growing a program. We also have players who are determined to learn and improve their personal play," said Loken. "Lacrosse is a team sport and you can not be successful with a few good players. Our coaches have been very good about improving everyone, not just the few top

Last year the men's team went 3-13.



PHOTO CREDIT / BRIANNA ENGLISH

Kalamazoo United Women's Lacrosse team does their chant before begining their senior night. They played Tecumseh on April 18th.

With the addition of two new coaches, Jimmy Stabille and Blaine Myers, and more players, the team looks to develop and make improvements for what they hope will be a successful season.

Loy Norrix senior Andrew DeHaan has been playing for KU since freshman year. He has been looking forward to the upcoming lacrosse season to try and change the attitude and way people think about lacrosse and the KU team. DeHaan has hopes that this season the team can win more games if everyone puts in the effort.

"I believe that we need to hustle more and devote more time to stick skills, [which includes cradling, handling, and shooting]," explained DeHaan. "I believe that we can accomplish a lot if our lacrosse IQ is enhanced and we are smarter on the field."

Like the men's KU lacrosse team, the KU Women's Lacrosse team has made changes to the coaching staff and has added players. They have two new coaches this year,



Brandon Loy and Lucas Matuz.

The team believes that this year will be different than past seasons. There is time for improvement and to challenge the new and returning players to get them in shape with the right mindset to be victorious.

against East Lansing on March 27th.

Loy Norrix sophomore Aria Kleber, who started her lacrosse career last year with the KU Women's Lacrosse team, has a positive spirit for the upcoming season.

"I think we have a chance of doing better this year because we have a better coaching staff with better strategies for winning and more lacrosse experience," said Kleber.

Loy Norrix senior Maggie Swafford, who has been playing on KU since her freshman year, is excited for the final season of her KU career. Swafford is looking forward to the improvement this season with returning players and new coaches to help mentor the new players.

Kalamazoo United Men's Lacrosse team warms up together on the field. They played

Kalamazoo Central junior Ellie Matuz who has been playing on the KU team since her freshman year has hope that the new changes to the season will be good for the

PHOTO CREDIT / AMY HOHLER

"We are working on the fundamental and just trying to get a hang of the sport, we are trying to get in shape," said Matuz.

Last season the women's lacrosse team went 3-11. Every player hopes to grow personally for the team to make progress. Every player on both teams has to have the

same mindset: that lacrosse is a team sport. "I'm excited that there are so many great girls on the team. I love that our coaches are very team driven, and that we're more physically conditioned than in years prior," said Swafford.

**SPORTS** 

## DETROIT RED WINGS HOST HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA DAY FOR JOURNALISM STUDENTS



The group of journalism students were extremly lucky, getting to see a professional team practicing. Red Wings line up as thier coach explains the next drill they will skate.

#### **ABBY FARRER SPORTS EDITOR**

A small room at Joe Louis Arena (The Joe) was filled with journalism students from all over Michigan who came for the annual high school media day. The students waited for the first panelists of Detroit High School Media Day: Justin Rose, WXYZ-TV sports reporter, Michael Caples, Michigan Hockey editor

and Dana Wakiji, editor of Detroitredwings.com.

Students sat intrigued as they learned that it would take hard work, determination and long stressful hours of working to be in the field of journalism. They listened as the speakers detailed the ins and outs of being a sports reporter for the Red Wings.

Students then got a tour of the press box and some discovered the joy of being a professional journalist. Finally, the group of about 75 got down to the ice. It's the moment that most of the students were waiting for, seeing the Detroit Red Wings practice. The Red Wings practiced for the game against Tampa Bay Lightning

on Friday, March 24 losing in overtime 2-1.

This Red Wings team may be the first since 1990 not to make the Stanley Cup playoffs

Since 2015 the Red Wings have been coached by Jeff Blashill. He coached at Western Michigan for the 2010-11 season before moving to assistant coach

with the Red Wings under head coach Mike Babcock. Blashill then moved to head coach of the Grand Rapids Griffins, a minor league team that is affiliated with the Red Wings.

After talking to the head coach, students also got a first look at a large project coming to Detroit in the next few years.

They listened as the speakers detailed the ins and outs of being a sports reporter for the Red Wings.

According to District Detroit "There will be 50 blocks of thriving businesses, parks, restaurants, bars and event destinations. It will be home to the young and the young at heart, families, new residents and longtime residents who want to be where the action is." These blocks will connect downtown and midtown.

"The Ilitch family has been buying properties around downtown for years," said Craig Turnbull, senior VP of marketing and communications.

Mike Ilitch was the owner of the Red Wings and the Detroit Tigers. Ilitch the founder of Little Caesars Pizza, he passed earlier this year in February before he got to see the final construction of the

Little Caesars Arena which will be the new home of the Red Wings and the Pistons.

The Joe will be leveled and turned into a new hotel, residential and retail complex.

As the journalism students got to learn about what goes in the press box and the view that reporters get of the game, they also learned what goes on with planning to build a new arena and bring the city of Detroit back from bankruptcy.

## KALAMAZOO UNITED CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL SEASON



PHOTO CREDIT / BAILEY HANDLEY

Kalamazoo United offense chases the puck aggressivley despite Hudsonville's defensive efforts. Plays like this are what got KU their phenomenal

## **BILL BOWSER** ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER

The smell of ice, mixed with sweat, colored under the glare of fluorescent lights, a scene any hockey player knows all too well, especially a Kalamazoo United (KU) hockey player.

Since its founding in 2000, KU hockey has been primarily associated with its negative records and continuous losing seasons. However, in the last two years KU has turned their skating style around, and a once losing team has created a name for itself seemingly overnight.

As the winter slips into spring. Let us take a moment to reflect on the hard work and outstanding season of our very own KU hockey team.

At the beginning of this season KU had already come off of one of their best seasons yet.

The 2015-2016 season saw a greater level of player and team success that had been seemingly unheard for United in the more recent years, with a season record of 15 wins and 16 loses. Fans and families were finally excited and packing the stands to watch the joint school team take to the ice. The 2016-2017 season, new records were for with KU winning the Southwest Michigan High School Hockey League (SWMHSHL) championship against their rival Mattawan, finishing their season with a record of 21 wins, 4 loses and one tie game. A very impressive turnaround for the team with a legacy of loss.

"In the beginning it wasn't fun, my first year we won like six games," said senior Jacob Remiulius, a right defenseman from Loy Norrix. "The past couple of years have been better."

As Remilius described, these couple of years have seen more wins by KU than ever before, including the first time the team ever won SWMHSHL when they beat Mattawan High School 3-2.

Remelius, who is credited for two assists in the Championship game described it further.

"I was speechless, probably one of the best games I've ever skated. The atmosphere was crazy, the fans were crazy," said Remilius.

Michael Schirripa, a left defenseman, and his brother Anthony, both from Kalamazoo Central, skated for KU for their third year this year.

"To finally have a winning season after years of losing feels really good. I'm just glad we had a chance to turn our past around, and now we have made history," said Schrippa.

Both Michael and Tony have been skating with United

since the 2014-2015 season, their freshman year.

"This season I have made miles of improvements, and I feel like next season I will do even better," continued

Both of the brothers have bore witness to the improvements and changes in every aspect of the team over the past two

"The fans were way different this season, because now we actually had a student section compared to other years,"

As compared to other years, the training became far more rigorous to prepare the team to deal with the higher level of competition, hard work, dedication and practices long before or after the sun has touched the horizon. All the work seems to have payed off in every aspect of the game.

"I just kept telling myself, 'this is for you to get better. You just gotta put your mind to it," said Schirripa. That's how Schrippa, his brother, and many other players motivated themselves to put in the work. That earned them the reward of a satisfying season.

"They worked really hard. They've really picked up their compete level in the past couple years," said Coach Tyler Kindle. This is Kindle's third year as a coach for the Kalamazoo United team.

"The guys had a great year, they came to work constantly," said Kindle.

"It was great to walk away conference champions, which has never been done before, it was really great." Coach Kindle holds his team in place of great "Congrats, enjoy it, not many teams get to win conference titles, and they did an amazing job all year. My two seniors at Loy Norrix were a huge part of the team they were great out there. They put heart and soul into the team, and have a lot to be proud of,"

> "I just kept telling myself, 'this is for you to get better. You just gotta put your mind to it,""

said Coach Kindle.

However, beyond the immediate cause for celebration, coach Kindle held pride in the win, due to the sense of hope it gives for the future.

"It's a great motivator to keep things going, to help keep interest and keep the program going," said Kindle.

Walking away with even bigger skates to fill next year, KU has turned around a legacy of loss into a future of pride.

## ARTISTS OF LOY NORRIX

**Tears** 







Xavier House, sophomore
"Art to me can be anything you want it to be. The great thing about art is it doesn't need to conform to one thing like a drawing or painting. Art can be anything from a building to a movie. Art can also mean anything you want it to mean. You could have a different idea of what an artist means with their work than someone else. That's why I admire and consider myself an artist because of the vastness of the idea





**Hunter Thomas, senior** 

"I've been making art since a very young age, and it's something that I imagine myself doing for a long time, to say the least. Back then, becoming an art teacher seemed inevitable. I remember sitting in my elementary art room, dreaming of the day when I'd be at the front desk explaining the color wheel, demonstrating different lines and patterns, and so on.

My opinions on art have definitely changed since those early years. I used to believe that everything should be drawn exactly as seen, and that if a piece wasn't realistic, it was somehow "wrong." How did I not realize that I had limited my creativity, and why did it take so long for me to branch out? It's been over a decade since I set these restrictions on myself, and I'm still learning to embrace the bold, exaggerated style I've developed. Bright colors, large, round eyes, and symmetrical compositions tend to occur in my portraits. Abstracting my art, even by the slightest degree, has given me a whole new perspective on the world around me.

Creating art can be one of the most frustrating things, though. I feel like I'm in a constant state of artist's block, working piece by piece until I can finally express an idea (almost) exactly how I desired. There are nights when I turn on "Arrested Development" and just start painting, usually hoping that something better hits me."

J. Gumbo's

we put our soul in the bowl!

→ Jewelry ≈ Shoes

> Choice of Vest

> Choice of Tie

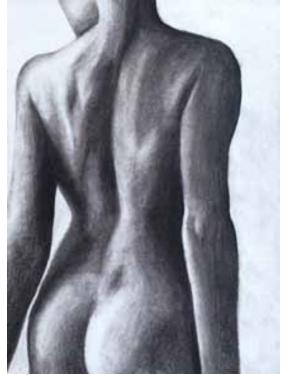


>Jewelry

Choice of Vest

Choice of Tie

Cat





Float

## Emma Greschak, senior "I guess I create art because it makes me happy and it's

something I know I can work to improve on. I enjoy looking back on my old work and seeing how much I've grown stylistically. I do plan to pursue a career in the arts, specifically in animation or illustration."







Purple Journal



**Eye Journal** 

**Gouache Painting** 

## **Grace Muchmore, sophomore**

"I love making art. Creating in general is such a gratifying experience for me. I'm all over different types of mediums, from crayon wax to acrylic paint. This year I really started branching out. I'm taking a Film/Video EFA at The Epic Center and I have really found myself enjoying the class. I cannot even begin to express how much I have learned and progressed. It's also such a great opportunity to meet other interesting people from other schools. Later this year I plan on working on different sculpture projects. Currently, I have found myself fixated on mixed media projects, such as journaling. I especially enjoy gouache paint (seen in the following examples). I am, of course, still trying to figure things out and experimenting. I don't have any definitive plans for the future, though I do know for sure I want to puruse an art-centric career."







Choice of Vest

Choice of Tie

Dine-in, Take-out or Catering!

