



ALEXIS WEEDEN, STAFF WITER

Loy Norrix physical education teacher, **Theophilis Duckett**, talks to senior Kenndrel Palmore during his third hour recreational sports class. These little talks during class are one of the ways Duckett shows support for his students.

P.E. Teacher Celebrates His 50TH Year at Norrix

ALEXIS WEEDEN
STAFF WRITER

The lights reflect off the mirrors in the Loy Norrix weight room, which currently shows the normal chaos of gym class. One girl turns music on, blasting it through the room as other students raise their voices to combat the noise. Students are lined up for the bench press or setting up a rack to squat in. Others meander towards the physical education teacher, Theophilis Duckett, better known as Coach. Each student is spouting loud questions or asking for advice and Duckett

answers every question and bid for advice. This isn't Duckett's first rodeo, not by a long shot. Duckett started out as an intern teacher in April of 1969 and was hired as a teacher's aid in September of that same year. Meaning that in April of 2019, Duckett will be celebrating his 50th year at Loy Norrix High School. For students who haven't had a chance to talk with Duckett, it might come as a surprise that the coach has two disciplines; physical education (P.E.) and history. Currently Duckett teaches P.E. Duckett's overall favorite aspect of teaching,

no matter the class, be it government or conditioning II, is "watching young people learning to play and have fun while still being responsible," said Duckett. Some students, like junior Anthony Marrero, find Duckett's ideas about responsibility helpful, as they teach focus, something that many high schoolers struggle with during the long school day. "What I've learned from coach Duckett is to find ways to focus myself in an area I wish to prosper in and to never give up faith," said Marrero. Focus often ties into responsibility in students. If a student can focus on

their tasks, they're more likely to get them done. Sometimes it just takes a bit of a push. Responsibility is a big part of the coach's life, but so is ambition. For Duckett, ambition is what got him to Norrix and into college. The biggest change he's witnessed in the educational environment is the loss of ambition in student athletes. "Young people aren't as hungry as we were," Duckett said. "For me athletics were a way to improve my family situation. I became an athlete to express myself." Duckett pushes ambition on his students

through class discussions and lectures that occasionally take place. Other times those speeches are used, not to motivate students to be more ambitious, but instead to remind them of the importance of respecting those around them, both their teachers and their fellow classmates. That's a lesson that Duckett thinks students need to remember. "People are human beings and no one is perfect. At some point in time you have to see people for who they are and know that your job isn't to judge them but to help them," Duckett explained.

Knowing the long-time coach, it's no surprise that if Duckett hadn't been a PE teacher, he believes he could have been a politician. "I think I'd probably be in politics of some type, trying to make things better," Duckett said. Coach Duckett always tries to guide students in the right direction. He does this through encouraging class lectures and support and encouraging students to push themselves.

SEE DUCKETT PAGE 4

A Fresh Perspective: Loy Norrix Welcomes New Principal



BRANDON SCHNURR, WEB EDITOR

Principal **Christopher Aguinaga** works at his desk, answering emails while taking a phone call. Aguinaga was selected as the new principal during a hiring process last winter. As the former Dean of Students, Aguinaga already has experience at Norrix and hit the ground running, being sure to get to work around the school immediately.

BRANDON SCHNURR
WEB EDITOR

From principals put on administrative leave, to the hiring of new assistant principals, Loy Norrix has experienced many changes in administration throughout the last two years alone. Last school year, we welcomed Johnny Edwards, the current Director of Secondary Education to Norrix as our interim principal while candidates for the position of principal were interviewed. Norrix finally confirmed its permanent principal replacement toward the end of the 2017-2018 school year, former Dean of Students Christopher Aguinaga, and this time, he's here to stay. Principal Aguinaga, like many other people, enjoys being outdoors, exercising, and even leads indoor cycling classes, called "spinning," at a variety of

gyms around the city. Just like every other person, he also has dislikes. Aguinaga hates cheese and recently, Diet Coke, and is, according to him, a "recovering Diet Coke addict." Aguinaga has worked in the Kalamazoo Public Schools district for 13 years now, of those years have been here at Loy Norrix. Starting as a social studies teacher in the 2006-2007 school year, Aguinaga began working at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts. After four years of teaching, Aguinaga moved into the role of instructional coach, where he worked with teachers to help them improve their teaching skills for his final two years at Maple Street. Aguinaga took the post of assistant principal during his first year at Norrix, and moved on to act as dean of students for the last three years. Now, he is the principal of Loy Norrix.

"It's a change in perspective," confided Aguinaga. "I'm dealing with the change daily. I have to keep reminding myself I'm not the dean and let Ms. Middleton [the new dean of students] do her thing." With experience as both an administrator and a teacher, Aguinaga is accustomed to understanding students and teachers alike, he is able to understand situations from many perspectives. "I think what I bring to the table is my experience within Kalamazoo," explained Aguinaga. "I am very familiar with both many of the families and students and the way the school district operates." Being both a teacher and serving in various administrative roles in the educational system, has broadened Aguinaga's perspective, especially with ways the school could improve.

SEE PRINCIPAL PAGE 4

Loy Norrix has a New Liaison officer

KAILYNNE BESSER
SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

“It’s amazing to have the women power at Loy Norrix,” said campus safety officer Jacqueline Hampton.

Hampton is very happy that there is now a female police officer working at Loy Norrix. “It’s nice to see another woman walking around the school helping keep this school safe and working with students”said Hampton.

According to the website “The Statistics Portal,” of the police officers in the United States, only 12 percent are female.

As of September, Loy Norrix has a new liaison officer from the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, Catrice Lockett. She was a liaison officer in Grand Rapids schools and was transferred to Kalamazoo.

The past two liaison officers at Loy Norrix have been men. Having Lockett, a female officer, at the school sets a great example to the students. Both boys and girls have a chance to see a capable woman taking on a role that has in the past been a male-dominated field.

Lockett loves that she can build

relationships with the students and that they can talk and joke around with her. Lockett came to Loy Norrix to work with kids. She wants to try to keep them on the right track, keep them in school, and prevent them from causing trouble. There have been times that she has had to jump into action. When Lockett came to Loy Norrix, she wanted to be helpful and work with students.

Lockett loves the hours she works, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. She has a flexible schedule. Even though she is working at Norrix, she still has time for herself.

“No matter what obstacles you are going through, don’t give up. Always believe in yourself and don’t give up,” Lockett advises to students.

Lockett spends much of her time in the cafeteria watching the students during breakfast and at lunch to make sure that everyone is behaving properly and not having problems with other students. Lockett doesn’t really talk to kids during lunch unless they approach her first to have a conversation. She thinks lunch is for the kids to have time for themselves or be with their friends. Lockett is here to make sure each school day goes well.



KAILYNNE BESSER, SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Officer **Catrice Lockett** talking with freshman Ahair Mathews and Amania Mabon about what its like to see the snow for the first time. Mabon just moved to kalamazoo over the summer and hasn’t seen snow before this year.

Loy Norrix Welcomes New Assistant Principal

AIDAN LANE
COPY EDITOR

Young, fresh and ready to work are the first thoughts that race through one’s mind when they first meet new Loy Norrix Assistant Principal Brandon Lukes. Lukes’ clean dress and attentive attitude command respect from those around him.

Previously an English teacher at the Alternative Learning Program (ALP) near Woods Lake Elementary, this Florida native is one of the new faces of LN, more specifically, the Freshmen Academy Assistant Principal in the B Wing, where his office resides.

Along with new people come new ideas, and Lukes hopes to create a new identity for what it means to be a LN student. As his line of work is tailored towards the freshmen, Lukes plans to “raise the bar” for our students by working with the first-year students.

Subtly, but effectively, Lukes is working to improve Loy Norrix by enforcing school rules in regards to the noticeably more stern ID crackdown. These strict rules are not instances of Lukes flexing his power, but a manner in which to boost the image and morale of the school by establishing a positive baseline for our students. As the year progresses, Lukes will continue to learn about our students. His ability to move around the school amidst his busy schedule increases his educational impact.

“I’m able to be more proactive as an educator,” said Lukes in reference to his mobility. Soon Norrix can expect to see a

holistic change.

Not only is Lukes ready to improve LN, but his past seems to make him the right person for the job. As a lover of books, Lukes used to teach English at ALP to middle school students. His experience as a teacher has taught him to work with all types of students, allowing him to solve a multitude of student-related concerns.

“I have a unique perspective as an administrator,” added Lukes as he spoke about his time as a teacher working with students who need more specialized attention.

In addition to helping him deal with his educational responsibilities, his recent employment as an educator also helps him connect with the teaching staff.. This is sure to foster healthy relations between the administrative and teaching faculty.

Lukes’ dedication to the school showed as he took time out of his Knight Life interview to attend to a student-related matter. He was quick, attentive and serious, all desirable traits in a leader. His actions show how the welfare of his students is always on his mind.

As the Norrix community warmly welcomes new Assistant Principal Lukes into its heart, Lukes is working to rejuvenate the school with a fresh breath of life.

“[I’m] trying to create a culture where excellence is the expectation,” remarked Lukes as he talked about his goals for the school.



AIDAN LANE, COPY EDITOR

Brandon Lukes speaks with Da’kivon Johnson at lunch. He does this to check in with students and to make sure they are doing what they are supposed to do at this time .

Loy Norrix Remembers Eli Verne



ESPERANZA FRAGA
SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Elijah Verne passed away September, 2018. During his life Eli was many things, a student, a golfer, and a member of the swim team. He was also known for putting smiles on the faces of those around him and for challenging people to be kind and empathetic. He was very much loved by his teachers, classmates family and friends.

Eli’s funeral was beautiful. At the service, people remembered Eli for his love of nature and his wild spirit.

His mother told a story about how sweet and kind Eli was to another child. It had been the other child’s first time at the movies.

In her own words, “This was Eli, always considerate of someone else, always caring,” said Jenna Verne.

Eli’s grandfather, Michael Edwards, also said some touching words while describing a conversation he once had with Eli about the army.

“I would of been lucky to have had you in my command. Being a soldier is not all about yelling or screaming or acting tough,

like how you see in movies. It’s about caring and having that compassion for others,” Edwards said at the service.

Eli touched many people and fellow classmates’ hearts. Rebecca Layton, a Loy Norrix teacher, who became close to Eli’s sister, Naomi, says her first time meeting Eli was through Naomi.

“She introduced me to Eli when he first came here as a freshman, and was like this is my baby brother.” said Layton.

Eli was a very intellectual person, who loved to educate anyone and everyone. He would say fun little facts about the smallest things to anyone who would listen. Layton was one of the many people who experienced this wonderful trait first-hand.

Layton shared one of her stories about Eli, “Most of the kids around here know I am scared of the creature [bearded dragon] in Ms. Weavers room, like terrified, and I walked into the room one day and Eli was holding the creature, and I said something about keeping the creature away from me because it was on Eli’s shoulder.” Layton continued, “And he stalked me around the room, and he started telling me all these random facts

about dragons, like random stories and facts about this dragon until I had to admit it was at least interesting, and then he was like, ‘Okay, now you have to touch the dragon.’ At first I just kind of poked it and Eli was like, ‘Nope, nope. You have to do this,’ and he made me go up and down the scales so I could feel what it was like. It was just who he was. It was something he was really passionate about. It bothered him that I disliked this thing I didn’t really know about. He wanted me to know about it.”

Layton also fondly remembers Eli’s infectious laughter. Those who knew him agree that Eli saw much of the good in life, choosing to seek out positivity.

“He had a good sense of humor, and he laughed so hard when I actually did it [pet the bearded dragon], and he had this laugh that was pure joy like when he laughed. It was like every part of him was laughing. It was nothing held back. He didn’t try to rein any part of himself in. When he was happy it was pure happiness,” said Layton.

Elijah was a very accomplished person and team member. One of the teams he was a part of was the Loy Norrix golf team. He ended up making varsity half-way through the season last year.

“He was a little old man in the golf course. He was always looking for golf balls and enjoyed some of the subtle aspects of the game,” said Jay Peterson, Loy Norrix history teacher and golf coach.

“He would watch YouTube videos about snakes for hours. He would try to come up to me and say, ‘Hey, when I get a snake here is what it will do, and it eats the mouse whole.’ I was like, ‘Eli, I don’t want to know this stuff,’” said his sister Naomi.

Eli finally got the snake he wanted when he got a job at Cafe ‘36 at Sawall Health Foods. With the money Eli saved up, he was able to pay for a four and a half foot Boa Python pet snake. He would ride around his neighborhood with the snake and let any kid who wanted to touch the snake, pet him. When it was raining, you could catch Eli and his little sister outside

trying to save the worms from being run over by his mother. Eli also had a pet dog, which he received as a gift for his bar mitzvah.

Eli loved to invent things and wanted to be an engineer. He would make small wooden doll furniture for his grandmother and other projects in the wood workshop at his house. With just using rubber band batteries, he would turn his Lego structures into electronic buildings. When it came to scaring his sisters, Eli would go all out. He would put a plastic Frankenstein head that was motion-sensored in Naomi’s bedroom.

Even now that Eli is no longer with us, he continues to teach and impact the lives of others.

Peterson reflected, “It was just the way he said ‘friend’ that always stuck with me, and it just made me realize, especially now with his passing just how important that word is and how much friendship meant to him. I think the thing that will live on in me when it comes to Eli is never to take friendship for granted and to always try to pursue those types of relationships.”



Junior Becomes Captain for the Forensics Team

ELLIOT RUSSELL
STAFF WRITER

The Loy Norrix Forensics Team has been a large part of junior Riley Dominianni's high school career since the start. Before coming to Norrix, Dominianni participated in many theatrical productions. Because she enjoyed acting, she quickly joined the forensics team when she arrived at Loy Norrix.

"I've always liked acting and I thought it [forensics] was a super unique idea," said Dominianni.

Forensics is competitive speaking: acting, debating, poetry, speeches, creative writing, and more. There are a variety of different events to suit different interests and skill sets.

"The forensics team is all about competitive acting and public speaking," said Dominianni. "We just compete with other students from other schools with prepared pieces that we come up with, rehearse, and memorize."

Dominianni and her teammates are putting together acting pieces, which they will perform at competitions later in the year. For the first time, Dominianni is captaining an event this year. She is overseeing all the students in the duos event, where two people partner up to perform a piece.

"I've done that [duos event] for the past two years, but this year, I'm actually not gonna do that. I'm gonna captain all the other kids who want to do it," said Dominianni. "I'll have a role in pairing up

students and helping them pick a piece, and helping them revise it."

In March, they will be competing before of a panel of judges who "rank us, and then at the end, we see who did the best," said Dominianni.

Dominianni's first year on the forensics team, her freshman year, was one of the team's lowest points since she started at Loy Norrix.

"We didn't even break regionals, so we didn't get far at all freshman year," said Dominianni, "That made us feel awful."

During her second year, the team made it to the state competition, which "made up for it," said Dominianni.

"That was really, really exciting because we felt pretty discouraged after regionals," Dominianni continued, "We didn't think that we did well, and then to find out we had done well enough to move forward to the state competition, that was really exciting."

According to the Public Broadcasting Service being on a forensics team helps with critical thinking and communication skills. It is also a good way for participants to express their interests and opinions.

As an upperclassman, Dominianni has reflected on how her time on the forensics team may help in her future.

"It's definitely made me better with time management," said Dominianni, "It's made me a lot better with nerves because it's super nerve racking to compete all the time."



MIRANDA COLE, FEATURE EDITOR

Junior **Riley Dominianni** explains to this years duo team what the teay will be doing for the season. Duo is a competition where two people play out a skit without looking at or touching each other.



MIRANDA COLE, FEATURE EDITOR

Junior **Riley Dominianni** sits with her friends before the very first forensics meeting. Dominianni is very dedicated to her team and is enjoying the season as a new captain for the forensics duo team.

Freshman Faces Pitfalls and Benefits of Ambition



PAULA MONTORO, STAFF WRITER

Freshman **Koryania Robinson** studys for her journalism final with her study guide and computer to help her remember the information she has learned during the first trimester.

PAULA MONTORO
STAFF WRITER

"I know I have big goals. I want to be someone important," said Koryania Robinson, a freshman who is already sure about her life goals.

Robinson lived in New York City for seven years where she had access to more cultural events and was exposed to very different experiences and people. Although she likes a lot of things about Kalamazoo, like the Kalamazoo Promise, she hopes to leave

Michigan and move back to New York City someday. "I want to study medicine or law," said Robinson. "I do want to study at a college out of state. I think that there are a lot of things to learn and see out of Michigan."

Ambition is the strong desire for achievement. It's an attribute that can either be seen as a positive quality or as a sign of excessive competitiveness. Ambitious people are the target of hard criticism but they are equally admired and esteemed.

Today's teenagers

are the most ambitious in a century. Huffington Post journalist, Jessica Elgot, found that nearly 80 percent of modern teens say career success is important to them, compared to 62 percent of baby boomers when they were adolescents. It's probably no coincidence that teenagers now report being more stressed than what their parents were at the same age.

Robinson considers herself as an ambitious teenager; however, she is aware of the challenges that teenagers must face

before achieving their goals. Robinson is still hard on herself sometimes and she shared that she is often her own worst enemy

"I know that it's going to be even more difficult for me because I'm an African American woman, but I want to prove them wrong," Robinson said. "I think I know how to handle failure but I'm very hard on myself sometimes."

What worries her the most is her future. This fear is very common among teenagers. According to the article "What do teens fear?" from the website Stage of Life, 66.3 percent of teens are afraid of the future or life after graduation.

"I'm afraid of not going to college or not having an stable job in the future. I could get over failing some exams because I know that failing is part of life, but I would feel so bad if I don't get to go to college."

Koryania Robinson

Robinson has always been sure that she wants to go college and she knows she would feel really frustrated if after all her work she doesn't get to achieve that.

"I'm afraid of not going to college or not having an stable job in the future. I

could get over failing some exams because I know that failing is part of life, but I would feel so bad if I don't get to go to college," Robinson said. "I've been dreaming with that for a long time."

Ambition can cause stress and anxiety. Moreover, the fear of failing stops teens from trying. According to a study at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, around half of American teenagers suffer from stress or anxiety due to the high expectations of their parents and society.

"I feel like I have big goals and sometimes it's frustrating when I fail," Robinson continued, "I know I'm gonna fail in life, but as long as I try and I work towards what I want that should be enough."

According to the article "Ambitious Adolescents," written by the psychologist Carl E. Pickhardt of "Psychology Today," for many teenagers that's not enough. Ambition can be dangerous.

"There are two problems with ambition in teenagers," Pickhardt said, "First is the issue of how high they set their expectations and how hard they put themselves to meet them, the problem of pressure. And second is the issue of how they treat themselves when they have failed to meet their expectations, the problem

of punishment."

Pickhardt likes to remind teenagers of the importance of knowing how to overcome failure. Teenagers need to be constructive, learn from the situation and improve their self-esteem.

Robinson is sure that it won't be easy and she is prepared for some failure, but she won't give up

"I'm sure it will take a lot of work to achieve success but it will be worth it all," said Robinson.

Tips and Tricks to Graduate Successfully

Study for all your finals.

Try studying with people who lift you up, not bring you down.

Be involved with your classwork. If you don't enjoy it, you won't want to do it.

Talk to your teachers if you are struggling. They are people too and they understand.

Come to school as often as you can.

Tell your teachers if you need more time for a good reason.

Try to calm yourself before each exam.

New Freshman Makes a (Kalamazoo) Promising Change

RILEY DOMINIANNI
GUEST WRITER

Walking into Loy Norrix for the first time is overwhelming for everybody, but not many experience the drastic change that Elliot Russell did when he started as a freshman this fall. Russell is one of eight students to arrive from Kazoo School, Kalamazoo’s smallest independent private school. While Kazoo School has a student population of 81 people, Loy Norrix has a total of 1,664.

“It was definitely overwhelming, and I didn’t know where to go. I was just walking through the crowds of people,” said Russell.

However, despite the massive, nearly 2 thousand percent, population increase, Russell is finding that he and his fellow Kazoo School alumni are adjusting quite well to Loy Norrix.

An active member of the new eSports team, Russell is happy to have found his own little corner in the chaos and is grateful to have his teammates to help him out at school. Like extracurriculars do for most students, eSports has been a great way to make one of Kalamazoo’s largest schools seem a bit smaller and a lot more welcoming for Russell.

“Elliot has been an important part of the team since the first day,” said math teacher and eSports supervisor Patrick Greeley. “He has been very supportive of the other players on the team and has even acted as a commentator for one of the team’s matches. He started the season as a player ‘on the bench’ but he has since worked his way regularly into matches.”



FRESHMAN ELLIOT RUSSELL goes over his answers before turning in his paper. He reads out loud as his peers do the same.

RILEY DOMINIANNI, STAFF WRITER

Greeley also added that he is “happy that the eSports team is becoming a place where anyone can feel welcome and included.”

This team is not the only safe place for new students. Russell also has friends from Kazoo School who are involved in the Gender-Sexuality Alliance. Another friend participates in the school’s Dungeons and Dragons club, SWORD, and one has an interest in playing hockey. It seems that everyone has found their niche.

Among the various benefits of Kalamazoo Public Schools, like the extensive list of extracurriculars Russell and his peers enjoy, there is one that goes unmatched: The Kalamazoo Promise.

“I’m really excited for that [the Promise scholarship]. Because of it, I’m going to try to go somewhere in Michigan,” said Russell.

Although Russell only started attending KPS in

ninth grade, he will have over half of his college tuition paid for with the Promise. With the average college tuition in Michigan being \$14,160 a year, this is certainly a gift he recognizes and is grateful for.

Overall, Russell is happy with the switch from private to public school, and so, he says, are his parents. They find the opportunities Norrix offers very different from those at his former school.

Kazoo School, with its small class sizes and emphasis on creativity and individuality as opposed to grades, is on the complete opposite end of the spectrum from a traditional public school. So naturally, one might expect Kazoo School parents to favor another private, similarly progressive school for grades 9-12. However, every single one of the eleven students in Russell’s previous class is continuing their education at a public school. Eight attend Loy

Norrix, one goes to Portage Northern, one moved to Kalamazoo Central, and one now lives out of state.

In fact, interest in private schools is declining nationwide. According to the “Wall Street Journal” and the U.S. Census Bureau, private school enrollment dropped 14 percent from 2006 to 2016 and is still going down. It seems that public schools are far richer when it comes to extracurriculars, diversity, and real world experience.

Russell agrees, he sees a bright future at Loy Norrix, largely because of his new favorite extracurricular and the generous Kalamazoo Promise.

Although unafraid to admit he was nervous at the start, when asked what advice he would give his past self about transferring to Loy Norrix Russell responded, “It’s a lot easier than it initially seems.”

The Slack Year: Senioritis Comes Early This Time Of Year



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / CIERA MCCLENTON-LANGSON, ASST. WEB EDITOR
Senior Nikia Harris in the library during her free time sporting her sweatpants and hoodie. Here she shows how easily students can get distracted.

CIERA MCCLENTON-LANGSTON
ASST. WEB EDITOR

It’s 7:20 am, and you snooze your alarm for the fourth time in a row. Debating on if you can afford another absence in your first hour, you reluctantly roll out of bed and throw on sweats and a hoodie.

On the way to school, you stop for coffee because you’re already late, so why not make the pass worth

it. Finally getting to school around 8:00, you wonder *Why didn’t I just stay home?*

Senioritis in general is the feeling of being extremely tired, drained, stressed and the overall feeling of being done with school.

According to Loy Norrix psychology teacher Rebecca Layton, senioritis is when “effort levels

go down exponentially. Students will have an ‘I don’t care’ attitude and are relatively cranky.”

Students of all grade levels can experience the symptoms of senioritis: the stress, tiredness, and feeling of not wanting to go to school. However these symptoms have been given the term, “senioritis” because of how much more they affect seniors over other students.

A common symptom of senioritis is not caring about appearances anymore. Many seniors don’t put in as much effort into their appearance and can be seen strolling the hallways sporting their messy buns and sweats. According to senior Tanaja Hudson, one of the biggest signs of senioritis is appearance.

“The way you dress, just putting on anything, the hair, physically through their appearance,” said Hudson.

Senioritis can also show through academics, “Seniors will pick classes based on what’s easy or they’ll come in late everyday,” Layton explained.

Though senioritis doesn’t seem like a big deal, it can be very detrimental to students who don’t get it under control in time. Senior Nikia Harris sees senioritis as a large obstacle for herself and fellow students.

When asked if she feels like senioritis could prevent some students from graduating Harris said, “For some people they fall behind and feel like they

can’t catch up, so they just stop trying, they give up and just don’t finish it out,” Harris said.

Some students have the ability and commitment to bring their grades out of the gutter, that is, if they allow for their grades to get that bad to begin with. For other students, missing class, being late and their lack of interest in school will come at the cost of graduation.

There are a few realistic ways to prevent or stop senioritis. The most helpful tips from Layton were, “One, you have to remember that you aren’t done yet. Second, I think you need to have some priorities because what happens a lot is people burn out. They’re trying to do 8 thousand things and they feel like ‘I’ve expanded so much energy, I have no energy left to do the things.’”

Layton suggests prioritizing based on what’s valuable to you, like choosing classes you care about and will actually attend.

“Inertia is bad, once you stop... getting going again is really hard,” Layton warns seniors.

The best way to power through senioritis is to never let it get to the point where you just stop coming to school or stop going to particular classes. This year, could be the largest graduating class at Loy Norrix. If seniors can find the strength to graduate and not go the easy way out, they could be record breakers.

DUCKETT FROM PAGE 1

The fact that Duckett’s approach makes an impact is something that he remains proud of. In fact, it’s part of the reason that he continues to teach when most people retire from their jobs after working until around the age of 65 years old.

“No day is like yesterday, okay? With young people there’s no such thing as a boring day. You never know what you’re going to get. It’s also pretty good gratification seeing them succeed.”

Theodophilis Duckett

Duckett said, glancing at a huddle of students crowded around a bench and loudly encouraging the student lifting the weights.

Teaching for Duckett isn’t about forcing students to absorb information but more matching their energy. Teachers are only here to supply information, it’s a students’ job to learn and apply the information. According to Duckett, matching the energy of his students is the hardest thing about teaching, but he admits that teaching is very rewarding to him.

“Having a purpose, knowing when you wake up every day that you have a job to do, knowing that every day is a learning situation. When you’re

doing the right thing and so are they, it’s rewarding,” Duckett said.

Duckett isn’t only leaving an impression on his students, but on his own colleagues as well. Loy Norrix algebra teacher, assistant cross country coach, and assistant track coach Bradley Schmidt met Duckett in 2008 during a middle school track meet that took place on the LN track.

According to Schmidt, Duckett wasn’t too pleased to have middle schoolers taking over his track, so he wasn’t too thrilled Schmidt was there. Duckett was always willing to give advice and information. Schmidt has to admit that he admires Duckett for both his experience and his willingness to share.

“He has more life experience and track knowledge than I will ever have,” said Schmidt. “I think it’s amazing that he knows so much and is so willing to share.”

Duckett’s willingness to share his knowledge hasn’t just affected his students, but his colleagues as well. He has encouraged and coached both people within his sports and simply those who meet him and could benefit from his leadership. It makes him proud to see the students he once coached and pushed to their fullest potential, succeeding.

PRINCIPAL FROM PAGE 1

“I think he was able to see some areas that need to be developed a little further, or some areas that weren’t always adequately addressed,” said Erin Middleton, the new dean of students at Loy Norrix.

Aguinaga is proud of his skill set, and is looking to use these skills to improve the school in any way possible.

“Ultimately, I’m a communicator and I’m a planner,” Aguinaga said confidently, “so I really want to have those skill sets trickle down all the way to students.”

The administrative team also recognizes areas in which Aguinaga excels as a leader and sees strong points in his character.

“One thing he definitely has is a great relationship with students, and he’s willing to listen and see how others’ ideas could fit into his vision.”

Erin Middleton

As the new principal, Aguinaga has several plans to improve the school. He hopes that he and the rest of the administrative staff can be as approachable as possible, more so than any past administrations.

“With teachers, I’ve been focusing a lot on trying to empower teachers through a leadership team that will make decisions on what type of professional development teachers will be getting as opposed to being dictated by the principal,” Aguinaga said proudly, “Also, I’ve involved teachers in reviewing our school-wide rules to get their input in how they have been enforced. At some point, I hope to involve students in that process as well,” added Aguinaga.

Another big plan is to improve the cleanliness of the cafeteria and other parts of the school, both through staff and student cooperation.

“The cafeteria is like the central hub of the school.

Most students end up spending at least part of their day in that part of the building,” said Aguinaga. “I want to instill among the student body, a sense of pride in there, and I think a part of that is keeping it as clean as possible.”

“I want every student in this building to have a goal for themselves. They should be striving for something internally.”

Christopher Aguinaga.

One of the main goals Aguinaga wants for himself and the administration is to be more open and helpful to students.

“One of the roles I’ve laid out for myself and the administrative team is visibility, presence, and accessibility. As this year has already started, we hope that our presence has been seen and felt more,” said Aguinaga.

Aguinaga wants to see the students of Loy Norrix do everything possible to challenge themselves, but he can’t rely on only himself and his administration’s goals to get results.

“It could just be passing Algebra II, it could be getting accepted into Michigan State, it could be going into the Marine Corps. It could be simply landing a job as soon as they walk across that stage in June. I just ask that everybody have something inside of them that they strive to do.”

Gaining a Sibling through the Foreign Exchange Program

Adopting a Year-Long Sibling: A Loy Norrix Student’s Experience with the Foreign Exchange Program

EVA BUGNASKI
GUEST WRITER

Jeanie Gould-McElhone and her parents waited at the airport with visible excitement. Bill McElhone and Leona Gould stood in front of both gate exits, unsure of which Paula, their foreign exchange student, would enter from. They both gripped signs, anxious to display them, while Jeanie ran from exit to exit, awaiting Paula’s appearance.

Jeanie Gould-McElhone and her family prepared for the nail-biting moment of meeting their year-long addition to the family, Paula Montoro from Spain.

The Gould-McElhones are only one family of the 1.1 million estimated to be involved in hosting foreign exchange students, as shown in a study by Jie Zong and Jeanne Batalova. Their home in Kalamazoo Michigan was completely prepared.

This was not the family’s first time hosting a foreign student. Mizuka Fuji visited from Japan in 2015, which Jeanie described as quite a change, given the drastic differences between Japan and the United States. Mizuka’s transition was slightly rocky as she attempted to adapt.

“The cultural difference between Japan and the United States is crazy,” Jeanie explained. “School is really different.”

However, despite the immense shift for Mizuka, she seemed to enjoy her experience in the United States, attending prom and participating in other school activities. The thrilling time as a host family inspired the Gould-McElhones to invite another foreign exchange student into their home.

“It’s really nice to host somebody, welcome them to America, and to teach each other about our cultures.”

Jeanie Gould-McElhone

Paula Montoro now attends Norrix along with her host sister Jeanie Gould-McElhone. She follows a typical high school schedule and became comfortable in her new environment quickly. Jeanie described her and Paula’s relationship as “really good,” and feels as if they have become close over the course of their time together. Though Jeanie’s first experience hosting Mizuka as a foreign exchange student was valuable, the smaller age gap between her and Paula allowed for their easy formation of friendship.

Due to Jeanie’s usual position as the only teen in the house, she welcomed having someone her age around.

“Being an only child, it’s nice to have a sister for a year,” said Jeanie.

The foreign exchange program has allowed Jeanie to grow her knowledge about life in Spain. She explained that it is interesting to learn about how the other country functions.

Paula has also absorbed an incredible amount of information during her time in the United States. She feels comfortable with her host family. Although her first couple of days in Kalamazoo were certainly an adjustment, she has found her place in the rhythm of everyday life at Norrix.

Paula explained, “The first week was the hardest one but after two days people were really nice to me, and I feel really good here.”

Paula claimed that everyone she met was very welcoming, and that she is especially grateful for what the Gould-McElhones have done to make her comfortable. On her first morning in Kalamazoo, Paula remembers going out with Leona Gould to see the city. She recalls feeling very appreciative for this experience, after being unsure of her ability to adapt to life in Michigan.

Additionally she has learned so much about the character of individuals in the United States. Paula explained that as she was meeting girls her age, they reacted very positively, despite her expectations for their behavior.

“I like that girls here support each other in a lot of ways. They are always complimenting each other,” Paula said with a smile.

Paula’s experience is not rare. Calvert Jones, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Maryland, claimed that 96 percent of foreign exchange students report an increase in self confidence. The welcoming attitudes at school have left Paula feeling appreciated.

For both Jeanie and Paula, the foreign exchange experience has brought about not only knowledge but also friendship. Jeanie has learned so much from her time with Mizuka and Paula.

Jeanie said, “It’s really nice to host somebody, welcome them to America, and to teach each other about our cultures.”

Foreign Exchange Student Adjusts to American Culture

ESPERANZA FRAGA-VASQUEZ
SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

After a nine hour plane ride from Madrid, Spain to an airport in Chicago, Paula Montoro-Aragon was just about to board another plane to Kalamazoo when she was greeted by her host family with three balloons. They had driven up to meet her at the Chicago Airport. They conversed and got to know each other a bit before Paula got on the next plane ride which would take 45 min.

“They were really cute, and since the first time of seeing my host parents I liked them,” said Paula.

Paula arrived in Kalamazoo at midnight. A week later she would have to start going to a new school with new people she had never met before. She also would have to use a language she is not used to speaking and adjust to being far from her family in Spain.

Paula is currently a senior and is a literary artisan. At the age of three, Paula began to learn English as it is very common for many kids in Spain to learn another language at a young age. Paula misses her country, as well as friends, family, the food, and her pet labradoodle, Mary.

The food in Kalamazoo and the food in Spain is pretty different as well. Food in Spain tends to be healthier than the food in Kalamazoo. In Spain, American fast food restaurants such as Mcdonalds are also very well known and enjoyed by many. Paula likes Mcdonalds food better in Kalamazoo than in Spain.

As fall and winter approached, Paula had not yet decided on her Halloween costume. Most holidays that are celebrated here in the U.S. are not celebrated in Spain. Santa Claus is a new subject to Paula. In Spain, instead of Santa there are the three wise men. The way Paula’s family celebrates New Years is by eating 12 grapes, 12 seconds before midnight.

In Spain, Paula had a little brother who will turn 14 in November.

“He is very different from me. We would always disagree and he would always mess around but I miss him,” said Paula.

Coming to Kalamazoo Paula gained a host sister, Jeanie Gould-McElhone. Jeanie’s family previously had another foreign exchange student, who came from Japan.

“We heard a foreign exchange student needed a home, so we just offered to give him one,” said Jeanie.

The family thought it would be an interesting experience and an opportunity to learn and get to teach about a new culture. After their experience with their first foreign exchange student, three years ago, they decided to accept another foreign exchange student, this time with someone who was from a Western European country where there is not much of a cultural difference.

Jeanie is an only child and she is still adjusting to having another person in her home. It has not been bad, but it has taken her some getting used to. They enjoy watching TV and movies together.

“It is sad when they leave but you have a good time with them. Hopefully they come to visit. Our foreign exchange student from Japan is going to come and visit us, and I hope it will be the same with Paula. Either we go see her or she can come and visit,” said Jeanie.

Paula’s transition was made easier by her host family. They remind her of her parents at home, just that her host parents are bit older.

“I want to grow a little more as a person with this experience and meet new people. I am very thankful to have this opportunity.”

Paula Montoro- Aragon



EVA BUGNASKI / GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeanie Gould-McElhone and Paula Montoro smile at one another at a local Sprint store. The two have been host sisters for months now, after being brought together by the foreign exchange program.

JAELYN ANDERSON
BUSINESS MANAGER

Zodiac Personalities

YESENIA SALAS
A&E EDITOR



Aries

March 21- April 19

Personality Traits: confident, honest, passionate, determined impatient, moody, short-tempered, impulsive.



NATHAN MCNAIR
12TH GRADE

I would describe myself as confident, caffeinated, passionate, honest and humorous.

I feel my weaknesses are overthinking things and avoiding confrontation.



Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Personality Traits: empathetic, down-to-earth, confident, adaptable stubborn, humorous, impatient, sensible.



REBECCA LAYTON
SOC/PSYCH TEACHER

I would describe myself as smart, funny, quirky, adaptable and extremely empathetic towards others.

I feel my weaknesses are I'm impatient, I don't like stupid people or my time being wasted, I hate my plans changing and too many people overwhelm me.



Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Personality Traits: adaptable, confident, loyal, two-faced, mischievous, indecisive, determined, moody.



TERESITA FIELDS
12TH GRADE

I would describe myself as confident, passionate, moody, determined, loyal, humorous, a really goofy person but also girly.

I feel my weaknesses are I'm unorganized and messy.



Cancer

June 21 - July 22

Personality Traits: expressive, confident, protective, independent, impulsive, reliable over-emotional, ambitious.



OPHELIA SMITH
12TH GRADE

I would describe myself as honest, expressive, reliable, humorous, straight-forward and a determined strong minded independent woman.

I feel my weakness is dealing with small-minded people.



Leo

July 23 - Aug. 22

Personality Traits: creative, indecisive, loyal, generous, enthusiastic very prideful, organized.



KATIE SHANTZ
12TH GRADE

I would describe myself as expressive, loyal, moody, organized, indecisive and stubborn.

I feel my weaknesses are I'm too egotistical and unwilling to understand others.



Virgo

Aug 23 - Sept 22

Personality Traits: creative, rational, modest, logical, sensible, analytical, philosophical, perfectionist.



CARTER MILLER
11TH GRADE

I would describe myself as funny, philosophical, rational, honest, witty, sensible, likeable and hardworking.

I feel my weaknesses are my need to be right, argumentative, somewhat lazy, and unorganized.



Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Personality Traits: adventurous, impatient passionate, charming, honest, indecisive, reliable, straight-forward.



DEON KELLEY
12TH GRADE

I would describe myself as confident, passionate, quick-witted, impatient, honest and determined.

I feel my weaknesses are that I keep things bottled up. I do not outwardly express my feelings. and I am also a bit impatient.



Scorpio

Oct 23 - Nov 21

Personality Traits: caring, wise, determined, ambitious, expressive, dominant, impulsive.



JORDAN WILLIAMS
12TH GRADE

I would describe myself as ambitious, witty, passionate, humorous, impulsive, rational and caring.

I feel my weaknesses are overthinking and lack of organization.



Sagittarius

Nov 22 - Dec 21

Personality Traits: confident, expressive, impulsive, honest, empathetic, passionate, irresponsible, outgoing, humorous.



ISAIAH HOBSON
12TH GRADE

I would describe myself as very extroverted, confident, impulsive, empathetic and funny. You'll always catch me in the catch me in the middle of a party or dance floor doing something goofy.

I feel my weaknesses are I'm very unorganized and I can be very forgetful.



Capricorn

Dec 22 - Jan 19

Personality Traits: moody, hard-working, impatient, straight-forward, outgoing, confident, stubborn, organized, loyal.



JUDISA VARGAS
11TH GRADE

I would describe myself as straight-forward, loyal, honest, impatient, determined, short-tempered, organized and moody.

I feel my weakness is school.



Aquarius

Jan 20 - Feb 18

Personality Traits: organized, ambitious, knowledgeable, reliable, straight-Forward, distant, unemotional.



SKYLAR CLAY
11TH GRADE

I would describe myself as amazing, straight-forward, determined, reliable, moody and ambitious.

I feel my weakness is my loved ones.



Pisces

Feb 19 - March 20

Personality Traits: imaginative, passionate, selfless, expressive, empathetic, moody, weak-willed.



BEATRIX DAMASHEK
12TH GRADE

I would describe myself as passionate, determined, moody, empathetic, expressive and rational. I cry a lot over nothing then laugh minutes later.

I feel my weakness is I need to be with friends and chipotle.



Alexis Antisdale, Junior

Rondia Dotsan, Junior

LILLY MACINNIS
NEWS EDITOR

No one can deny that the freshman year is one of the hardest. No, they don't have to worry about college or their standardized test scores just yet, but they do have to get used to a whole new environment. Transitioning from middle school is not easy, and many students' grades suffer because of it. Finals are also a totally new experience for freshman. Many new students haven't experienced the nerve racking days when all you can do

is study. The Freshman Snack and Study is an event that Link Crew, an organization run by teachers and upperclassmen to help freshman transition to high school, hosts to give freshman a place to come in and get help from Link Crew members (Link Leaders) on their homework and studying right before exams. Junior Alexis Antisdale explains how they organize the

event, "We take other snacks from previous events and save them for Snack and Study, we make invitations for our freshman to let them know about Snack and Study and exams and all that." Antisdale also elaborated about the significance of this event, "It helps freshman get prepared because in middle school finals aren't that big of a deal, but now they are twenty percent of your grade."



LILLY MACINNIS, NEWS EDITOR

Juniors **Matthew Vestal** and **Rondia Dotsan** sit together and do homework. Since the number of freshman at the event was so small, it gave the Link Crew members time to work on their own homework in small groups to study.



LILLY MACINNIS, NEWS EDITOR

Freshman **Yahweh Johnson** studies with his Link leader. It can be tough to find time to study between school and after school activities, but the Snack and Study gives students a safe and calm environment to be productive.



LILLY MACINNIS, NEWS EDITOR

Yesenia Salas works with other Link Crew members on homework while waiting to help freshman. It's important for kids to get a handle on how to study for finals early to insure that they can do it successfully. This is why the Snack and Study is such a good idea. It brings freshman and their Link Leaders together. Upperclassmen teach the ninth graders how and what to study, and it brings students of different grades together in an environment they might not usually talk to each other in.



LILLY MACINNIS, NEWS EDITOR

Junior **Keziah Bowen** (yellow shirt) helps freshman **Elisia McPherson** study natural selection for her final. McPherson said, "I came so I could get my work done and not get a bad grade." Teaching the material to lowerclassmen is beneficial to upperclassmen because it gives them a chance to test their own mastery of the subject.



KNIGHT LIFE

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Grace Marshall

PRINT EDITOR
Devon Gross

WEBSITE EDITOR
Brandon Schnurr

ASSISTANT WEBSITE EDITOR
Ciera McClenton-Langston

BUSINESS MANAGER
Jaelyn Anderson

ASST. BUSINESS MANAGER
Regan Dillon

PHOTO EDITORS
Joshua McKissic
Noah Bond

NEWS EDITOR
Lilly MacInnis

FEATURE EDITOR
Miranda Cole

OPINION EDITOR
Maya Crawford

SPORTS EDITOR
Justin Timmerman

A&E EDITOR
Yesenia Salas

COPY EDITORS
Aidan Lane
Gavin Rutherford
Karli Little

GRAPHICS EDITOR
Maya Crawford

SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM
Kailynne Besser
Esperanza Fraga-Vasquez
Kylazia Dye

STAFF WRITERS
Maeve Hodge-McNutt
Paula Montoro
Brandi-Rose Phiri
Olivia Ely
Claudia Lignman
Elliot Russell
Riley Dominiani
Alexis Weeden

ADVISOR
Tisha Pankop

Social Media Will Shape the Next Generation of Politicians



NATE GOODWIN-KELLY
GUEST WRITER

As of June 2018, “Statista” reports over 1 billion Instagram users worldwide, a staggering one seventh of the world’s population. However, that figure pales to the 2.23 billion active Facebook accounts recorded over the same time span.

These statistics reveal what has been imminent ever since the initial rise of Facebook: social media has and will continue to dominate every aspect of daily life for people across the globe.

The use of social media in modern day politics is increasingly prominent. Many credit Barack Obama’s use of Twitter and Youtube as one of the driving forces behind his victory in 2008. President Trump used Twitter as a springboard for his 2016 victory and as a way to voice his issues with the bureaucratic system. Social

media allows politicians to connect with millions of potential voters who may not have seen a candidate’s message otherwise, at a speed unprecedented by any other means of advertising in history.

The contemporariness of social media has brought forth the concept of digital etiquette to the forefront of society. Children and adults alike have to navigate what is considered acceptable to post online. Even now, with social media being a relatively new creation, celebrities and politicians have seen their past tweets and posts backfire against them.

Social media has forced many politicians to take extra precautions with their messages.

When someone rises to fame, their actions become heavily scrutinized by the general public, and “Twitter trolls,” people who spend their time making derogatory or controversial comments behind a fake account, can easily dig into twitter and find a past tweet that was intentionally or unintentionally derogatory, which can be used to ruin someone’s image.

Social media has forced many politicians to take extra precautions with their messages, and for the most part, despite such a large platform, there have been limited examples of past regret. However, the problem lies not in the current generation of politicians, but the ones who are sitting in high school and college.

Despite the vast difference in years lived, there’s not a single U.S. senator or representative that grew up with a Twitter or Facebook. The current generation of students will become the first group of adults who have grown up with social media.

As a country, we have not yet been able to experience the long-term connotations of a digital footprint. The U.S. Department of Adolescent Health reports that over 94% of teenagers go on social media at least once a day. These statistics prove that it is incredibly likely that 30 or 40 years down the road, the general public will be able to track what their president may have been like as a teenager.

Such a concept becomes incredibly frightening as divisive debates regarding a president’s past and political correctness will dominate the forefront of politics. Teenagers want to be independent, to go out on a whim, and such a desire often

brings an impulsivity that leads to regrets down the line.

“A quarter of teens regret posting a video on social media,” reports Essential Kids, who found that 38% of sixteen year olds admit posting something they later regret.

It seems inevitable that some future political candidates will have made a post they now regret and have to answer for their teenage self. The pressing question for society to consider is how we will react to our politician’s past. Will a post made forty years ago prevent somebody from becoming president? Or will society deem the teenage years as irrelevant to one’s qualifications for office?

Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination has already brought this issue to the forefront of society with an examination of his high school yearbook, but as we continue down the road of mixing social media and politics, our current definition of political correctness will force us to change something.

Children Need to be Taught the Importance of Voting



LILLY MACINNIS
NEWS EDITOR

An epidemic is sweeping our country. With every passing year fewer people go out to the polls and vote. This disease wipes away more and more voters until only a select few will control our government.

The path that history writes is held in the hands of presidential and midterm elections, yet only a select number of the eligible U.S. voters are taking control of the future of our country. The people control some of the most influential decisions that this country makes, and the results of those decisions determine how every other decision is made for the country.

Despite this awesome power in the hands of the people, sometimes only 50 percent of people eligible to vote turn out, according to “FairVote.” Big decisions that will affect generations are being decided, and people just don’t show up.

Kids need to be taught

from a young age that voting is important because if you instill a belief into a child at a young age, it will remain with them throughout life. Like remembering to brush your teeth, or putting on your shoes before going outside, voting on any election day should become an act we always do. Whether or not you vote shouldn’t be something you have to debate, it should be something people just do. People should argue which candidate to vote for, not whether they should vote at all.

“FairVote” also reports that only 60.1 percent of Americans voted in the last presidential election. Likewise, in the 2014 midterms only 36.7 percent of eligible voters cast a vote.

With numbers like this, the citizens’ opinions on important issues are not being expressed properly. If people were taught at a young age about the major impact that voting has on politics then participation in important elections would likely grow. Kids should know the impact of voting and what power their vote holds.

If parents take their kids to vote with them or simply talk to them about its importance, many new voters could be made instantly. Elementary school teachers could take some time to talk to their class on election days. History teachers already

talk about the history of voting on election days, but if they spent all day talking about the subject, kids would find voting more inspiring. All it takes is a role model to introduce the positive message of voting to a kid, and kids will not have a second thought about it.

Some people might argue that kids don’t need to know the grown up mechanics of voting, that when they become a teenager they will understand and learn what to do. However, kids are much more likely to respect and take to heart what their parents say than teenagers.

In your younger years you learn the basics of things, not the fundamentals. Save your kid’s teenage years to develop their own opinion, but teach your kid young that, whatever you vote, it’s important. Kids are shown to learn much faster and retain information much better than teenagers. They learn necessary motor skills, languages, and important life skills. Since voting is so important, kids should learn about it, voting should become second nature.

Eighteen to twenty-nine year olds are the people least likely to vote, with voter turnout of just over 40 percent in the 2016 election, according to the United States Elections Project. This number is way too low for this

age group. Everyone’s vote is important, so the people whose lives will be the longest affected by their vote should have the highest turnout. If teenagers are taught as children that they should vote, if they are taught that it is an important, exciting experience, then voter turnout would be much higher.

Voting should be important to everyone, no matter what side you’re on. Democrat or Republican, you should always go vote because we are lucky as a people to help control the fate of our own country. Many countries don’t let their people vote, or their elections are very controlled and rigged. The United States has designed a fair system and has upheld this right since the birth of our country. We shouldn’t just throw away all our Founding Fathers’ hard work every election.

Many people have given up on voting, thinking their vote doesn’t really count, but that’s not the case. Every vote counts for what you’re fighting for. Get out there, vote, and teach your kids the importance of voting. The future of the country rests in your hands.

KNIGHTS SPEAK

Do you share your political views on social media? If yes, do you recieve any backlash? If no, why?



JOSH RANDAZZO
12TH GRADE

Yes, I never get any responses. My arguments are very one-sided, and I just read about things that make me angry.



YESINIA MORALES
11TH GRADE

Not often, there’s a lot of backlash when I do, which is why I often don’t post about political or deals.



IAN WOODRUFF
9TH GRADE

No, I feel like I will stir up a lot of controversy, and why do that what it’s unnecessary and I don’t have to.



LIVIA APPERLEY
9TH GRADE

No, I don’t care enough to post about it.



OFFICER BARNETT
CAMPUS SAFETY

Occasionally, my political views are Independent, so I could be on either side of the issue. I rarely receive backlash on it.

It’s Time to Alter How we Teach About Bullying and Peer Pressure



RILEY DOMINIANNI
STAFF WRITER

For as long as I can remember, messages about bullying and peer pressure have been drilled into my head at school and at home. The things I have been taught, and the things children across the country are being taught are: stand up to bullying, don’t be a bystander, and avoid peer pressure at all costs.

Since kindergarten, I’ve had anti-bullying slogans and acronyms like “Bully free starts with me” and “Take a STAND (Stand tall, Tell an adult, Avoid harm, Say NO, Develop friendships)” memorized. I was even taught a list of appropriate

responses to peer pressure like “Sorry, I can’t come to the party, I need to go home and help my mom” or, “I shouldn’t smoke, it’s swim season!”

However it is equally, if not more, important that children be taught not to engage in bullying or peer pressure themselves. In order to achieve the positive, safe environment we all want in our schools, kids need to be taught not only to resist bullying and peer pressure from others, but also how to avoid being a perpetrator.

The biggest challenge with this approach is that no child wants to view themselves as the “bad guy,” and no parent wants to find out that their child is the school bully. But in reality, many children are.

The United States Foundation to Stop Bullying reports that 70.6 percent of students have witnessed bullying at school, and 28 percent experience it themselves. Meanwhile, only around 30 percent of young

people have ever admitted to bullying a peer. Clearly, there are many bullies and instances unaccounted for.

The reason so few people admit to bullying others is rooted in a lack of responsibility, a result of the fact that kids are only taught to see themselves as the victim or as the innocent bystander. Kids today grow up with the “it couldn’t be me” mentality. Needless to say, anyone can be a bully, and what children are taught about bullying should reflect that.

The same goes for peer pressure. More common in the teen years, peer pressure often leads to the poorest of decisions and is rightfully discouraged in schools. However, our school systems mainly address students as potential victims, ignoring all of the potential perpetrators.

According to The Kaiser Foundation, 50 percent of teens feel pressured in regards to sexual relationships. Yes, the 50 percent feeling pressured

should be taught the best way to handle their situation, but equal attention needs to be drawn to the other half, the ones doing the pressuring.

In all my years of education, I can recall multiple, often tedious lessons about bullies and pressure from my peers. But never once was I forced to ask myself, *How do I treat my classmates? Is there anything I’m doing that could be making someone else feel pressured to do something they don’t want to do? Am I being the person I should be?*

This requires serious self-reflection, which is uncomfortable for anyone, but we need to normalize this mentality if we ever hope to end bullying and peer pressure. The way bullying and peer pressure are seen in the eyes of students needs reform. Strategies to stop these things before they occur, not afterwards, could contribute to the upbringing of kinder children, safer schools, and a better world.

PROPS & STOPS

We give PROPS to the school for what we love, and STOPS for all the things we would like to see changed.

PROPS

- ☺ To a great winter break. No matter what you may celebrate, spending time with friends and family can be a magical way to spend any break.
- ☺ To all the AP Scholars. AP classes can be tough, and getting through them is an achievement of its own.
- ☺ To all the students that drive appropriately. The parking lot at 2:24 pm on a typical school day can look a bit like a scene from “Mad Max.” Consideration is greatly appreciated.
- ☺ To all the technology available to its students. It helps students study and take tests online.
- ☺ To all the new staff of Loy Norrix. You’ve entered the body work of the school seamlessly.
- ☺ To the welcoming environment. It can be hard to be a new student, but it can also be new and exciting.

STOPS

- ⚡ To the kids that leave trash around the school. The janitors are there to help keep our halls clean, not sift through your wrappers.
- ⚡ To the fights during any of the three lunches. Students are trying to enjoy their meals with friends, not attend a UFC championship match.
- ⚡ To the kids that are constantly late to classes. The Hero system has caused harmless students, one minute late to class, to be put in the bad boy bin.
- ⚡ Vaping in the bathrooms. Whether it is between class, or on a pass, no one wants to pee in a cloud of gas.
- ⚡ To all the people that have already failed their New Year’s resolutions. It’s only January, what are you doing?
- ⚡ Giving tardies to students late because of the train. It isn’t their fault and they shouldn’t be punished for it.

PUBLICATION POLICY

Interested in submitting an article, graphic, photo, political cartoon, comic, letter-to-the-editor, or other work as a guest contributor?

Submit work to:
Loy Norrix Knight Life
606 E Kilgore
Kalamazoo, MI, 49001

OR:
Ms. Pankop in Room K6 at Loy Norrix High School

OR:
pankoptl@kalamazoopublicschools.net

- Your submission MUST include:**
- The full name of the contributor, first and last
- If a student at Loy Norrix:**
- Your third hour teacher and classroom number
 - A valid email address if your third hour is off campus
- If not a student:**
- A valid phone number or email with which to contact the author

Knight Life reserves the right to withhold any submitted work.

Knight Life will exercise this right if the submission contains libel, defamation, obscenities, disrupts the school environment, or invades the privacy of others.

Approved submissions may be published on the Knight Life website, **KnightLifeNews.com**.

Submissions will be placed in the print edition when space is available.

Note: all edited photos must be labeled as photo illustrations.

Knight Life will publish a formal correction of any factual errors printed in the following print edition.

Education Should Be a Mirror of Society



PAULA MONTORO
STAFF WRITER

I am from Madrid, Spain, where I attend Joaquin Araujo High School. This year I am studying in the United States at Loy Norrix High School. Being a foreign exchange student has given me the chance to analyze and understand things through a different perspective; education is one of those things.

The American public education system is seen by Europeans as one of the best in the world because of the great variety of extra-curricular activities, its inclusiveness and because its curriculum is often much wider and varied. However, after two months of studying at Loy Norrix, I’ve realized that Americans aren’t so enthusiastic about their own education system.

Quite often students complain about the amount of homework that they receive, the standardized tests, the dress code and even about the bathroom rules. These are things that high schools could improve, but if you were to ask me, these aren’t the problems Americans should be most concerned about.

Education in America does a great job in teaching teenagers all the academic stuff they need to know to graduate, but it sometimes fails in preparing teenagers for real life.

In Europe we have the belief that schools are a reflection of society, so it was a big surprise for me to hear that students in America don’t often receive good information at school on

topics such as the principles of ethics or moral values like the value of effort or respecting others. Sometimes they don’t even receive sex education or information about other relevant issues in the life of adolescents.

“I think that these are ages in which people begin to develop racist and discriminatory beliefs and it’s very important to raise awareness of diversity, equality and inclusion now.”

Tatiana Ndombasi

Most high schools in Europe have daily tutoring and mediation programs which help students learn how to live in society and interact with people. Being tolerant and knowing how to solve problems might sound pretty easy and something that we all should already know, but I’ve been here for a couple months and I’ve already seen more fights at Norrix than in my whole life back in Spain, so it would be a good idea to teach students skills to solve conflicts peacefully and ideas such as respect and tolerance.

For instance, whenever there was a fight at my high school back in Spain, the kids involved in the fight would have to spend one hour after school for a whole month to discuss the problem they had with counselors and other students. The other students are normally people who have had similar arguments before and can give advice. The idea is giving students enough resources to learn how to work out their differences and solve the problem.

“Mediation in our high school has helped students a lot,” said Pedro Jose Mena, one of the

mediators at Joaquin Araujo High School in Madrid. “We, mediators, teach them how to talk out their problems. First, they normally shout to each other and say horrible things, but we let them because after all the shouting students always realize that it’s pointless, so they learn to listen each other and to express themselves in a different way. They end up reaching an agreement by their own and it’s funny because there are a lot of kids that become great friends after mediation.”

As for more controversial topics, such as sex or drug education programs, those are necessary too. There is a health class here at Norrix which can be really useful. Sex is a natural part of life and students need to learn to be safe and avoid teen pregnancy. Students should also have the opportunity to learn how to feel comfortable and confident in certain situations and have better access to information to help students understand their sexual-orientation and gender-identity.

It’s also fundamental to teach this through a feminist perspective that makes teenagers understand the importance of having your partner’s consent which could avoid future cases of sexual harassment.

It’s time to change the way in which schools teach this topic. It’s not enough to talk about safety and health because sex is more than just physical, and sexuality is more than just our bodies.

Teenagers should have enough resources to deal with situations which can be difficult for them sometimes, sex education is just an example but it can also apply to drugs or alcohol.

Moreover, one of the things I like the most from these tutoring classes in Spain is

all the information we receive about social issues. Since we were children, we learned in class to respect every individual regardless of the social class, race, sexuality or gender. All the feminist, anti-racist or LGTB+ workshops are extremely useful. It’s essential for teenagers to be aware of the social injustices and learn the importance of speaking out for what they believe.

“I think that these are ages in which people begin to develop racist and discriminatory beliefs and it’s very important to raise awareness of diversity, equality and inclusion now,” said Tatiana Ndombasi, responsible for the afro-feminist workshop at Joaquin Araujo High School in Madrid.

However, many people disagree with the idea of teaching teenagers anything other than math or literature. They claim that teenagers will learn about these other topics through life experience, but there is a world for us to discover beyond mathematics and schools should also teach us how to navigate it. Students should learn to be creative, tolerant, fair, curious and, among other things, schools should help each student grow and mature as a person.

As the American philosopher, psychologist and educational reformer John Dewey rightly said, “Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”

We need to take into account that the ideas and values that students learn now will be the values and ideas of the future American society. Education is the base of the shaping and development of a respectful and humanitarian world.



JACKSON KIINO-TERBERG
11TH GRADE

I don’t, because I don’t want to bring that kind of negativity onto social media.



NATE GOODWIN-KELLY
11TH GRADE

No, I don’t feel like hearing people’s responses and causing unnecessary conflict.



TY PRITCHETT
11TH GRADE

Maybe, but not really. If I post about Trump, people will agree with me on it.



LAUREN TEETER
11TH GRADE

Sometimes, I don’t know what people say back. I really don’t care about what others say on my view.

Caught Red-Handed:

Companies Need to be Held Accountable for Who They Employ



ALEXIS WEEDEN
STAFF WRITER

Nike, Walmart, Nestlé, Apple; these companies have very little in common, if you don't look deeper than a passing glance. Nike is an apparel company, Walmart is the definition of a big-box store, Nestlé is the largest food company in the world, and Apple is one of the biggest tech companies on the planet. However, if you look past these bright façades, there is a dark secret swimming below the surface. Each of these companies has had an involvement with child labor and they aren't the only ones. Child labor is deeply entrenched in consumer culture. Most child labor infractions occur in the supply chain. Nestlé, for example, recently had a lawsuit filed against them in 2016 by a group in Mali who accused them of using forced labor where workers suffer from physical abuse and receive little pay. A report from Global Citizen titled "The Child Labor Lawsuit Against Nestlé: What you Need to Know," states that, "Nestlé has claimed that it had no idea child labor and such flagrant abuse of workers was taking place. But the lawsuit alleges that the company did in fact know and even paid farmers to do whatever needed to be done to reduce costs," reporter Joe McCarthy wrote. Child labor has many causes: poverty, lack of enforcement of labor laws, and little access to free, compulsory education. Defined as "work that is mentally, physically, socially, or morally dangerous and harmful to children or interferes with their education, child labor is work. It deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity," according to an Institute for Humane Education post by Marsha Rakestraw, titled "10 Tips to Help End Child Labor." Throughout the world there are over 152.1 million child laborers. These children grow up working long shifts of more than 12 hours a day

on average in perilous or tedious jobs. Popular clothing chains like Nike and Adidas are repeat offenders when it comes to the use of child labor. Clothing isn't the end of the thread either, everything from tech startups to the diamond industry are tainted with the sorry stain of child exploitation soiling the credibility of these companies. Companies like Nestlé, Nike, H&M and Victoria's Secret have all gone through multiple scandals rooted in their outsourced work. Nike, an American company, outsources their factory work to China, Indonesia, and Taiwan. Labor in these countries is less expensive than if companies restricted their labor to their home country. In fact, many experts say that outsourcing for labor is necessary. Despite this stance, outsourcing is a highly debated and controversial business practice that is hit hard by politicians who say that it generates fewer jobs. "Today's economies rely on global marketing-not only for the U.S., but for foreign countries as well," financial analyst Madison Correnti writes in "Outsourcing Overseas and its Effect on the US Economy" from the National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America, Inc. Outsourcing in multinational companies generates employment opportunities in the countries who receive the business, but not in the correct way. Employment from these multinational companies often means low wages, long hours, and unsafe working conditions. In these countries, work is forced upon any of the 152.1 million child laborers. According to a 2005 NBC News article titled "Nike reveals overseas factory names, locations" from the Associated Press, "Monitors found cases of 'abusive treatment'[both of child and adult employees] — either physical or verbal — in more than a quarter of its [Nike's] South Asian factories, and between 25 percent and 50 percent of the contract factories in the region restrict access to toilets and drinking water during the work day." There are many causes of child labor according to the International Labor Association. In India,

for example, the base minimum wage is just twenty-five cents an hour. Compare this to America, where minimum wage averages at \$7.25 an hour. Some of the children involved work for similar reasons to many American teens, they just want to help their families out. According to the International Labor Association article "Causes," "Children work because their survival and that of their families depend on it, and in many cases because unscrupulous adults take advantage of their vulnerability." Child labor might seem so large scale that nothing could end it, but some believe that it is possible. Kailash Satyarthi is the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner. Satyarthi started Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), an organization in India whose eyes are set on the destruction of child labor worldwide. BBA investigates cases of child labor in India and rescues children involved and provides an education for those children. There are things the everyday person can do to help end child labor. Consumers can encourage supply chain transparency and laws which focus on children's rights to education. With simple research and questions it's possible to track down companies that are cruelty and child labor free. Supporting these humane companies sends a message to other larger companies who outsource their work to inhumane conditions. A blog post for the Institute for Humane Education suggests looking for the labels Fair Trade USA or Fair Trade America. There are many other ways to help besides shopping. Funneling extra money towards charities like the International Initiative to End Child Labor, for one. The blog post also proposes that consumers write to their government for stronger laws surrounding child labor. There is so much that needs to be done to end child labor, but every child deserves a childhood of laughter and joy. That shouldn't end just because a company wants cheap labor.

Alcohol Restrictions Lead to More Dangerous Consumption



EVA BUGNASKI
GUEST WRITER

For some individuals, the best thing about rules is breaking them. This mentality seems to apply to 18-20 year olds all over the United States as they reach for their illegally-acquired alcohol. Since 1986, the national legal drinking age has been 21, however, this restricted drinking age has only lead to more extreme alcohol use. Most college students can drive, vote, join the military and smoke cigarettes, yet drinking alcohol with friends, co-workers, or family remains illegal. This unnecessary restriction does not stop young adults from indulging in the act. The majority of college students frequently drink wine, beer and hard liquor. According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, nearly 60 percent of college students claimed they drank alcohol in the past month, and this alcohol use is almost never controlled. The restrictions on the drinking age have not prevented individuals from consuming alcohol, instead, it has increased the amount of unsafe alcohol use, such as binge drinking. This same institute defines binge drinking as, "a pattern of drinking that brings blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels to 0.08 g/dL [Grams Per Decilitre]. This typically occurs after 4 drinks for women and 5 drinks for men—in about 2 hours." Due to the taboo of young adult alcohol consumption in the United States, people between the age of 18 and 20 feel a thrill in breaking federal law to become intoxicated. A young adult breaking the law will certainly feel rebellious and "cool" as they swig their alcohol. With this attitude, the overall drinking culture in the United States revolves around the goal of being drunk, meanwhile various European cultures address alcohol as a delicacy used for outings, events, or family time. Being in Europe offers an entirely new dynamic in regards to alcohol. When I visit my family in Germany every-other summer, alcohol is seen as a treat. The substance is respected, making alcohol use especially careful. I recall my "Opa's" (Grandpa's) fancy birthday dinner in Koblenz, Germany, where I was first offered alcohol. The server asked the entire family—including my 13 year-old self, if we wanted a shot at the close of the meal. I was allowed to accept this offer along with the rest of the dinner party. I saw that rather than consuming alcohol to become intoxicated, Europeans view drinking as something to do in moderation. This moment showed the immense difference between American and European drinking cultures. In their article "Our World in Data: Alcohol Consumption," Hannah Ritchie and Max Roser reveal that 24.5 percent of American individuals 15

years or older had binge drinking sessions in the span of 30 days. This contrasts dramatically with Germany's 15.6 percent and Italy's 6.2 percent. Though Germany's legal drinking age is 16 and Italy's is 18, their percentages of heavy drinking are significantly lower. When young adults are allowed to consume alcohol within a controlled environment, countries report safer habits than the United States. Some may argue that the high drinking age serves as prevention for drunk driving accidents, yet it has the opposite effect. Breaking the law has been shown to lead to additionally dangerous behavior such as drunk driving. The "Global status report on road safety 2015," reveals that countries with drinking ages lower than 21 report fewer automobile accidents as a result of drunkenness. They report that 31 percent of automobile accidents in the United States are due to alcohol, while in Germany the percentage is only 9, and in France the percent is only 21. This reveals that, again, the reasons for a high age restriction on alcohol may be truly counterintuitive. The high drinking age in the United States only leads to more violation of the law, often in a quite hazardous manner. Comparative statistics reveal that lowering the age restriction on alcohol consumption may actually lead to less risky use. For individuals restricted by the law, the rule exists simply to be broken.

Student Debt Damages the American Dream

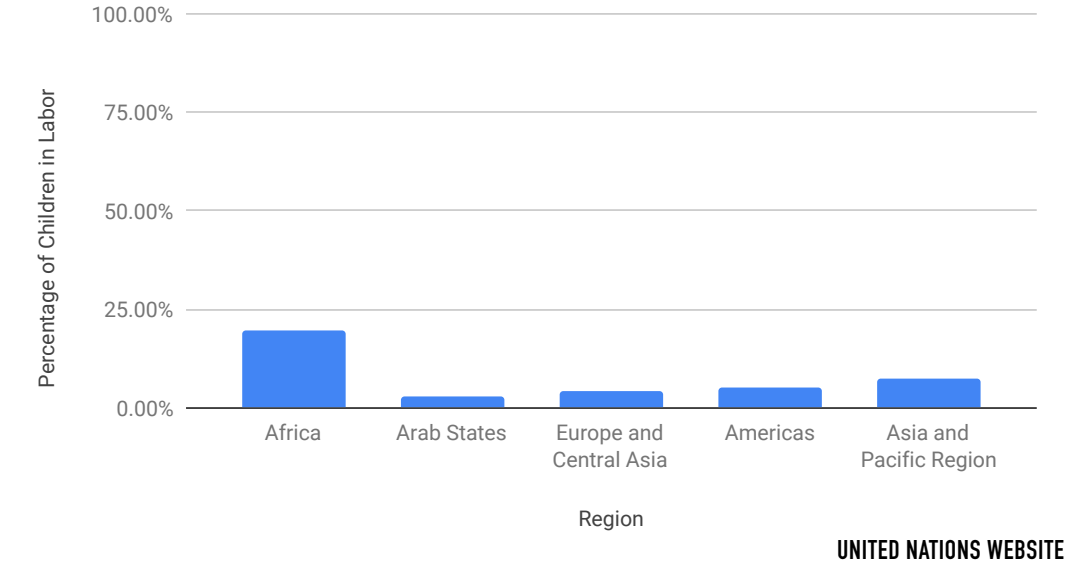


DEVON GROSS
PRINT EDITOR

Here at Loy Norrix and in the Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) district, student have been given the gift of the Kalamazoo Promise, a scholarship offering free or partially free college tuition for high school graduates in KPS. This free tuition has caused tons of families to either move into or stay in the district. As students, we've been given free tuition for the education that will lead to our careers. Growing up in this culture where college is almost guaranteed and automatically paid for, student debt doesn't seem like a huge issue. But for the rest of the nation it is. Just take a look at today's millennial culture. You can't scroll through Instagram or Twitter without coming across at least one post where a college student references crippling debt or student loans. According to "Studentloanhero," the average student loan debt for 2017 graduates was \$39,00, a 6 percent increase from the 2016 average. It's terrifying to realize that a lot of people

Universities and business investors are starting to notice the major impact that college debt from loans have on students. It has gotten to the point where the only people who won't end up in some sort of student debt after college, are some of the wealthiest people in the country. No person who comes from a family with an average income, or who earns around an average salary will go through college without some sort of student debt. Despite this, high school graduates are still pressured to go to college, to achieve their goals, to get a good stable job. How are people today supposed to be able to work the career of their dreams without a verified degree from some major college or university? College, and the expenses that come with schooling such as housing, books and normal living costs; should be cheaper in America. According to US student aid, the average bachelor's degree holder can take up to ten years after graduation to pay off their student loans. No person should have to spend 13 years in primary school, another four years in college or graduate school just to face another 10 years of debt in order to start their careers and their lives.

Percentage of Children in Labor per Region



Check the labels for fair trade certifications like Fair Trade Certified™, Rainforest Alliance Certified™, and the Fair Labor Association®. Below are a few brands that are fair trade

American Giant	Patagonia® (clothing)	Honest®
Aldi	Apolis® (clothing)	Whole Foods Markets®
Equal Exchange®	PUMA® (clothing)	IKEA™
Ten Thousand Villages®		

Coffee Can Contribute to Student Stress



CAS TERRIAN
GUEST WRITER

Chances are that you drink coffee at least occasionally, and you may not be aware that there are negative side effects. I started out drinking a cup everyday. I was hyper-focused and burning through classwork within minutes. Coffee was my ride or die. Soon it wasn't enough. Quite rapidly I needed more and more coffee, until one day when I reached a breaking point. I had around four cups and I had an anxiety attack. It was the most intense anxiety attack I have ever experienced. It felt like I was going crazy. I was shaking uncontrollably, and my heart was

pounding so hard I could hear it in my ears. After sitting with my mom, watching "The Office" until four in the morning trying to calm down, I finally got to sleep. I quit coffee cold turkey after that night, drinking only tea. I hoped the withdrawal wouldn't last too long. I was foggy and tired pretty much all the time and the headaches hardly ever seemed to subside. My grades were dropping. I had been on top of the world and very quickly I plummeted. I was terrified of feeling that way again. I barely left my house. There were many things I felt afraid of. I stopped making art, I didn't listen to music, especially not with earbuds, and I needed to always be around other people. My anxiety was so high following this event that it took me months of recovery. It felt like I was losing my mind. It never struck me as a

bad idea to have so much caffeine. Even though I was susceptible to anxiety attacks, I had experienced them before, I had never heard of a caffeine overdose. According to a "Medical News Today" article "Adolescents drink too much caffeine" by Yvette Brazier, more than 83% of teens consume caffeine regularly. This could contribute to heightened mental illness rates among teens. Because I had so much energy from coffee, I completely forgot about eating. I weighed myself two weeks following my anxiety attack and found out that I was down 15 pounds. I knew it wasn't normal to experience that level of anxiety when nothing traumatic had happened. I was extremely tired, sad and didn't want to get out of bed. High anxiety over a long period of time made me feel depressed, which isn't uncommon. When I finally calmed down, I realized how sore my body was from being tense so

often. Teens talking about their own mental health are often dismissed or even seen as making excuses for misbehavior. According to "Why Today's Teens are More Depressed Than Ever" from "Center of Discovery", only about 30% of teens dealing with depression seek professional help. I am in that small percentage. In a perfect world, people would be able to talk about their struggles to one another and come to the understanding that they are not alone and they don't have to feel alienated. When I did my research on my own issues, I found forums with many others feeling the same things at me, and it gave me hope just to know I wasn't the only one. Others had felt the same struggle and got through it and saw the good things in life again. Research and regular counseling have really helped me to come to terms with my

problems and take better care of myself. Nobody, especially not teenagers, should have to deal with their mental health on their own. We feel so much pressure from people around us to somehow balance school, work, sleep, homework, healthy eating, fitness, and extracurriculars all the time. It's a lot of stress to be under, and it can definitely take a toll on mental health. The best advice I can give to students coming into high school is that it's okay to put off homework for an hour or two if you are worn out. Taking naps and recharging can really help to make you more alert and that is better than developing a reliance on coffee. Our bodies are already dealing with enough endorphins and chemicals, adding on coffee, stress, anxiety, and depression, can affect our developing brains for a very long time.

Letters to the Editor

Students Respond to Fashion trends

Dear Editor,
I read "Current Fashion Trends are Sweeping the Loy Norrix Hallways" in Knight Life. I enjoyed this article because it stated many of the current fashion trends.
Liam Braun
freshman

Dear Editor,
I read "Current Fashion Trends are Sweeping the Loy Norrix Hallways" in Knight Life. I liked this article because I think it's important to take the focus off of the school and onto the students. I think every once in a while it's nice to hear about something that is related to schoolwork and is a topic that other students could enjoy reading about. I also like how at the end of the article, the author added a little side note telling students to embrace their individuality and reveal that trends are truly started when students wear their outfits with confidence.
Kendall Sloan
freshman

Dear Editor,
I read about Birkenstocks in Knight Life. I liked it because one, I was in the picture, and two, because Birkenstocks are good shoes to have. Birkenstocks are very comfortable because you can wear them with or without socks.
Lei Anna Stratton
sophomore

New Club Gains Interest

Dear Editor,
I read your article about the eSports club and I enjoyed it. You gave a lot of useful information in the article. You mentioned different opinions and I could tell you enjoyed the topic on this as well. I like how you wrote this overall, the only thing you missed was that they played "Overwatch" as well. Other than that good job and keep up the good work.
Dylan Conine
sophomore

Dear Editor,
I read about "Gamers, Assemble!" It was alright. I might try to join soon, but only if you add in real gaming consoles like a PS4 or Xbox One, because PC is not for real gamers unless you hold a controller.
Robert Matthews
freshman

Loy Norrix Needs Better Air Conditioning

Dear Editor,
I read "Loy Norrix Starts the Year Too Hot" in Knight Life. I liked the article a lot. The fact that it's being addressed in the school newspaper will hopefully cause more attention to be brought to the subject. The inclusion of quotes from both students and teachers helps push the fact that both groups have the same opinion on the subject. The quote from Bowser then listing the 32 classrooms that either have no air conditioning or poorly working AC was a very impactful way to end the article.
Zoey Shanahan
junior

Dear Editor,
I read "Loy Norrix Starts the Year Too Hot" in Knight Life. I liked the article because I think it is something that needed to be talked about. I know there have been times I have left early because I knew my 5th hour was really hot.
Chase Wagner
senior

Dear Editor,
I read the article titled "Loy Norrix Starts the Year Too Hot." I agree with everyone who said something about classrooms being too hot. As it's November while I'm writing this, it's fifty degrees outside and I'm sweating in a stuffy, humid room. Changing air temperatures is far more important than changing the look of our school.
Jaylee Lesatz
senior

Students Respond to Kalamazoo's Changes Over Time

Dear Editor,
I read "Kalamazoo: Then and Now" in Knight Life. I liked the story because I saw this statue and didn't really know much about it.
Kadin Walker
freshman

Dear Editor,
I read "Kalamazoo: Then and Now" in Knight Life, I liked "Kalamazoo: Then and Now" because it gave me a lot of information about Kalamazoo and what was here before and what's still here now. A lot of things did change. Not that much, but a lot.
Arryanna Carson
freshman

Students Respond to Brett Kavanaugh

Dear Editor,
I read the article "Sexual Misconduct Allegations Against Kavanaugh Rock the Nation and Taint the Supreme Court" in Knight Life, and I like this article because it was very informative. I thought the article gave good information about the Kavanaugh assault allegations, and it wasn't noticeably biased except for the opinions given by interviewed students. It is important that students and everybody know about real accounts of sexual misconduct and how it affects society. The only problem that I had was that the wording was a little confusing at times, especially the first paragraph. Otherwise, great job on the article.
Carson Williams
sophomore

Dear Editor,
I read the article about Kavanaugh and I liked it because people need to know more about this and they should be more educated. This article helps people that don't go out of their way to learn to do more.
Jack Warmelink
junior

Dear Editor,
I read the Brett Kavanaugh article. I did not like this article because it talked about how "people shouldn't want someone that is frequently boozed up." The times when he was "boozed up" happened when he was in high school and college when he was young.
Conner Van Avery
freshman

Students Respond to Nicotine Usage

Dear Editor,
I thank you for your page on nicotine. I am glad that the paper is helping fight the good fight against nicotine and the harmful effects that it produces.
Emerson Cooper
sophomore

Dear Editor,
I read the article about teens using nicotine without knowing the danger of it. I thought it was a good article because it's not really biased. You're not berating people for vaping but you're pulling out the facts on why it's not good. I think it's important not to judge people for vaping because as long as it's not affecting me, I really don't care.
Kamryn Kimbrough
sophomore

Students Respond to Tim Kyle

Dear Editor,
I read "The Memory of Tim Kyle: Giving Back to the Community," I like how the article included comments from teachers about Kyle. It was nice to hear what they had to say about him since I did not know him myself. I would have liked if there were some comments from students since I am a student and can relate more to students than teachers. Overall, I really liked the article.
Lydia Andrews
sophomore

Dear Editor,
I read the article "The Memory of Tim Kyle: Giving Back to the Community". I really liked "The Memory of Tim Kyle" because these people are giving back to the community. The article talks about the memory of Tim Kyle and how they're giving back to the community. Money was used to buy backpacks and school supplies. The rest of the money was used to pay schools with children that have special needs.
Chevy Rife
sophomore

Response to New Administrative Staff

Dear Editor,
"Loy Norrix Welcomes New Administrators" in Knight Life this week. I liked it because it had interesting information in it. It taught me things that I did not know before.
Arden Hermann
freshman

Dear Editor,
"Norrix Welcomes New Administrators" in Knight Life. I liked how it is telling/showing that the administrators are there for you and when you need someone to talk to, you can. Also how no matter what if they are confused they will still try to understand.
Cassidy Yarber
sophomore

Students Respond to the N.W.A.

Dear Editor,
I liked the article on N.W.A. in Knight Life. I liked it because it talked about one of my favorite groups and a little bit on how they impacted life on others.
Syndi Seady
junior

Dear Editor,
I read the story of the N.W.A. I found it interesting because it explains the origin behind the famous group of rap legends based on the movie Straight Outta Compton, starring music legends and Ice Cube, all around big time actor and rapper.
Koryania Robinson
freshman

Students Recommend School Improvements

Dear Editor,
I thought that the newspaper was well written. The problem was that the topics weren't engaging or interesting enough to me as a student. Me personally, I'm not as interested in the new administrators. The AC portion was sort of interesting but I would care more about what's being done if anything. These topics may have been used because nothing interesting is going on.
Grant Kahler
freshman

Dear Editor,
I would like more of the opinion section and I want the return of the comic section. The opinion section normally was full of terrible opinions, but it still showed me insight of others, which is nice. Back to comics: it was cold. Sure they weren't the best, but it was still nice to see them. It was a distraction from the rest of the paper.
Alen Mejia Guerra
junior

Dear Editor,
I think that you did well but I think you could put more information on the homecoming king and queen, like have them explain to you why they ran for homecoming, or did someone inspire them to run for it.
Savannah Stewart
freshman

Proposal 1 – What You Need to Know

RAILI NELSON
GUEST WRITER

In the early morning on Wednesday, November 7th, the day after the midterm elections, Michigan residents woke to the news that Proposal 1 had been approved by voters, a move which legalized recreational marijuana for adults over the age of 21.

How Legal Is it?

While the election’s results did legalize marijuana, cannabis enthusiasts around the state shouldn’t be so eager to light up. The law did not fully take effect until December, and pot retail shops won’t be allowed to open until early 2020. While cannabis has been legalized, it hasn’t been decriminalized by this proposal. Legalization means you can’t get arrested, convicted or ticketed for marijuana as long as you follow the restrictions and laws concerning it. Decriminalization means that states no longer prosecute people for having a small amount of marijuana on them if they are not intending to sell it. While marijuana would still be illegal, it would be treated more like a traffic violation, as you wouldn’t be prosecuted and therefore can

The state and Loy Norrix High school were abuzz with discussion of the issue. Whether it was joyous potheads, or embittered advocates determined to follow federal law, everyone seemed to be talking about it and about what it meant.

avoid a criminal record. About 9% of all arrests made in 2015 in Michigan involved weed. In Kalamazoo county, 6% of all arrests in 2015 involved marijuana, according to MLive. The graph to the right illustrates the fact that there is a disproportionate amount of people in jail for something that has now become legal. Sheldon Neeley, a democratic representative in Michigan’s State Congress, has proposed a bill that would make it easier for low-level marijuana offenders to have their records expunged or sealed. Governor-elect Gretchen Whitmer has also discussed possible clemency for numerous low-level marijuana offenders.

How Will it be Regulated?

There are many speculations as to how marijuana will be regulated. Michigan is looking to other states that have legalized recreational marijuana, such as Colorado and California. These states regulate marijuana similarly to alcohol in that you have to be 21 to be involved in a business or use it, and there are strict restrictions on how pot shops can operate. Most are satisfied that these restrictions will ensure that marijuana will not put any of the population at risk. Loy Norrix sophomore Haley Lankerd, when asked what she thought regulation would look like replied, “ Honestly, I don't know what regulation will look like. I feel like rules will still try to be put in place when it comes to it. Knowing how it was used when it wasn't legal, I feel like some people won't listen to the regulations and carry on with what they were doing.”

For those that share her apprehension for legal weed, the proposal gave municipalities the option to ban marijuana retailers from selling in their county. This means that while one county may allow pot to be sold in a business, another may not. Adults that want to use marijuana must be aware of local laws concerning it. Additionally, according to federal law, marijuana is still illegal. Despite changes in many states’ laws, according to “Safe Access Now,” “Under federal law, cannabis is treated like every other controlled substance, such as cocaine and heroin.” Marijuana is also illegal in a large number of states across the country. A person traveling with marijuana from a state where it is legal to a state where it is illegal will be subject to that state’s laws regarding marijuana related arrests.

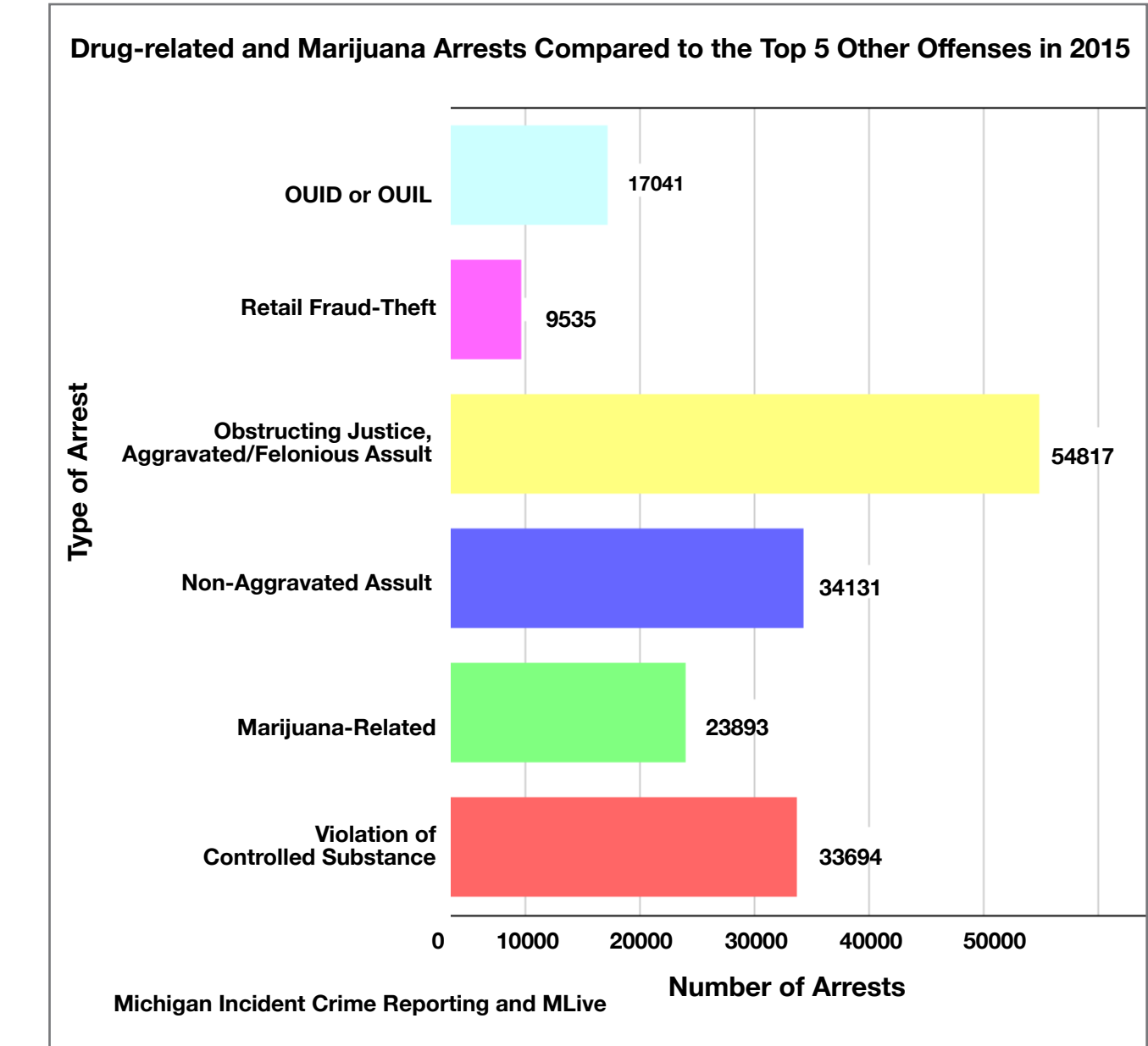
How Does it Affect Minors?

The biggest concern of most people who voted no on Proposal 1 had was the concern about minors and marijuana. According to The National Institute on Drug Abuse for Teens, marijuana use in people whose brains have not fully developed can cause long term detriments. These impairments include poor memory, concentration and judgement skills. The concern that teens would have easier access to something that could affect them developmentally is not something that should be taken lightly. This is one of the main reasons the law is so restricted.

Lankerd shares these concerns stating, “I think it will be easier in some ways. Teens buy it from sellers and now that it is legal it will be easier for sellers to get it and therefore easier access to teens.” The opposing side argues that making marijuana legal in the way that alcohol is legal makes it harder for teens to buy marijuana. Marijuana would also only be legally sold through registered, licensed shops and would likely be subject to purity tests. These quality controls could help to eradicate weed that could be laced with harmful additives such as formaldehyde. Legalization

Is the Legalization Debate Over?

Legalization with regulation in a handful of states does not mean that the debate over legal marijuana is over, but it does highlight a change in the cultural perception of the drug. People no longer think that marijuana is equivalent to hard drugs such as heroin, and many are turned on to the medicinal values it presents. This legalization by states will most likely lead to an even greater cultural acceptance of it, until it is regarded much like alcohol. Marijuana still carries many negative connotations and



What Does Loy Norrix Think of Proposal 1?

Do you agreee with Michigan’s choice to legalize the use of recreational marijuana?



DEVIN PALMER
LIASON OFFICER

“I don't think that marijuana should be legal, but with the way our country is, and the way politics and voting works, I think the people and the citizens got to make their own choice, so I think it's good in that regard.”



SYNDI SEADY
11TH GRADE

“I mean I do because I feel like it's better that it's legalized and people do it legalized than do it by breaking the law. Plus it frees up more space in jail for people who have actually committed a crime instead of just petty stuff for having marijuana on you.”



JASON HOWARD
11TH GRADE

“I agree with it, but I don't necessarily like it because it makes the taxes higher, and I'm not trying to pay taxes on weed but it’s fine I guess.”



CLAIRE GOODWIN-KELLY
9TH GRADE

“No, because its recreational and its proven to have negative effects on your mental state and your health and your brain.”



GREG STEVENS
ART TEACHER

“I do in certain aspects, in other aspects not so much. I don't know if it should be across the board legalization for recreational use of people over 21, but I do think that marijuana is generally over-stigmatized and gets a little bit more of a bad rap than maybe it should as compared to things like alcohol that's legal.”



SVERI MAY
PARAPROE

“Did I vote for it? Absolutely not, I voted against it. One of the reasons I voted against it is both of my girls are doctors in Colorado. One’s a pediatrician ER doctor and the other’s an ER doctor and what it does for children is terrible. They will say Colorado is harming their own kids.”



JAY PETERSON
GOV. TEACHER

“Absolutely. It's such a popular drug and there's been very little study to demonstrate that it's any more damaging than alcohol.”



THOMAS CLOUTIER
11TH GRADE

“I do agree with Michigan's choice because I think that it will bring a lot of money and help the economy in Michigan.”

“Daredevil” Dares To Defy Expectations



Title card for Netflix’s “Daredevil.” GRAPHIC CREDIT, MARVEL

CADE PETERMAN
SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

“Daredevil” has the best writing out of any show I have ever seen.

In 2015, Netflix released the first season of the show “Daredevil,” the series now has 3 seasons, with 13 episodes each.

Based on the Marvel Comic by the same name, the show follows a man named Matt Murdock played by Charlie Cox, a blind lawyer who moonlights as the vigilante named Daredevil.

Season 1 is about Daredevil’s origin and his fight with a mob boss in Hell’s Kitchen named Wilson Fisk also known as Kingpin, played by Vincent D’Onofrio. Season 2 is about Frank Castle, or The Punisher, played by Jon Bernthal. Season 3, which came out this year, is about Fisk’s return.

The best part of the show is the characters. The casting choices and the acting are on point. The actors all portray their characters so well. One character in particular stands out, Ray Nadeem, played by Jay Ali. Ali’s performance is outstanding and I would say his acting produces one of the best supporting characters in a few years. His performance as a good guy in a bad situation is perfect.

A problem that often plagues comic book movies is that they are unrelatable. The characters are basically unbeatable, you know they’re always going to win, and there is little suspense. “Daredevil” doesn’t have this problem. The show always keeps you on your toes and you never really know what’s gonna happen.

It’s a breath of fresh air to see a show that isn’t completely predictable. The directors also do a good job at grounding the protagonist. They show that he is human, that he isn’t an over-powered, unbeatable hero, while simultaneously showing how awesome he is.

Another great thing about the show are the villains. They aren’t one dimensional “evil man is evil” villains with no depth or development. They are fully fleshed-out characters that have motives and feelings.

You know a villain is good if you find it hard to disagree with them. Vincent D’Onofrio’s performance as Fisk is fantastic. On top of looking the part, he plays the character well. Not many people can fit the role of someone as cartoonishly large as Kingpin.

Another great part of the show is the writing. It is absolutely fantastic, and it only gets better with every season. The story is full of twists and turns and you never know exactly where it will go. It is some of the best writing of any show I have ever seen.

Season 3 is easily the best. The villains get the most depth, the cinematography is the most impressive, the characters are more likable, and you relate to everything so much better than in any of the other seasons. The show is the most grounded in season 3.

You can’t really fully praise this show without talking about the cinematography and choreography. The way the scenes are framed or set up is excellent. Some shows choose style over substance, but “Daredevil” goes above and beyond for both. The show also frequently has long takes where they go impressively long periods without a single cut.

The most impressive example was in season 3, with a 12 minute uncut scene with action, dialogue and visuals. Additionally, the choreography is great. The action and fighting is realistic, but not so much that it’s boring. I’m sure that anyone who has seen any modern action movie is no stranger to cuts so rapid you can’t tell what is happening. For example, the 2014 Liam Neeson movie, “Taken 3.” It’s refreshing to be able to see what’s happening in a fight scene without having a seizure.

I recommend this show to anyone who even moderately enjoys movies or TV shows. Although the show is dark and graphic at times, it isn’t over-the-top. Anyone who can handle seeing some blood or dark themes will enjoy this show. I think the only people that won’t enjoy this are DC elitists.

Theories Assemble! Students Make Predictions about “Avengers: Endgame”



Official “Avengers: Infinity War” (3) cinematic poster. GRAPHIC CREDIT, MARVEL

MAYA CRAWFORD
OPINION & GRAPHICS EDITOR

WARNING! The theories discussed in this article contain spoilers from the first three Avengers movies, including “Avengers: Infinity War.”

Left on possibly the biggest cliffhanger in all of Marvel Studios’ cinematic history, “Avengers: Infinity War” left most in tears and suspense. The sequel to “Infinity War”, “Avengers: Endgame”, debuts in the U.S. on May 3rd, 2019.

“Infinity War” and “Endgame” represent the two part finale of this period of Marvel heroes. The first of the two movies was the fastest movie to earn 1 billion dollars worldwide, and overall earned 642.8 million dollars after being out in the public for only 36 days, according to Forbes. com.

Theories and information leaks are spiraling around among Marvel fans, and Loy Norrix students have many ideas about what they think is going to occur in the finale of the Avengers franchise.



ELENOR NEVE-JONES
GRADE 10

I don’t really know. I’ve been reading quite a lot of the theories online, and I have a couple of favorites, but I don’t think that they’re actually going to happen. I’m almost sure it will have something to do with the Time Stone. [One of the five Infinity Stones.] I think that maybe they will all go back in time to collect all of the stones before Thanos [an evil overlord bent on destroying half of the universe] is able to get to them. Then maybe defeating him using the stones, therefore saving everything and preventing almost everything that happened in “Infinity War” including all of the deaths. So maybe Loki will still be alive.



NAQUAYVION WOODY
GRADE 10

I think it’s going to involve time travel, and maybe Tony Stark has a machine, or makes one, to change the events in Infinity War.



JOSEPH RIDENOUR
GRADE 12

Nobody’s actually dead; they’re all in an alternate dimension and think everybody else is dead. The new Spiderman movie is coming out, and “Far From Home” might mean that he’s still on Earth but just in another reality.



GRAHAM LAPE-SHOUB
GRADE 11

It’s either going to involve some weird time travel by Tony [Tony Stark, or Iron Man], or they’re going to show all the characters who were dusted attempting to escape the Soul Stone like Adam Warlock did in the original comics. Adam Warlock was the golden boy who was in the after-credits scene of ‘Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2.’



KATHRINE GILBERT
GRADE 11

They’re all in the Soul Stone, and either Thanos will bring them back because he feels bad, or somebody will steal the Gauntlet back and bring everybody back.



NAILAH BLANKS
GRADE 11

I think that everyone will come back to life but the main Avengers might sacrifice themselves to bring back those dead characters. I also believe that everyone that was dusted is actually in the Soul Stone and the only person/stone that can bring them out would be Captain Marvel [a space heroine from the 1980’s that is in contact with Nick Fury, the former director of S.H.I.E.L.D] or the Time Stone. Loki is not dead!



ELIANA RUBIN
GRADE 10

I think that Doctor Strange didn’t die, and he did something in the past or future that will help the Avengers win.



Avengers (1)



Avengers: Age of Ultron (2)



Avengers: Endgame (4)

Visit www.KnightLifeNews.com

AND FOLLOW US ON...



@LNKnightLife



@KnightLifeNews



@LNKnighlife



269-381-6644  269-929-6126 cell

John Bosch Salon

Chrissy Bosch Weller | Hairdresser
3404 south westedge | kalamazoo
chuweller129@yahoo.com

Willis Law
Attorneys & Counselors
(269) 492-1040

KPEP
Walnut & Park
COFFEE

More than just a great cup of coffee!

info@walnutandparkcafe.com | 322 West Walnut Street
catering@walnutandparkcafe.com | Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Follow us   269.903.0578

KOMS **Kalamazoo Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, P.C.**

Thomas A. Slack, DDS • Christian L. Kanar, DDS
Kevin D. Morse, DDS • David M. Wilson, DMD, MD

**Specializing in Wisdom Teeth Removal,
Jaw Surgery, TMJ Disorders, and Dental Implants**

Woodbridge Hills
3801 Glenkerry Ct. -Suite 2
Portage, MI 49024
(269) 323-1527

Briarwood Valley Office Park
4019 West Main -Suite 200
Kalamazoo, MI 49006
(269) 388-5898

www.kaloms.com



Find out how to attend
**COLLEGE
FOR FREE**
while still in high school

To find out more, contact your high school counselor
and visit www.kvcc.edu/earlycollege.

KalamazooVALLEY™
community college

The Kalamazoo Promise®



SENIORS: Have you completed your
promise paperwork?



Your application AND scholarship acceptance
forms are required before we pay out any tuition!



Contact Bob Jorth with questions at (269) 337-0037 or bjorth@kalamazoopromise.com



Dedicated LN Tennis Player Makes it to States

JUSTIN TIMMERMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Twenty-three wins, four losses, this year's record for Loy Norrix's star tennis player, Reed Crocker, shows his abundance of skill and promising future.

Crocker had a stellar season and performed phenomenally at regionals, a tennis tournament where players in the same general area compete with each other in hopes of making it to finals and advancing on to states. Crocker was the only player from Loy Norrix to advance from regionals onto the state competition making it all the way to the quarter finals.

Over the course of three years playing varsity tennis for Loy Norrix, Crocker's cumulative record is a whopping 87-8. Crocker has advanced to State every season and made it to state finals his freshman year. He's also reached the quarter finals in the last two years.

His journey playing tennis began at the age of three, playing at Kalamazoo's Country Club because, in his words, "I liked using my hands."

At six, Crocker began practicing at West Hills Athletic Club. Then at seven, Bill Jenkins, the Norrix varsity tennis coach took Crocker under his wing. This was also the age when Crocker began participating in tennis tournaments. It's safe to say that Crocker has almost always had a racket in his hands.



ISAIAH HOBSON, GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Reed Crocker waits for his opponent to return the ball after his serve at the meet against Kalamazoo Central. This game was later rained out.

One thing is clear, tennis is not merely a game to this high school student. The young athlete claims that tennis has helped prepare him for life as far as making decisions and working hard. Crocker credits his older brother for really getting him into a good tennis routine.

"He really got me working hard and got me to have a real schedule where, yes, it was hard, but it helped me to improve every single week," said Crocker

Crocker's older brother is a Loy Norrix alumni who also played varsity

tennis, with a jaw dropping cumulative record of 109-11 and winning three state championships over his high school career as a Knight. Crocker's brother also went on to play at the University of Michigan for his collegiate years. This is a possible road for Crocker as well, with the University of Michigan being one of the many schools scouting him for tennis.

Even though the seventeen year old prodigy enjoys playing tennis, it's also comes with a boatload of stress. Crocker misses lots of school in

order to compete in tennis tournaments across the nation, resulting in limited class time and a vast amount of makeup work. However even with being away from school for elongated periods of time, he still manages to maintain a 4.05 GPA. His Scholar Athlete award has been more than well-earned.

Crocker carries a big weight on his shoulders, seeing as he represents the Norrix tennis team. However, Bill Jenkins, the tennis team coach certainly believes Crocker is representing Norrix well.

"He is a leader without meaning to be," said Jenkins.

Jenkins and Crocker have worked on tennis together for ten years and created an inseparable coach and player bond through this time.

When asked what was Jenkins' favorite memory with Crocker, he responded, "The overall experience with Reed is gonna stay with me for my life. I've seen him so often, for so many hours, so many days, for so many years. Ten years, that it's a blanket of memories that drapes

over me and all extremely positive, and all of which I cherish deeply."

While Crocker has definitely improved over the years, Jenkins said, "He was always very naturally skilled at tennis and as an athlete."

The other tennis players hold Reed in high regards as well. Senior Carter Eisenbach, varsity tennis player at Loy Norrix, was questioned on his first impression of Crocker versus his impression of him now.

Eisenbach said, "First I was like 'Wow! This guy looks like a chump who thinks he's all good.' Now I'm like 'He is good and he's also nice.'"

Eisenbach now refers to Reed as "the rock of the team." While Crocker is the rock of the team that everyone looks up to, he still has a fun side to him that likes to joke around. Eisenbach continued, "We always joke around until coach yells at us."

Sophomore varsity tennis player, Tieran Rafferty, can back up Eisenbach statements. Tieran refers to Reed as "a leader" who "makes it fun." When asked what his initial impression of Reed was, he explained that his first thoughts were, "He's gonna be a good mentor for me, someone to look up to while playing tennis," Rafferty said.

Even with all the highs and lows yet to come, the future is looking bright for Crocker and the Loy Norrix tennis team.

Lady Knights take on Central Giants



KEYLAZIA DYE, STAFF WRITER

Kendyl Krishman drives the ball to the rim during the freshman basketball game, December 4, 2018, against Kalamazoo Central. This game's final score was 49 to 34 in favor of Central. The Junior Varsity game's final score was 43 to 23 in favor of KC.



KEYLAZIA DYE, STAFF WRITER

Ella Boyea strives to make it to the end of the court during the December 4th night's freshman basketball game against Kalamazoo Central.



KEYLAZIA DYE, STAFF WRITER

The freshman team shows initiative, teamwork and responsibility during halftime against Kalamazoo Central. This teamwork provides a network of support.



KEYLAZIA DYE, STAFF WRITER

When explaining the play of the game, JV coach Tyree Burton has many listeners who all have a similar goal, to win.

Election Time: Students Get Involved in Politics



Junior **Caila Chapman** submitting her ballot to the tabulator. This is the last step of the voting process.

GAVIN RUTHERFORD
COPY EDITOR

With the rise in political tension these past few years, there has been a lot of pressure on young people to get out and vote in every election they can. The League of Women voters come to high schools to help educate more young people on just what voting entails.

On Tuesday, October 23, the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area came to Loy Norrix High School to hold a mock election. Juniors and seniors were called down to the back gym where they would go

through a voting process almost identical to what will happen on election day. With so many students already or approaching 18 years old, the league wants to make sure that today’s youth will be ready to help carve the path for the future.

“We come to the high schools and we do a program that tells people how to vote, where to find information about voting, what it takes to be a registered voter and where to find non-partisan information, because that’s the point of the league, we’re non-partisan,” said Merrikay Oleen-Burkey, the president of League of Women Voters of Kalamazoo.

“So we don’t align ourselves with either candidate, with either Democrat or Republican, Libertarian or Green Party, we don’t sign up with that.”

The majority of students also voted “yes” on all three proposals focused on The majority of students also voted “yes” on all three proposals focused on recreational marijuana, reforming gerrymandering and voter registration.

Presidential and midterm elections are extremely important to upholding American Democracy. Students can look forward to the presidential election in 2020.



Loy Norrix juniors in line to collect their ballots to vote. The mock election gives students a chance to see and experience voting for the first time in a safe environment.



Juniors **Quincy Ellis**, **Jack Cruz** and **Drew Dougherty** at the voting booth. Most juniors won’t be able to vote until the 2022 Midterms, but a rare few like Drew can vote in the 2020 presidential elections.

Loy Norrix had 341 students participate in the mock election. If this were the actual elections, the voting results of the students of Loy Norrix would be as follows:

Governor: Gretchen Whitmore (Dem)
Secretary of State: Jocelyn Benson (Dem)
Attorney General: Dana Nessel (Dem)
U.S. Senator: Debbie Stabenow (Dem)
Congress: Matt Longjohn (Dem)
Michigan Senator: Sean McCann (Dem)
Supreme Court Justice: Elizabeth Clement, Kurtis Wilder

Let’s Go Clubbin’ Loy Norrix Offers Opportunities for Our Students

JOSHUA MCKISSIC
PHOTO EDITOR

Loy Norrix, we are a school of the people, we are accepting, creative, smart, and evolving, yet one thing that has remained fairly stagnant, is our club participation.

This school has a multitude of incredible teachers and students running our current clubs. Being a part of an afterschool club gives you the chance to make new friends and try something new. Here are some clubs that could interest many students for this upcoming trimester. If you’re interested, please contact the people mentioned below, they would be delighted to see and hear from you.

Clubs in the school are great opportunities to learn valuable skills, have better time management and planning skills, and even look good for future college and scholarship applications. It can be difficult at times to implement and maintain a regular schedule, but clubs are the perfect alternative from sports. Loy Norrix has a thriving community with many different ongoing opportunities for students. Take advantage of these incredible opportunities that your peers and instructors have put together in order to make you more successful.

National Honor Society



Matt Porco and **Ryan Allen**, National Honor Society Advisors, talk about the schedule for the NHS induction that night. Every year juniors are inducted into the society after an application process.

“**The National Honor Society (NHS)** is largely a service organization. To get in you have to demonstrate leadership, character, scholarship and at least a 3.5 [GPA] and maintain a 3.5,” said AP history teacher and NHS advisor, Matt Porco.

In the National Honor Society, members must do community service which includes paper recycling at Loy Norrix, child care for Parkwood Elementary, parent teacher conference meetings, Gospel mission donations, organizing a school-wide blood drive and much more. This service earns members the prestigious accolade of membership in the National Honor Society.

At the beginning of the school year until mid-December, only about 30-35 seniors are in this relatively large club. Juniors with a 3.5 GPA or higher are invited to join every year.

On December 11th, thirty-five seniors and juniors were inducted in after an application process. Porco instructs people to “Emphasize that pillar of character.” If interested, Porco in room D9 and economics teacher Ryan Allen in room A19, are the co-advisors.

Academic Achievement Center



junior, **Kayvon Conley** works in computer lab C21 after school in a quiet and focused AAC room.

AAC stands for Academic Achievement Center which runs Monday through Thursday after school. The AAC is there for students who need help with school work that they did not understand during the school day or won’t be able to complete at home.

Psychology teacher Rebecca Layton said, “You can have one-on-one [time] with a teacher, you can work with a partner, or even work individually and have a space.” Layton also commented, “I wish students would use the resources they have.”

Anyone who needs help in school or with school work should attend the AAC, Monday through Thursday to seek help from people who are there to assist you. Thursday is test makeup day if you need to take a test you missed. Let your teacher know ahead of time if you plan to take advantage of this.

Link Crew



Junior, **Kaziah Bowan** helps freshman, **Elisia McPhearson** at the Snack and Study. Every trimester one will be held to help freshman prepare for their upcoming finals. Kaziah Bowan is a member of Link Crew, a club designed to help freshman adjust to high school.

Link Crew is a freshman transition program assisting an easier change from middle school to high school for incoming freshman. Junior and senior link leaders are chosen personally by the Link Crew Advisors to mentor the incoming class in their new four year journey called high school.

Link Crew has been at Loy Norrix for six years, led by librarian, John Kreider. If you’re interested, talk to Kreider in the Loy Norrix Library.

Metaphysics Club



Lars Enden, visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy at K College talks with senior, **Will Keller** as junior, **Nate Goodwin-Kelly** and senior and founder of the Metaphysics Club, **Peyton Cool** listen in to their discussion of a theoretical experience machine.

Metaphysics is a branch of philosophy that studies abstract concepts such as knowing, existence, identity, time, space and much more. Founded and led by Loy Norrix senior, Peyton Cool, the Metaphysics Club is held in health teacher, Richard Labadie’s room, M13.

Cool says the Metaphysics Club is a “philosophy class just outside of school. We explore the philosophy of reality, existence, and the universe.”

If anyone is interested, there are meetings every second Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is January 8th.

Green School Club



Seniors **Brandon Worden** (right) and **Robert Isackson** (left) clean up the parking lot in order to reduce Loy Norrix’s carbon footprint. They are members of Loy Norrix’s Green Club.

“**The Green School Club** is a statewide program that schools can engage in, in order to reduce the carbon footprint of the school through various means,” explained biology teacher, Eric David.

If you’re interested in managing and maintaining our school gardens and reducing our schools carbon footprint, contact David in room B14. Currently around 10 members are in the Green School Club. This club meets every other Tuesday.