

When Paradise Is Lost, Promise Is Found

RILEY DOMINIANNI
STAFF WRITER

All names have been changed due to the sensitive nature of the topic and by request of the subject who told her story.

‘I had a really bad feeling. The wind was blowing, the humidity was low, it hadn’t rained in six months, and I could smell the smoke,’ said Catherine Taylor.

Camp Fire, the devastating wildfire that tore through Northern California in November of 2018 had just reached Feather River Hospital in Paradise, California. Catherine Taylor, a surgical technologist, was working at Feather River. She and her team were in the process of performing a caesarean section when the back of the hospital caught fire.

The fire began on November 8, 2018 and lasted seventeen days. Tens of thousands of firefighters were deployed from all over the country as nearly 160 thousand acres and 19 thousand buildings were engulfed in flames. By the time it was fully contained, 85 had died and 249 were unaccounted for.

To this day, three of those 249 are still missing. For Taylor and her family, who now live in Kalamazoo, their lives changed forever. Four months later, she is ready to tell her story.

“I was at the hospital getting ready for the C-Section and my husband was at home with our



Vehicles line up at a gas station before heading out of town. The Taylor family remembers the rush to leave Paradise California as the fire erupted in “chaos.”

three-year-old son and his elderly father, who lived with us at that time. My older son was at school,” Catherine began.

After having “a feeling” all morning and getting news of the fire, she made a phone call.

“While they were getting the patient ready, I decided to go and call my husband,” Catherine continued. “I told him there was a fire in the canyon and I didn’t think he should take Jackson, our oldest son, to school. And he told me, ‘I just got home from dropping him off, I could go back and get him?’ I told him that I thought he should. After that, I went in and started the surgery. The policy at the hospital was to go forward with

all scheduled surgeries as long as the power was on. Halfway through, we were told to move all patients to emergency rooms for evacuation, and my boss, thankfully, came in and told me I could go. I ran out as fast as I could.”

By the time Catherine’s husband reached the school, the students were already evacuating. He had arrived just in time to pick up seven-year-old Jackson. They left the school only to realize the three main roads were gridlocked, and they were trapped.

“There was this mass rush of people trying to get out of town. At the same time there were all of these people trying to get back into the town to rescue people and animals

and their belongings,” said Catherine. “Fire had overtaken cars, tires were exploding. My husband was stuck in traffic. The reason traffic wasn’t moving was because the people in front of them had died in their vehicles. I was calling and I said, ‘You’ve got to do something, I don’t know what you’ve got to do, but you’ve got to do something. You’ve got to get out of there or you’re gonna die.’”

And so, Catherine explained, he took action. “He saw a police officer going the wrong way down the road, and thankfully, he drove through a ditch, through someone’s yard, turned around and followed the police officer. As soon as he did it, three other

cars did the same thing. Because of that, he and my son were able to escape,” said Catherine

Taylor paused, took a breath, and added, “If they hadn’t, they might not have made it.”

Taylor, meanwhile, was able to make it home and was quickly collecting her younger son Andrew, her father-in-law, their cats, and just a few important possessions and documents. They got into the car and took off. No one in Catherine’s family ever saw their home again.

Out of all the towns struck by the fire, Paradise was the most damaged by far, experiencing the greatest number of fatalities and destruction. Afterwards, 95 percent of

its structures were gone, including the Taylor home and much of Feather River Hospital. Since the Camp Fire, Catherine hasn’t been back to Paradise.

Despite the trauma and loss they faced, Catherine’s family is moving forward. After bouncing around with friends and family for a short amount of time, they have found a new permanent residence in Kalamazoo. Why? There are actually quite a few reasons. Catherine grew up in Michigan, and only ten years prior to the devastating fire, she lived in Kalamazoo. She explains how having “a great support system here” that made the move back feel right. Also, a great job had conveniently opened up at Bronson Hospital, and of course, The Kalamazoo Promise.

“You just can’t beat it,” Catherine said with a smile. Her older son is already enrolled in Kalamazoo Public Schools, and her younger son will be too as soon as he’s old enough, meaning both of their college tuitions will be nearly fully paid for if they choose to stay in state.

“To have lived here once and to come back, it’s nice to see that Kalamazoo is thriving,” Catherine said. “All of my favorite old places are still here and doing well. That was one thing that was so encouraging. Thinking back on her decision she adds, “I told myself, ‘Catherine, this will be good,’ and it truly has been.”

Foundation for Excellence Grants KPS Students Free Transportation

OLIVIA ELY
OPINION EDITOR

In the summer of 2018, The Foundation for Excellence was given 70 million dollars to fund projects for Kalamazoo. A portion of this fund is going towards transportation for high school students enrolled in Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS).

The Foundation for Excellence is pairing with Metro Transit and the Kalamazoo Public Library to bring free public transportation to high school students who attend KPS to help give them opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs, cultural events and one of the most-prominent reasons, employment.

“They [The Foundation for Excellence] identify transportation for kids basically as a stumbling block for being able to get to things. In addition to being able to get to cultural events, they can also get to and from school in order to help out with families who have to deal with after-school activities and eliminate any transportation problems,” said Kathy Schultz, Planning and Development Manager for The Foundation for Excellence.

This project will be implemented in the 2019-2020 school year. During registration for students over the summer of 2019, they will be given an ID which will serve as a school ID, library pass, and bus pass in Kalamazoo. The IDs will look and feel the same, but there will be technology inserted into the ID that corresponds to the fare boxes in buses. There are no limits on the usage of the passes. Students can ride as many times as necessary for 7 days a week.

“Norrix, Kalamazoo Central, Phoenix, and the Alternative Learning Program are the four buildings that we are starting off with. If this plan is successful for the 2019-2020 school year, the project will expand to include middle schools within KPS as well. We are in the process of purchasing five thousand cards that will be programmed with technology prior to registration in the fall,” said Schultz.

KPS has been chosen as the pilot for the project because most KPS students live in Kalamazoo, and students enrolled in KPS have easy access to the Metro Transit bus system.



Loy Norrix students, **Tayvon Davis** and **Jeremiah Nelson**, board the bus at the 2:45 stop to head home. With the new agreement, KPS students will ride for free beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.

“KPS is an initial startup. Most of the kids here live in Kalamazoo. It’s a group that we can point to a couple buildings and say here’s a pass, here’s how to ride, and then we’re able to provide education to students,” said Schultz.

Students all around Kalamazoo will be granted free transportation year-round and stress will be relieved from parents of

students who frequently need rides. Students will now be able to attend after-school activities and events without worrying about finding a ride.

Since this plan will not be in effect until next school year, current seniors will not be granted with free transportation for their 2019-2020 school year.

“I feel like this is great for everyone because

of the high amount of poverty that we have in Kalamazoo so everyone should be able to get free transportation instead of buying Lyfts, Ubers, or taxis,” said senior Aaliyah Goodman, who relied on public transportation before recently purchasing a car. “If I were here next year, it would be a lot less of a hassle and you wouldn’t have to find \$1.50 for the

bus or buy bus tokens at the bus station.”

This project to give students more opportunities for free transportation is set up to help students be successful and help all students of KPS to participate in extracurriculars and school events.

OLIVIA ELY, OPINION EDITOR

Loy Norrix Students Recreate 50 Year Old Pictures

LILLY MACINNIS
NEWS EDITOR



Throughout the years sports have played an important role at Loy Norrix. The photo above (left) was accompanied with an article about how the track team was actually really interesting to watch and in desperate need of more members. Based on the article, it's safe to assume that track was an unpopular sport at the time. Today track is more popular, with many members from all grades. In the photo on the right sophomores Isabella Ford (right) and Samantha Vandepole recreate the photo from 1969 on the left.



The current Knight Life staff pose together, recreating a photo (top) that was found in the 1969 edition of Knight Life, published on April 3rd. The staff has grown in size and diversity, while still fulfilling the purpose of the school newspaper throughout the years. The 1969 photo was accompanied with an article that outlined the purpose and struggles of Knight Life. It is interesting how many of these themes have stayed the same throughout the years. Like the 1969 staff, Knight Life still depends on advertisements to fund the print edition and sometimes struggles to come up with ideas for articles. Of course the staff still encourages everyone to join the journalism team.



The fifty year-old photo on the left was recreated by sophomores Melissa Preston, Abby Agustine, and Haley Lanker. Not much is known about the girls in that photo. Their names were not given. It was attached to an article about how the students of Loy Norrix were anxious for summer now that spring had sprung, something that hasn't changed throughout the years. With the warmer weather, students are itching to get outside every day, just as they were fifty years ago.

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Pride and Acceptance: The Importance of Programs and Support for the LGBTQ+ Community at Loy Norrix

NAKIA BROWN
STAFF WRITER

High school is supposed to be the place where young people discover themselves, make memories and evolve into successful adults. It also serves as a safe haven for teens, a place where they can be free to express their true self-identity among a group of people who are like-minded and similar in age.

Though everyone faces very troubling times, there are only a few school-related issues students typically have to worry about: juggling homework and a part-time job or extracurricular activity, standardized tests, college and so on. However, for LGBTQ+ students, high school is even more stressful since they might find it hard to get support from others and might not be able to be open about their sexuality or gender expression.

“I feel like people need to realize that those little things [homophobic phrases] lead to bigger things [mental health issues etc.],” said junior Emma Hilgart-Griff. Hilgart-Griff recalled some of her own personal accounts of harassment for being a bisexual teen. She went on to say that there are several homophobic phrases that students only get a slap on the wrist for saying.

Harassment within high



Senior **Marco McDade** socializing after school at the Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club which is open to everyone who wants to learn more about LGBTQ+ issues. With this program, students can also find support and embrace their gender identity and sexual orientation.

schools has always been a huge problem which is shown by several studies, including one 2015 survey by the National Center for Education Statistics which estimates that nearly 21 percent of students are bullied.

Alarminglly, this number rises to 82 percent when you look at how many LGBTQ+ students report being verbally harassed, according to statistics found by a 2011 Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network survey.

Bullying can lead to many problems like depression, anxiety and self-esteem issues.

“It’s easy to go through the world and feel isolated, especially if you’re different, so having a place to meet similar people is really helpful,” said Sarah Leineke, a math teacher at Norrix and Gender and Sexuality Alliance advisor.

Even though harassment towards LGBTQ+ youth is a problem in their everyday lives and educational careers, there are programs

in place that provide LGBTQ+ youth with a place to feel safe and accepted. Programs like Youth, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) at Loy Norrix offer ways for youth to feel more comfortable and safe expressing their identity.

Leineke is a firm believer in the importance of GSA programs in all schools. The GSA here at Norrix aims to cut down on bullying

or misunderstanding within the school while also educating everyone that attends one of the meetings.

“It’s a place to come in and meet people who have maybe been through the same things that you have,” said Leineke.

Leineke has been advising the GSA and meeting with the members every Friday for the past 4 years. Over that time, the members of the club have conducted letter campaigns in which

they write to government representatives, done presentations about various LGBTQ+ historical figures and movements, and provided a safe space for LGBTQ+ youth.

“I think straight people should get involved too if they want to learn how to be good allies,” said Hilgart-Griff. Learning how to be an ally is something that Leineke and several other people feel is important.

Allies are people who may not identify as LGBTQ+ but are very interested in protecting and advocating for the rights of people who are. According to Leineke, the GSA can be a great place for you if you’re just interested in becoming a better ally.

Having friends that support you can be a real aid in the process of self-discovery when you feel like you may be all alone.

Leineke also wants everyone who considers coming to the GSA to keep in mind that you’ll fit in.

The GSA isn’t only marketed to one crowd, and you don’t have to be a certain age, race or gender to join. It’s a place where multiple crowds can come together and share their experiences with one another.

The GSA meets every Friday for meetings and for more information you can speak to Leineke in B21. Don’t count yourself out before you attend a meeting and see if you like it.

Norrix Chess Club Give Students the Chance to Practice their Skills



LOGAN NEELEY, SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Senior **Joseph Gonzalez** thinks hard about his next move against college readiness teacher Jim Bellware. Gonzalez is the founder of Loy Norrix’s Chess Club.

LOGAN NEELEY
SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

College Readiness instructor Jim Bellware first started playing chess after he learned the game from his father. He continued to play chess in college with his roommates and coached a chess club in Battle Creek for 10 years. Now, Bellware hosts the Chess Club here at Loy Norrix and has issued a challenge to all students: the student that can beat him in the game will receive a custom chess board from Bellware.

Bellware said, “Wood burning and making chess boards is a hobby of mine and helps students that don’t have a chess board play at home, so it gives motivation to students to

play on their own time and get better.”

The Chess Club was founded by senior Joseph Gonzalez when he realized there wasn’t one at LN.

“I started it because I wanted people to play chess with because it’s boring to just play with the same person every single day. It really helps to have different people to play against so you can kind of gauge what you’re level is at. Plus, you just have a lot more fun.” Gonzalez continued, “My grandfather taught me when I was very young, and I got pretty good, but I didn’t play much after he passed. I started playing again with my cousin. When I saw Mr. Bellware’s class have a chess board sitting there, I just played when I was done with work and got back into playing.”

Bellware hosts the Chess Club in his classroom, D10 by the lunch room. The room is set up with two tables and four chess boards for students to play on. Students play against each other and Bellware if they feel they can beat him for the opportunity to win a custom board.

The history of chess goes back almost 1500 years. The game originated in Northern India in the sixth century A.D. and spread to Persia. When the Arabs conquered Persia, chess was taken up by the Muslim world and subsequently, through the Moorish conquest of Spain, spread to Southern Europe. Nowadays, chess is played in the parks of New York and is even an Olympic sport.

Playing chess isn’t for everyone. Junior Kamaria Tilley gives the game credit for being “[...] a good logical game, but it can be difficult at times,” and she doesn’t play often.

Sophomore Emerson Cooper said, “I don’t know why I like chess, it’s just fun. It’s not for geniuses at all, it’s just a board game. I just joined Chess Club to have fun with friends.”

Chess has many benefits like helping memory and strategic skills as well as well as raising your IQ overall by using both sides of your brain. This is one leading cause as to why students and others enjoy chess.

Gonzalez said, “ I know Chess Club will still be here for a couple years once I’m gone because many people come of all different grades, but the way society is going, I don’t know where it will end up.”

Freshman Explains the Hardships of His First Year at Loy Norrix

NAKIA BROWN
STAFF WRITER

For upperclassmen, mentioning freshmen may bring eye rolls, irritation and overall dislike. Whether it’s for lack of maturity, or because they’re new, freshmen generally get a lot of backlash from upperclassmen. Luckily, this doesn’t seem to bother some freshmen.

“I’m not embarrassed to be a freshman,” said Dylan Meek as he swayed side-to-side in his computer chair. It’s his first year at Loy Norrix and in this time he’s made a few new friends and, so far, has enjoyed being a freshman, despite the fact that older students may look down on younger kids.

Meek reflected back on his first day in high school when he was taken aback by the way upperclassmen talked about freshmen. Meek says that he has admittedly seen freshmen that are out of control but would disagree with such blanket judgements.

“That could be anyone,

to say freshmen as a group are childish? I don’t think that’s right,” said Meek.

Despite the fact that imposing a stereotype on freshmen may not be right, it still happens. In fact, it happens quite often.

According to “U.S. News” statistics, about 30 percent of freshmen report being bullied within the school year. Freshmen are stereotyped as loud, rowdy and all around childish. Meek thinks that there is a reason for this “freshman behavior.”

“It’s new for us. I mean there are similarities between middle school and high school but there are more differences,” said Meek.

When freshmen are just entering high school, it is hard for them to grasp that there needs to be a change in their behavior. Many freshmen may struggle with going from hallways that are more structured, small buildings and a light homework load to the challenge that is high school. This can be especially hard for Loy Norrix students because

our building is so large and the workload can lean to the heavier side at times.

According to the National Library of Medicine, students that transition from middle school to high school usually experience what is called a “9th grade shock.” This phenomenon is responsible for a huge decline in academic performance upon students entering high school. However, there are ways to prevent this shock.

“In one of my classes I needed a lot of help, there was actually nice upperclassmen in there to help me,” said Meek.

Some upperclassmen decide to not be nice to freshmen, but offering a helping hand can be essential for students who may not feel that they have friends to turn to or people that they can ask for help concerning homework or the many other obstacles of high school.

As Meek said, “You could help out a person who may need a little guidance.”



NAKIA BROWN, STAFF WRITER

Freshman **Dylan Meek** does his homework with friend, senior Aria Darden, in his journalism class. He has almost completed his year as a freshman at Loy Norrix.

Looking Into the Life of Jazz: Understanding Transgenderism Through One Girl’s Experience

ESPERANZA FRAGA-VASQUEZ
SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Jazz Jennings is a girl with a very simple name who is causing a lot of talk. Jazz is a YouTuber and author of the chapter book “Being Jazz,” the kids book “I Am Jazz,” and stars in a TLC reality series about her life, beginning in 2015. All three genres follow the life of Jazz and her journey as a transgender person. The books and TV series, “I Am Jazz,” help to expand the understanding of what it means to be transgender, while also explaining the criticism and support Jazz has received for just being herself.

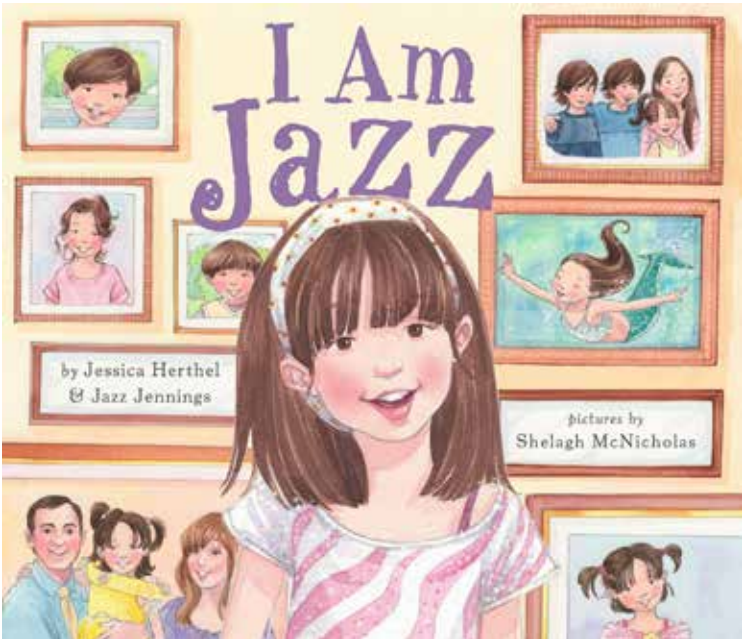
“I Am Jazz,” the children’s book, starts off with Jazz talking about her favorite things, her family and her best friends. Midway through “I Am Jazz,” the main character begins to speak on how she is different from her two friends Samantha and Casey. Jazz begins to say, “I have a girl brain but a boy body,” explaining that she has never really liked to play with boy toys or with her brothers. Instead she likes playing princess, dressing up and talking to her sister about her dreams.

In the chapter book, “Being Jazz,” Jazz explains further, “Imagine a young boy who’s super into trucks and cars and playing in the mud. Then imagine that every time his parents take him out in public, they’d paraded him around in a pink frilly dress with a parasol. The humiliation he’d feel is exactly the same humiliation I felt having to wear plain shorts and a tee shirt.”

“Being Jazz” goes deeper into Jazz’s parents and how they met. It also describes an old wives’ tale that can supposedly determine an unborn child’s gender. Jazz’s mother, Jeanette, believes the tale, in which a necklace is swung over the expecting mother’s belly. If it swings back and forth, it will predict a boy, but if it swings in a circular motion, the baby will be a girl. In the case of Jazz, the necklace swung in a circular motion.

At the beginning of both books, no one really understands how Jazz feels. Everyone sees Jazz as Jared, which was her birth name before her sister nicknamed her Jazz. This is the case for many transgender people, people who identify as the opposite gender of the body they were born into. Jazz’s parents were not very aware of what was going on. It isn’t until Jazz and her parents go to a doctor that the term transgender is brought up.

At the age of four, Jazz is then diagnosed with gender dysphoria, a state of conflict between a person’s gender and the sex they were identified with at birth. Her parents finally understand her. When Jazz is enrolled in kindergarten, her parents began to let her change her



appearance, from letting her grow her hair out to wearing feminine clothing in public.

Jazz receives a lot of love and support from her family but a lot of criticism from a world that doesn’t fully understand her. In “Being Jazz,” she describes many of the difficulties she has had as a child in school. She isn’t allowed to use the girls’ bathroom, and has to use a unisex bathroom in class that has no lock, and people often walk in on her.

Later Jazz explains how she finds it hard to escape from the gossip of others, including teachers and fellow students. Being able to make friends also becomes an obstacle for Jazz, but she soon comes to realize that the people who do take the time to get to know her usually

tend to like her. Another challenge is that Jazz must find a way to deal with her boyfriend’s mother because she is transphobic. Jazz continues her journey in getting gender confirmation surgery.

The “I Am Jazz” children’s book has grown in popularity recently after two Democrat Congresswomen read the book on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives on February 26th. A Kalamazoo Public Schools third grade teacher at Greenwood, Jamie Hatfield read the book to her class. After reading the book, Jamie held a class discussion on what it means to be a transgender.

When asked about her personal thoughts on “I Am Jazz” as a teacher, Jamie said, “I think the younger the better. Bias and hate is learned. If we teach love and acceptance at a young age, we can be proactive in making a better more accepting society. I feel that all students benefit from learning about people who are different from themselves. Literature is a wonderful way to open windows and doors into the lives of others.”

Maya Crawford, a sophomore at Loy Norrix, has also read the kids book, “I Am Jazz” and said that she loved the illustrations and how simple the book was. She also enjoyed how the book did not contain any political debate, that Jazz was just a girl in a boy’s body and that’s it.

“I think it’s very important for kids to know that transgender people are regular people. I think it’s definitely something that needs to be put out there so people can be educated. The fact that it was made into a kids book is great because they’re more willing to listen and be educated than older groups of people with decided opinions. It’s targeted at a younger audience, so it doesn’t get into the heavy details and debates about being transgender. It’s a great first step for the community!” said Crawford.

Junior Miranda Cole has seen the “I Am Jazz” show and said she enjoys that show, “It does not sugar-coat what she goes through in her daily life. Jazz gives students a real life example and shows that this is a real world thing that we should be open to talking about.”

Miranda has also found a way to relate to the show saying, “I relate because as a teenager, it was really hard to be who I am and have it be socially acceptable.”

With the “I Am Jazz” show finale coming in 2019, Jazz will be 18. She continues going to schools attempting to educate others on transgenderism. Both books and the TV series let you into the mind of Jazz and can help those who may not be comfortable with transgenderism to have a better understanding from someone else’s point of view.

“Us” Horrifies Audiences In Debut A Review of Jordan Peele’s Newest Film

KYLAZIA DYE
SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Delivering a mind-boggling \$70 Million debut, “Us” was released into theaters March 22, of 2019. The horror movie immediately captivated the interest of large crowds of people at our very own theater, Kalamazoo 10. From the same producer as the horror film “Get Out,” Jordan Peele’s “Us” follows the story of an African American woman named Adelaide, who travels back to the home where she grew up as a child with her husband and children.

Tormented by a traumatic experience from her past, Adelaide’s worst fears soon become a reality when four masked strangers appear at the house. When the masks come off, the Wilson family is horrified to learn that each assailant takes on the appearance of each member of the family.

The rest of this article contains spoilers and an analysis of the movie.
READ AT YOUR OWN RISK.



to “Red.” Meanwhile, the replacement Adelaide has withdrawn her memory of what has happened and grows up believing she is the real Adelaide. In the present day, Red has become the leader of the underground slave rebellion.

The movie “Us” is a psychological horror film that makes you think upon life when looking at the symbolism that is present throughout the film. It’s not apparent what is going to happen or what’s going on completely because of the deep metaphorical levels upon which the film operates.

Another psychological piece that is incorporated in the film is the biblical scripture Jeremiah 11:11: “Therefore thus sayeth the Lord, Behold, I will bring evil upon them which they shall not be able to escape, and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.”

The strangers arrive at the house at 11:11 p.m. The inescapable evil in this case is “the Tethered,” the strangers who wear the faces of the family.

In the beginning of the movie, rabbits are present in their cages and in the end at the fighting scene between Red and Adelaide, all of the rabbits have escaped. The rabbits being locked in the cage may symbolize the loss of freewill and movement, whereas their escape represents the escape of “The Tethered.” The Tethered is basically every human being’s evil twin coming to take the world back.

Just based on the fact that the exact evil replicas of everyone, “Us” has one main point ... “We all are our worst enemies.”

The movie “Us” is a psychological horror film that makes you think upon life when looking at the symbolism that is present throughout the film.

With each facial expression and movement, the actors mastered the techniques of building suspense and mystery. The actress who plays Adelaide, Lupita Nyong’o, represents the normal character but also plays her villainous twin counterpart. Nyong’o was outstanding in her performance, just simply in the way she moved and spoke while playing the “dark” version of Adelaide. One of the ways she really grabbed the audience’s attention is the way she spoke, as if her breath was constantly being taken away.

Nyong’o’s co-star, Winston Duke, who plays Adelaide’s husband, gave the audience some laughs with his awkward jokes while trying to protect his family, an attempt to diffuse the tension given the horrifying circumstances.

So here’s the plot twist, when Adelaide was young, the “dark” twin counterpart of Adelaide attacks and kidnaps the real one at an old fun house at the carnival on the beach. The true Adelaide then grows up in captivity underground and changes her name

“Pet Sematary” Movie Leaves Audience Disappointingly Disappointed

LUCAS FIGUEROA
STAFF WRITER

“Pet Sematary” has to be one of the slowest, most anticlimactic movies I have ever watched. The movie “Pet Sematary” came out on April 5, 2019. Rotten Tomatoes gave the movie a 58% and followed with only 41% of the audience liking the film.

SPOILERS AHEAD
The movie opens on a family moving to their new country home. Shortly thereafter, Ellie, the daughter, goes to explore the new property and she meets an old man named Jud. Ellie asks Jud about the ‘Pet Sematary’ in their backyard. On Halloween, Jud finds the family cat on the side of the road after it has been hit by a truck. Jud takes the cat beyond the ‘Pet Sematary’ and buries the cat there.

The next day Ellie’s parents plan to tell her that the cat ran away, but the cat inexplicably reappears, now as an evil feline. The reincarnated cat scratches Ellie, so her father, Louis, takes the cat and drops it off miles away so it can’t hurt anyone else. However, the cat returns again and Ellie sees it during her birthday party. She and her brother run into the middle of the road to pet the cat, unaware of the semi-truck speeding down the road. The semi driver sees her brother but ends up hitting Ellie.

After Ellie’s funeral, her father takes her out of her grave and brings her to the cat’s burial site. Later that night Ellie becomes alive again, but she is not the same, she has also turned evil. Ellie breaks into Jud’s house and kills him. Then her mom comes back from Brooklyn and Ellie kills her too, then drags her to the burial site where she can be revived. Eventually, Ellie’s dad finds and tries to kill her to end all of the madness, but when he is finally about to kill her, he gets stabbed by his reincarnated evil wife.

The acting in the movie was decent, the effects were good as well, I give the director, Kevin Kolsch credit, for that. He did not do a good job embodying the book.

The only thing I have to complain about is the plot of the movie In my opinion, the movie, “Pet Sematary,” was



not as well-directed as I hoped it would be. The movie lacked features to make the film exciting. It was repetitive and cliché. Every move was easy to predict, for example, I predicted that the bus was going to swerve and hit Ellie or that her father was going to send her to the burial spot behind the ‘Pet Sematary.’

It was quite obvious that Ellie was going to turn evil because it happened to the cat. When Ellie’s mom comes back, Ellie doesn’t like it because she wants it to just be her and her dad, so Ellie definitely wants to kill her. Ellie drags her mother to the burial spot everyone knows what is going to happen she will come back to life and became evil.

The cliché ending of the movie upset me the most because when Ellie’s dad attempts to finally get rid of the evil within his daughter, his reincarnated wife stabs him and he comes back as an evil-incarnate himself.

Overall, I agree with the rotten tomatoes rating, the movie did not live up to the hype I was expecting. I did enjoy the beginning of the movie right after the cat turns evil up until Ellie dies and gets revived from the special burial site.

The Majority of Loy Norrix Students Prefer Spotify Over Apple Music

AUDREANNA DUNTON
STAFF WRITER

Music lovers nowadays enjoy the freedom of skipping as many songs as they please, having unlimited listening time, and having access to any music they would like to listen to. However, there has been a huge debate as to which is better, the streaming app “Spotify” or the streaming service “Apple Music.”

In other terms, which one is more worthy of your money. Both music services offer certain upgrades and packages that are unique to each brand.

Spotify is a free app to download, but it offers users a Premium option that costs \$9.99 per month. Without Premium, listeners are subjected to advertisements every few songs, and mobile devices only allow music to be

played on shuffle with a limited number of skips. Premium includes unlimited skipping of songs, access to any song or podcast and the ability to save songs into personalized playlists of your choice. You have the ability to download any song or podcast of your choice to listen to offline, with no complications involved.

Apple Music, on the other hand, offers a variety of different plans aiming to suit every user’s life. For a general single user, they charge \$9.99 per month. For a family plan, users will pay \$14.99 per month. Apple Music also offers a student plan, which costs student users only \$4.99 per month. Apple Music just recently added the option of being able to make one annual down payment of \$99 for a 12-month subscription.

Apple Music requires a paid package in order to begin using their service; however, Spotify has two options: 1) listen for free, but with restrictions, or 2) purchase a Premium package, with no restrictions.

Spotify and Apple

Music both are widely used within the Loy Norrix community.

“I prefer Spotify because it creates a playlist for me every day called ‘Daily Mix.’ It basically has songs I listen to on a daily [basis], mixed with some songs I never heard before

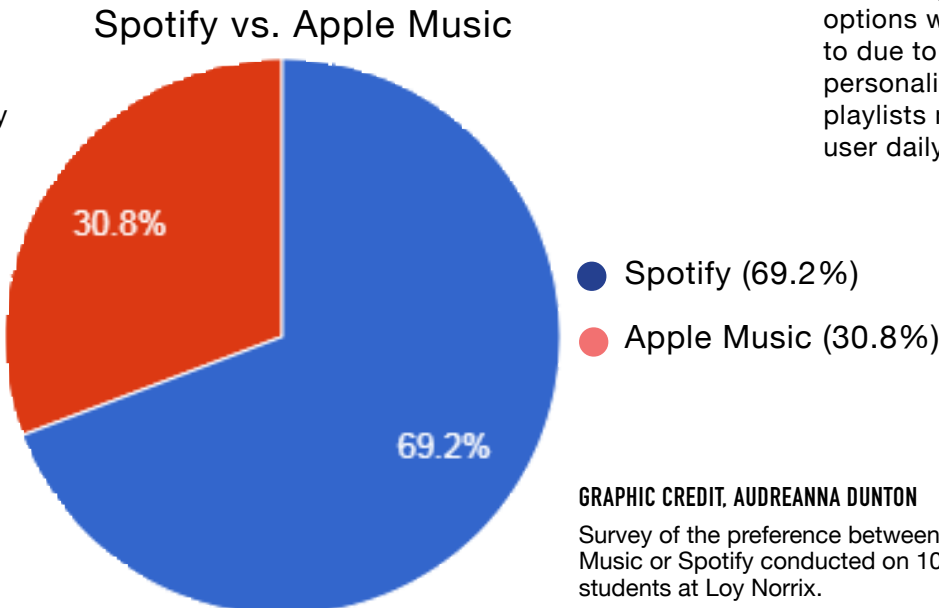
but that I might like,” said senior Richie Sackett.

There is a wide variety of students who prefer one music service over the other. Spotify and Apple Music both create and give users the ability to discover new music varieties. Both streaming services give users many options with what to listen to due to the many different personalized and unique playlists made for each user daily.

“I have Apple Music because I’ve pretty much grown up on Apple products and never really ventured out into Spotify. I feel like they are pretty much the same, but Apple Music just holds a special place in my heart. I don’t care about all the statistics Spotify provides, I just listen to my music and don’t care too much about it,” said junior Jake Vanhorne.

Regardless of the streaming service, students listen to music in school for a wide variety of reasons, such as reducing stress levels and focusing.

Overall, both music services offer specific pros and cons which make them unique to each service.



OK Go Bassist and Loy Norrix Alumnus Triumphantly Returns to Kalamazoo

ELLIOT RUSSELL
ASST. WEB EDITOR

A flyer is plastered onto the bulletin by the office. It shows four men in bright attire, tangled up in colorful yarn. This poster advertises that their tour is coming to town, but it isn’t the first time for one of them.

“My friends, who I played in a band with in high school, someone’s English class was doing, it wasn’t a talent show, but it was like everyone was supposed to come show the class something that they did creatively, and so we decided to figure out if we could set up in the auditorium and play a three-song set basically. I remember thinking then ‘this may be the first and last time I ever play on a stage in Kalamazoo with a band,’ so it’s funny to think about that and hear there’s a flyer for our show in Loy Norrix,” said LN alumnus Tim Nordwind.

Tim Nordwind graduated from Loy Norrix in 1994. Since then, he’s moved cities, gone to school for playwriting, and of course, helped form the popular indie-rock band, OK Go. After meeting at Interlochen Arts Camp in northern Michigan, Nordwind quickly became friends Damian Kulash, who would end up being a lifelong friend and bandmate. Together they formed OK Go in 1998.

“We became best friends and bonded over lots of stuff, but mostly music, which was funny because neither of us were there for music. He was there for visual arts and I was there for theater, but we were super into Run DMC and the Beastie Boys and also ‘Les Miserables,’ the musical, and all this weird stuff.” Nordwind continued, “I don’t know many-people-period who are still in contact with their friends from the age of 11, and the fact that I’m not just in contact with them, but I started a band with Damian and Dan [Konopka] and Andy [Ross], and how it’s somehow gone on to be known is really a pipe-dream come true.”

OK Go has gone on to create a current total of 4 albums, releasing their most recent, “Hungry Ghosts,” in 2014.

The band is known for producing meticulously crafted music videos to accompany their music



Damian Kulash (left) and **Tim Nordwind** (right) of OK Go speak at a meet and greet at the Kalamazoo Public Library (KPL). When Nordwind was growing up in Kalamazoo, his mother served as the president of KPL’s Friends Board of Directors.

where they do things like dance in-sync on treadmills, set up a giant Rube Goldberg machine or jump around in a zero-gravity airplane.

“One of the reasons we haven’t put out music in so long is because we’ve made videos for not every song on the record, but a good number of songs on the record and every one of those videos typically takes three to six months or something like that, so we make records at a slower rate than most bands,” said Nordwind.

Before Nordwind entered the world of music, he was a boy with artistic prospects growing up in a town in southwest Michigan. He lived in Kalamazoo for the first 18 years of his life. He attended the Gagie School up to 4th grade then subsequently went to Parkwood-Upjohn, South Junior High (now called Maple Street Magnet School), and finally Loy Norrix High School.

At the age of 10, Nordwind started to pursue an interest which would pave the path to where he is today: acting.

“My brother did a lot of theater in high school and he babysat me, and so when he was in the musicals I had to sit through his rehearsals. He went to Hackett. So for several years in the springtime, I would sit in the theater and watch my brother rehearse, and when I watched him do theater it made me realize I want to do that, like I really want to do that, so I started enrolling and doing shows at the Kalamazoo Junior

Civic Theatre,” explained Nordwind.

During his freshman year at Norrix, Nordwind was a part of the Drama Club, helping to put on productions like “Androcles and the Lion” and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Over his remaining three years, he played leading roles in “Anything Goes,” “Guys and Dolls,” and “Oklahoma.”



Tim Nordwind (right) as Benny Southstreet in “Guys and Dolls.” This was one of the many roles he played while in the theater program at Loy Norrix.

He came to appreciate the diversity that Norrix has to offer. This was very helpful to him when he moved to Chicago, a very diverse environment.

“On a social level it was an incredibly diverse student body that I went to school with, and I didn’t realize how unique of a situation that was until I got to college, and in talking to fellow classmates and stuff like that I realized they did not come from as diverse a student body as we did, and that in and of itself was maybe the best education I got in high school,” said Nordwind, “It’s a special thing that should not be

taken for granted.”

Nordwind’s interest in acting in musicals along with his exposure to music through his siblings encouraged him to learn guitar and play in bands while in high school. He was a part of the D.I.Y. punk scene that was taking place in Kalamazoo at the time.

“I was always going to shows in illegal warehouses and basements of probably some student from Western Michigan’s flophouse basically. All throughout high school, my friends would go and see this punk music that would either be local or come through Kalamazoo.” Nordwind continued, “It’s kind of what inspired us to go start OK Go and later on it’s what inspired us to start making videos online and without the permission of our label, and just start doing stuff ourselves.”

As well as acting and punk, Nordwind is heavily influenced by comedy. The comedy filmmaker Christopher Guest, who is famous for films such as “Waiting for Guffman” and “This is Spinal Tap,” has had a large impact on Nordwind and the band’s creative process.

“The way that he [Christopher Guest] makes films is by sort of creating a sandbox for really talented people to come and play in, so usually there’s not a full script, there’s a blueprint of a story and he gives the actors the basics of what’s supposed to happen in the scene and they improvise

and shoot until they get stuff they like,” explained Nordwind. “That happens to be very similar to the way that we make our music videos, where it’s like we create a sort of sandbox of an idea for us to then get in and play with until we’ve come up with enough ideas that we can sew them together to make a video out of.”

His bandmates bring their own material to the table. They all share their love for Christopher Guest, but their individual inspirations are very different.

“Damian is very inspired by science and technology and visual arts, and Andy, who’s our guitarist, is a computer programmer and makes a lot of his own apps and things like that and used to be super into robotics and that kind of stuff, and our drummer Dan is super into sound production and things like that,” said Nordwind, “so we usually all come at whatever creative project we’re working on from slightly different perspectives, but I think that at the end of the day it’s the combination of those things and the push and pull of those things that make what we do work.”

As of late, the band members have channeled their interests and the educational properties of their videos into a new charity called OK Go Sandbox. In collaboration with Dr. AnnMarie Thomas from the University of St. Thomas, they have started this new charity with the purpose of using OK Go’s art for the purpose of education. Their most recent project is “Art in Space,” a science competition for middle school and high school students where the winner has their own science experiment sent into space aboard a Blue Origin rocket.

“For the last several years, teachers and parents have come up to us and said, ‘We use your music videos to teach our students and kids about the basic principles of physics or math or just creativity and music in general.’ We started asking ‘what can we do, how can we help’ and we came up with this idea to make more focused educational videos for tools and teachers that they can use in their classrooms,” explained Nordwind.

Even though OK Go

has been in full force for over 20 years, this is their first real concert in Kalamazoo. They decided their Live Video Tour, where they perform live to their iconic videos, would be the perfect time to play their first major show in town.

“I remember that on our first record coming to play Miller Auditorium for some sort of festival that was happening at Western Michigan University, but our set was 20 minutes long. We played at like one in the afternoon, and then I think we played in Chicago that night or something like that. I’m going to go ahead and say this is the first real proper show that OK Go has done,” Nordwind continued. “I’m pretty excited to go play at the State Theater because that’s where I saw the Pixies. I saw the Dead Milkmen there, I saw the Replacements there, you know, I saw all these super influential bands so it’s kind of special to be able to come back and play on that same stage.”

Tim Nordwind returned to Kalamazoo on April 28, 2019, for the first time in 25 years. He has not forgotten his history here and how the town shaped him into who he is today. Thinking back to his time as a student at Loy Norrix struggling to find his place in the world, he remembers the difficulty of being a striving artist.

“Make sure you really really love what you’re doing because it’s a challenging career path and it’s hard to make a living at. You have to really love it. Basically, if you’re scared by doing anything else in the world but making music, making art and stuff like that, then I think you’re ready to go try it out, but just make sure that you love to do it because it’s a hard path. It’s a very very hard path but also can be an extremely rewarding one,” said Nordwind.

“I guess in some ways I thought it would happen, Nordwind said, “and in some ways, I thought it wouldn’t. It’s definitely a dream to hear that there’s a flyer for our show in the hallways of Loy Norrix. I know that was a dream of my 15-year-old self,” Norwind said.

Loy Norrix Annual Blood Drive is a Rousing Success

JOSH MCKISSIC
STAFF WRITER

The last few months of school are filled with all sorts of special events. Among these is the Red Cross Blood Drive, hosted by Loy Norrix's National Honor Society (NHS). In the weeks leading up to the blood drive NHS does a lot of work to prepare.

"There are several groups led by a senior member of NHS, each in charge of one aspect of the blood drive. Every member is required to join a group," said NHS member Grace Marshall. "The success of the blood drive really depends on the commitment of the members," Marshall continued.

Seniors Grace Marshall and Ellie Nagel-Bennett organized the blood drive this year. Nagel-Bennett and Marshall are both in their second year in National Honor Society so they have some previous experience with the blood drive.

"I think we both knew that there were some things that we wanted to do differently this year to try to make this the best possible blood drive experience," said Marshall.

One of the specific things that the blood drive organizers are most proud of is the food that one of the groups organized to serve to all donors. There were food donations from Jimmy Johns, a local bakery gave cookies, and Sweetwaters Donut Mill donated many boxes of donuts.

This year 77 pints of blood were donated. With each donation Loy Norrix students are saving lives.

The work of the NHS member is commendable. Both Marshall and Nagel-Bennett are extremely proud.

"I think that the blood drive went really well. Even though they [NHS members] didn't need to spend a lot of time doing this, they really went over the moon and this is the best blood drive I've been to," Nagel-Bennett concluded.



STAFF WRITER, JOSHUA MCKISSIC
NHS member junior Lexi Weeden holds senior Brielle Kimbrough's hand as she begins to donate blood. Weeden's job is to distract Kimbrough while she goes through the somewhat intimidating process of giving blood. All NHS members were instructed to keep an eye on their fellow classmates for signs of fainting or sickness which often occur after someone had just donated.



STAFF WRITER, JOSHUA MCKISSIC
Senior Alex Harback poses with coupons donated by Culvers for students who gave blood. Harback donated blood but felt a little unwell afterwards and spent some time resting while NHS members kept her company.



STAFF WRITER, JOSHUA MCKISSIC
NHS member junior Ella Ledbetter-Newton and senior Chris Aranda share a joke before Aranda donates blood. NHS members talked to blood donors about many topics including the recently released Avengers movie, "Endgame."

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STAFF WRITER, JOSHUA MCKISSIC
NHS advisor Ryan Allen poses with members and seniors Grace Marshall, Ebube Okpechukwu and Abigail Roberts after finishing their work to clean up the blood drive. Allen and Matt Porco are the co-advisors of the National Honor Society, and Allen is in charge of the blood drive. Allen commended both Grace Marshall and Ellie Nagel-Bennett for their work organizing the drive.



NHS members seniors Aria Kleber and Rebecca Thompson work the check in station for the blood drive. Kleber and Thompson talk sophomore Jade Martin through her first time donating blood.

STAFF WRITER, JOSHUA MCKISSIC

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Fact or Myth? Analyzing Popular Conspiracy Theories

GRAPHICS EDITOR
YESENIA SALAS

Don't we all alter a story to fit the bill? Conspiracy theories are no different. When true events are blended with possible cover-ups and unanswered questions, a conspiracy theory is born.



THE MANDELA EFFECT

Have you and a friend ever thought that you remembered something but it turns out you remembered it wrong? Guess what, you've experienced "the Mandela Effect."

Fiona Broome launched this phenomenon when she and a group of people remembered Nelson Mandela dying in prison in the 80s when in reality, he died from illness in 2013. One example of "the Mandela Effect" is in Star Wars when Luke Skywalker finds out Darth Vader is his father. We all remember the quote:

"Luke, I am your father."

When in fact he only says:

"No, I am your father."

Every Disney princess movie has a evil stepmother, witch or villain, Snow White is no different. Everyone remembers when the evil queen summons her talking mirror and says, "Mirror mirror on the wall."

But what the evil queen actually says is... "Magic mirror on the wall."

It may be your mind playing tricks on you, a common mistake, a coincidence, but next time you do a double take, ask yourself if it's "The Mandela Effect."

This guy is confused when he realizes he remembers things different than how they really are.

THE FLAT EARTH THEORY



A representation of what the Earth would look as a flat surface.

There are two types of people in life, those who believe Earth is round and those who believe Earth is flat. Although there are very few members of the "Flat Earth" society, they are slowly growing in number. Members are spreading the word of their beliefs through rap songs, books, and youtube videos.

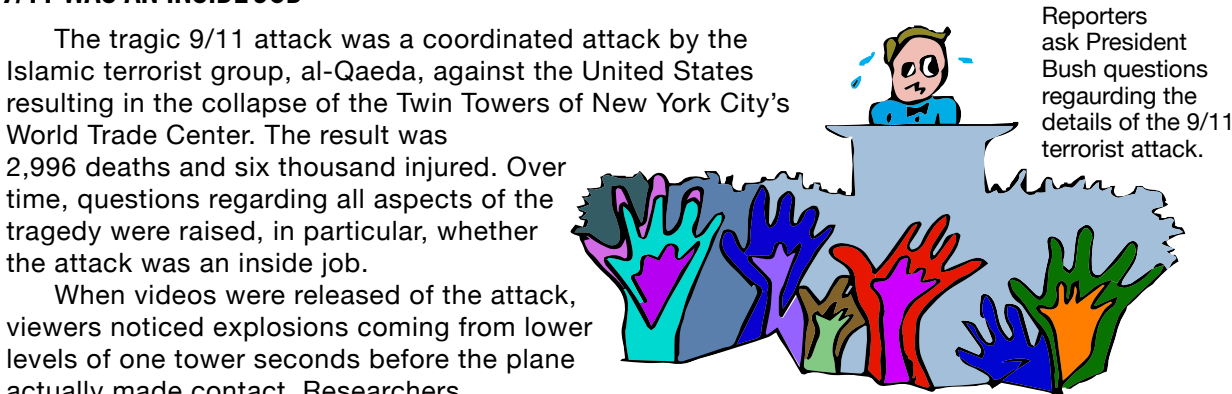
The latest flat-Earth conference held in 2018 had supporters coming together to share their flat-Earth experiences. Different people from across the globe who came to this conference also explained their reasoning as to why humanity doesn't fall off the edge of the flat Earth. They believe there is an "ice wall barrier," also known as Antarctica surrounding the land of Earth, like a circular disk of ice.

Flat-Earthers also agree that photographs of a globe Earth are fake, all astronauts are actors in on the hoax, and N.A.S.A. has basically hoodwinked everyone into believing we're on a spinning ball, floating in space.

9/11 WAS AN INSIDE JOB

The tragic 9/11 attack was a coordinated attack by the Islamic terrorist group, al-Qaeda, against the United States resulting in the collapse of the Twin Towers of New York City's World Trade Center. The result was 2,996 deaths and six thousand injured. Over time, questions regarding all aspects of the tragedy were raised, in particular, whether the attack was an inside job.

When videos were released of the attack, viewers noticed explosions coming from lower levels of one tower seconds before the plane actually made contact. Researchers also found extremely high temperatures in the building at the time of the attack, not only enough to weaken steel, but to melt it. Thermite, a mixture of powders that produce a high temperature combustion, which is typically used in welding and bombs meant to start fires, was also discovered in the pile of rubble. Coincidence or not, there remain many unexplained factors in this nation-altering event.



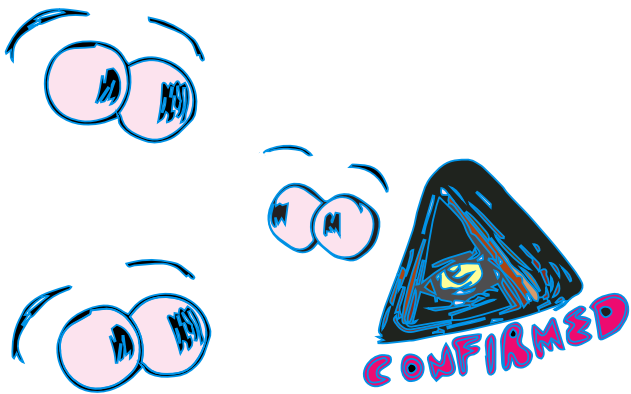
Reporters ask President Bush questions regarding the details of the 9/11 terrorist attack.

ILLUMINATI CONFIRMED

Who runs this world, we the people, our government, or a secret society?

The Illuminati is a secret society that was actually founded in 1776 by a German professor, Adam Weishaupt. In mid to late 1780s conservatives saw this anti-religious, free-thought, and social-reform group as a threat, thus criminalizing the recruit of people into secret societies such as the Illuminati. Word was going around that the Illuminati kept up with meetings in secret.

Many conspiracy theorists agree that major celebrities such as Beyoncé, Jay-Z and Kanye West are in the Illuminati. Beyoncé and her husband Jay-Z are known to make a pyramid symbol with their hands in various performances that supposedly represents the Illuminati. Kanye West owns a necklace with the symbol of the eye of Horus. The eye of Horus and pyramid that are both seen on the dollar bill and are believed to be associated with the secret organization. Many believe the organization has a secret plan to control the world.



The pyramid and eye of Horus are symbols of the Illuminati.



Neil Armstrong walks towards the waving flag on the moon.



Aliens abduct cow to conduct experiments.

WE ARE NOT ALONE, ALIENS ARE OUT THERE

As a child you see cartoons of martians coming from space as little green beings that abduct cows into their flying UFO's, but what if they were real?

Unexplainable landmarks, floating disks in the skies, similar testimonies of people being abducted: aliens are the only explanation tying these factors together. Reports of alien sightings date back to ancient times, hieroglyphs feature figures coming from the sky in floating disks with powers unlike man, and they were worshipped as gods.

Fast forward to the current day, there are still sightings of flying disks and people coming forward claiming to have been abducted by aliens. Many believe aliens are responsible for creating ancient landmarks like the Egyptian pyramids, and Stonehenge in the United Kingdom that has no known meaning but is aligned with solstices and eclipses. It's been suggested that whoever built them was keeping an eye on the heavens above.

For a final example, the Nazca Lines located in the high and dry Peruvian desert. More than three-hundred designs consisting of various animals, shapes and plants are best seen from the air. These straight, white lines stretching for miles are formed by removing the top layer of rocks exposing the white sand underneath. Although the question still remains: how have these designs withstood the rain,

IS THE GOVERNMENT SPYING ON US?

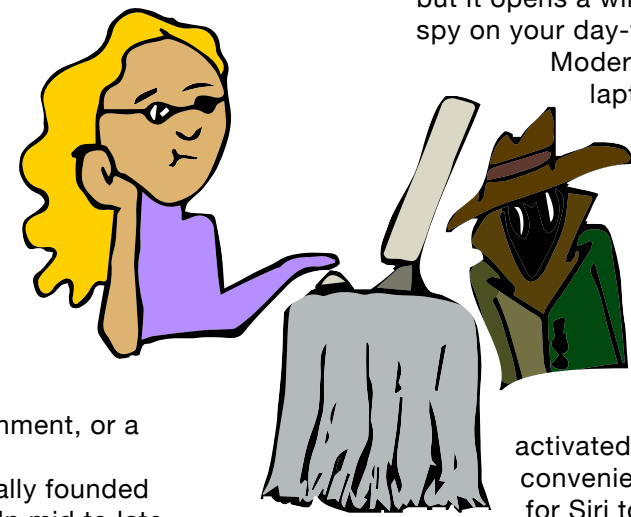
Modern day technology not only discloses your private information for hackers and tech-savvy people to steal, but it opens a window for prying eyes to spy on your day-to-day life.

Modern technology such as laptops, Amazon's 'Alexa,' our cell phones, and other forms of technology are possible ways for the government to spy on the public. A stance has been taken against photos and 'Siri' on iphones. When you say "Hey Siri," a voice-activated help setting for your convenience, responds. In order for Siri to respond, she must be listening the entire time.

iPhones have a live photo setting for the camera, live photos capture a few seconds before the actual picture which means your phone camera is always on. If hackers wanted to spy on you, it wouldn't be that hard seeing as your phone is always listening, waiting for "Hey Siri" and the camera is right on the screen, how much harder could it be for the government to tap in?

Although there is no clear answer if the public is being spied on, many have taken precautions.

An oblivious woman is watched by a government spy through her computer camera.



ONE FALSE STEP FOR MAN?

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," said astronaut Neil Armstrong.

Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon.

After the moon landing of 1969, N.A.S.A. released photos to the public to show man's first steps on the moon. Years later, after images circled the internet, viewers started questioning if it really happened. In a photo taken of astronaut Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. who posed next to the United States flag on the Apollo 11 lunar landing mission, accompanied by Neil A. Armstrong and Michael Collins, you can see the flag waving as if there is a breeze. Some argue that this was caused by space wind -- a steady flow of charged particles -- from the Sun which thus caused the ripples in the flag. Non-believers don't believe in the existence of space wind, arguing that it is a lie to help cover up the fake moon landing.

Despite claims being explained by facts, the theory still stands with many supporters still questioning N.A.S.A. and researchers.



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THE ISACKSEN FAMILY

Transgender People Should be Allowed to Use Their Bathroom of Choice



MAYA CRAWFORD
A&E EDITOR

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It’s 10:45 a.m., and you’re not paying attention in class because all you can think about is how bad you need to use the bathroom. You raise your hand, and teacher calls on you to get the pass and run to the restroom. You get to the bathroom and do your business, but at the sink you see a transgender person. What do you do? Nothing. Why? Because it’s their right to be there just like you.

Now is the time to speak up about the debate of whether or not transgender students should be allowed to use the bathroom of their choice. The root of this issue is a lack of understanding about the LGBT+ community, especially transgender people, and an unwillingness to learn more about them. Unfortunately this reluctance is common in people with the power to make being transgender a controversy because they are too afraid to be educated on the issues that 1.4 million of Americans face, according to “The New York Times.”

“This issue is not the fault of trans people, but the fault of people’s ignorance to what it means to be trans, and how simple things like using a public bathroom can be dangerous, anxiety inducing, and sometimes not even an option for trans people,” said Loy Norrix junior Marco McDade, one of the leaders of the GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance). “I think non-trans people need to take time to educate themselves and take time to listen to actual trans people.”

Many legislators and officials claim the main problem is public safety, which is an understandable reason, as the bathroom debate could be a safety issue against the

transgender community by those who wish to act out violently towards them. The safety issues presents a danger to the victim and others around. Even then, there is a smaller chance of someone committing violent acts against transgender people, compared to the likelihood of people minding their own business.

Alison Gash, professor of political science at the University of Oregon, breaks down why there was such a backlash on both sides. At the heart of the debate is a very real fear of violence.

“Studies show that transgender students could be harassed, sexually assaulted or subjected to other physical violence when they are required to use a gendered bathroom. One survey found that 68 percent of participants were subjected to homophobic slurs while trying to use the bathroom. Nine percent confronted physical violence,” said Gash.

While there is a valid threat to trans students, it is unfair that this is used to bar them from the bathroom that represents their gender identification.

“It is an incredibly complicated situation, but I feel like it should not be turned into a legal situation, it should not be up to non trans people to decide where we can or cannot use the bathroom,” McDade continued to say. “I feel like if someone in the bathroom is staring at anyone who they suspect to be transgender, they are the ones who are creeps, not the transgender people who just need to pee.”

The topic of discussion is a concern that shouldn’t be relevant. People who worry about trans people using their same bathroom should just mind their own business.

In Michigan, there’s no law explicitly stating that transgender students are required to use the bathroom of their born gender, according to State Board of Education Statement and Guidance which encourages schools to be more inclusive towards the LGBT+ community. However, despite these recommendations, public high school students are required to use the bathroom that coincides with their registered gender.

“There were some decisions handed down from the Federal Department of Education about the restrooms in schools under the Obama Administration,” explained Loy Norrix Principal Christopher Aguinaga. “They have been taken back and replaced with nothing under the [current] administration, so it leaves schools in some kind of limbo about what do we do because on one side we have the people who want the freedom to use whatever bathroom they identify with. On the flipside, you got people who find that offensive, and as a public school, we serve both sides.”

“My personal opinion is that students should be allowed to use the bathroom they closely identify with, but what I have to practice here at school is not that,” Aguinaga said. “As of right now, our official stance is students have to use the bathroom with the gender they are registered as. We do make every attempt to find gender neutral bathrooms because no student needs to feel uncomfortable.”

It’s uncertain whether or not this issue will subside or will be dealt with in the Supreme Court.

“This is an issue that will have to ultimately be decided by the Supreme Court, or if everyone can come to an agreement one way or another. I’m thinking same sex marriage is one where people couldn’t agree and the Supreme Court had to look at the Constitution, and this might be going down the same path,” said Aguinaga.

While Aguinaga believes that this issue needs to be solved by the Supreme Court, McDade thinks that it doesn’t need to be taken that far.

“I have no way of knowing, but the trans community has made a lot of progress in the past 20 years, so it [this issue blowing over] is possible once people become more accepting,” McDade explained.

People have already begun the process of becoming educated about the LGBTQ+ community, so there’s a chance that this issue won’t last much longer. Equality is for everyone, and now is the time to take the signs off the bathroom and open doors without judgement.

Loy Norrix Should Change to an Open Campus for Lunch



YASMIN MOSQUEDA
STAFF WRITER

It’s finally lunch time and your stomach is starting to growl because of how hungry you are. You then get in the lunchroom and nothing looks appetizing, so now you have to wait until you get home to eat. We’ve probably all been there before and wished there was another option for us.

Students should be able to leave school grounds for lunch if they have the transportation and lunch money to do so. Lunchtime lasts 35 minutes, which could give students enough time to go get food and return. They would have the opportunity to eat the food they want to and not have to eat the school food.

Some students still have to pay for a school lunch when they could be using that money on lunch that they actually like. Students could choose to go home and make their lunch, or they could go to a place like Chick-Fil-A which is reasonably

near Loy Norrix.

Students have had this freedom before, but school administrators don’t like idea of letting students leave because they’re worried about student safety when they are off-campus.

Instead of students having to “sneak out” they should be given the chance to leave campus and get the lunch they want. Students are forced to sit in classrooms all day and lunch is their only free time. Their free time is actually restricted because they still have to stay in the building. By offering them open campus for lunch, it could help students release built-up energy and reduce the temptation to skip class.

At the same time, there are reasons why schools don’t let students leave. The faculty thinks that students won’t come back or they don’t believe they’re responsible enough. Schools could always make rules about students being able to leave for lunch as long as they have parental approval and sign in and out. It could be a privilege that can be revoked if abused.

“I think we should be allowed to leave because they don’t offer a good enough variety of food,” said sophomore Estrella Saaverda.

“School lunches aren’t

the most nutritional food, so by leaving we could make our own decisions and get the right nutrients,” said sophomore Aaliyah Bledsoe.

Our bodies change and so do our appetites, so when many of us don’t eat the school lunches, we get hungrier and hungrier which makes us distracted. Being able to leave and get fresh air and good food would help us focus more. Teachers would love to see us more focused.

Portage Northern High School has an open campus for juniors and seniors where if they meet the criteria for the quarter preceding, they’ll be allowed to leave for lunch. Their lunch privileges are reviewed each quarter but can also be revoked. Eligible students must pay a fee of \$5 per marking period for a lunch permit and must have a student ID with proper lunch sticker to leave campus.

At Loy Norrix, principal Christopher Aguinaga thinks safety and monitoring students is one of the top priorities which is a reason Loy Norrix doesn’t have open campus. Aguinaga enjoyed having open campus during his high school years, but his thoughts on open campus have changed ever since the high school massacres in Columbine

and Parkland occurred.

“When students leave campus, you don’t know what they’re doing or if they’re safe, especially with many students driving -- accidents can happen. If students aren’t on campus, you can’t keep them safe,” said principal Christopher Aguinaga.

With an open campus, lunch rooms would be less crowded and food staff wouldn’t have to make as much food.

According to the article “Extracurricular School Food Open Campus Lunch,” written by Marlo R Miura, MA, JD. In 2006, 73.1 percent of schools were closed campus and 25 percent of high schools nationwide had open campus the spring of 2005.

“I don’t think it would be a privilege even to students who are ‘good’ students because we would still have a problem of students being off campus and us being able to ensure their safety which is our top priority,” said principal Christopher Aguinaga.

For now, Aguinaga has no interest in Loy Norrix being an open campus school even though students have been missing out since the late 90’s and have been talking about this and hoping to have this opportunity.



Do you think social media platforms should censor hate speech on their platforms?



NAASHAR LEAKE
12TH GRADE

No, because people should know how to not be sensitive.



EBUBE OKPECHUKWU
12TH GRADE

Yes, I think they should just because sometimes people go too far on things and it could cause problems or can be misinterpreted.



JORELLE WEAVER
11TH GRADE

No, because they can’t censor everything and the words we use in music would have to be censored and that takes away from the culture of rap and stuff



BREJANA WILSON
11TH GRADE

No, because if we are trying to censor that kind of speech, we will also have to censor the arguments against hate speech. It’s also a good platform for conversation.



CHRISTIAN FLORES
10TH GRADE

No, I don’t think so. I think you should be able to say what you want to say. You have the right to free speech.

Social Media Should Enforce Limits on Hate Speech



PAULA MONTORO
COPY EDITOR

It took almost half an hour and thousands of views before the video of the New Zealand massacre was reported to Facebook and was finally removed. More than 200 users watched the livestream of the mosque attacks in Christchurch, and in a short time, images, and even the complete video, were shared all around the world through Twitter, Facebook and Youtube.

Every social media platform immediately apologized and sent their condolences to the families impacted; however, this issue reveals once again the problem that these platforms are facing when dealing with hateful content.

A quick look through the comment section of a racially charged video shows how serious and pervasive the problem of hate speech is. In the United States, as well as in many other developed democracies, hate speech is usually treated as protected free speech unless it produces or incites lawless action.

The Supreme Court has protected the rights of Nazis, anti-Semites, cross-burning Klansmen and an anti-gay Baptist

sect to openly denigrate others with almost no restrictions.

Hate speech is protected by law unless it is “likely to produce a clear and present danger of a serious substantive evil that rises far above public inconvenience, annoyance, or unrest...”

This law usually pertains to any comment that incites violence; however, any comment that disqualifies or denigrates a person or a group of people is harmful. This is damaging not just because these comments lead to harassment and violence, but also because it brings on, promotes, and enables hatred and discrimination in our society.

One key reason why hate speech is protected is in order to avoid a corrupt government silencing unpopular opinions that don’t match with its political views. As should be expected in any real democracy, people should have the right to express their judgements freely. However, it’s vitally important to understand that freedom of speech comes with some limitations and responsibilities, and it’s not the same criticizing the government as targeting a group of people due to race, ethnicity, gender or sexuality.

Our personal rights end when someone else’s rights begin, meaning that hateful acts or statements towards individuals or groups of people moved by biased social perceptions should not be protected.

Confronting hate speech is not about controlling or censoring the conversation but promoting tolerance and inclusivity.

What we say or do on social media is usually exempt from punishment and due to its worldwide reach and anonymity, these platforms have become the main setting for hate speech.

According to a study from the Pew Research Center, 41 percent of American adults have experienced some form of online harassment, and minorities are particularly unprotected. One in four African Americans say they have been targeted with harassment online because of their race or ethnicity, as have one in ten Hispanics, and women are twice as likely to be targeted online.

In the context of a culture in which hate is a social phenomenon, it doesn’t seem reasonable to pretend that certain prohibitions on social media would correct or solve the existence of this phenomenon. In other words, establishing consequences for hate speech does not mean that the problems of hate and discrimination would disappear. However, this would definitely contribute to a proper education on respect, equality and embracing diversity.

Most social media companies such as Google, Facebook and Twitter have policies regarding what kinds of hate speech are allowed on their platforms, however, the policies are often inconsistently applied. For example, Charlotte Spencer-Smith, a project assistant in the Institute for Comparative Media and Communication Studies, explains that in social media, if a protected category like sex

or ethnicity is combined with a non-protected category like age, this produces a non-protected category. Meaning that “black children” would be unprotected and an attack against black children would not be removed.

The issue of online abuse is part of the much bigger problem, the nature of the relationship between government, social media and users. These challenges include data protection and privacy, criminal activity, fake news and hate speech. Governments have to take action and be more responsive to the capabilities and consequences of developing technology.

In January of 2018, Germany passed a piece of legislation which stated that social media companies with over 2 million users must delete or block “evidently unlawful content” within 24 hours, or within a week for more complicated cases. With this law, Germany is taking a different approach by making companies legally responsible in the fight against hate speech.

It also requires awareness by citizens in order to get rid of hate speech in social media. For this reason, governments should be investing in education about digital rights and digital responsibility.

Under the guise of free speech, harassers, racists, sexists and xenophobes are allowed to say whatever they want to whoever they want with total impunity. Now, it’s time for us to make sure that social media is a safe place for everyone.

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 all the great seniors who have made it to graduation. Good luck in whatever you do after Loy Norrix!
- To everyone who helped Loy Norrix win the prom week competition on MLive. You all looked amazing!
- To juniors for getting through their last week of standardized testing. You did it!
- To the National Honor Society for hosting a great blood drive. You all are helping save lives, thank you.
- To the Loy Norrix administration for spreading the word about denim day. Thank you for your support in speaking out about abuse.

STOPS

- To all the kids who forget their ID and clog the entryways in the morning.
- To the people speeding out of the parking lot. You are putting everyone around you in danger.
- To the AC and heating not working properly and leaving students either overheating or freezing, which makes it harder to pay attention in class.
- To keeping the doors locked before 7:00 a.m. The students who have to wait outside are tired and cold.
- To the hat rule still applying in common areas, but nowhere else, which makes no sense.

Socialism, Reshaping America’s Left



BRANDI-ROSE PHIRI
ASST. BUSINESS MANAGER

The phrase “democratic socialism” has been popping up all over the news. Some liberals are split about whether they agree with this ideology, and Republicans think it’s just the newest radical idea that all liberals are turning to. Many people are forming their opinion without even knowing what the term means.

Democratic socialism is based on the belief that the economy should be run to meet the needs of the public. This would mean several changes to our economy, including free healthcare for all, higher taxes for the wealthy, more job security for all people, and members of the laboring class serving on the boards of big corporate companies so every voice is heard.

The term democratic socialism has been around since the 1900’s and has become popular again because of democratic socialists in our government today such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Bernie Sanders. Both Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez have made assurances that democratic socialism isn’t a drastic change in our government, it’s more or

less just expanding on what our country already has.

Some socialist programs already exist in the United States. These programs offer services like medicaid, free public education and support from the government in getting food, health care, housing and financial support to people who really need them. However, some people just want to add more.

“I think that lots of people are inclined to say that as soon as we want to gain more oppourtunities for people of other classes people want to call it socialism and it's put in such a negative light. It's also compared to communism.”

Maeve Hodge-McNutt

The ideas of democratic socialism sounds favorable on paper and work in places like Denmark, which people claim is the “happiest place on Earth.” The Danish experience generally higher income, lower inequality, more innovation and free college. All of these programs make it easier for people to succeed in life, be stable and have the ability to live like every other person in

the country no matter what socio-economic group they were born into.

On the other hand socialism has failed in a places like Venezuela because of the leaders the public has put in to power. Their ideas and policies have resulted in rising inflation, food shortages, lack of good medical care and less and less oil production. Seeing what could happen, the U.S. needs to decide if democratic socialism will work in our capitalist society.

Before the question of introducing democratic socialism in our country can be addressed, we need to know whether or not people would support it. According to a Gallup poll, senior scientist Frank Newport discovered that about four in every ten people say that we already demonstrate socialism in today’s society. It also indicated that 57 percent of democrats view socialism positively.

One student here at Loy Norrix who is passionate about not only history but the politics happening in the country involving all sides is Maeve Hodge-McNutt.

“I think that lots of people are inclined to say that as soon as we want to gain more oppourtunities for people of other classes people want to call it socialism and it’s put in such a negative light. It’s also compared to communism” Hodge-McNutt continued, “I think people need to educate themselves on what socialism is but more importantly what democratic socialism is.”

Even though there are so

many conversations about democratic socialism going on there are some people that are not involving the younger generation. These are the people we should be concerned about: Generation Z and the Millennials.

According to Axios, 37 percent of the votes from the polls in 2020 will be from Generation Z and Millennials, or people ages 18-38. These people are shaping their opinions and the views on government, along with the possible changes they can make. Also 49.6 percent of them agreed that they would rather live in a socialist society.

Junior Mariah Avery thinks that her generation is more open and united than the other ones. “We are more accepting to different people, ideas, cultures and classes. We don’t just want to get rid of the things that made our generation and our society worse we want to improve them,” said Avery.

The United States is definitely headed into a new direction whether it be for democratic socialism or just an era where opinions are shared and that everyone’s voice is heard. The ideas that are resurfacing are certainly interesting. People should be open to something that could improve our society not just from a political and economic standpoint, but the atmosphere we are creating around us as well.



JACOB SHANTZ
9TH GRADE

I think that social media websites should censor hate speech because, I mean, it’s hate speech. You’re either calling out someone negatively or discriminating against someone.



BAILEE SMITH
12TH GRADE

No because freedom of speech.



CALEB YOUNG
12TH GRADE

No because if they censor it, all these little kids that start on social media at a young age won’t be getting the bullying that they need and then when it happens in real life, they won’t know how to handle it.



AMONTE IRIZARRY
9TH GRADE

You should censor it because if it has nothing to do with the article. You don’t want to portray negativity.

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.

Pushing Past Your Personal Barriers



GAVIN RUTHERFORD
LAYOUT EDITOR

I’ve spent most of my life cooped up inside. I lived satisfied with a life of watching television, playing games and reading books. When I went into middle school I didn’t have the confidence to reach out and talk to people, so I just sat in the back of class reading every hour. I felt like I couldn’t be bothered to learn, and I had a much better time alone reading. When I entered high school, the sheer number of people shocked me back into my shell and, as a result, things with most of my “friends” from middle school ended up falling apart due to our lack of substantial contact with each other. It wasn’t until swim season started my

freshman year that I really started to understand what it meant to have true friends. After years of secluding myself, I suddenly found people who wanted to spend time with me. I found myself doing things my middle school self never would’ve dreamed of doing. I went to football games, hung out at people’s houses, and I went to the mall for no reason other than to spend time with my friends. The sudden changes to my daily life were all a bit overwhelming. Due to my lack of experience spending time with people I felt lost and out of place. At first I loved every bit of time spent with my friends, but as time went on, I started to think that I was the least important member of the group or that I was only invited out of pity. Eventually I found myself falling back into my seclusion. Any time someone would invite me out, I made up some

excuse as to why I couldn’t go. I hated it; I hated getting home after school wondering if I was actually okay with turning people down. After a while, I started to feel a bit greedy. Now that I had tasted what friendship was like, I wanted to experience it more, but I was still too scared to reach out and initiate interactions myself. Anxiety runs in my family, but I’ve always been too proud to admit that I was struggling. When I look back on it now, I probably would’ve been much better off if I had just asked for help. According to “Social Anxiety Institute,” social anxiety is the third most common mental disorder, behind depression and alcoholism, affecting over 15 million adults, or 6.8 percent of the US population. Knowing that so many other people struggle to find their place in a group pains me. There are so many people around

me who don’t know how to break out of their shell. Change is hard, but I try my best to adapt. Four years later and I still struggle with social interaction, but I’ve changed my mindset. I realized that I’m in my senior year of high school, and I have hardly any good memories of doing things with people. I am starting to worry that if I can’t handle social interactions now, how will I ever make it in college? If I can’t figure out how to take hold of the opportunities in front of me now, I’ll struggle in the future. It’s hard to go out of your comfort zone. I want nothing more than to go home, curl up and sit on my phone most days, but I know that if I keep allowing myself to do that, then I’ll be setting myself up for failure. I want to be someone who doesn’t wait for others to initiate. I want to be someone who isn’t afraid to stand up and take an opportunity.

I offer you readers a piece of advice. If you feel like you can’t do something alone, don’t be afraid to ask for help. When my social anxiety was at its peak in middle school, I talked to a therapist. After a few months of trial and error attempting to figure out what was best for me, we decided to try something new. My therapist brought me out to a small stable in the Texas Corners area where I was asked to observe the horses. I was asked to look at the way they interacted with each other and what kind of body language they had. Over the next few months I was asked to perform various tasks with the horses, from grooming them to leading them through differing obstacle courses. The effects were tremendous. By the time I started high school, I had become a new person. I may not have been able to perfectly interact with everybody, but I was

growing. I recommend that you talk to others about your anxieties. Alone, we as people are capable of small tasks, but with the help of others we can achieve much greater things. I had a thought the other day, would I be satisfied if I died tomorrow? Would I be proud of who I am? Would I be proud of the decisions I’ve made? I realized that the answer is almost always no. I still have things that I want to do, things that I want to see, and things that I want to accomplish. I want to make memories with all of my friends. I want to experience new things with them. How am I supposed to achieve my goals sitting in my room? Figuring out how to live your life how you want to isn’t a simple task. You’ll have to go through many hills and valleys, and every day won’t be perfect. But on the journey that is life, we have to try our best to achieve our goals.

Amazon’s New Headquarters Should Be Built in Detroit



RILEY DOMINIANNI
STAFF WRITER

“Today was the day a group of dedicated, everyday New Yorkers & their neighbors defeated Amazon’s corporate greed, its worker exploitation, and the power of the richest man in the world.” In February, New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez released this statement in response to her successful bid to prevent Amazon from building its second headquarters in New York City. Ocasio-Cortez was a strong opponent of the

plans from the start. “Amazon HQ2” which, according to “Fox Business,” promised to bring “25,000 high-paying jobs and invest tens of millions of dollars in the local area,” is looking for a new place to call home. Detroit, Michigan is the perfect candidate. When the city of Detroit, Michigan was founded in 1701, it was a simple fur trading post for French colonists. It grew steadily from there as the nation developed. Eventually, it grew to become the largest automobile manufacturing city in the country. At its peak in the 1940s, workers came to Detroit from all over for opportunities to earn a stable living in car factories. According to “The New Yorker,” at one point Detroit was America’s fourth-

largest city with over 1.8 million residents. All of this was made possible by its people. Ask any Detroit resident, industrialism and hard work is in the city’s blood. However, that same resident would not be able to deny that the city of Detroit has seen its fair share of hardships in the past. Eventually, the automobile industry expanded outside of the city and left factories and workers abandoned without a purpose. Severe racial tensions in the 1960s brought prejudice and culminated in destruction and the loss of millions of dollars in the Detroit Riot of 1967. In July of 2013, Detroit became the largest city to ever file for bankruptcy. According to “The Week,” it was a result of a financial crisis

“60 years in the making,” caused by the collapse of the auto industry and the recession in 2008. Six years later, while times have been difficult, there are many reasons to believe that the Motor City is on its way back up. With the construction of Little Caesar’s Arena, the implementation of the QLine transportation system and a growing downtown, Detroit is on its way to fulfilling its motto, “Speramus Meliora; Resurget Cineribus: We hope for better days; it shall rise from the ashes.” This is where HQ2 comes in. What would be a better home than a city who needs strong businesses to help lift it up, and is already beginning to grow? Housing is another benefit to bringing Amazon to Detroit. According to

“BestPlaces,” the cost of living in Detroit, with a median home price of \$53,400, is less than the national average. Other major cities such as New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles sit far above the average. In comparison, Detroit is far more affordable. Additionally, Amazon would provide thousands of jobs for workers of all levels of experience. This would guarantee a drop in the unemployment rate, which is already on its way down. The fact that unemployment has decreased so sharply, from a staggering 28.9% in 2009 to its current 5.0%, shows the drive and dedication Detroiters have rediscovered from the city’s glory days. Just like the manufacturers at General Motors who earned their

wages on the assembly line, these people want to work. The decision to choose Detroit would be an admirable statement by Amazon. Their original choice, New York, to put it bluntly, has enough business already. Nearly 300 companies are headquartered in the city, and the impact created by one more would be very little compared to the impact if Amazon came to Detroit. It would show a company’s commitment to helping rehabilitate cities in its nation. For the success of Amazon and one of the United States’ biggest cities, the new headquarters should be built in Detroit.

Letters to the Editor

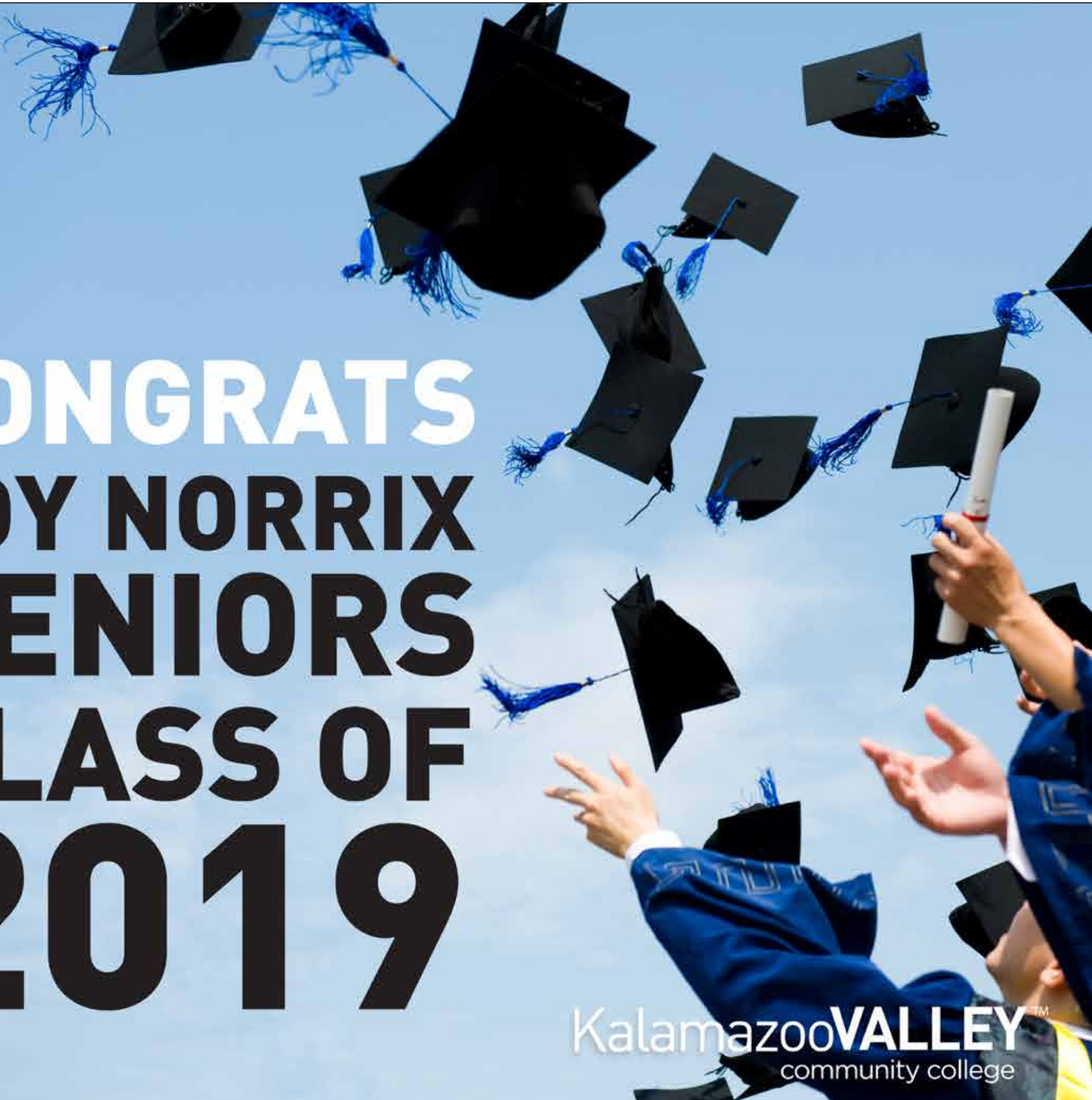
Students Respond to Social Issues

Dear Editor,
I read the article “Women in Sports Ask for Equality” by Paula Montoro-Aragon. Being a female athlete myself, I was really able to relate to this article. I think the inequality of men and women in sports is an issue that is not discussed often enough, so I was really glad to see an article written about it. The article made some really good points and I think it truly portrayed how difficult it is to be a female athlete. Especially young girls, who may find it difficult to find a female athlete as a role model because they are focused on so little. I was also able to relate to some of the sentiments expressed in the article. The situation with women’s lacrosse being non-contact and men’s lacrosse being full contact is similar to that in hockey. Girl’s hockey does not allow checking, where boy’s hockey does. This can be very frustrating and I appreciated seeing that other girls feel the same way. The article was very well written and I was saddened by some of the facts about female athletes, though it is necessary that people understand their struggle. Hopefully a change will come soon in the future.
Samantha Shaffer
sophomore
Dear Editor,
I read your article titled “Women in Sports Ask for Equality” and I have to say that I did enjoy reading about how unequal sports are for women. I completely agree that women in sports have it unfair compared to men. When reading the article I learned a lot of new things about women in sports. I learned about the gender wage gap concerning women in sports, and how that is caused by the lack of promotion and recognition women get in sports. I also learned about the discrimination women in sports get because they’re being compared to men, how it’s hard to participate in a sport where in an early age sports are excluded due to being too masculine. These are all problems women still have to face even in 2019.
Carlos Prieto
freshman

Dear Editor,
In the article you wrote, titled “President Trump Proposes Cuts to the Education Budget,” I found the entire article very interesting. You mention that there will be funding for Title I, which provides support for schools with a greater percentage of low-income attending students. You also mention that funding for teacher job training will be present, albeit smaller than it has been in past years. In my understanding, these two things conflict greatly. The schools which would make use of the new Title I funding may then have to use that money on teacher job training and improvement. This, to a degree, defeats the purpose of the Title I funding, considering that teachers are a vital part of education in general. If the fiscal budget is approved as it currently stands, this could pose an issue for schools who may not receive as much funding due to low property taxes, as well as schools that have a high percentage of schools with a 504 or IEP plan, since those take a great deal more money to act upon than providing for the average student.
Colin Carnell
junior
Student Relates to Hardships
Dear Editor,
I greatly enjoyed and could empathize with “Freshman Explains Hardships of Being New to Norrix.” I enjoyed the use of facts and sources to show how freshmen struggle. The article greatly demonstrated the sheer confusion experienced by these new knights on their first week. As the article went on, however, some flaws showed. First, you only review one person about their struggle, not even mentioning any others. You additionally do not have any reasoning as to why bullying is so common among freshmen, and do not compare their rates of harassment to those of other grades. In total however, I greatly appreciated the article and would recommend it.
Elias Nagel-Bennett
freshman

Students Respond to Opinions

Dear Editor,
Referring to your article “Amazon’s New Headquarters Should Be Built in Detroit” I would like to say that I really enjoy this piece you’ve written, I believe that helping improve the city of Detroit would be very beneficial to the people who live within it all around. Detroit needs what it can get these days and I agree with this. But what about people who argue that gentrification is a bad thing? Many people think that companies who build near downtown are “gentrifying the hood” and think that it’s practically racial tension being built up. I hope that if Amazon builds their new HQ it will only create a positive outcome, Thank you!
Parker Kissel
senior
Dear Editor,
I read “Locked Doors, Locked Minds: Restricting School Library Access Shouldn’t Be Allowed” by Claire Beougher. I have thought about the school closing the library in very similar ways, I believe that everyone should almost always have the access to the library. Sometimes I want to go in there to work on homework, or work during lunch. But while I am trying to enter the library staff will start asking questions or saying, “No pass, no ID, no entry,” and sometimes they will just flat out not let people in. But on the contrary, I see where the staff is coming from as many students skip class, goof off, or cause disturbances throughout the library even though it is a place for working/learning. But I definitely don’t believe they should completely shut down the library, as sometimes I need to go in there to finish work that I can’t do elsewhere. Some students also have a 5th hour study hall to work on advanced classes. So when the library is closed what are they supposed to do? Good job to Claire Beougher on the article.
Ian Woodruff
freshman



CONGRATS LOY NORRIX SENIORS CLASS OF 2019

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Summer of Bees

**Join us to learn more about bees and their importance.
Exhibit and events free and open to the public.**

THE SECRETS OF BEES | JUNE 1 – SEPTEMBER 30
Learn about the secret lives of bees, their importance in our world, and the influence humans have on them in this interactive exhibit.

HONEYBEE SCRIPTURES | NOW – OCTOBER 6
Artist Ladislav Hanka exhibits etchings with additions of wax from the bees.

ART HOP BEE MARKET | JUNE 7 | 5 – 8 p.m.
Meet Charlotte Hubbard, Michigan's 2018 Beekeeper of the Year, and enjoy live music from Uncle Kooky while checking out honey-related products, honey snacks, local bee groups, and books.

BEE-YOND THE BEES' KNEES | JUNE 30 | 1:30 p.m.
Beekeeper Charlotte Hubbard offers fun facts and insights about honeybees and a beekeeping journal.

PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS | JULY 28 | 1:30 p.m.
Susan Rice shares what we can do to provide habitats and plants for local pollinators.

**HANDS-ON CRAFT PROGRAMS
JULY 3 – 31 (Wednesdays) | 1 – 4 p.m.**
Different bee related crafts each week.

**BEE GARDEN TOURS
JUNE 26 & JULY 24 | 10 – 11 a.m.**
See plants used to attract honeybees to Kalamazoo Valley hives. Tour begins at Food Innovation Center at 224 E. Crosstown Pkwy.

4-H YOUTH BEEKEEPERS | JULY 9 AND 11 | 12 – 4 p.m.
Take on the Native Bee Challenge and build your own bee house to take home. Registration required for students 3-5 grade, space is limited.

HEALING FROM THE HIVE | JULY 16 | 1 – 3 p.m.
Explore bee-related products and make a salve using beeswax. For adults with children ages 9 and up. Registration required, space is limited.

NATURALLY SAFE BEE PRODUCTS | JULY 25 | 1 – 3 p.m.
Learn about beeswax, then make your own lotion bars and lip balm. For adults with children ages 9 and up. Registration required, space is limited.



The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees

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Senior Section



Senior Advice



MADISYN CALDWELL
Push to the end [of high school] and apply for scholarships, if you start early you have more of an advantage.



AALIYAH GOODMAN
Don't be afraid to get help, attend as many AAC [Academic Achievement Center] and tutoring sessions as you need to maintain good grades.



LILLIA BISTREK
Always be yourself and don't fall under peer pressure. Do what makes you happy and find joy in doing it.



NAASHAR LEAKE
Remember deadlines and stay organized. Don't rely on late work policies.



TORI MARTIN
Don't miss out on more than two days in a row.



DREW ROBERTS
Be yourself and do what's right.

Senior Regrets



SHAUN MOTON
I wish I had joined more stuff in high school.



CILLYA FRIES
I regret not showing up to school more. It really set me back.



ALINE MEJIA
I regret not taking my math classes serious.



ALYSIA SMITH
I regret thinking that high school was a joke my first two years.

The Cost of Senior Photos

CIERA MCCLINTON
ASST. WEB EDITOR

Who's doing my hair? What will I wear? Where will I take the pictures? Who'll take my pictures? And how will I pay for it all? Each year Seniors go through the stress and strain of senior pictures. Senior pictures are used for the yearbook and can be used for Graduation Invitations/announcements. See what these seniors had to pay to get their beauty shots.

BRIELLE KIMBROUGH

Cost breakdown for Brielle Kimbrough:

- Hair: \$10
- Shirt: \$10
- Vest: \$20
- Scarf Piece: \$5
- Jeans: \$20
- Boots: \$30
- Photographer: Vantrell Erving \$200

AALIYAH GOODMAN

Cost breakdown for Aaliyah Goodman:

- Hair: \$60
- Makeup: \$45
- Hoodie: \$40
- Fashion Nova Pants: \$31.23
- Timberlands: \$110
- Photographer: Sanah Gibson \$100

BREEANA MONCRIEF

Cost breakdown for Breeana Moncrief:

- Hair: \$40
- Makeup: Done by her aunt, Jessica Williams, for free
- Outfit: \$20
- Photographer: Jerome Lynch \$200

BRADY FILLINGHAM

Cost breakdown for Brady Fillingham:

- Blue Tommy Hilfiger: \$50
- American Eagle Underwear: \$16
- American Eagle Shorts: \$40
- Photographer: Lynneea Brown \$400

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