

THE WARRIOR

April 2008

Lane Technical College Prep High School

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Debate Team wins national tournament

By Crystal Lee

Andrew Hobaugh, Div. 870, and Nick Locke, Div. 854, took first place at the first Chase Urban Debate National Championship in April 3-6, beating out 33 other teams from around the country.

Prior to the tournament, Hobaugh and Locke won the City Championship where they also received first and second place in the speaker points awards.

Unlike the win at City, winning this national tournament was an unexpected surprise.

"It's a recognition of all the hard work they put in," said Mr. Maslanka, Debate coach. "I really went into this not knowing how we would do."

"I watched the last two rounds and it was rewarding and exciting to see how much better Nick and Andrew have gotten," said Maslanka.

The tournament was sponsored by the JP Morgan Chase foundation and took place at The Northwestern University School of Law's downtown campus.

"It was different. There were teams from all over the country," said Hobaugh.

Lane was among six local area schools who had the best season records and were eligible to compete for only two available spots in the tournament. After a round-robin competition in which the six teams debated each other, Lane and Morgan Park qualified.

The win was special for Maslanka who won't be coaching the team next year.

"What more satisfying way to end a career than to have a team win a national tournament," said Maslanka.

After nine years of coaching debate at Lane and raising the school's program to one of the most respected in the area, Maslanka is taking a break from the long hours the position demands. While he plans to focus his efforts next year on helping direct some of Lane's dramatic productions, he does intend to help with the transition of the debate program to its new coach, Ms. Gholston.

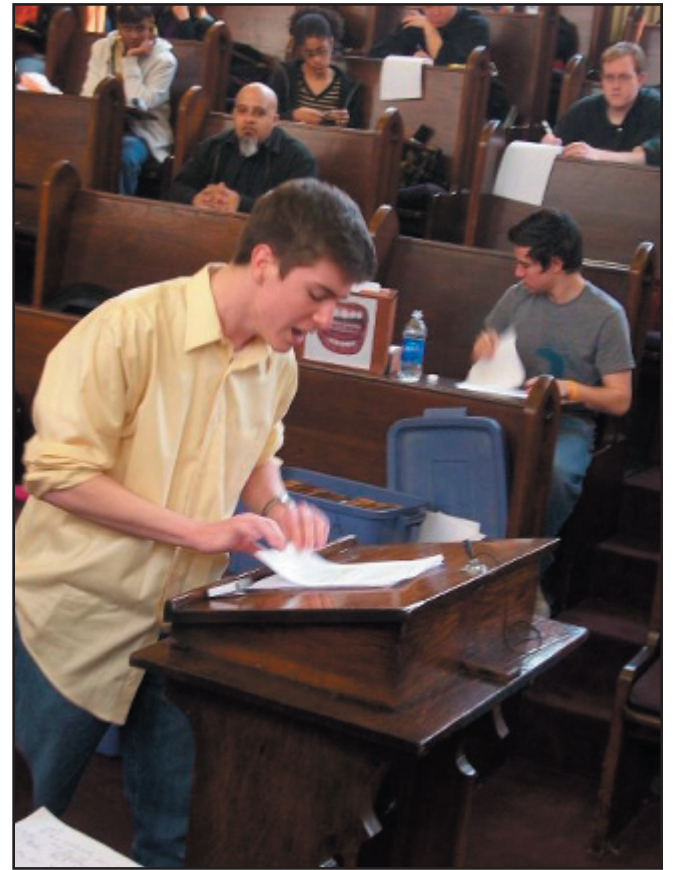
"I think the team should be fine. It's a loss of an asset," said Locke about Maslanka's stepping down as coach. "We were happy we could bring him an award in his last year."

"Mr. M is the best person to coach debate," said Hobaugh. "Mr M knows how to keep you humble."

Locke and Hobaugh, both seniors, have plans to head off to college next year.

"I don't think I'm going to debate next year. I'm going to focus on academics," said Hobaugh who plans to attend Northwestern University.

Though Locke is still undecided on his choice of colleges for next year, he said he intends to continue participating in debate at whatever school he attends.



Hobaugh and Locke debate at Northwestern University.

The Warrior dominates High School Media Awards Named "Superior Overall Tabloid" by the Scholastic Press Association of Chicago

By Samantha D'Anna

Lane's student newspaper, The Warrior, was awarded Superior Overall Newspaper in the tabloid division at the 16th annual Scholastic Press Association of Chicago (SPAC) journalism conference held at Roosevelt University on March 11.

Mr. Johnson, journalism teacher and faculty sponsor of The Warrior, chose the best student work published in this school year's editions and submitted entries in 16 of the 23 competition categories. Of these, Lane student journalists were awarded 10 individual honors including eight "superior" ratings and two "excellents." This led to Lane's winning the overall award given to the school receiving the most total awards in the contest.

"To be honest, all of the awards came as a surprise to the entire staff," said Daniel Castro, Div. 850, Editor-in-Chief of The Warrior. "This was our first year and I think we really made ourselves known."

Being recognized best overall tabloid was definitely the most gratifying. Unlike many high school newspapers, our intention is to focus on stories relevant to Lane and I think that's why we won."

The judges' written comments about The Warrior included: "Reading this newspaper is like walking through the hallways of the school. Excellent stories with almost all local content. Stories are interesting and tackle a good variety of subjects."

"I knew we had a pretty good publication by high school standards and thought we would do well," said Johnson, "but the number of awards we won surpassed my expectations by a wide margin. It was definitely a very gratifying feeling to see so many of my students who I've had in class for almost two years now be recognized for their work."

One of those students, Yasmine Ramirez, Div. 881, received a superior rating in the category of "Community Story" for her investigation into how immigration law can affect high school students and their families.

"I'm happy that I received the award," said Ramirez. "But what was more important to me was letting students know that the immigration issue affects students inside of our school."

I was surprised that I won an award at the conference, especially since I wasn't expecting to get anything," said Crystal Lee, Div. 854. "It was a rewarding feeling when it happened though."

One of the reasons the awards came as such a surprise to so many of Lane's winners was that Johnson did not tell any of the students whose work had been nominated for what award.



"I like surprises," said Johnson. "And since I wasn't sure how competitive it was going to be, I didn't want anyone to get their hopes up and be disappointed. But I did intend to tell the students afterwards – win or lose – who I nominated and why. Luckily, most of them got to find out for themselves."

Before the awards ceremony students attended various morning workshops directed toward prospective journalists.

>>See "Awards"

Continued on page 2

McCormick Tribune Foundation 2008

The Warrior Media Awards Recipients

Superior Overall Newspaper:

- The Warrior Staff

Superior News Story:

- Daniel Castro

Superior Personality Profile:

- Jonathan Sosa & The Warrior Staff

Superior Editorial Column:

- Crystal Lee

Superior Sports News Story:

- Lauren Corso

Superior Sports Feature:

- Jonathan Sosa

Superior Non-Sports Photo:

- Marian Sonnyadek

Superior Entertainment Review:

- Francesca Sanchez

Superior Community Story:

- Yasmine Ramirez

Excellent General Feature Story:

- Anna Treesara

Excellent Original Drawing:

- Thomas Hayes

IN THE HEART OF THE WARRIOR

NEWS

New Warrior Website

iPod Crackdown

Lane's Centennial

Lane's NIU Connection

FEATURES

Digital Piracy

Racy Online Pictures

Student Investing

Night Watchmen

Pollution & Earth Hour

Fashion Stereotypes

Young Marriages

OPINION

Harry Potter

Trip to Washington DC

Danity Kane Album

Thoughts on Racism

SPORTS

Game Stress

Girls' Softball

Boys' Tennis

Girls' Soccer

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2007-2008



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THE **WARRIOR** is a student-produced newspaper published by the Journalism students of Lane Tech College Prep High School. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those shared by the editors or faculty and administration.

Your opinions are important to us. Please email any comments, questions, critiques, or corrections to:

Feedback@lanewarrior.com

The Warrior is now available online

Letter from the editor:

To our readers:

The Warrior is now available online.

Our new website, lanewarrior.com, contains all of this issue's published articles in addition to several other unpublished online exclusives.

Additionally, the site encourages reader interactivity by allowing you to leave feedback. Readers can share their thoughts either by utilizing the message board or by sending general feedback to feedback@lanewarrior.com. If you would like to email the author of a specific article, you will be able to do so as well (an email list is provided under the "Staff" section next to the staff member's name on the website).

You will also be able to download archived versions of The Warrior in PDF format—more issues will be added as soon as they become available—and browse through the history of the newspaper.

The site will allow us to make corrections and clarifications promptly. If you see something in the paper that needs clarification, simply let us know and we will fix it.

Furthermore, if you feel that there is a story which requires coverage, know someone has received a special award or recognition, or you simply want to share a picture, email us at share@lanewarrior.com. We welcome all of your suggestions.

Thank you for reading The Warrior and enjoy the site.

Sincerely,
Daniel Castro
Editor-in-Chief



A screenshot of The Warrior's new website, lanewarrior.com

Strict iPod ban now being enforced at Lane

By Lauren Corso

The announcements were heard loud and clear, every morning first period for a week: "Electronics such as iPods and MP3 players are banned items and should be kept at home or in your locker."

While no use of electronic devices during school hours is an old policy, it was not until last month that the banning of all iPods and mp3 players was announced to the entire school. The announcements also insisted that teachers cooperate in enforcing the rule in all their classes and informed everyone that as of March 24 any student caught listening to an iPod during school hours will have it confiscated and a parent must come to pick it up.

"We wanted to publicize it enough so everyone knows starting after spring break you really shouldn't be wearing them in the building," said Dr. Lobosco.

Both Lobosco and Dr. Dignam have addressed the issue by saying that listening to music in the hallways and in the classroom may detract from a positive school environment due to the fact that students are less aware of what is going on.

"I know [students] come long distances and that's your entertainment [during your commute] and sometimes for lunch as well, but anything that detracts from the school environment I think becomes a problem," said Lobosco. "There's a lot of reasons we need you to be aware of your surroundings and alert so we're just going to try to uniform the policy."

Many students, however, do not agree with the policy and think that the idea of prohibiting students from listening to music is too harsh.

"I think it's just stupid. How is not listening to music keeping us safer?" said an anonymous junior. "I don't think iPods should be banned completely," said Joanna Szczudlo, Div. 044. "Obviously students should not listen to them during class, but what's the harm in listening to them in the hallways?"

With such a diversity of classes at Lane, it is clear that different classes call for different atmospheres. In many subjects students believe music provides inspiration needed to

do their work, such as in art, ceramics, and writing.

"Music is inspirational, so why can't we listen to our iPods in photo, writing, art classes, and even in the weightlifting classes?" read a message posted by a student on Facebook.

The new enforcement on this ban even caused some students to create a Facebook event to express their opinions on the rule. Within this group students openly listed their complaints and set a date to protest. It was posted that on March 5 students should wear their ear buds and stick the cords into their pockets, attached to nothing in an attempt to make a statement without having their actual iPods taken away.

"I don't look at it as an unjust, horrible policy. We need students to be not so engrossed in their music when they're in school," said LoBosco

When asked about this, Dr. Lobosco said she had heard nothing of it, but did not necessarily understand why students would feel the need to have a protest, claiming that protests are meant for truly unfair things.

"I thought [the rule] was overdue just from what I had observed in the hallways and what teachers have told me," said Lobosco. "I don't look at it as an unjust, horrible policy. We need students to be not so engrossed in their music when they're in school."

While the general consensus on Facebook was that this new enforcement is unpopular, some believe it was an inevitable action and students need to stop their whining and deal with the rule.

"What I want to know is how many people are actually going to do [the protest] because they realize the causes and effects for [it], or if people are just going to blindly follow others and do this because they like to 'stand up for their rights,'" said one junior.

"You want to protest something which was already not allowed in the first place, only difference now is it's being enforced?" asked another student.

Although these plans were made and many Lane students posted that they would participate in the protest, March 5 seemed no different from any other day, with few, if any wearing earbuds.

Regardless of reaction to the rule, the newly enforced policy will be in place for the rest of the school year, and disciplinary action will be taken against those still listening to their iPods within the building.

>>Awards

Continued from page 1

Some of the featured speakers at the workshops included Roseanne Tellez of WBBM-TV; Regina Waldroup, a Roosevelt alum and CLTV reporter/anchor; and Rex Huppke and Donna Pierce of the Chicago Tribune.

"I really enjoyed it and learned a lot," said Castro. "It was interesting hearing reporters from the Tribune and other media outlets talk about their experiences. I think the workshop motivated the staff and showed them that their hard work was worthwhile."

"I thought the conference was most valuable in that it allowed students to hear professionals in the field of journalism talk about their work," said Johnson. "I think that always helps put in perspective just how they might someday make use of the skills they are learning by writing for the newspaper."

John W. Fountain, professor of journalism in Roosevelt's Department of Communications, was the featured speaker at the afternoon awards ceremony. Fountain, previously a writer and reporter for the New York Times, Washington Post, and Chicago Tribune, shared some stories from his work in the field and spoke about the important role journalism plays in today's world.

"I think the workshops that I went to were helpful to me as a columnist and critic because they gave me tips on how to improve my writing," said Lee.

Looking ahead to next year, the Warrior staff has a better understanding of what is expected from a newspaper, especially from the eyes of professionals.

"There's always room for improvement, but we want to focus on writing stories that people want to read," said Castro. "We need to cover sports more in-depth, but it's just really tough to do so since so much is going on at the same time. We try."

Centennial events underway

By Jessica Smith

Since 1908, Lane has been building the legacy of school of champions. Now, in its 100th year of existence the school is celebrating through various events and contests.

The Alumni & Friends Centennial Concert

Apr. 19 at 7 PM

Featuring concert violinist and honorary alumni Rachel Barton-Pine, this concert was unique



Rachel Barton-Pine

because band and orchestra alumni from the past 60 years performed. In addition, original pieces composed by alumni were played.

A one hour catered pre-concert reception with Barton-Pine and the participating alumni was held as a fundraiser. It was only open to those who purchased the Executive Circle tickets, which cost \$150 but also included front and center seats for the concert.

Other tickets were available for between \$10-\$25.

All tickets were full color, 3x5 plastic, making it easy to obtain autographs, and came with a centennial lanyard.

Down Memory Lane

A carnival will be held over Memorial Day weekend (May 23-26 from 5:00-10:00pm on all four days) in Lane's parking lot in honor of the Centennial.

In addition to the games, rides, and food, the carnival will feature a music festival highlighted by a Battle of the Bands competition. There will also be dance

performances by select clubs from the International Days/Nights festival, as well as live music from local bands.

The Battle of the Bands will take place from 6:00-10:00pm on Friday, and will feature six bands comprised of Lane students.

Century foundation merchandise will also be sold at a special booth.

Walk to Wrigley Field

On May 30, Lane will host a walk to Wrigley Field for the 1:40pm Cubs versus the Colorado Rockies game.

Lane has purchased 1000 \$35 tickets and 500 \$25 tickets, which will be distributed among students.

Lane was denied a permit from the city to have a parade down Addison Street to Wrigley, so the administration has registered a permit to have the parade on Grace, just one block north of Addison. The parade will be complete with a float and some cars. If this does not come through, the school has already received permission to march down the sidewalks of Addison.

Graduation

On Friday, June 6, Lane's graduation will take place at the UIC Pavilion.

Mayor Daley has been invited to be the speaker. Traditionally, the speakers have been someone from 'inside' the Lane family. But for the centennial, LoBosco thought it would be ok to go for a bigger name.

Contests

In an attempt to collect student-created art and designs commemorating the Centennial, Lane is sponsoring several contests for students.

Posters & Banners

Centennial theme posters and banners will be made and placed around Lane and surrounding neighborhoods.

For any of the designs used in the hallways or are professionally reproduced, a \$100 Best Buy certificate will be awarded.

Postage Stamp

Lane will be releasing special commemorative U.S. postage stamps

that are designed by students.

The designs should include words such as "centennial," "100 years," etc.

A \$200 Best Buy certificate will be given to all of those whose designs are selected.

All designs are due by May 1 and should be turned in to the main office.

Pin & Tie Clips

Centennial theme pin and tie clips will be made and sold in the school store in honor of the centennial.

A \$200 Best Buy certificate will be awarded for all designs that are selected.

All designs should be submitted to the main office by May 1.

Christmas & Holiday Cards

Lane will be producing special Christmas and Holiday cards which will be sold in the school store.

Any of the designers whose cards are reproduced will receive a \$50-\$100 Best Buy certificate.

Designs should be submitted by June 1 to the main office.

Lane graduate witnesses NIU shooting

By Samantha D'Anna

February 14, a day of expressing love and compassion for many, was changed in a matter of moments as Northern Illinois University was overwhelmed with fear, shock, and ultimately grief.

For about 115 NIU students, one of whom was John Holzman, Lane alum of 2007, it was like any other day. Along with his classmates he was attending their 2:00pm Oceanography class located in Cole Hall, when everything changed for the worst.

"Basically the guy kicked open the door on stage, in front of the class, took a few steps forward, shot his shotgun once at the crowd, then once at my professor, and back at the crowd again," said Holzman, who was sitting near the back of the class. "It was complete chaos as everyone was running out the back doors; people were stepping on each other and doing anything just to get out."

"When he first shot the gun it sounded like a fire cracker and it looked like a bright camera flash," Holzman recalled. "It was chaotic. People running in all directions with the smell of gun powder in the air."

"I thought it was a joke; that 'This can't be

happening,'" he said.

Many shared these feelings. From students and faculty to parents and the community, no one could believe it was real.

"I was in shock; I didn't believe it was true. It took the sirens of cop cars and ambulances for it to really hit me," said Bryan Bohorquez, also Lane alum of 2007 and NIU freshman, who was in his dorm room at the time of the shooting. "I realized my roommate [Holzman] was in the room. I became frantic and worried. I started to panic."

"Things just got worse and worse. I found out two of the girls in my sorority were shot. One of them was hurt badly," said Sinead Cross, Lane alum of 2007 and NIU freshman.

Whether directly or indirectly affected, members of the community have been forever changed by the NIU tragedy.

"It not only changed me, but it changed Northern as a whole. It brought the campus together," said Holzman.

"The campus has changed. The atmosphere, it's indescribable. There are various monuments around the campus that are to show respect to the people who died," said Bohorquez. "There are so many cops around, you feel safe," he added.

NIU is going through a transition. Many students have to get comfortable again and the university is doing everything in its power to help that along.

Four-legged, furry, therapists, were brought to NIU when the students resumed classes after the shooting. A group of 12 dogs, from Animal Assisted Crisis Response, an elite group of therapy dogs trained to



Candles are lit on the NIU campus to memorialize students killed in the shooting.

"emotionally rescue" after a tragedy, were brought to NIU to comfort the students and community.

"They [NIU] spoiled us when we got back to school with cookies and dogs to pet," said Cross.

Cole Hall is no longer in use, it will sit empty until a decision is made what will be done with it.

"My classes have mostly all changed. I was in Cole [Hall] four out of the five days a week, except for Thursdays," said Bohorquez.

"I pass the place [Cole Hall] of the shooting with no problem," Cross said, "but one of the girls I know that got shot had a hard time coming back to DeKalb and won't even go

near the building."

"My teachers are more sensitive and willing to talk to students," said Bohorquez.

"After the shooting I'm a lot jumpier, said Cross. "I'm always assuming the worst, I assume someone will appear with a shotgun."

"It has changed everyone," said Bohorquez. "I realize that life is too short. We go to college to get a higher education. Things like these are the last thing on our minds, but what people have to realize is things like this are more common than ever."

"It's changed my perspective on life because I realized you only live once and you never know when your time may be up," said Holzman.



Digital piracy rampant among high schoolers

By Jose Rivera

If you want books, games, software, even porn, why pay for it when it's all free to you online? Although there are many legal options for buying products and services online, the majority of high school students continue to illegally download. The main reason for this is that most can't or don't want to pay for it.

"Sometimes what I want is too damn expensive," said Serafin Garcia, Div. 869. "I know what I'm doing is illegal, but whoever chooses to focus more on catching 'pirates' than looking for true criminals, such as murderers, is not doing the right thing either."

Many illegal software downloads are for things that can help students with school work. Some popular student downloads include Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite, and Macromedia Studio (three downloads that if purchased legally would total more than \$2,000).

"I'm 17 years old. Where can I get \$700 for Photoshop and even more for AutoDesk," asked an anonymous student. "By having me pay \$700, I feel like industries only want to restrict me from my education, and only better the lives of those with money."

Other students pirate only to get back at the producers for making their products too expensive. Students who choose to illegally download what they want believe it's an all-around pursuit of happiness.

"Piracy isn't a crime," said Sandy Morales, Div. 874. "It's just a way for the average consumer to rip off the incredibly rich and greedy producers. The real crime is only allowing students

with rich parents to enjoy the creative wonders of talented artists!"

Most students illegally download through the use of peer-to-peer networking programs such as eDonkey, Shareaza, DirectConnect, WinMx, BitTorrent, and others that allow users to swap music, video, and other files over the internet.

"I download from Limewire," said an anonymous student. "Although it's illegal, it's so easy to download the items I need; and best of all it's free."

However, there are a few websites that offer pirated items by posting web addresses to torrents, which are files with information used to connect to other people for the purpose of uploading or downloading. Some popular websites that provide free torrents are thePirateBay, Mininova, and isoHunt.

"I prefer torrents," said an anonymous student. "They are better because they are quicker to download and easy to access. Just by adding the words 'torrent' and 'download' in a Google search along with the title of whatever program, game, or book you want will give you results."

Another way people pirate is through online forums and communities such as Yahooanswers, Puzo.org, WarezShare, and Demonoid. Members that belong to these online communities share with one another web addresses to download games, movies, or software being hosted by sites such as Rapidshare and Megaupload.

"I get everything I need from websites where people willingly post links that I can download," said Damian Jez,

Div. 856. "I try to avoid peer-to-peer software as much as possible, because that is truly illegal."

Although both downloading methods are illegal, most students believe they are committing a lesser crime because they are being led by a pirate. They believe that the one responsible for releasing the web address is committing the worse crime.

Many students who illegally download say their parents know about it.

"My parents don't really care if I pirate or not. They don't say anything other than warn me of the consequences (getting sued, etc.) As long as I don't get caught, everything is okay," said an

anonymous student. "Because my parents are strong believers in education, they don't see anything wrong with me wanting to learn how to use very expensive software that might help me later in life."



Unfortunately for some students,

they have been caught downloading illegally. "Once I was downloading the movie *Rocky Balboa*, when Comcast, my internet provider, called and warned me telling me what my consequences could be if I didn't stop using their services to illegally download movies," said Javier Pena, Div. 927. "They warned me of receiving a fine and a service-cut if I didn't stop. From that day on I've stopped illegally downloading movies."

Pena has instead discovered websites where the user can access and view full length movies, including movies still in theaters, on websites such as joox.net, movie6.net, etc - all listed at ovguide.com. Many times these sites get shut down for breaking copyright laws but are quickly replaced by new sites with the same movies.

Although a few students have been caught downloading illegally by their internet service provider, many still continue to do it. "I pay \$50 a month for internet access. I think I should be allowed to access anything I can on it; especially if others can, why can't I?" said Adam Krynski, Div. 903.

While some students only illegally download games, movies, software, or porn for themselves, others actually try to make a business out of it.

"I used to burn movies still in theaters and sell them, but then realized that it's not so easy to sell pirated movies anymore because constantly more and

more people are learning to download by themselves," said an anonymous student.

Although some pirating "businesses" have failed because many students are learning the basics of downloading illegally, other forms of piracy such as modifying, or "modding," PSPs, phones, and game systems still exist because that practice involves a bit more expertise.

Currently at Lane there are students who will mod phones and PSPs for as little as \$20.

"I pirate because I have no job to pay for the things I want, and I download a lot of free music too because I don't believe in the music industry trying to over-profit. I mod people's PSPs because it brings money to me, and so that people can enjoy trying a game before buying," said an anonymous student.

Instead of illegally downloading, some students prefer using some open source software which the general public can use for free, improve, and modify. Some examples include students choosing to use Gimp over Photoshop, Linux over Microsoft, OpenOffice over Microsoft Office, Totem over Windows Media Player, etc.

Although many students pirate and know the consequences if caught, many still aren't scared and don't feel bad about what they are doing.

"So far, the industries are still making enormous profit because the vast majority of people don't know how to pirate," said Pawel Szeliski, Div. 882. "The pirates are still pirating because piracy is virtually impossible to stop. In the end nothing will change."

Women's History Fair fills cafeteria with art, poetry

By Monika Janczuk

Women's history was rarely a subject of study before the Women's Movement of the 1960s. This movement inspired women to raise a voice and make an imprint on history through activism, poetry, and writing.

On Mar. 11, Lane held its second annual Women's History Fair in the lunchroom after school to celebrate Women's History Month.

Ms. Feuer, who teaches the Women in Literature class, organized the fair with the help of her students to commemorate women's achievements of the past and present.

"Nothing else is done [to commemorate it]," said Feuer. "I thought it would be our job to do it."

Last year, the fair was held in the library but because the turnout was so strong it was moved to the

lunchroom.

"It was like a mob scene last year," said Feuer. "We thought maybe 50 people would come. [This year] it was very well attended."

By 3:07pm the center of the lunchroom was filled with students. According to Feuer, around 300 students attended the fair this year.

The center aisles of the lunchroom were lined up with informative poster boards that told the story of many woman poets. Each student in Feuer's sixth period class was assigned to create a poster once they chose a poet out of a hat at random. The posters contained at least two poems by the poet, a brief history, and a picture of the poet.

To shed light on more of the students' work and for entertainment, John Comia, Div. 860, read two poems he wrote for a book of poetry he compiled as a semester final for Feuer's first period class. Students were able to reflect on what they

learned in the semester by completing a project of their choice. One of the poems, "Beyond Labels," describes the positive aspect of a confident woman. Its message:

"Be who you are without worrying what others say," said Comia.

The other poem Comia read, entitled "Trapped," addresses how the woman's voice is silenced in today's society.

Next, Stephanie Deese, Div. 879, read the poem "A woman with Individuality" by Ashley Ware, another Lane student who was unable to be there.

Aside from the brief poetry reading, music played while students roamed the lunchroom.

As part of the extra credit, students had to share their opinion and respond to one of three Graffiti Wall prompts posted on the walls of the lunchroom. The prompts were "What does it mean to be a feminist?," "What is the most important issue today? Why?,"

and the third was just an icon of the women's symbol.

According to Feuer, the Graffiti Walls were put up so she could get input from other students not in her class about the given prompts.

"[The class and I] are sharing our ideas. We wanted to hear from the students," said Feuer.

"I think it's great," said Tariq Weaver, who was in charge of monitoring the Graffiti Walls. "History has left out

the feminine voice...the class digs out that voice."

While many students attended the fair in order to receive extra credit, Feuer herself encouraged teachers to give this incentive to entice students to attend.

"I am well aware of students' motives to go," she said.

Nevertheless, students were able to gather information about important woman figures by visiting.

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Anonymous sources questionable in journalism

By Monika Janczuk

The use of anonymous sources has been a key ingredient in breaking scandals reported in magazines and newspapers for several years. After the Watergate scandal that revealed the illegal activities carried out by former President Nixon and his staff, anonymous sources became a popular way for government officials to stay off the record. However, are these sources reliable?

"I don't discredit them or doubt [anonymous sources]," said Enid Maldonado, Div. 852. "At times I understand that someone may not want to be quoted whether the reason is because of article content or because they really don't want to be named."

"[Our school's reporters] are only as reliable as their sources are," said Antonio Monreal, Div. 853. "I trust them somewhat but at the same time I also think that they will [b.s.] if they have to."

Anonymity is thought to be a safety blanket for sources who fear the information they disclose will cause them harm in one way or another. It is not uncommon to see quotes in the press attributed to "administration officials," "American intelligence," "military officials," and "the senior administration."

Many who are willing to tell reporters interesting things do not want to appear as backstabbers or snitches, especially on controversial issues, so they request that their identity be withheld.

However, in the past, allegations have been made about the authenticity of anonymous sources in major newspapers. *The New Republic* magazine reporter Stephen Glass was caught in 1998 fabricating not only quotes and sources, but entire stories. Overall, he fabricated material for 27 of 41 stories that he

wrote for the magazine. In 2003, New York Times reporter Jayson Blair resigned after he was caught fabricating and plagiarizing stories. Why do reporters do this? In a field where advancement prospects are slim, a young journalist's drive for recognition can cause him to break ethical rules of journalism.

Recently, a scandal involving the use of anonymous or unattributed quotes occurred right here in Chicago.

John Lavine, the Dean of Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, was accused by 16 co-workers on Feb. 19 of fabricating sources in his "Letter from the Dean" columns published in the school's alumni magazine last year. They asked Lavine to prove the authenticity of the anonymous sources he quoted after a columnist at the Daily Northwestern questioned them.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported in a Feb. 15 article:

"With his and the school's integrity on the line, the easiest thing for Lavine to do now is produce his notes...Accuracy and truthfulness are non-negotiable requirements for any material prepared for publication in any forum."

Lavine wrote an apology letter in which he denied making up any quotes but promised to use proper sourcing rules in the future. By Feb. 29, despite not being able to find the sources of the quotes, Lavine was cleared of any wrongdoing.

David Spett, a senior at Medill and columnist for the Daily Northwestern, investigated one of the quotes that was in last spring's issue of the alumni magazine that was attributed to a Medill junior. When Spett contacted 29 students in the class that the quote mentioned, they all denied saying it. According to Spett, there was no reason for the quote to be anonymous.

There are many reasons, however,

that reporters need quotes from anonymous sources.

Kevin Katz, a former columnist for the Warrior from 2005-2006, claimed that anonymous sources are extremely important, especially with controversial topics.

"People are very worried about watching what they say and who will not be happy with what they say. You wouldn't get half the necessary quotes if you couldn't use anonymous quotes," said Katz.

However, rationale for granting anonymity is important. This is true for every newspaper, including the Warrior.

Seth Johnson, the Warrior's faculty advisor, has encountered few problems with reporters falsifying quotes in order to enhance their stories. The staff is warned that if anyone chooses to use an anonymous source in a story, they are vouching for the legitimacy of that quote and are ultimately responsible for its content.

"If the quote given by an anonymous source seems hard to believe or is particularly controversial, I check with the reporter to try and gauge its accuracy," said Johnson. "I'll often ask who the person is and promise confidentiality. Usually my writers have no problem telling me names because they know I won't betray that trust."

Warrior reporters are encouraged not to use an excessive number of anonymous sources, but every issue always has at least a few. For example, in its Feb. issue of this year, an article on relationships quoted seven sources, but only one went on record. Out of 16 news and feature stories, 10 contained anonymous sources. Another story on relationships was based on an anonymous senior who was referred to by another name.

"At first I would think [the sources would] be reliable," said Lara

Capangpangan, Div. 862, "because talking about relationships is really personal, and it's normal for people to keep their names private on such a sensitive topic...It all depends on the issue. But generally, I would discredit it because resources are important and if we don't know where they come from, then how can we trust what is being reported?"

Some, however, believe that there is no reason to disregard every unattributed quote that appears in a story. Often times, student editors and Johnson will challenge quotes that are questionable. "If I have my doubts, I'll challenge the reporter to either go back and make sure he's gotten the quote right, or just cut it from the story," said Johnson.

Johnson has encouraged his writers to uncover stories about issues that "typically go unspoken" and are controversial because they are interesting.

"I've definitely encouraged the Warrior writers to chase stories that are tougher to get, and I hope the paper has become a more serious and respected publication because of it," he said. "The ultimate goal of a journalist is to find the truth, which can often be ugly. But it's nothing to hide from, as long as it's not just smut."

The content of some stories written by Jonathan Sosa, one of the Warrior's Editors-in-Chief, have left teachers and coaches disappointed.

"Teachers were disappointed about the cheating story," said Sosa. "Mr. Sheldon (a former A.P. American History teacher) was angry because some of his students were mentioned [in the cheating story] and he's very anti-cheating."

According to Sosa, kids didn't want their names "to be associated with whatever it might be that can get them in trouble," whether it is cheating, underage drinking or

steroids.

"Last thing they need is for a teacher or parent to see their names associated with things like that," he said.

Major newspapers set strict guidelines because they do not want their credibility ruined if an anonymous source proves to be false. For example, under the Associated Press's guidelines, material from anonymous sources can be used if:

1. The material is information and not opinion or speculation, and is vital to the news report.
2. The information is not available except under the conditions of anonymity imposed by the source.
3. The source is reliable, and in position to have accurate information.

The reporter must also ask the source how they know the information they are about to tell is accurate.

Additionally, reporters must attain approval from their news manager before handing in their story with the quotes. The editor must know who the source is but is obligated to keep the identity confidential. It is then the editor's job to make sure that the reporter followed the AP rules.

"Editors check out every part of [a reporter's] story and have to feel like it's true," said Monica Meng, a former Warrior and Chicago Tribune editor. "An editor has to know exactly who [the anonymous sources] are."

"When someone tells you something, three other sources need to confirm what that source said," said Steven Lattimore, who has worked for the Chicago Tribune, and CBS broadcast news.

A reporter must explain why a person wished to remain anonymous if the reason is not obvious. When attributing, simply saying "said a source" is not reliable. There should be some kind of description that establishes the source as credible.

Four new electives to be offered at Lane next year

By Rachel Steibing

Lane is a school that offers many classes to students. Each year more classes are offered that teachers think students will be interested in taking. Programming recently took place and some new electives were added onto the class course list.

Next year Lane will offer four new electives, Advanced Guitar, Latin 3, Latin American Literature, and Honors Topics in Literature.

Latin American Literature is a regulars level class that will be taught by Mrs. Vale-Suarez and was offered to only juniors and seniors. Students will read essays, poetry, short stories and much more from Mexico, The Caribbean, Central America, and South America as well as writings from American authors of Latin American descent.

"There will be no Spanish reading," said Vale-Suarez. "That is already covered in the language classes."

Vale-Suarez chose this class from a pre-existing list of approved classes in the CPS

system.

"This school needed courses in literature that included more diverse reading," she said. "I'm hoping this opens the doors for other classes."

Two sections of the class were filled for next year and will include mostly students that are Latin American.

"I didn't mean for it to be all students of Latin American descent," she said. "I want it to be for everyone."

Topics in Literature is already offered at a regulars level but next year will be offered at the honors level as well. Ms. Flanagan will teach two plus-sized classes next year.

The topic since the class started has been Non-western Literature and students will read things from non-European authors. It was originally designed to expand the body of literature read by Lane students.

"I demand a lot from my Topics in Lit students and I felt they should earn the honors credit that is available through many other electives of a similar level of difficulty," said Flanagan. "I'm generally against weighted grades, but I had to admit that I was doing my students a

disservice by keeping that 'honors' tag off their transcripts when they have clearly been doing honors-level work."

Two years ago Lane offered Latin. This class did not come out until after programming was done and posters had to be posted around school for students to sign up.

"Sometimes something comes up later," said Dr. LoBosco. "We hire someone with special skill and we say 'let's try it.'"

This upcoming year will be the third year for Latin. Therefore, Latin 3 was never offered before because it was never needed. Next year this class will be offered and Mr. Chochola will be the teacher. Although a few Latin students have dropped out there are still about 35 to 40 students and next year there will likely be 'one big Latin 3 class.'

The final new elective for next year is Advanced Guitar. In order to get signed into the class a student must have completed Guitar 1 and Guitar 2 or have tested into the class.

"There are so many people in Guitar 2 now that wanted to come back next year," said Zach White, Div. 926. "So Advanced Guitar was

made as a 'Guitar 3' for us next year."

Under normal circumstances, in order for a new class to be created a teacher must first propose it to the administration. This proposal then goes to the Curriculum Committee who recommends whether the class should be approved or not. The final decision is then made by Dr. LoBosco.

This year, new proposals had to be in by December 14 due to issues with Impact.

"Teachers rushed to put something together," said Ms. Coorlas, head of the Curriculum Committee. "I have been on the Curriculum Committee for quite a few years now and would say that the number of proposals for new classes always varies somewhat from year to year but is generally less than ten. This year's numbers were not significantly lower/higher than any other year. I definitely think - and I think I would be speaking for the committee as a whole - that the planning for those courses that were selected was well-done and met the guidelines for acceptance of a new class.."

Lane campus littered with trash

Students are failing to use trash cans and recycling boxes properly.

By Siobhan Lally

Every spring students pile outside to get a taste of summer. Lunch is often eaten on Lane's campus lawn. After sixth period, however, the lawn looks drastically different.

From plastic bottles, to plastic bags, to bags of leftover chicken, the lawn is covered in trash, and students are taking notice.

"During lunch Lane Tech students don't even bother to pick up [after] themselves," said Mark Escorpizo, Div. 880. "[They] just leave their crap everywhere."

"When I came to Lane, I noticed there was a problem," said Veronica Malacio, Div. 026, a member of Green Space.

Green Space is a club that was started last year by former Lane student Anna Torres.

"Green Space is a club for students who care about the environment and want to bring a greater understanding of the environment to their classmates," said Grace Morrow, Div. 865.

"It's frustrating to see the trash all over the floor. There are trash cans everywhere and it only takes a matter of seconds to walk there [to throw out trash] rather than just throwing it on the floor," said Malacio.

Regardless, some students will admit to leaving behind trash, but only if it will go back into the earth.

"It's okay to throw away garbage on the ground as long as it's biodegradable," said Raquel Flores, Div. 882.

A "biodegradable" product is any product that can disintegrate safely and relatively quickly into raw materials. Some materials take much longer due to varying amounts of heat, humidity, light, and water. For example, a piece of paper can take between two and five months to disintegrate, orange peels around six months, cigarette butts between one and twelve years, Styrofoam about 50 years, aluminum cans 80 to 100 years, and glass bottles can take about one million years to completely biodegrade. So, while a single piece of paper will go back into the earth, over time - often a long time - it leaves the ground looking polluted.

Pollution is a problem all over the country and all over the world. What makes people find it alright to litter their streets?

"Society believes it's okay to pollute and throw garbage on the floor," said Melanie Francia, Div. 874, "because they know that there will be street cleaning, or people who are getting paid are going to pick it up. Some people simply don't care about the environ-

ment, while others believe that it's too late."

Other students disagree, claiming more is being done now than ever.

"Lately I've been seeing many things 'go green,' and I think that it's about time that people are finally paying attention to all the pollution we have," said Michelle Andrews, Div. 856.

Many companies really are making the effort to "go green." Grocery stores, such as Jewel and Dominick's, have recently begun selling reusable tote bags to promote a "greener America." Additionally, any person can choose to recycle their old plastic shopping bags into a bin located in most Jewel Stores. Ice Mountain also has new "Eco-Shape" bottles that use 30 percent less plastic to be easier on the environment, and they are 100 percent recyclable. Even Clorox has created a new line of cleaning products called "Green Works" that are both 100 percent recyclable and contain over 99 percent all natural, biodegradable ingredients.

Regardless, some students still say not enough is being done.

"They talk about pollution here, global warming there, but nobody really puts an effort into preventing it," said Escorpizo.

"There are a handful of organizations that are trying to stop pollution like Green-Peace, but it is not enough to stop it," said Francia. "Pollution has been a major issue since the 60s, and ever since then, the problem has gotten worse."

Pollution has gotten worse over the years. Whether it's air pollution, water pollution, radio-active pollution, or land pollution, it has an everlasting effect on the environment.

"A major effect of pollution is global warming," said Francia. "This is why we are having 60 degree weather in the middle of winter."

There are many ways to combat negative effects that pollution has on the environment including driving less, using less hot water, or simply recycling. However, recycling still isn't as popular as some environmentalists might wish.

"I would recycle more often if the city actually began a recycling program. There are private institutions that deal with recycling, but usually you have to go to them," said Troy Hoff, Div. 879. "On top of that, I've heard that it doesn't really matter if you put stuff in black or blue bags, they are all thrown into the same landfill. [It's] kinda stupid."

In 1995 the City of Chicago did implement a blue bag system to encourage recycling. Within the Blue Bag system people living in single-family homes and residential buildings with four or less units were asked to buy blue plastic bags to put recyclables in. The blue bags were then taken along with other garbage to sorting centers. At the centers workers were supposed to pull out the blue bags from the rest of the garbage. However, according to an article in the Chicago



Tribune, less recyclables were savaged in the two years leading up to 2005, than ever before in the systems history. The reason for this was that the city had secretly begun allowing some 30 percent of the residential waste to bypass the expensive sorting centers built to weed out recyclables. Tons of trash, including bottles, cans and newspapers that would have been recycled were shipped off to landfills.

Aside from the Blue Bags there are other smaller companies and organizations that will bring recycled goods in to the recycling centers. Lane has also tried to start recycling.

"Last year Green Space set up recycle bins in some of the classrooms and took the waste to a recycling center," said Grace Morrow, Div. 865.

The current president of Green Space, Matt Jordan, Div. 921, said recycling pick-up is done after school on the first and second floors on Monday, and the third and fourth floors on Friday every week. The pick-up is completed by a group of volunteers. Currently, only paper is recycled at Lane, but Jordan wants to expand the program to include plastics and aluminum cans.

However, even at Lane students don't seem to be taking advantage of the recycling program.

"Recycling boxes next to garbage cans in school is a baby step in helping the environment, but teachers aren't enforcing it and students just use it as a regular garbage can," said Francia.

Other times, the recycled paper is never collected.

"A lot of times, teachers leave the classrooms locked after school so we cannot get the box [of paper]," said Jordan.

With a lack of teacher and governmental enforcement, much of the work to protect the planet against pollution has to be done by individuals who want to help.

"We should always leave a place better than we came into it," said Jordan.

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Chicago turns off its lights for Mother Earth

By Anna Treesara

On Saturday, March 29, millions of people from all over the world participated in Earth Hour, an event created by World Wildlife Fund (WWF), to make a statement about climate change.



The Chicago Skyline, dimmer than usual, during Earth Hour 2008.

Earth Hour was started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia. Over two million people and thousands of businesses participated. Results showed that within that hour, power consumption dropped more than 10 percent.

Within one year, Earth Hour has grown from one city to nearly 200 cities all over the world. Of those 200 cities, over 100 of them are lo-

cated within North America.

At 8pm on Saturday, people turned off all their lights for approximately one hour. Nearly 300,000 people signed up to participate in Earth Hour.

"I don't do much to help stop environmental issues, but turning off the lights was helpful," said Alexa Garcia, Div. 917.

"I thought it was a great idea to raise awareness on global warming," said Stephanie Mora, Div. 921. "I also thought it would be really cool to see such a luminous city go in the dark for an hour."

"I thought it was a good idea to conserve some energy," said Erik Bose, Div. 903. "I really don't [conserve energy] at all."

"I thought it would be cool to participate in something that could change our world," said Kristine Tan, Div. 053.

Although many people participated, some felt Earth Hour did not impact much.

"I looked out my window and everyone still had their lights on," said Alexis Boin, Div. 906.

"I was on the lakefront to see the downtown buildings, but most of the city looked normal," said Mora.

"I was watching the news after Earth Hour and there was a picture of downtown. A lot of

the lights remained on," said Riham Ramadan, Div. 925. "I was kind of disappointed. I expected a bigger impact."

Besides on Facebook and YouTube, Earth Hour's information could be seen advertised all over Chicago. Students saw Earth Hour advertisements on bus stops, the Blue Line, CNN, and newspapers.

This event was not restricted to people in their houses. Within Chicago, other supporters included Navy Pier, Soldier Field, Four Seasons Hotel, Hancock Observatory, Lincoln Park Zoo, Museum of Science and Industry, Sears Tower, Shedd Aquarium, and United Airlines.

Universities such as DePaul, Loyola, Roosevelt, University of Chicago, and University of Illinois also participated along with several schools from CPS. These include Mather High School, Mother McAuley High School, Walter Payton College Prep, and Nettelhorst Elementary School.

Even parts of certain streets, such as 401 N. Michigan Ave. and 55 W. Monroe, turned off their lights.

To view a complete list of Chicago supporters, visit www.earthhour.org.

Global Warming: fact or farce?

By Alexander Conner & Zack Johnson

The polar ice caps are melting, crops are wilting, the tide is rising, and the world is one big powder keg ready to be incinerated by trapped sunrays. At least, this is the case regarding the worst case scenario of Global Warming.

Global Warming is one of the "hottest" environmental, political, and conversational topics of the new millennium. The science behind it seems simple yet solid; carbon emissions from cars, factories, and other sources along with other green house gases, such as methane, pollute the atmosphere. This causes the atmosphere to thicken, and when the sunrays pass through the ozone layer they become trapped in the atmosphere, unable to escape due to the thick green house gases. This causes the world's temperature to increase slowly, but dramatically, as many experts on global warming have said.

Global warming was a relatively unknown issue with the general populace until former Vice President Al Gore released his documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* in 2006, educating the public about the science of global warming. However, Gore's claims (along with those of many of the world's top scientists) are not perfect, and many people find the whole global warming issue hard to

swallow. The British Supreme Court has found eight inaccuracies within Gore's data and research.

"The Great Global Warming Swindle," a response to Gore's film by global warming nay sayers, completely debunks some of Gore's basic principles behind global warming. For example, according to Gore carbon dioxide causes the temperature to rise, but several scientists claim that the carbon dioxide does not influence the temperature. Instead the carbon dioxide levels lag behind the temperature, and it is the temperature that influences the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Mr. Lanfair's AP Biology class has discussed the topic of global warming at great length. They watched Gore's documentary, read about it from their text books, and have engaged in many other activities regarding the warming issue. The majority of Lanfair's students agree with the science behind Global Warming and Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*.

"This is a serious issue," said Mario Contreras, Div. 936. "This is the biggest issue and if the government helped cut back on CO2 emissions we could help stop global warming."

Maybe people genuinely care about the issue of global warming to the degree that they say, or perhaps they are merely being swept up in the propaganda and media influ-

ence. Contreras disagreed with this statement, but several of his classmates saw otherwise.

"Honestly, the media has influenced me a lot on the way I look at global warming," said Jose Orihuela, Div. 903. "It's a good way to get the word out and educate people about global warming."

"No one paid attention when the polar ice caps were melting before Al Gore made *An Inconvenient Truth*," said Khushbu Desai, Div. 881. "It's mostly the celebrities who jumped on Gore's bandwagon that have made people so crazy over global warming."

Even those who have not studied global warming to the degree of Lanfair's students agree with their claims.

"I think global warming is a serious issue even though I haven't studied it as much as students in AP Bio or Environmental Science," said Deborah Ramos, Div. 877. "I think the government should regulate carbon emissions, and I'm not saying that just because of the media and celebrity influence."

Some other people believe that global warming is influenced by both natural and man made causes.

"Global warming is caused by both natural things that we can not control and man made contributions like carbon dioxide that we can control through regulations," said earth/space teacher Mr. Bader.

"I believe it's a combination of

both. It has natural causes, but people are also contributing to it," said Spanish and German teacher Ms. Tracy.

It seems like just about everyone feels that global warming is a serious issue that needs government attention. However, there are a few skeptics of the issue that are just as vocal about their opinions as the environmentalists. Notable skeptics include Martin Durkin, the producer of the film *The Great Global Warming Swindle*. Durkin suggests in his film that one of the reasons global warming hasn't been completely debunked is because of the large amount of people employed in research involving global warming.

"The biggest cause of CO2 in the atmosphere is Al Gore's mouth," said Texas Governor Rick Perry.

Texas is also the country's largest producer of CO2.



Even after all is said and done, it seems not everyone can agree on one side of this controversial issue. It may seem like global warming advocates are winning, with the majority of the consensus agreeing with them as well as the large amount of celebrity and media support. Maybe the world will erupt in an inferno caused by trapped sun rays, or maybe this is just one of the many heating phases similar to the ones Earth has already been through in the past. Only more time and research will allow humanity to learn whether or not we are truly bringing about our own doom.

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Young love: Do high school sweethearts have a chance?

By Lucia Ramirez

Many young people are taught to pursue careers to secure financial security and then get married. Some, however, are taking the big step into marriage before they even finish college.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average age of marriage for women was 21 and 24 for men in 2001, but these numbers have varied throughout history. For example, in 1996, women's average marriage age was 25 and men's was 27. In 1946,

women were marrying at the age of 20, but 50 years before that the average age for a woman to marry was 22.

According to the book *Teenage Couples: Caring, Change, and Commitment*, more than 60 percent of young marriages fail within five years. The classification of "young"

marriage is applied to people who married before finishing college. If a girl waits until she is 25, the chances that her marriage will last increases four times.

However, for many young couples like Lane English teacher, Mrs. Vale-Suarez, and her husband the love bond was there since they were in high school.

"I started dating him when I was 16 and I somehow always knew I was going to marry him," said Vale-Suarez.

"I started dating him when I was 16 and I somehow always knew I was going to marry him," said Vale-Suarez, who married at the age 21.

Many young people, however, take the step into marriage after a pregnancy.

"I've been living with my boyfriend since I was pregnant, but we are going to get married after I finish high school," said Jacqueline Ocampo, Div 924. "Marrying will be a more serious commitment to stay together."

According to an article called "Let Them Marry," written by Frederica

Mathewes-Green, published at www.youngmarriage.com, by waiting longer to marry, people are actually training themselves for divorce. She writes that when adults continue falling in love, getting hurt, and getting over it, they get used to giving their hearts out and taking them back; learning every time to walk away from a promise and a commitment.

Ocampo agrees that commitment is important and can be successful at a young age.

"Now a days you see a lot of people breaking-up and hooking-up as if it was nothing," said Ocampo. "People forget the true meaning of being together."

Some parents believe that younger people are incapable of taking the responsibility of adulthood. This was not always the case. In the past marriage at a young age was normal.

For couples like Ainsley Miranda, Div. 861, and Anthony, her 22 year-old fiancé, marrying is not an obstacle to achieving their goals.

"My mom took it well. She told me that he is a good guy and he will take good care of me," said Miranda. "I told her that nothing is going to change my plans. I'm



going to finish college and get my degree."

Vale-Suarez's parents were not too happy at the beginning.

"I was engaged since I was 18, but didn't marry until I was 21. My parents were upset because they thought I was not going to go to college," said Vale-Suarez. "They love Oscar so they handled the situation after I explained my plans."

Many believe marrying at a young age leads to missing out on a part of their life like meeting different people and experiencing new things.

Miranda has had to put up with this sort of opinion since she was engaged last year.

"I have gotten a lot of 'you're too young' speeches, and 'there's a lot to experience' from a couple of teachers," said

Miranda. "But I have someone to experience all those things with now."

Vale-Suarez does not think that she missed out on much "fun" after she got married.

"My friends tell me all the time that I missed out on clubbing, drinking, and dating," said Vale-Suarez. "I don't miss any of that though. I'm not the kind of person that enjoys those things. I hang out with my husband all the time and we have fun together."

Vale-Suarez agrees that marrying at a younger age is not a choice for everyone.

"You have to do what's right for you. I think it's not so much the age but a matter of maturity," she said. "When my husband and I got married, we knew that it was not all going to be happiness and fun, we were going to have to work very hard."

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Mountain lion shot near Lane

Pictured here:

Chicago Police officers remove a mountain lion they shot in an alleyway on the 3400 block of N. Hoyne Ave. at 5:30pm on Monday, Apr. 14. This is just over half a mile



directly east of the Lane campus. Also known as a cougar or puma, the cat weighed in at 150 pounds. According to WBBM News, there are no established cougar populations east of the Mississippi River, but they are known to exist in Wisconsin, which is where most authorities have surmised the cougar came from probably in search of food or a mate. The cougar was shot just one block from Audubon Elementary School, one of Lane's emergency evacuation locations.

Teens getting back into finger painting

By Crystal Ramirez

Designer handbags, high heeled pumps, and new hair dos are all fashion accessory musts for a girl. There's a new trend, however, that's right on the tips of their fingers: long, colorful, artificial nails with outrageous designs.

"They make me feel sassy and like a brand new person, with all the colors and objects that I may put on them," said Cyntavia Thornton, Div. 862.

"I just really like to try and match the abnormal colors on my nails with my outfits," said Shakira Bates, Div. 862.

This fashion accessory is becoming more and more recognized everyday.

According to the website associatedcontent.com, the long fingernails trend first began in Ancient Asia to show that people were too high in social ranking to perform manual labor. Long fingernails became popular in America in the late 1970s and have remained prevalent since then, but have recently become a noticeably more popular trend.

"Your nails are the first thing a guy sees," said Michelle Matthews, Div. 874.

People might think that long nails would get in the way of daily tasks like: texting, using a writing utensil, and fulfilling job obligations, but many girls think the opposite.

Keila Scott, Div. 855, has no problem working with her long nails at Party City; tying balloons all day are no challenge for her. She has even managed to find a way around texting with her long nails.

"I just use the middle of my thumb to text instead of the tips of my fingers," said Scott.

Ashley Wardlow, Div. 876, works as a cashier at Walgreens and thinks that her job would be more difficult without her long nails to help her pick up the money. She has been wearing extremely long nails for about 3 years, so she has even adjusted to holding her pen differently.

"My pen goes up instead of to the side like everyone else's. I use the tips on my index and thumb fingers, while holding the pen down with the midsection of my middle finger," said Wardlow.

Although most girls interviewed seem to have found solutions to most problems that come with wearing long nails, some obstacles continue to prove difficult.

"You get used to typing on a computer, but buttoning my pants is a big [problem]," said Melissa Habibovic, Div. 850.

There are also some risks that come with wearing long artificial nails. Acrylic nails tend to trap more moisture than regular nails, causing fungi to grow underneath the real nail. Nail infections can result, and must be treated with medication. Additionally, when girls take off their acrylic nails without acetone, it rips off the top layer of their real nail too.

Junk Nails, also known as Fantasy Nails, is a popular type of artwork that is applied to the acrylic. Junk Nails consist of little blocks with sayings on them, anywhere from dimes to dollar bills, mini pictures, and really anything that can fit on nails, hence the name "junk."

Students, Ashley Wardlow and



Senior Ashley Wardlow, Div. 876, displays the ornate artwork on her finger nails.

Melissa Habibovic, do nails as a side job. Habibovic went to school for 8 months and received her nail license.

Wardlow uses her own nails to attract the attention of potential customers.

"I got to wear what brings the attention, therefore bringing the money," she said. "Future customers aren't going to ask who did those French tips, they're going to want to know where I

get the blocks on my nails from."

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but some girls believe others might perceive them differently if they didn't get their nails done.

"It's not cute for a girl to have ugly nails, and it's an accessory to make you look more presentable," said Matthews.

"[Having fake nails] definitely not just a black girl thing," said Agatha Obrecki, Div. 865. "I get them because its another way of

expressing myself and I think girls who have nails just look classier versus girls who don't."

"A lot of people have ugly nails," said Habibovic. "They bite them, and are self conscience about their hands so they get them done."

Whether young women wear long artificial nails as a show of status, or to simply stand out from the crowd, the long fingernail is an ongoing trend.

Fashion stereotypes define student identities

By Adrianna Gniot & Lorri Kaczmariski

Whether it is Apple Bottom Jeans, boots with the fur, or black leather and spiked chains, fashion has always been a big deal in high school. And stereotypes accompany every fashion.

"I have friends that wear different styles of clothing and it doesn't matter to me if they wear baggy pants, tight jeans, or ribbons in their hair," said Stefanie Rodriguez, Div. 865.

"I strongly believe that stereotypes are overrated," said Kayla Ryan, Div. 161. "The way you dress doesn't say who you are. It's the personality that counts."

"I am very versatile with my clothing style, but I don't feel I belong to any clique," said Carmen Navarro, Div. 868.

The brand of clothing a person wears and what race they are can

lead to their being judged differently by peers.

"People feed into the stereotypes of what certain races should wear," said Michelle Rodriguez, Div. 877.

"For instance, if you're black and you wear Abercrombie, then people call you white; and if you're white and you wear Ecko, then you're trying to be black."

Even though it should not matter what race somebody is and what brand of clothing they wear, opinions do form and it does affect students.

"I hate how some people may view me as a stuck-up and a spoiled brat just because I wear Abercrombie and I like to look good and wear nice clothes," said Maria Rzezniak, Div. 908. "My friends know that I am a good person and clothes don't mean anything."

"I don't see anything wrong with looking good in school. I work and for me to spend money on clothes is a pleasure," said Agatha Obrecki, Div. 865. "I think it is my business

how much I spend on clothing and what I wear. I like it, so I wear it."

"People should dress how they feel like dressing instead of following other people," said Nia Davis, Div. 020.

Students wear popular brand names all the time, but the name brands can get expensive. So how do the students pay for the high-end labels they wear?

"Daddy either has a good job, or people work for their clothes, which I think is stupid," said Ibrahim Zanganjor, Div. 857. "I don't think people should use their whole paycheck to buy clothes."

"Of course parents buy their children clothes, but some students actually work and have a job to pay for their things," said Shanita Polk, Div. 878.

Some students believe they should only wear things that are known to be expensive labels, in order to fit into a certain group.

"It may seem crazy, but even my

boxers and socks have to have a logo on them," said an anonymous freshman. "You never know who might see them."

With all the craze about having name brand shirts, shoes, or purses, some students just do not understand why people spend so much money on "things" they can get for a lot less money.

"To me it just seems crazy to be spending \$80 on a sweatshirt which looks almost the same as one that costs \$30," said Kim Tran, Div. 865. "The only thing that differs is that it says 'Bebe' on it."

"I really don't understand what is so special about certain brands of clothing," said an anonymous sophomore. "They are all made in Taiwan or China, so it is basically the same thing."

"I'd like to think other people don't judge me based on my steeze," said Kent Gully, Div. 857.

There is a lot of pressure in high school to have nice clothes and fit in.

Consequently, sometimes students may fake their 'brand names.'

"It pisses me off how there are so many girls with 'Chanel' purses and trying to pretend how they are so cool, when really it is fake and they only paid \$40 for it," said Inela Masic, Div. 910.

"One time I asked this girl where she got her Prada bag and she said it was fake and it only cost \$30," said Teresa Szymczak, Div. 862. "It looked so real that you wouldn't be able to tell the difference between a real and fake one."

Fashion has always been a big part of school, even for teachers.

"I think it is worse than when I was in school, because of the internet," said Mr. Marchan, P.E. teacher.

"When I was in high school fashion was a big deal and today I believe it remains," said Miss Shafer-Krzesicki. "But at Lane it is very diverse, which makes things more stylish and therefore more things are accepted."

I'm hot for teacher

Sexy teachers keep classrooms hot year-round.

By Delaney Savoie

Especially towards the end of the year, going to class can be a drag. However, some teachers' stunningly good looks keep students wanting more class time than ever.

"I remember last year when this one teacher was tutoring, guys would get all excited about it," said Lazaro Suarez, Div. 862. "They'd stay in, if it was a lunch period, just for her."

"Teachers' appearances definitely affect students' behavior," said Kristina Trajkovska, Div. 857. "When there's a cute teacher it makes people actually wanna go to class."

"There's this one fine teacher and students hit on her straight up," said Eduardo Sanchez, Div. 870. "They ask her if she has a boyfriend and pretend to be really interested in what she's saying."

Although, students may pay more attention to the hot teachers, a few students find their appearance a bit distracting.

"We just smile and admire and block out what [he] is saying because we are too distracted by his beauty," said Melissa Gonzalez, Div. 881.

"I guess going to my next period, knowing I have a stud teacher would just brighten up my day," said Aneta Jozefczyk, Div. 869. "But on the other hand, what if I have a bum day or have a really bad pimple and sit right in front of

him, you know?"

"Every girl gets giddy when one of my hot teachers is around," said Abigail Mercado, Div. 030. "In class everyone checks out his booty."

Not only are the students who have crushes on the teachers distracted, but others may find the interaction between students and teachers distracting in a different way.

"I've noticed that some kids will take teachers less seriously if they're attractive," said Suarez. "Sometimes its borderline disrespectful."

Some students admit that it is hard to keep a professional relationship between student and teachers when the teacher is attractive.

"I hit on one of my good-looking teachers because I thought she was a student," said former Lane student, Vince Millwood, class of 2007. "One time she told me to be quiet and she was like an inch from my face. I was so tempted to kiss her, but did not want to be arrested."

Some students think that sexy teachers are actually helpful to the learning atmosphere.

"I honestly would prefer to do well in a hot teacher's class, because I would like to make a good impression," said Jozefczyk. "Maybe even start an intellectual conversation and be recognized as an individual and not just a student."

Other students think that student crushes on teachers do not have an effect on the work that students

accomplish.

"A teacher's appearance does not distract students nor does it help students," said Ibrahim Zaganjor, Div. 871. "If a teacher's appearance helped students do better in school, then the school would hire all model teachers."

"I don't think it should matter," said Jozefczyk. "If you want to do well in class you will; and if you do poorly, don't blame it on the teacher's enticing smile."

Whether or not hot teachers are beneficial to the classroom depends on each individual student's actions, but some teens go out of their way to let their feelings be known.

"Once in a while, we'll have a teacher come down with an anonymous love letter from a student explaining their feelings for that teacher," said Dr. LoBosco. "And once one of the new coaches had an unusually large number of girls tryout."

"The most obvious flirting that goes on is usually in the halls," said Mr. Block, a 22 year old math student teacher. "They think I can't hear them but I do. They say stuff like 'oh my god, look at him, who is that handsome devil?'"

"Some students, especially girls, get a little 'giddy' around good looking teachers," said Zaganjor. "Some students think they will do better if they throw in a cute comment, but usually that does not work."

Although it's common for students to flirt with teachers, once in a while it appears the teachers



actually flirt back.

"When I flirt with one of my teachers, he kind of flirts back," said Trajkovska. "Once I dropped my paper and I asked if he could pick it up for me. He said 'oh, you just want to see me bend over, right?'"

"If we knew that was going on, the administration would get involved," said LoBosco. "There should not be any flirting back. We would take that very seriously."

"I've seen one teacher not only flirt back, but be the first to flirt," said Jozefczyk.

However, some people's definition of flirting may be very different.

"I do not think the teachers flirt back, but rather they are just being nice," said Zaganjor. "I mean if someone gives you a compliment, you're going to respond in a positive way."

"When students flirt with me, the first thing I do is ignore it," said Block. "If that does not work, I tell them that 'you plus me equals no

real solution.'"

"A lot of girls who don't even know who Mr. Block is, refer to him as Prince William," said Marta Bahriy, Div. 857."

"I feel like they're giving a lot of credit to Prince William," joked Block.

While a few students are drooling over hot teachers, others actually show signs of jealousy.

"The guys of course are all, 'Psh! He's not all that,' but they're just intimidated so it's understandable," said Jozefczyk.

Regardless of their looks and sex appeal, these sexy teachers still try their best to look beyond their students' feelings and just do their job.

"I don't know if he's distracting to other students," said Ann Phan, Div. 912. "But I think he's a great help and he's always open to lending a hand to all of us."

Hovering parents can hurt, help kids

By Lorri Kaczmariski

It is common for parents to be overprotective. Most children wish their parents would be more lenient and trusting.

Sometimes parents may just want their children safe at home, but there could also be a trust issue.

"They used to be very overprotective," said Michelle Rodriguez, Div. 877. "But they have toned it down a bit."

When Maria Rzeznik, Div. 908, got to high school, she started acting older than she was and disobeyed her parents. Consequently, she was punished severely. She reformed her behavior and started obeying her parents. Though she says she has regained their trust, they sometimes still check in on her.

"My dad always gives me my privacy," said Rzeznik. "My mom on the other hand has been known to go through my stuff, but it's not an ongoing thing."

Rodriguez said her parents give her privacy but ask a lot of questions so they know what is going on.

According to Yahoo! Answers, parents do not necessarily give rules to be unfair, but to provide structure and boundaries. On the other hand, too many rules and overlyprotective parents can lead children to depression, anxiety, anger, the struggle to be independent when away from home, and rebelliousness (drug problems, experimenting with sex, running away, or other reckless behaviors).

Curfew is a big issue with teenagers. They want to hang out

with their friends outside of school, often late into the night.

Jimmy Orellana, Div. 167, says his curfew is midnight and his parents usually let him do anything he wants, unless it is dangerous.

"I can usually go out whenever I want," said Rodriguez. "But they need to know the basics, and I usually have to call when I sleep over at someone's house."

For other students, however, getting a later curfew is not that easy.

"I'm 18 years old and my curfew is 9:00!" said an anonymous senior, Div. 868, who is embarrassed of her curfew. "I'm not even able to go to all of the events at school because I won't make it home in time."

Dr. LoBosco, however, believes after school events are held at reasonable hours and encourages

students to attend them because she believes they enrich the high school experience.

Even if parents are lenient, children will always think there is something about their parent's rules that is unfair.

"I can't go out on weekdays, which I hate," said Allison Hobaugh, Div. 181.

"I can't go out past nine," said Yesenia Ortiz, Div. 041.

Although the curfew and rules that parents set for their children can get annoying and seem unfair, studies show being honest, listening, and talking about points of disagreement are ways to deal



with these problems so kids can keep good relationships with their parents.

"My parents aren't crazy overprotective, but they like to know the basics...who, what, when, where," said a junior who wished to remain anonymous. "Sometimes it can get really annoying but I know they're just trying to make sure I'm safe and are looking out for me."

Mind your Myspace manners

Posting racy pictures online can get students in trouble at school.

By Dulce Arroyo

After a long day at school, many students look forward to going home and logging in to their MySpace or Facebook accounts.

They comment on their friends' walls, post bulletins, and upload pictures they recently took.

But uploading pictures that are offensive, sexual, or show illegal activity can get students into trouble.

Both Facebook and MySpace have terms that must be complied with by users. When signing up, users agree not to post content that is "obscene, pornographic, derogatory, violent," etc.

Although both sites let users report pictures that contain such traits, some users still upload what they want.

On Facebook, pictures are often posted showing underage drinking and smoking. Students are usually "tagged" in these pictures, meaning their names are shown.

Kara Goss, Div. 912, admitted that although she participates in such activities, she does not show it publicly on the internet.

"I drink at parties; I just

don't want to get tagged in Facebook pictures," said Goss.

According to Goss, if a teen wants to drink alcohol, they will eventually find a way to do so.

"My mom knows I drink, but it's not like she can stop me," said Goss. "If you really want to do something [but your parents don't let you], you'll do it anyway."

Other students believe that uploading pictures of parties with alcohol is pointless.

"It's stupid. [Students who post pictures of themselves drinking] are trying to show they're cool, but they're really not," said Grzegorz Gaczol, Div. 933.

Students that are found with pictures like these could ultimately be punished by either team coaches or the school. Athletes, in particular, can be those who risk the most by posting such photos on the internet.

A junior who wished to be called Aci said that during his freshman year, he was almost kicked off the basketball team for party pictures on MySpace.

"People were drinking and smoking weed," said Aci. "We took pictures of us joking around, but I didn't know they would be on MySpace. A couple days later, someone posted the pics

really big through a comment [on my page] showing me and my friend holding a 40 ounce."

Dr. LoBosco believes parents should monitor what their children do online. If by chance the school discovers such pictures, measures will be taken.

"If you're underage and [posting illegal photos] on a site like [MySpace], we will call your parents and ask if they're aware of what you're doing," said LoBosco.

"One part of staying healthy is staying away from drinking or taking drugs," said Paul Rummelhoff, coach of Varsity Girls and Boys Swim and Water Polo Teams. "If I find out someone on [any of my teams] does these things, they will be kicked out."

However, some students believe that what they do outside of school should be none of the school's business.

"I don't think [the school] should get involved because unless it happens on school grounds or unless [students] are caught by the police for being underage, then it's like intruding into their personal lives," said Eric Lopez, Div. 907.

Concerning the choices made by students, both LoBosco and

Rummelhoff agree that their behavior reflects on Lane itself.

"This is the school of champions," said Rummelhoff. "How many champions do you know that sit around and smoke and drink all day?"

Besides pictures of underage drinking, some girls post pictures of themselves in skimpy clothes and provocative poses.

"Girls like reassurance [about their bodies]," said Veronica Cruz, Div. 913. "But some pictures are just nasty. It's like, what are you trying to be, a Playboy bunny?"

"People are just looking for attention [when they post pictures like that]," said Maralynn Lopez, Div. 870. "They know others are going to look, talk, comment, and tell their friends."

Goss disagrees, and said she posts pictures on her Facebook considered slutty by others.

"It's my Facebook. I'll do what I want on it," said Goss. "I don't care what people think."

However, pictures that expose too much skin can send a negative message to viewers, specifically teenage boys.

"Slutty pictures give girls a bad reputation," said Anthony Torres, Div. 158. "I'll be courteous to

them, but I don't respect them."

Flory Ann Evia, Div. 028, said that pictures are too indecent if a guy wants to "lick" the computer. But she felt like a hypocrite when a few scandalous photos of her were uploaded by a friend.

"We were goofing around one day, like 'modeling' and I didn't think my friend would post the pictures," Evia said. "But she did. They were something I wouldn't want my parents to see."

Jasmin Velasquez, Div. 919, said that her mother made her delete her previous MySpace page when she saw pictures that she posted.

"She [saw] pictures that weren't bad, but she just didn't approve," said Velasquez. "They were goofy pictures [of me] and pictures from parties; she said it wasn't lady-like."

Velasquez said that she had gone through three MySpace pages due to problems with her ex-boyfriend as well.

Although both MySpace and Facebook have privacy options, students must not solely rely on them. Photos can be leaked to the wrong people, and in some cases, the police.

Students share money-saving prom secrets

By Yasmine Ramirez

Prom: a season of romance, celebration, and a step closer to graduation. Unfortunately, preparing for the big night is not all peaches and cream. Luckily, some Lane students have shared their thoughts and ideas on how to make it an inexpensive yet memorable event.

One way to save money is by looking online for outfits. Websites like Craigslist.org and eBay.com have tuxedos and prom dresses for sale that are new or have only been used once. On the sites the prices range from \$10 to \$500. One post reads, "I will sell 2 dresses (party/prom) for only 20 dollars." There are even dresses on the website from the popular vendor, Peaches, located on the south side.

Many seniors started shopping as early as January to find the newest and least expensive ensemble.

"Order your tux earlier for early bird specials," said Josh Maness, Div. 877. "Another way is to model for tuxedo companies and you get them for free."

Others girls have found their dresses in local department stores. Jordan Holod, Div. 924,

says she purchased her dress at JCPenney for \$50 and will use accessories that she already has.

"From buying [accessories] for Homecoming, Winter Ball, and other dances I gathered enough to use for prom," said Holod.

Expenses like accessories, hair, make-up, and nails might not seem like a lot but it adds up. This is why some students say they will piece together their ensembles at home, instead of getting it done professionally.

"Start practicing on your hair and do it yourself," said Samantha Montes, Div. 904. "Try doing your make up and experiment ahead of time."

There are also students at Lane who do hair and nails if you just look around. Melissa Habibovic, Div. 850, is a certified nail technician and is taking appointments before prom if scheduled well in advance.

As for make-up, a cheap but smart way to get it done is to go to cosmetic stores such as Ulta, Sephora, Carson Pirie Scott, and "sample" their make-up the day of prom.

"Have them do your make-up and buy a \$10 lipgloss in return," says Luz Lopez, Div. 868.

However, cosmetic stores like

MAC might charge. Ask ahead if it is a sample and if they will charge you.

Even with these money-saving prom secrets, some girls still struggle with paying for prom.

Another alternative is to look into the Chicago based organization, The Glass Slipper Project, which provides outfits for girls who are unable to buy their own prom attire. This is made possible by people who donate new or fairly new dresses, shoes, and accessories to the organization. The only requirements are that students be a junior or senior in high school, show proof that they are currently enrolled in a high school, and honesty about their financial situation.

According to TheGlassSlipperProject.com, to date the project "has helped more than 10,000 young women attend their proms in style."

Another expense students are worried about is transportation to and from prom. The most inexpensive form of transportation for any case in the city of Chicago is the blue limo (a.k.a. the CTA). Some students, however, would rather not take the bus, so have come up with ideas like sharing a

limo or party bus, renting a nice car, or car pooling with friends.

"If you're planning on getting a limo, go in a big group and split the cost," said Maness.

However students try to save money on prom, they should

remember to focus more on enjoying themselves and making memories.

"Like anybody, I hope to have fun," says Michelle Agtarap, Div. 881. "It's your last party of the year, make the best of it!"

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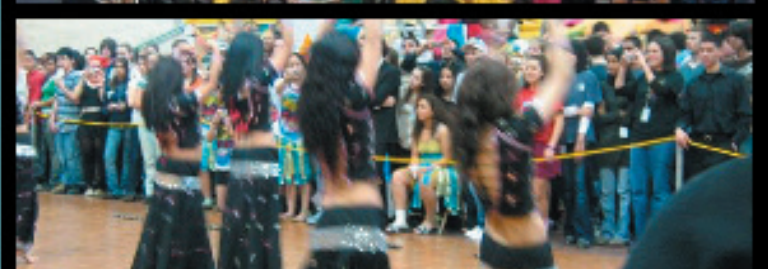
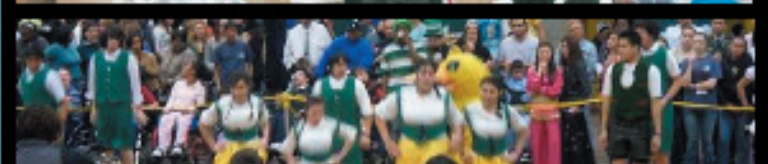
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Kosovo independence causing ethnic tensions

By Anna Barrientos

After almost 17 years of tension, Kosovo declared independence from Serbia on February 17, 2008.

Kosovo is a province located in Serbia between Albania and Macedonia in south-west Europe.

Serbians and Albanians are two completely different ethnic groups, with different languages and religions, and have been fighting for control over Kosovo for many years.

The Albanians believe they have a historical claim on Kosovo since they are direct descendents of the Illyrians, the first people to settle in that region. The majority of the people living in Kosovo today are Albanian, most of whom are Muslim.

For the Serbians, Kosovo also has historical significance. Some of the holiest sites for the Serbs like ancient churches and battlefields are located in Kosovo. Most Serbians are Eastern Orthodox Christian.

"Kosovo is also the most important part of Serbian culture and history," said a Serbian Lane student who wished to remain anonymous. "It is a symbol of Serbian statehood and Serbian Orthodox Church, both which stem from Kosovo. It would be like taking Jerusalem away from the Jews and Mecca from the Muslims."

Elmedin Fejzulai, Div. 931, Albanian stu-

dent from Macedonia, visited Kosovo last summer.

"I didn't see any Serbians. They stayed in their own villages," said Fejzulai, explaining that the Serbs and Albanians not only separate themselves ideologically, but also geographically.

The reaction to Kosovo's independence from Albanians and Serbs shows more differences between them.

The Albanians expressed happiness towards Kosovo's independence. There were parades to celebrate Kosovo's independence in the US and in Albania.

"Kosovo is over 90% Albanian. I don't think the Serbs have any business to have a ruling over that land [Kosovo] or its people," said Albanian student Melinda Capric, Div. 850. "That country has been through a lot and its independence is something it deserves."

"It has made me believe more than ever that there is still justice in the world," added Albanian student Tesi Hormouva, Div. 924.

The Serbs maintain that an Albanian-controlled independent Kosovo is unjust because it has such significance to them.

"Well, I'm angry about it and, being a Serb, feel degraded. My family feels the same way," said the same anonymous Serbian student.

Kosovo's independence has caused the conflict between the Serbs and Albanians to intensify, but it has also affected other countries.



"The significance of Kosovo's independence is that it gives a green light to other autonomous republics, like Chechnya in Russia and Tibet in China, also seeking independence," said history student-teacher and Northwestern graduate student, Mr. Hurst.

Kosovo's independence is still not fully rec-

ognized by all countries. Some of the major countries to recognize their independence are the US, Britain, Germany, and France. Russia, Spain, and Serbia are some countries that still have not recognized Kosovo's independence.

Although Kosovo has declared its independence, it has a long way to go to become a well-stabilized country. There have been riots in protest to their independence, including the setting on fire of the US Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia.

The tension between the Albanians and the Serbians has now reached a high with the independence of

Kosovo. There have been no reported arguments between Lane students of Albanian and Serbian descent, as the sides apparently tend to avoid each other or not to discuss the issue.

U.S.-Cuban relations could shift after half century of hostility

By Zack Johnson

Tense relations between the United States and Cuba could begin to ease sooner than expected.

Raul Castro was elected President of the Cuban Council of State on Feb. 24, and is the first Cuban leader to take power following his brother Fidel Castro's 49 year long leadership. Raul has technically held the position since July 31, 2006, when his brother temporarily handed over his duties to him while he took time to undergo and recover from intestinal surgery.

While Fidel Castro's name has long been easily recognizable worldwide, Raul was virtually unknown among the general public until recently. In the past, Raul has helped his brother organize everything from the Cuban revolution itself to setting up the economy afterwards. Raul has even earned himself the nickname "The Prussian," for his seemingly heartless but efficient style of enforcing his brother's reforms over the years as well as ordering the executions of hundreds of Fulgencio Batista loyalists after the revolution.

However, the last two decades have seen a much lighter side of "The Prussian." Following the fall of the USSR in 1991, Cuba was in a state of severe economic depression. To the disdain of his brother Fidel, Raul allowed producers (mostly agricultural) from Cuba to sell their goods on a private market as well as to other countries. Many economists and analysts believe that these actions helped the Castro regime to avoid completely failing the

Cuban population during the 90's.

Fidel, having never cared for the idea in the first place, proceeded to tighten up government restrictions when the economic crisis had begun to recede. When Raul took power, many members of the National Assembly of People's Power (NAPP), the legislative branch of Cuban government, began to wonder what Raul had in mind. Fidel loyalists (sometimes referred to by the nickname "Fidelistas") have already begun to put pressure on Raul having any new ideas about introducing Cuba to an open market, while some other NAPP members believe that change may be necessary, claiming that the communist state can no longer provide enough support for its

people alone.

One of the bigger questions that has yet to be answered regards the state of the United States embargo on Cuba, which has been in effect for the past 46 years. Before the Cuban revolution, the United States had an economic stronghold on Cuba, controlling the vast majority of the island's imports and exports. Cuba was able to cope with the loss of United States assets by embracing their communist allies, the Soviet Union.

"In the short run, it [new leadership] probably won't change anything between them [Cuba and the US]," said Economics teacher Mr. Svarnias. "In the long run, there could be trade between them if Cuba starts to move

more towards a market economy."

In a speech Raul gave shortly after being elected, he recognized what he called an "excessive number of economic prohibitions" in Cuba, sparking debates in the NAPP between Fidel loyalists and some who may have tried to underhandedly point out some shortcomings of the Fidel regime. Many analysts believe that he will lessen some restrictions on private lives, such as allowing people to run their own restaurants, newstands, or small stores.

It is also becoming increasingly common to hear what may possibly become the new Cuba being compared to China, with strict private control over an economy that is slowly leaning towards an open market. Wherever people stand on the issue, it seems that the majority can agree on the fact that if it expects to thrive in a more market-oriented economy, Cuba will have to resume at least some trade and interaction with the US.

"I think the new leadership could open up for some possibilities of a new relationship between the two countries," said Joshua Amaya, Div. 928, who is of Cuban descent.

Although his brother constantly preached his dislike of Americans to the people of Cuba, Raul may see many benefits in the idea of having a less hostile relationship with the US.

After nearly 50 years of hostility, including the Bay of Pigs invasion, the trade embargo, and the Cuban Missile Crisis, the U.S. may not necessarily be ready to welcome Raul and the Cuban government with open arms. However, despite previous conflict, this new Cuban leadership could prove to be a step in a new direction in U.S.-Cuba relations.



Winter doldrums leave students feeling S.A.D.

By Thomas Hayes

The coming of winter months brings shorter days, and this reduction of sunlight can have negative effects on the mental health of some Lane students and staff.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a mental ailment that affects six percent of Americans clinically, while 10 to 20 percent of Americans suffer from a more mild form of the disorder, according to psychtreatment.com. According to AP Psychology teacher Mr. Parsons, people with SAD undergo feelings of depression, lethargy, fatigue, and difficulty in concentrating.

"Students at this time of year are tired, bored, and out of it," said Parsons. "The third quarter is especially tough."

Lane students and staff notice a change in behavior in their family and peers during the winter months, but it is usually not one serious enough to warrant psychiatric intervention.

"My dad is really strange in the winter," said Rebecca Mayton, Div. 852. "He writes songs, and during the summer his songs are more cheerful. He just wrote an insanely depressing song the other day; it was beyond typical bluegrass sadness. After it gets wet and gloomy out he can't handle the severe lack of sunlight."

"My mom suffers from it," added Parsons.

"She hates these gray gloomy days and I do too. It bugs me."

"During the winter, my teacher went insane," said Monika Mikolowska, Div. 933. "He yelled at us constantly if we didn't understand something, and he even threw an eraser at a kid. Once spring came he was calm again and even smiled."

A common complaint held by students is not of the actual lack of sunlight that comes with the winter months, but instead how little time there is in a day.

"I feel a bit pressured to get things done," said Joe Loscuito, Div. 854. "The days are short and it's like: 'It's dark out already? Wow, I better get home and do my homework!'"

"It feels like there is less time in the day, and because of this, I want to do less," said Nicole Abreu, Div. 874. "I have to hurry up because the day will end sooner and it ends up being a big rush."

The acronym SAD is often used to casually denote a case of "winter blues," but it is a clinical disorder that often requires psychiatric treatment. The underlying cause of SAD is unknown, but its occurrence has been linked to a number of factors, according to mayoclinic.com. One possible cause of the disorder is the depression associated with the disruption of the body's internal clock, known as the circadian rhythm. The circadian rhythm tells the body when sleep-

ing and waking are appropriate, and the shorter winter days may disrupt this process and cause depression.

Opposing research pins the physiological cause of the disorder on different chemicals in the body. Reduced sunlight results in a drop in brain's amount of the neurotransmitter serotonin, a deficiency of which has been shown to cause depression.

An abundance of the hormone melatonin in the bloodstream is also linked to the type of depression associated with SAD. Melatonin levels are related to how much sleep the body gets, and the comparatively longer nights of winter can increase the amount of this chemical in the body. The biological conditions of this clinical disorder are often indistinguishable from behavioral sadness, and the line between "feeling down" and having a serious mental illness can sometimes be unclear. Even so, not everyone is so sympathetic.

"I think people need to get over it," said Mikolowska. "If they need more sunlight, [they should] go for a walk, and not take it out on people."

"Seasons change," said Abreu. "You live in the cold. What do you expect?"

"People need to lighten up and release some stress!" said Loscuito.

According to mayoclinic.com, treatment for SAD should be sought when an individual is unable to function in his or her daily life,

because of an inability to concentrate. Common clinical treatments for serious cases of this disorder include prescribed exposure to special lights which imitate natural sunlight, prescription medication, and therapy. When treatments such as these are unavailable, there are several measures students can use to cope with this form of seasonal depression. Allowing more sunlight into one's home and life by opening blinds and windows can make a significantly positive difference. Outdoor activity like walking or exercising simultaneously provides exposure to sunlight, relieves stress and anxiety, and raises self esteem by providing physical fitness, all factors which relieve the symptoms of the disorder. If the gloomy condition is not relieved after these measures are taken, a vacation to a warm location would be the most logical solution.

Although a portion of students do feel depressed this time of the year, the feeling is not shared by everyone. Some students are not put off by the gray winter months, but instead prefer this type of atmosphere.

"I think my mood is the same as it's always been," said Mikolowska. "I love the lack of sunlight."

"I, for one, enjoy the cold," said Paul Szeliski, Div. 882. "The absence of sunlight doesn't really bother me."

Students fight depression with Love

By Anna Treesara

Many often overlook how common teenage depression really is, when in fact, it is estimated that 20 percent of teenagers will suffer from it sometime before they reach adulthood.

On Feb. 13 and 14, Lane students participated in Love is the Movement. Students wrote the word "LOVE" on their arms to show support for current victims of depression. Those who had "LOVE" already written on their arms were then supposed to write "LOVE" on other students' arms.

The movement sprouted out of an organization known as To Write Love On Her Arms (TWLOHA). This organization's objective is to help teens who have been or currently are victims of depression. TWLOHA holds fund-raisers, collects donations, sells merchandise (shirts, totes, sweaters, etc.), and even uses celebrities to call attention to the issue of teenage depression.

On recent episodes of One Tree Hill, actress Sophia Bush who plays Brooke Davis, wore a TWLOHA sweater. Bands and artists such as Paramore, Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Gym Class Heroes, and Evanescence, have performed while wearing TWLOHA shirts.

Some students felt the days the movement took place were suitable.

"[The movement] was meant to spread love and Valentine's Day is all about love," said Enanna Sheena, Div. 925. "Everyone needs [love] and a lot of people go unnoticed on this day."

Many students thought the movement helped past and current victims of teenage depression.

"[Depressed] teens are in a stage where support can be a big help," said Brian Chansy, Div. 932.

"Not everyone sees that it may be harder for teenagers than adults to overcome depression," said an anonymous freshman.

"I felt strongly about the movement," said John Nguyen, Div. 155. "People need to talk about their problems. The movement most likely helped people do that."

"[Students] probably felt good about their problems being noticed," said Sheena. "And I'm sure it had to make their day at least a little better."

Some students who participated had a slightly different reaction.

"I felt it had no impact on too many other people," said Reymond Mallari, Div. 932. "However, it had a personal impact, reminding me how precious life really is."

Other students who did not participate due to lack of information, plan to do so next time there is a chance.

"I would participate because I was once a depressed teen who was desperately looking for someone to care for me," said Chansy.

"No one realizes that their friends might be depressed," said Usah Sontep, Div. 042. "The movement can help people become more aware of the situation."

"Flyers would be the best way [to spread information]," said Sheena. "Something eye-catching that gets such a nice gesture across will definitely get more people to do it."



A Lane student wearing a "Love is the Movement" t-shirt.

College is not only option after high school

By Jessica Smith

Around this time of year, students are applying for colleges and receiving acceptance letters. Many are faced with the decision of figuring out what they want to do with the rest of their lives in their senior year; not because they want to, but because the colleges demand it of them.

But how can someone be expected to decide what they do with the rest of their life when they are only 17 or 18 years old?

For many people, deciding what to do is so difficult that they end up changing their major at least once in college.

Fact: 70% of college students change their major at some point during college.

For some, this indecisiveness can lead to feelings of insecurity or unpreparedness. They wonder what they want to do with the rest of their lives.

These feelings of confusion can even leave people feeling reluctant to send in applications, just in case they change their minds.

For some, this is the issue of the costs. They do not want to spend all that money for nothing because college is costly.

And finally, for many, if not all students, the biggest issue they face is being burnt out. Because of the constant expectations, homework overload, extra-curricular, classes, and tests, students find that they have barely any energy left and are just looking for a break.

So for those who are undecided, under-funded, or just simply exhausted, look no further! Welcome to the college alternative.

Gap Year Programs

Gap years, or interim years, are just one of the many options available for those who just aren't feeling up to college.

Some believe that students should take a gap year between college and high school to figure out what they truly wish to do as a career, and to further their education in a more laid back environment.

"Everyone needs time for personal reflection," said Marianne Rubin, International Studies Director of CIEE International Work

& Study Programs. "Students who take a gap year can take a deep breath and reflect on their values and aspirations, and start college with a better focus."

Many choose to embark on their own and create their own itinerary for the year.

Some choose to study a foreign language at a language center in a foreign country.

However, for those who would prefer a pre-planned itinerary, there are gap year programs.

There are many programs available that are designed specifically for high school graduates. Many of the programs involve community service, studying of a foreign language, and staying with a host family.

Most of the programs are centered on building confidence and maturity, expanding one's world view, and laid back learning.

CIEE

<http://www.ciee.org/hsabroad/gap/index.html>

The Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE) Gap Year Programs are focused on high school graduates who have been accepted to college, but are looking

ing to take a break.

The programs all involve English teaching internships or community service, trips and excursions to important historical and cultural sites, and staying with a host family.

With programs in places such as Tokyo, Japan; Rennes, France; and Valparaiso, Chile; students can find a wide variety of options from which to choose.

The CIEE website includes information that answers many questions students might have. Each country has information about the activities and excursions, host families, language classes, community service, and the program dates and prices.

City Year

<http://www.cityyear.org/>

Centered on improving the community, this gap program is perfect for someone who wishes to do public service work.

The program includes tutoring or mentoring school children, reclaiming public spaces, organizing after-school programs like school camps and vacations.

This program also has many benefits, including weekly pay for living expenses, such as health insurance, and a free cell phone.

Volunteer Programs

Green Volunteers

<http://greenvolunteers.com/>

Green Volunteers is an online information network that provides information about projects focused on world wildlife and conservation. With many programs around the world at little or no cost, this is the perfect website for anyone interested in the environment.

World Volunteers

<http://www.worldvolunteers.org/worldeng.html>

World Volunteers is an online information network that provides information about projects focused on helping third world countries around the world. For those interested in humanitarianism, this is the place to look.

Archaeo-Volunteers

<http://greenvolunteers.com/arkeol/archaeoeng.html>

Archaeo-Volunteers is an online information network that provides information about projects focused on archaeology and preservation of world heritage. For those with an interest in excavation and archeology, this website provides information on the many different options available.

Military

www.military.com

Despite the current state of war, the military has been considered a great option for those lacking in college funds since the 1940s.

With various branches (Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, Marine Corps, reserve/guard), there are many possibilities for those interested.

The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) has opened up many benefits for servicemen and women. With benefits such as life insurance and health care (including dental and pharmaceutical), there are many advantages.

In addition to this, servicemen and women can receive more than \$37,000 to help pay for college.



According to the military website, in addition to helping fund your studies at traditional colleges the GI Bill can be used to pay for independent study programs, continuing education units, licensing certification, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training (OJT) programs.

Internship Programs

Wouldn't it be great if you could find out whether your career aspirations are right for you before spending all that money for college?

Solution: Internships

Though most internships are for college graduates, there are some available for high school graduates. Many even offer services to help you find an internship that is right for you. Some internships even offer college credit.

In addition to this, many universities look highly upon individuals who participate in internships prior to college.

Dynamy

<http://www.dynamy.org>

Dynamy offers both academic year and semester programs in which students participate in various activities such as internships, community involvement, educational seminars and apartment living.

With the goal of allowing students to explore different strengths and interests outside the classroom, Dynamy is the perfect opportunity for high school graduates to get real world experience outside the classroom, while still learning skills that could benefit their careers in the future.

The Workforce

At college prep schools like Lane, students are encouraged to make college their destination after high school.

But what if college isn't the right

choice?

For some, the expectations are just too much to handle.

"Is the stress worth the college degree?" asked Mr. Hayden.

For others, the idea of college just isn't appealing.

"Some kids do [go to college]," said Mr. Racic. "That's probably a good thing, but not everyone should go to college. You need to find what's right for you."

There are many different options for those who do not wish to go to college. However, it is very difficult to find a job that doesn't involve some type of further education.

For many jobs, especially in big companies, it is required to attend special schools or attend classes in order to gain necessary skills.

"They hide [that fact]," said Mr. Hayden.

But most companies requiring further education do pay for the classes.

Other options for those not wishing to go to college include trade schools such as beauty school, culinary school, and automotive trades.

For more information on college alternatives, here is a list of some literature that can be found at your local Chicago Public Library:

-*The Teenagers' Guide to School Outside the Box* by Rebecca Greene

-*But What if I Don't Want to Go to College?: A Guide to Success Through Alternative Education* by Harlow G. Unger

-*The Uncollege Alternative: Your Guide to Incredible Careers an Amazing Adventure Outside College* by Danielle Wood

-*Choices for the High School Graduate: A Survival Guide for the Information Age* by Byrna J. Fireside

It's never too early to start saving money

Students should explore the many ways to invest in their futures.

By Daniel Castro

"Wealth is no longer just about money. It is about freedom," says renowned financial planner Lesley Scorgie, author of the book *Rich by Thirty*. While the rate at which Americans are saving today has hit an all-time low since the Great Depression, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, it does not have to personally affect you.

Whether it is saving for college, a car, or a long-term goal, financial experts agree that starting early is crucial.

However, a typical high school student who might not have enough spare cash to throw around might ask, "Where do I begin?"

Savings Accounts

One obvious way is to cut back on daily habits, such as your \$3 cup of coffee or Jewel chicken. Brew your own coffee or eat in the lunchroom (as much as you might hate it) and you might end up saving close to \$500 in just one year.

Now, take that \$500 and open up a savings account. Whether with your parents as co-owners or by yourself (in most cases you have to be 18 years old), consistent deposits will undoubtedly add up. In most cases, it is that simple.

Many banks offer accounts geared toward high school students which include no hidden fees. Of course, certain requirements must be met. In many cases, online banks such as E*trade, offer higher yielding inter-

est accounts than traditional banks since doing business online is cheaper.

Checking Accounts and Managing a Budget

Another way to manage your budget is to open up a checking account that automatically sends deposits to a savings account.

Bank of America has a Keep the Change® checking account which will round up your purchases to the nearest dollar amount and transfer the difference from your checking account to your savings account. Likewise, some people can set up monthly automatic transfers from their checking accounts to their savings accounts. Transferring just \$25 monthly would add up to \$300 in one year.

Banks such as Chase and LaSalle Bank have specific accounts aimed at students still in high school. These accounts allow the users to use their debit card to make online purchases, pay bills from their account, see how they are spending their money, and transfer money easily and quickly between accounts. Chase's program is a full-service account available to high school students between the ages of 15-17 years of age.

"Many students will discover the importance of managing their money when they open their first checking account [because they will see how it is spent]," says Chase.com. "It is designed to help students in high school learn the value of financial responsibility."

But then again, it is essentially your parents' account with your name on it since they have to co-sign when you open it; they have the power to make withdrawals as well as deposits.

Building Credit Responsibly

While many advise people against using credit cards, they do come in handy when trying to establish a credit history. Though you will probably not need to take out a big loan while in high school or in college, having a good credit score will allow you to pay lower interest on it when you do. The key to successfully using one is living within your means, obtaining a low-interest card, and paying off the balance in full each month to avoid the interest fees.

At 18, students start receiving credit card offers in the mail, and many fall prey because they do not read about the hidden fees associated with the card. However, if you are 18 and are going to college, many banks offer cards focused on college students which include special perks such as discounts on movies or books, and a lower interest rate.

Beyond the Basics: Looking Long-Term

Thinking well beyond the near future can be particularly rewarding. Consider looking into other programs which many people do not really think about until they are in their late twenties or thirties.

One such retirement investment is an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

Try going to the bank to open one of these today; you can expect a look of surprise from the bank employees because they won't expect to see someone so young already trying to invest in their retirement.

Basically, there are two types of IRAs young people should look into: Traditional

and Roth.

In a traditional IRA, one can put money in, deduct it from this year's taxes, and then pay taxes on it when they withdraw it (if you withdraw the money for eligible expenses such as higher education, a first home purchase and qualifying medical or a disability, no IRS tax penalties for withdrawing early would apply).

A Roth IRA is not tax-deductable, meaning that you will have to pay taxes on it, but the money that you withdraw is tax-free (if you're old enough that the government says 'ok, you can retire now' which is 59 1/2).

If students are able to get through college on loans, grants, and financial help from parents, they will be able to defer those loan payments for as long as five to ten years after graduation. This might allow for potential long term investing and the possibility to make your money grow without really doing anything since investments compound exponentially, meaning the invested money builds on itself.

Whether you think the economy is doing great or not, you personally do not have to suffer.

Boring? Yeah. But when you are the one riding the sports car down the street rather than stressing out trying to figure out a way to make ends meet, you will be glad you started planning early... like right now.

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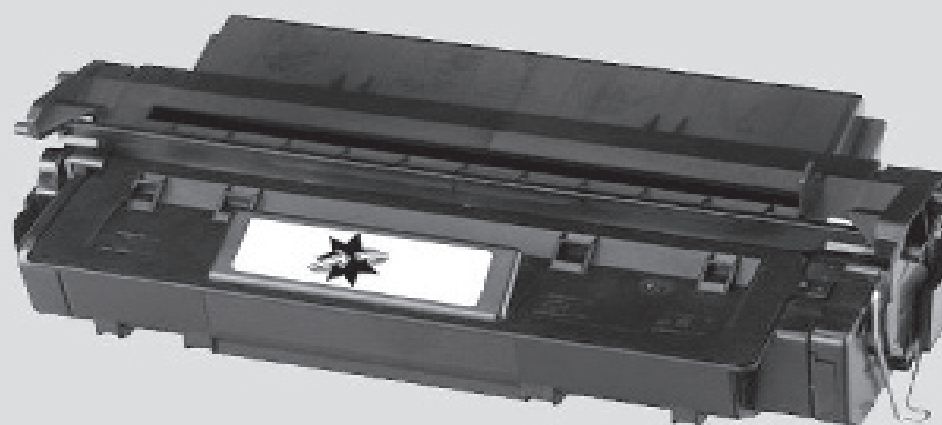
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Night watchmen patrol halls of Lane

By Jesse Sandoval

Next to the Food Services office in the lunchroom there is a hall that leads to an interesting office. The office of the night watchmen and the engineers.

Recently, talk of the watchmen has arisen after Lane students were caught in the building late at night.

"Kids just fooling around," said one of the engineers. "The garage was open. I guess someone forgot to put the lock on."

The watchmen try not to involve themselves if someone does break into the building. Lane is only two blocks away from the 19th district police station, from which officers can get to Lane in about a

minute and a half. If they do hear or see someone, the watchmen are advised to stay out of danger, call the police, and let them handle it.

"When the police bring their dogs in, you don't wanna mess with them," said a watchman.

Many students have heard little about the night watchmen at Lane.

"I had no idea watchmen even existed," said Adina Graner, Div. 984.

"We talked about it in my class once I think," said Nabeel Shafi, Div. 865.

There is a team of watchmen at Lane. This team consists of four night watchmen and five engineers. A few work during the week and some patrol during the weekends. They walk around Lane after hours making sure all doors

are locked and all windows are secure. It usually takes the whole night for the watchmen to cover the entire building.

The engineers report that they enjoy their time just walking around and never hope for the adventure of having someone actually break into the building.

Lane becomes extremely quiet after hours and the watchmen must stay alert at all times while the engineers are closing doors and doing maintenance work. Noises during these hours are often exaggerated.

"Something can shut but it might just be the vents and then you have the urinals going off automatically. It's spookier," said a night engineer.

"You can be by D and hear

something by M," said building engineer Ed Courtney. "It's like, man, I just covered that."

The watchmen have punch-in clocks and when one's shift is over another watchman shows up to take over.

He checks everything the last watchman checked including the locker room windows and the swimming pool, which they often check because of incidents they were told about from other school's engineers about kids drowning at the bottom of their pool.

Such incidents have never occurred at Lane, but other incidents have, such as cracked toilets during winter break because a window had been left open.

"This one time we even found some Lane alumni trying to cook

in the kitchen," said engineer Ed Courtney. "And a few years back, the watchmen caught stage crew members putting up a sign in the auditorium about the old principal."

The watchmen and engineers often wonder why anyone would want to damage their own school with graffiti or try to break in.

"There has to be someone here watching the school," said Michael Henry, Div. 905. "I mean, it's a big school."

Lane has someone here 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even on holidays.

"The watchmen are not security necessarily," said an assistant engineer by the name of Jim. "They're people you can count on."

"Your boyfriend is a great kisser"

Racy t-shirts cause freedom of expression controversy at high schools

By Stephen Liang

Last March, two students from Naperville wore t-shirts reading "Be happy, not gay" on National Day of Silence, a day of silence to protest the bullying of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual (LGBT) students.

The students who were openly expressing their opinions against homosexuality have filed a lawsuit against their school district alleging that the school violated their first amendment rights by forcing them to either remove the shirts or leave.

According to the first amendment, the right to speech, press, religion, and peaceful protesting is protected.

While some believe that the first amendment grants us the right to say whatever we want, including swear words, it does not.

"High schools are not the same as arenas," said Dr. Lobosco. "If [the speech] is going to be disruptive, it is not allowed."

According to the Supreme Court case *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, speech that is deemed to cause substantial disruption that prohibits the learning process or infringes on the rights of other students is not constitutionally protected.

Some students and teachers at Lane agree with the Supreme Court's decision.

"We're looking [out] for the best interest of all our students," said Mrs. Starr, an English teacher.

In fact, sometimes schools can censor speech that is still Constitutionally protected but may go too far in their censorship.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Naperville school that forced two students to remove the controversial shirts or leave was violating their first amendment rights.

An ACLU news release read: "The public

high school in this case argues that schools can suppress student speech whenever such speech conflicts with the school's basic educational mission - a standard that improperly would allow censorship of most student free speech."

However, at Lane, some students wear shirts that are questionable yet have not been sent home or asked to remove them.

"I've seen shirts that are risqué," said Mr. Carlson, Political Science teacher. "I remember seeing one shirt that said, 'Your boyfriend is a great kisser,' but I can't think of anyone that has worn a very controversial shirt."

"I never came across a time when a shirt offended me," said Alan Mui, Div. 878.

Even though many students have never seen an offensive t-shirt, some wouldn't mind it.

"I'd just put up with it," said Chris Powell, Div. 872. "There are so many 'Mexican' and other 'offensive' jokes out there but you see the people it's directed toward laughing with them."

"I wouldn't care. I have my opinion and other people have theirs," said Jamie Pyra, Div. 853. "Others can think or express what he or she wants, but that won't change how I think or feel."

Other students said they would take direct action if they felt offended by a message on a t-shirt.

"I would walk up to the person being rude and tell him that it's highly disrespectful," said Tracey Mei, Div. 933.

Even when shirts may seem to be inappropriate for school, the wearer may have only worn the shirt just to be funny.

"I wear [questionable] shirts because they're funny," said Daniel Lenar, Div. 881. "It's a figure of expression."

Some students believe that people have become just too sensitive over these issues and should take them more lightly.

"It's just a t-shirt," said Joshua Mankins,

Div. 881. "Everyone needs a sense of humor."

Funny or not, the school does have the right to ensure that its students' learning process

and safe environment is protected.

"In principle, we could speak anything we want, but we can't in school," said Mr. Don-gas, English teacher.



Doomsday event: coming apocalypse will end world

By Chakira Hamilton & Ashley Owca

The end is near.

Almost everyone has heard this before. Whether it's a religious leader or a crazy homeless guy with a sign, many people agree that the end of the world is imminent. But when and how it will come about is a different story.

"I think it's just time for it to happen," said freshman Janelle Rosa, Div. 049. "The earth is getting old."

The Earth is old - about 4.5 billion years in fact - and according to some scientific theories, it won't be getting much older. It will either become a lifeless chunk of rock, or be entirely swallowed by the sun as it expands before dying. Those that support the death of the sun theory, like astrophysicist Donald Brownlee and paleontologist Peter Ward, say that there's only about 1 billion years left in the sun's life cycle, and that means the same goes for the life cycle of the Earth.

To simplify a very complicated story about the "devolving" of the planet, Brownlee and Ward have scientifically reduced the Earth's 12-billion-year lifespan to 12 hours, starting at midnight and ending at high noon. According to their theory it is only 4:30 a.m., but by 5 a.m. the 1 billion-year reign of plants and animals will come to an end. By 8 a.m. the oceans will vaporize. By noon, about 7.5 billion years

down the road, it will all be over. It's not a pretty story, the two admit, but "Mother Nature wasn't designed to make us happy," Brownlee said.

Another "End of the World" theory proposes that the Earth will be bombarded by small asteroids from the Sun's asteroid belt until one of the more massive ones crashes into Earth with cataclysmic results wiping everything out.

Yet another theory, in which global warming causes the polar ice caps to melt and is followed not long after by the onset of an ice age, does not seem so farfetched to some students who believe "The End" will result from environmental changes brought on by human activity.

"I don't think that movies such as The Day After Tomorrow are that far off," said a student named Michelle. "The end of the world may not happen in a matter of hours, but our generation is certainly setting the process into motion. The glaciers in the arctic are melting. That water has to go somewhere."

In what many see as evidence supporting this theory, many of the world's land masses are already beginning to feel the effects of higher water levels.

A lesser known but still widely accepted theory is that a new plague will wipe us out. Consider how many old diseases that supposedly had been eradicated have mutated and come back even deadlier than before. These include malaria, smallpox, and yellow fever just to name a few. This

type of viral evolution has been a long-time threat to humanity, which has survived some serious epidemics. But it is not beyond reason to think that a new disease could arise deadly enough to wipe out humanity. Influenza, or the flu, has an evolution period of about 10 years. So every 10 years the virus evolves, becoming stronger and more immune to current vaccines. The Avian Flu (or Bird Flu) is the most recent strain of deadly flu virus. The reaction of world governments and health organizations to outbreaks like this makes it hard to ignore the potential destructive powers of one viruses like these.

For the most part, students today tend to believe more in things that they can see. Those individuals are convinced that when the world ends, it will be the result of human action.

"Our society advances through technological advancements. There's always a need to make bigger, faster, more powerful technology than your neighbor," said Harrison Horst, Div. 171. "I believe it is this desire that will be the downfall of humanity. It is in human nature to always want more. Unfortunately, it is lacking in human nature to know when to say 'enough'."

Apart from all the scientific business, there are also spiritual views of the coming of the Apocalypse. The two leading religions in American, Christianity and Islam, have their own prophecies for how the end of the world will come about. Each points to

its scriptures for descriptions of omens that will precede an ultimate, supernatural event coming down from the heavens, ending all life on Earth.

Various other religious groups have similar predictions for how and when the end times will arrive. The Mayan "Long Calendar" theory claims the end will come around the year 2012, simply because that is the year the Mayan calendar stops.

In addition to religious theories, there are still some who believe that the destruction of the world will be of extra-terrestrial origin. For instance, there are those who believe that we will be invaded by the aliens who "created" us. One such person is Zacharia Sitchin, author of "The 12th Planet" who believes that a planet called Nibiru has an advanced civilization that once came to Earth and will come again.

Just watching the news can offer a glimpse of the endless fighting and death that is constantly going on in the world, seemingly desensitizing people to the possibility that the end of the world may not arrive suddenly, but slowly as we gradually kill each other off. Still, most apocalyptic type catastrophes are depicted as being singular, sudden events, such as those characterized in movies like The Day After Tomorrow or I Am Legend.

In spite of the endless theories and misinterpreted signs, the one thing that seems sure from past scares is that the human race will not be ready for the apocalypse whenever and however it comes.

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Lane students get Up Close look at DC



By Aleksandra Sebaseva

Who wants to get close to Washington D.C.? I do, I do! On March 8 through the 15, I had a chance to visit Washington DC. through the Close Up Foundation.

The Close Up Foundation has been around since 1971, and has been providing students with the opportunity to learn about and participate in our nation's government. Students in the

program visited Capitol Hill, met with their local representatives who work work there, were introduced to people who work on political campaigns, and met other teenagers from all around the country. Other CPS schools who sent students to Close-Up included Schurz, Roberto Clemente, and Phoenix Military Academy.

When I first found out about this program, I thought "Hey, I get a week off of school, and I get to play tourist!" Boy was I wrong. This program is intended for those who have a real interest in politics.

The week off of school, wasn't really a week off at all. There was a lot of work, but was completely worth it. On a day to day basis we were working in workshops where we learned about how the government works, and practiced how to debate political issues without becoming uncivilized. We learned how to listen and understand other viewpoints in order to make our own arguments stronger. Though the debates were

often short, and most of the time we were assigned which side to argue, the time we spent on the debates gave us new insight on important political issues.

As participants we also met some of Barack Obama's staffers, listened to seminars, participated in domestic issues debates, and visited some of DC's monuments. On Friday the sponsors from Lane, Mr. Escudier and Mrs. M. Smith, escorted students on a tour of some of DC's more famous sites like the Lincoln Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the Holocaust Museum, the Supreme Court, and the Library of Congress.

Although there were a few parts of the program I could have lived without, like waking up most mornings at 6:30 and having to pay out of pocket fees of \$1,200, the overall trip was definitely something to remember. I would recommend this trip to anyone who really wants to learn more about how our country's government works.

Racism will continue until there is equal treatment for all



By Zack Johnson

Affirmative action helps people get hired over candidates who are more qualified for a job. A radio host who is popular for his crude humor and satirization of hip-hop culture

is fired for a joke that was just that - a joke. On top of all this, it seems that Lane Tech's own Indians are the only sports teams who haven't been forced to ditch their Native American mascot.

Remind me again how situations like these are helping defeat racism in America?

Ask yourself a question - when was the last time you heard about a minority being refused admission to a college or not being hired for a job because of the color of their skin?

Now, when was the last time you saw an actor, sports figure, or politician taking up hours of news broadcasts because they used the infamous "N word"?

The idea here is that the American media does everything it can to portray the fact that America is an equal rights, equal opportunity, politically correct nation. The problem is that by nitpicking at every single thing that seems like it could be "racially offensive," some media outlets are creating more of a race barrier than there needs to be. You'll be hard

pressed to go a couple of days watching the news without hearing about a popular figure who offended some group of minorities in some way.

Are things like this really helping solve the problem of modern day racism? Some think so. Seems to me that the "politically correct" media is simply drilling into everyone's head an idea that is a complete insult to the real civil rights revolutionaries of our past. That idea?

"Yes, we are different."

It's this idea and the media that enforces it that is to blame for when you bring your black friend home and your parents walk on egg shells trying not to "offend" them. It is this idea that pressures colleges to give a spot to a minority who hasn't worked half as hard as another potential student. It is this idea that stops us from achieving true racial equality, because personality and intelligence do not know color.

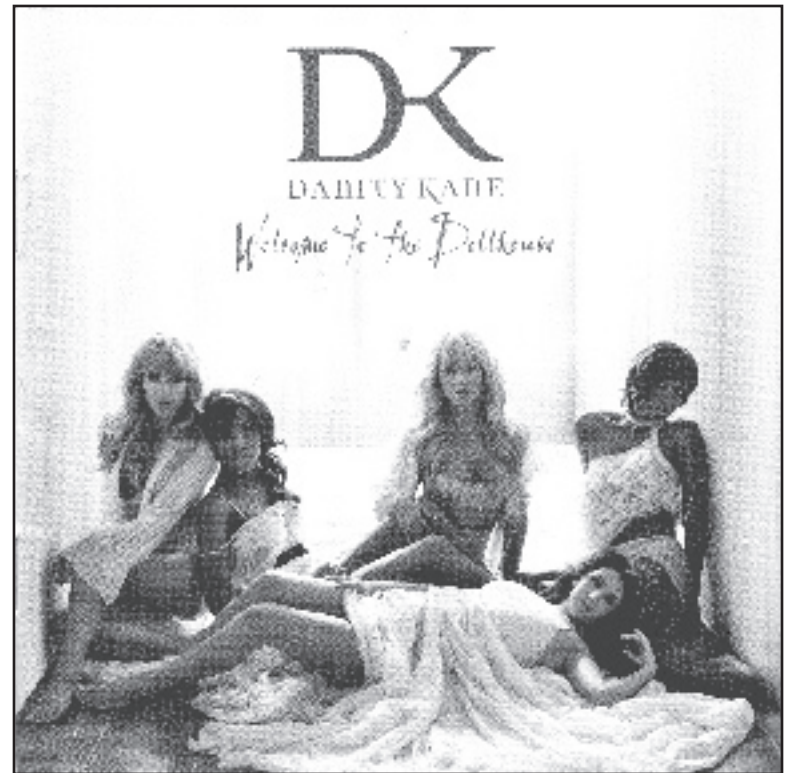
In an interview on 60 Minutes, African American actor Morgan Freeman offered his solution to racism.

"How are we going to get rid of racism? Stop talking about it!" Freeman went on to say, "I am going to stop calling you a white man and I'm going to ask you to stop calling me a black man."

Only time will tell if this "politically correct" era of media and politics will ever try these alternate methods of solving a problem that they're continuing to prolong. One can only hope so.

A man much wiser than I once said, "I have a dream that one day we will live in a nation where people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Unless we as a nation can stop enforcing the idea that everyone is different, America should be prepared to keep dreaming.



Danity Kane tops charts again with second release

By Crystal Lee

During the second season of Making the Band 4, we watched the ladies of Danity Kane go into the studio to record their 2nd CD. Danity Kane had a tough task ahead of them, as they tried to recapture the success of their self-titled debut.

Danity Kane's Welcome to the Dollhouse, definitely puts the ladies back on top of the charts. The CD shows a growth in the vocal ability of Dawn, Aubrey, Aundrea, D. Woods, and Shannon.

Damaged, the first single, has the highest energy of any song on the CD. The song has a great rhythm to it and tells the story about a girl who's afraid to get involved in a relationship, because she's had her heart broken so many times. This song is definitely one that guys and girls alike can relate to.

Another one of my favorites is Bad Girl (featuring Missy Elliott). This is a great collaboration with one of my favorite hip-hop artists. The first line of the song is really catchy, and this track is sure to be a club-banger.

Lights Out, written by Dawn, is

another very impressive track. It really shows how much all of the ladies have grown over the past two years.

The ladies show off their vocals best in Poetry and Is Anybody Listening.

In my opinion, the worst track would probably have to be Key to My Heart. Throughout the song, the sounds of a key turning inside a lock keeps repeating. The sound is so loud, its easy to forget to listen to the words of the song. On top of that, the song seems all over the place as if the verses and chorus don't go together.

Overall, Welcome to the Dollhouse has an R&B, pop, and club vibe. Unlike their debut CD, the ladies get the chance to sing about something other than being alone and getting their hearts broken. Instead, Welcome to the Dollhouse focuses on the ladies enjoying life and all the adventures it brings.

Many times artist are unable to match the success of the debut CD. In my opinion, the ladies of Danity Kane have had even more success with their second CD and have rightfully earned their second number one CD.

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Backstage with Bye Bye Birdie

By Nathalie Henaine &
Lisa Vasquez

"What happens backstage stays backstage," said Sharon Darrow, Div. 870. However, the cast of Lane's very own Bye Bye Birdie shared a few of their behind-the-scenes experiences as part of the production.

The musical, based on the 1960 film, Bye Bye Birdie, takes place in Sweet Apple, Ohio in the 1960s. Famous rock star and teenage heartthrob Conrad Birdie is about to be drafted while Albert Peterson, Conrad's manager, faces debts, an angry secretary, and a possessive mother.

Mrs. Hanson, the director of the musical, held casting auditions around the end of Nov. 2007. One week after the open audition, Hanson had callbacks. Some students said it was difficult to make the cut.

"Certainly, it was," said Hannah Cooney, Div. 933. "Mrs. Hanson chose a talented cast."

Several agreed that many chosen for the cast were students with acting experience from their involvement in previous Lane plays.

Once the cast was chosen, Hanson held a tight rehearsal schedule. The cast stayed after school everyday and were even given monthly calendars with their schedules.

In addition to monologue and choreography, the students were required to take vocal lessons with Ms. Atkinson for a few weeks.

"[Working with chorus] was not really bad; [it] was just something extra," said Darrow.

All the hard work paid off once the performance nights arrived.

Cast members who had stayed after school hung out in Hanson's classroom before the musical, joking and laughing with each other. The atmosphere was very relaxed. Tension only began to rise as show time drew nearer.

Almost everyone had a way to shake off the rising nervousness.

"[You] can't think of it as being in front of a lot of people but as being in front of a lot of people you know," said Hana Rickert, Div. 047.

"My thing is you look like a fool in life. Why care, so you can't be nervous in front of people," said Daniel Barry, a senior.

Set up for the performance began at 5:30pm when the cast went backstage. Once Stage Krew distributed the assigned microphones to the actors and actresses, the microphones were checked for proper volume and clarity. The cast did some warm-ups and practiced scales before going into their crowded changing rooms.

"The dressing room is so hectic... because everyone is looking for someone to do their makeup," said Stephanie Arriaga, Div. 902.

The occupants of the changing room all agreed.

"One of the biggest accomplishments is if you can do your own make-up," said Darrow. "Then you do everyone else's."

In one of the changing rooms, three girls were sharing one mirror. Eight other girls occupied the room, hastily looking through their wardrobes.

"[There is] eleven people squashed in one room with no air conditioning or carpet," said Sara Mitchell, Div. 933.

A responsive audience greeted the cast Fri. evening and after the performance, all the cast members were chatting about their presentation.

"It's really sad [for seniors] because it's our last play," said one senior actress.

"It's been a lot of fun doing this; it's the first time I'm in a play," said Mr. Allegreza, who played the part of the Mayor in one of the two casts.

"[My favorite part of performing] is being with all of these people. I never knew them before the play," said Tiombe Banks, Div. 051.

"Entertaining people and bringing them out of their everyday world into a different world where they don't worry about their problems," said Diane Hovanzi, Div. 904. "[That's my favorite part]."

By Aleksandra
Sebaseva

Harry Potter, the magical boy wonder who survived a killing curse, has died and come back to life, in the last book anyway. But in reality, Harry Potter commotion is for the most part over, except for the final two upcoming movies.

SPOILER ALERT!

In the last and seventh book, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows, Harry does not return to Hogwarts and instead hides out with Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger from the Death Eaters who are trying to capture him for Lord Voldemort. Although Harry does eventually return to Hogwarts, he only does so to fight Lord Voldemort in the final battle. As revealed in the previous book, Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince, only one of the two can live. Consequently, either Voldemort must kill Harry or vice versa. Readers must have read previous books in order to understand exactly why this is.

After numerous intense and descriptive battles, the series of books finally ends on a peaceful note with Harry standing once again on Platform Nine and Three Quarters. Only this time, he is with his wife Ginny Weasley, Ron Weasley's younger sister, and is watching his own kids go off to Hogwarts. The reader also finds out that Harry's scar hasn't hurt in 19 years.

So how do the readers feel about the series ending?

"I like the way it ended... [because] it was cool to find out what all the characters were like in the future," said Peter Guidizi, Div. 907.

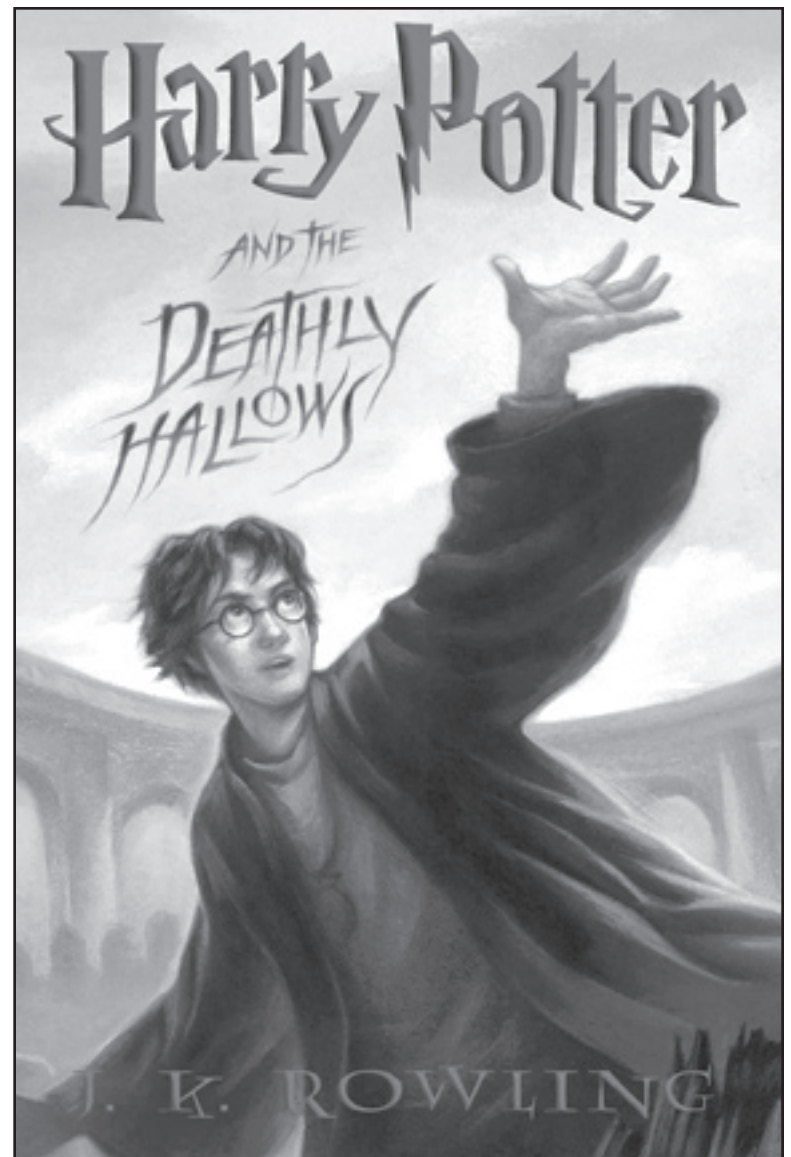
Emily Traub, Div. 870, said she also enjoyed that the storyline had extended into the future.

But not all students enjoyed the ending of the series, saying they would have preferred a stronger sense of closure.

"I wanted Harry Potter to die just to end the story there," said Hiram DeJesus, Div. 857, "because now the story is still open and can come back."

Because the first Harry Potter book came out over 10 years ago many Lane students have been fans since they were in elementary school.

Potter series finally ends



"My 3rd grade teacher read [the] class the first [book] and I've been hooked ever since," said Guidizi.

Cecilia Crespo, Div. 876, said that she is not really a fan of Potter, but started reading them when her younger sister forced her to read one of the books to her to make her happy. Crespo admitted to enjoying the mysterious style in which the Harry Potter stories are told; how they keep the reader guessing as to what will happen to Harry and his friends.

Atilano Rodriguez, Div. 876, said that while he wasn't really a fan of Potter either, he read the book and was disappointed.

"The ending was too predictable in terms of Harry and Ginny, and Ron and Hermione [ending up together at the end]," said Rodriguez.

Several students said they were happy that the series is finally finished.

"I was happy that the series ended because seven [books] is enough, and because he was getting too old," said Crespo.

"I read Harry Potter because I basically grew up with it," said an anonymous student from Div. 875. "I just felt the need to see what would happen."

"I'm happy it's almost over," said an anonymous student from Div. 908. "All those people who dressed up like the characters from the movies and books, looked stupid."

As for the rumor of Potter returning for more adventures, many said they wouldn't be as interested in reading future books as much as the first ones.



Stress of watching big game unhealthy

By Tony Zhou

For many passionate sports fans who enjoy watching intense games, it may be nerve-wrecking to watch their favorite team lose, or even extremely exciting when they win, but a new study shows that stressful emotions may increase the risk of heart attacks.

A study conducted in Germany reported numerous incidents of heart attacks and other cardiac conditions suffered by fans during the 2006 World Cup soccer matches.

In the same study, cardiologists found that among 4,279 heart patients, the rate of the heart attacks was about three times higher for men, and about two times higher for women.

Experts say intense sports events such as the Super Bowl, World Cup Soccer, World Series Baseball, and NBA Finals can cause nearly the same stress as that suffered by someone in a natural disaster such as earthquakes and hurricanes. According to Rick Allen, a certified stress management consultant, the stresses from the games are similar to the anxiety that one may feel from riding on a roller coaster. The only difference is that the roller coaster ride lasts for a couple of minutes while sporting events may last a few hours.

It is uncertain how stress can cause heart attacks, but the stress hormone, adrenaline, may be the primary cause.

Scientists believe that during games, increased adrenaline is released into the bloodstream. As a result, the heart rate increases and blood pressure rises. Because of this, there are narrower arteries, and it may have a higher tendency to form blood clots that would block coronary arteries.

Some students admit seeing stress connected to sports.

"One of my friend's grandfather died from a heart attack while watching the Cubs lose a game," said Carina Munoz, Div. 861.

"The Patriots looked like they were going to win for sure in the last three minutes," said Laura Macias, Div. 922, who watched the 2008 NFL Super Bowl. "Thirty seconds later, the Giants threw the touchdown. My dad began to sit real close to the television.

He was squeezing my arm, and constantly tapping his fingers on the table."

"People can overreact sometimes," said Adina Graner, Div. 904.

"My dad is a quiet, and calm person," said Sabina Barnak, Div. 931. "But when there's a soccer game on, he really gets into the game, and starts jumping and yelling."

"I've seen my [friends] cry during the Superbowl game," said Paige Jovanovic, Div. 919. "But I've never seen them cry in my life."

However, not only fans stress about sports, but students athletes do also.

"[Students athletes] argue and stress over that the sport they play is better than other sports," said Alyssa Mendoza, Div. 952. "They should be supporting each other at games and sporting events."

"We lost to Whitney Young sophomore year, and my coach got pissed," said volleyball player, Santine Hsueh Div. 906. "He threw his clipboard on the floor and it

broke to pieces."

"Coaches stress the importance of winning and they push their players to a state where they need to win," said Graner.

How about those who remind themselves that it is just a game?

"I tell myself not to get stressed out over playing a game or even watching a game," said Kevin Hu, Div. 912, "But I feel like I still do even if I tell myself not to."

"My grandfather needs to calm himself down when he watches games because he knows he has a heart problem," said Jovanovic.

So what can a fan do?

People with known heart disease such as high blood pressure or diabetes should take extra care of themselves when watching these games.

Dr. Lori Mosca, director of preventive cardiology at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, tells CBS news some ways to stay safe during the sporting games. She says fans should not smoke too much, eat too much junk food, or drink too much alcohol because it

increases the risks. She says that these should be done in moderation especially during these sporting games. She recommends getting

plenty of sleep the night before, and not to physically over-exert oneself.

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Tennis Team fights through early struggles

By Thomas Hayes

Lane's Boys' Tennis Team lost the first few team matches of the new season, but is still confident in their ability to make it to the State Championship.

"I hope to make it to city in doubles, but if not I hope to do well at state sectionals," said Ibrahim Zaganjor, Div. 871, [Either way], it is just great to have left Lane with something to remember my four years on Lane's tennis team by."

Zaganjor, Div. 871, and doubles partner Greg Tabaka, Div. 922, had a strong showing at the Panther Doubles Tournament held at Riis Park on Saturday, Apr. 19, where they won second place after losing to a team from Rockford.

Because of unforeseen conditions, the first three matches had to be rescheduled.

"Weather is definitely a setback," said tennis coach Mr. Chipman. "Our first matches were canceled due to messy weather."

At tournaments each match, whether doubles of singles, is worth one point. The team

with the most points after all the matches have been decided wins that tournament. Consequently there are individual records for each player as well as an overall team record.

"It is kind of hard to really feel like a team," said standout player Lane Beckstrom, Div. 022. "seeing as when we play, its usually just you and your opponent on the court; but we make it work."

"Tennis is a team sport and an individual performance sport, at the same time," said Chipman.

Lane lost its first tournament on Fri. Apr. 11 to Northside College Prep, 3-2.

"It was really close," said Chipman. "The match ended early due to heavy rain and

sleet, and the tie we had was broken."

Lane lost its following matches against Mather High School 3-2 on Apr. 15, and on Apr. 17 lost 5-0 to Walter Payton High School who Chipman said "has the strongest team."

"Well, we're not the greatest team in the

world," said Beckstrom. "But when we put our minds to it we can win. We have some new players on the varsity team this year that are really good and giving this season a bright look."

Not discouraged by the team's performance so far, Chipman retains hope for the remainder of the season.

"I think we have a solid team, and we're doing about the same as last year" he said. "We definitely have room for growth. I am expecting a good season and I would like our top two players to go to State."

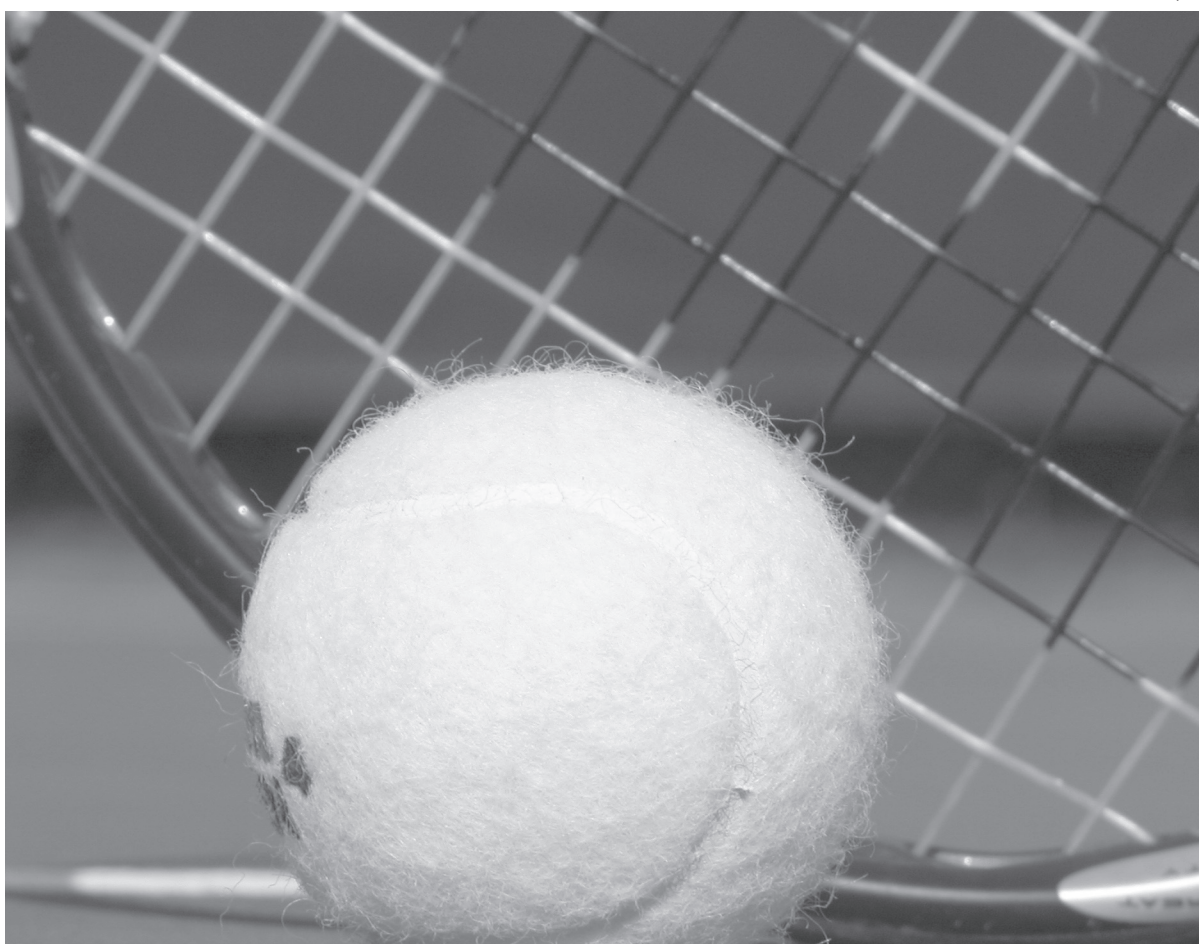
The team's more experienced players have fared better than some of its younger members.

"There's a disparity between the sophomores' and juniors' abilities," said Chipman. "Other than that there's not a big difference [in skill level]."

Beckstrom's attitude and outlook towards the upcoming season are positive, but reserved:

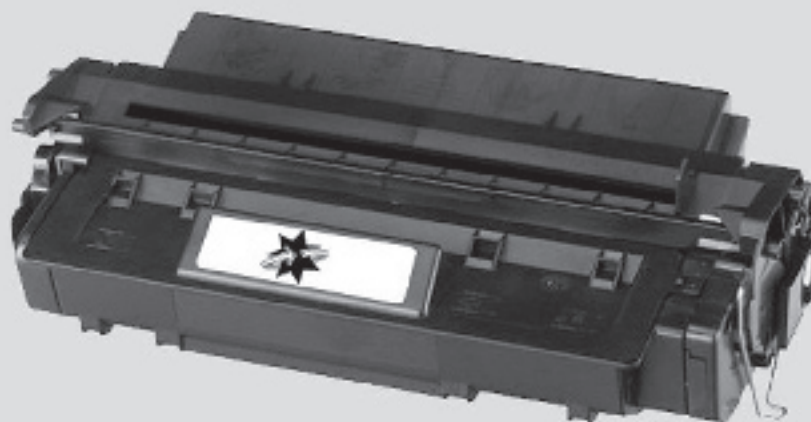
"We all have to lose some. It's not fun but it happens. I hope to win as many matches as possible and just have fun doing with what we're doing."

This year's season will run from April 8 to May 24.



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Girls' Softball looking strong again this year

By Lauren Corso

Since 1996 Lane Tech has dominated on the diamond in girls' softball, winning the city championship all of those years except for 2001 and 2006 under then head coach Howard Newman. Winning the city title has become an expectation, and after a heartbreaking loss two years ago against Taft the Indians have strived for nothing less than city dominance.

Lane is back this year with more to prove than ever; knowing that fulfilling expectations within the city is not good enough, but for the season to be a success they must win respect from outside the conference. With new head coach George Stavrakas leading the squad, the team looks ahead to a tough schedule packed with suburban powerhouses, and an outside chance at a run downstate.



The Girls' Softball Team gathers round Coach Stavrakas as he gives instructions.

With returning leaders like third baseman/catcher Daniela Torres, Div. 881, and first baseman Rebecca Cavanaugh, Div. 879, Lane looks to have a solid team on both offense and defense. There are 13 returning players and Coach Stavrakas made it clear that he thinks this year's team is one of the best in a long time. Along with powerful hitting and a strong infield, Lane also benefits on the mound with three talented pitchers. Although they may be young, two sophomores (Jackie Manrique, Div. 021, and Sam Nikolich, Div. 025), and one junior (Jazzy Comacho, Div. 177), the team believes having three pitchers as opposed to the usual one or two will greatly play in their favor.

"Defense is going to be the key. Our defense is something that carried us last year and it should be what carries us this year," said Stavrakas.

"Last year we started off kind of slow and we started to pick up the pace toward the end of the year and we started winning, so I think this year we just carried it over and are starting right where we left off," said Torres, team captain.

Although winning a city championship would definitely be a great accomplishment for Lane, Stavrakas also thinks that playing so much against CPS competition could work against them.

"One of our biggest problems is when we play these city teams we're usually facing pitchers that don't throw very hard, and sure we're able to hit that stuff, said Stavrakas. "But the next day we'll play a team like Loyola, and it takes a while for us to get adjusted."

The teams Lane can expect to see in sectionals are extremely competitive and more used to the faster paced playing style, which is why Lane has scheduled about 20 games against suburban schools this season.

"With the city we're expected to win because we're set at a higher standard, but we're lower than all the suburban teams we play," said Cavanaugh. "So when we come out and beat the suburban teams, that's when people start noticing us."

"I'm happy winning a city championship, but the big goal for us is to beat all these suburban powerhouses and go downstate," said Stavrakas.

Stavrakas also mentioned that the only way to really prepare for the competition outside the city is to do so mentally.

"We stress that our problem when we lose is not necessarily just not playing well, but it's that we become mentally weak, and I'll be the first one to get on them about that," said Stavrakas.

"Our mentality as coaches is pretty simple, we have this fight in us...and we really make these girls fight and do everything they can to win," said Stavrakas. "We don't care how it gets done, just get it done."

This season the team looks forward to pushing their way to state contention and are preparing for some heated rematches, one being against Resurrection, who knocked them out of state sectionals last year with a 5-4 victory.

"With Resurrection we're looking for revenge because they beat us and knocked us out of state, but they haven't scheduled us this year for some reason," said Torres. "So that's been our motivation the whole year is to beat everyone we can in order to get to them, and then take it a step further and beat whoever comes after them."

Aside from Resurrection, Lane has plenty of tough competition to face this year in the regular season before they can think about the state championships, but the team appears to be focused and playing well.

So far this season the Softball Team holds an impressive 10-1 record, and is 5-0 in conference.

And as far as respect as a leading team, Lane knows it need to be earned, and they look to gain even more this year.

"We're still not getting that respect from other teams because we're just 'a city school', but for us we take that as a positive and as a chip on our shoulder," said Stavrakas.



Track Team looks to win City for third straight year

By Marian Sonsyadek.

The Boys' Track Team at Lane just finished the indoor season and began the outdoor season about two weeks ago.

"Ultimately, our goal right now is to defend the City title and score more points than last year," said Coach Roof.

The Boys' Track Team recently took third at the Hinsdale South relays and set a meet record in the 400x100 relays with a time of 43.9 seconds.

"As far as the team goes," said Coach Roof, "we have good senior captains and a talented junior class."

The top hurdlers on the

team are Tory McAlister, Div. 870, followed by Chris Blackman, Div. 871. The Team's best distance runner is Gerardo Gonzalez, Div. 871, and in mid-distance it is Irving Albarran, Div. 858.

"I worked harder this half season than before and I'm starting to see results," said Gonzalez.

"During indoor season," said McAlister. "I managed to get top eight in long jump and the fastest time in [the 300 meter high] hurdles of 70.6 [seconds]."

Despite accomplishments of team members, some think that things are off to a rocky start as a consequence of the indoor season. During indoor season the team

practices inside the school on the stairs, this training is rough on the legs and can sometimes result in injuries.

"The injuries aren't that bad," said Gonzalez. "When the outdoor season starts it only takes awhile for these things to heal."

Now that the outdoor season has started there is a meet every week leading up to City on May 3.

"[We're] definitely looking forward to City," said McAlister. "I mean, who isn't?"

The Boys' Track Team holds the title of two time defending City champions and is working hard to make it three in a row.

Girls' Soccer kicking again

By Ana Barrientos

The Varsity Girls' Soccer Team started this season with a new mind-set, a new coach, Mr. Wasielewski, and many new players. Off to a record of six wins, two losses, and one tie (6-2-1), it looks like this will be a far more successful season than last year when they finished with a record of 4-12-2.

"The team's biggest challenge [last season] was working together, and they lacked team unity," said Coach Wasielewski.

He sees this as the team's biggest challenge once again this year, especially because the team is composed of players from every grade level.

Wasielewski is trying to help the team improve this season by making practices as organized and efficient as possible.

"My personal goal is to out-coach every coach in the city," he said.

According to the coach, the technical strengths of the team this season are

maintaining possession by controlling the ball, forcing opponents to put in a lot of effort on defense. If the team has a weakness it's the ability to score goals.

According to Wasielewski, this year's players are very motivated. In particular, he complimented the great leadership skills and work ethic of team captain Daniela Villagomes, Div. 870, who plays sweeper and has been on the varsity squad for two years.

The leading scorer so far for this year's team is Gaberiel Loera, Div. 028, who has eight goals in nine games.

The team's goals this season are to win Conference, City, and the Regional Championships.

"I think it is very realistic to reach these goal because we are better, more united, get along, and have excellent managers," said Wasielewski.

"If we stay together, we will win together," said defender Samantha Ortega, Div. 852.