

IN THE HEART
OF THE
WARRIOR

Posse Scholarship Winners,
Pg. 3



Lane Treasure Hunters,
Pg. 6



Chris
Brown's
"F.A.M.E."
review,
Pg. 19



Ultimate Frisbee, Pg. 23



THE WARRIOR

April 2011

Lane Technical College Prep High School

Volume 43/Issue 4/Page 1

LTAC means younger Lane students

By Airis Cervantes
& Ben Palmer

A wide-eyed 12 year old boy hurriedly stumbles across Lane's wide hallways hoping the upperclassmen won't spot him before he gets to class. Afraid but excited, the 7th grader is anxious to start middle school at the largest high school in Chicago.

With the addition of the Lane Tech Academic Center (LTAC) in the fall of 2011, approximately 90 seventh graders will begin middle school at Lane. They will take classes on the typically less crowded 4th floor and be split into two divisions.

The goal of the Center is to make Lane more competitive, especially against longtime rival Whitney Young.

"I think this might put us at the top," said Dr. LoBosco. "We will definitely surpass Taft, and we will definitely rival Whitney."

LoBosco said that the Academic Center has been long needed, as Whitney surpassed Lane academically when it gained various competitive edges in the '60s. This included the ability to hand-pick the teaching staff, and eventually create an academic center.

"If we want to stay competitive, we need to offer the same programs [as Whitney]," said LoBosco. "If Whitney has done it for 30 years, we can do it. And we can do it better."

LoBosco went on to say that she could easily see Lane becoming "the school of choice on the north side."

Despite LoBosco's insistence that "in terms of everything, we're going to be more competitive," not all students like the idea.

"They're trying to separate them from us, but [the 7th graders will still be] here. If they had their own building I'd be okay with it," said Gladys Martinez, Div. 266.

Complaints like this have been heard throughout the halls as more and more information about the Academic Center is released.

"We have balance here and [the 7th graders] would ruin our balance," said Zytaly Zepeda, Div. 271.

"I don't want little kids running around," said Erik Dohner, Div. 270.

LoBosco was candid in her response to such complaints.

"I'd say [students] need to break their attitudes of territoriality," Lobosco said. "They're still Lane kids. Just younger."

It is possible, however, for these "Lane kids" to be too much like "Lane kids." While Lane maintains a tradition of

excellence, it is impossible to avoid the typical issues of high school life: parties, drugs, alcohol, and peer pressure in general. Some students worry that the younger batch of students will be exposed to these influences much earlier in life.

LoBosco and counselor Lori Dulberg, who is responsible for Lane's STARS

sees it hitting a growth spurt by the fall of 2013 when the LTAC's first class becomes 9th graders.

"I had 50 students join during [Alpha's] first year. This year we have 250. It's huge," said Dignam. "Every year it's gone up."

Student athletes who are not officially in high school may not compete against those who are, so junior sports teams would likely be installed alongside current teams. One hope is that by receiving Lane-quality training from 7th grade on, athletes eventually will be even better prepared to compete at the high school level.

At a community meeting held on Mar. 17 at Lane, many parents of prospective students questioned if the LTAC would have the usual middle school events.

"Yes," said LoBosco. "Graduation, 8th grade luncheon, [and] class trips...will all be available to [LTAC] students."

At the same meeting, a parent asked if students would have the same privileges as high school students.

"I was asked if Academic Center students would have off campus lunch," LoBosco said, "and I just said 'no way!' Some privileges have to be earned."

As far as a lunchroom for the new students goes, the current teacher lunchroom will be converted into the Academic Center lunchroom.

Outside the lunchroom and in the classroom, students will be taking high school courses in 7th grade. While regular freshman take biology, these 7th graders will be taking it as well, in their own classrooms.

Within the coming months, teachers will be chosen to teach these classes. Lobosco says that Lane will likely not have to hire any more teachers, meaning some teachers could have both LTAC and regular Lane classes.

While their classes will be mostly separate from those of the high school students, if a student wants to take a language, they may be placed in a high school class. LoBosco also said that some 8th graders will be placed in high school classes if they choose.

Lobosco said that teachers of classes containing both freshmen and seniors never report that this age difference disrupts the classroom environment.

"They just blend in when they get a chance to grow physically," added Lobosco.

All of this preparation allows students to start taking more APs and electives starting freshman year. Dignam says this will be one of the most noticeable effects of the LTAC.

"The greatest change will be in AP," Dignam said. "Normally, students

don't take APs until junior and senior year, but if they're taking high school classes in seventh/eighth grade they'll likely take APs sooner."

The official suggested curriculum for LTAC students, now posted on the Center's website, calls for junior and senior years to be all APs, except for a "Junior/Senior Seminar."

This intense course load has some students worrying about the stability of future Academic Center students, but it is designed ultimately to improve Lane's overall test scores.

"[The administration is] getting them started. We're [going to] get better students," said Mayra Trujillo, Div. 280.

"It's time," said LoBosco. "There's

one in the south, and one in the center. Why not north?"

Williams sees the academic benefits, but still worries about the social aspect of a middle school at Lane.

"The whole idea that you went from being top dog in 8th grade, to starting off at a new place at the bottom of the food chain...I think it's just part of the high school experience," said Williams.

LoBosco, however, seems confident that the Lane spirit will make up for any potential problems.

"I know we all have huge hearts at Lane," said LoBosco, "and we'll open our arms to the new students."

Senior button causes stir

By Kelly Sineni



After months of anticipation, the senior buttons were finally released in late March, and to the dismay of many seniors, it was not what they were expecting. Soon after seniors received their buttons people started talking and rumors spread that the button featured a gang sign and gang affiliated symbols. This was most noticeable in the way in which the hands were drawn.

"I initially saw gang signs in the hands of the Native American figure," said Jessica Amarillo, Div. 162.

"The hands look like they are throwing up a gang sign," said Alexander Archibald, Div. 168.

For this reason many students, (unlike the seniors before them), are choosing not to wear the buttons either due to safety or personal reasons.

"I can't wear my senior button. Wearing these in certain neighborhoods can get you in a lot of trouble," said Archibald.

"I do not wear my senior button. I'm not proud to wear something like that to represent Lane," said Amarillo.

Some seniors like Samuel Quinones, Div. 165, have worn it, but added their own twist.

"I have worn it a few times, but upside down on purpose. Some seniors are wearing them on an angle or upside down," Quinones said.

Although many people were talking about the cryptic buttons, not everybody saw the supposed signs.

"People were saying that they saw gang signs, but I didn't see it," said Bethany Fischer, Div. 167.

"It had nothing to do with gangs. I know her [Sonia Kosmala, the designer of the button]," said Diamond Pugh, Div. 164.

Some seniors had a hard time figuring out what was in the bottom center (of the button).

"I didn't think it was a gang sign. I was just trying to figure out what it was. I didn't know it was the school until someone pointed it out," said Jasmine Melchor, Div. 176.

"I thought the Indian was holding a jar," said an anonymous senior.

"It's just kind of weird. I don't know what the object is and [the Indian] kind of looks like a zombie," said another anonymous senior.

Sonia Kosmala, Div. 175, came up with the design, which won by a landslide in an election between six other designs. Ms. House, the head of student activities, estimates that Kosmala's design won with around 97% of the senior vote.

"I don't care if people don't like it. They voted on it. They could have done something and come up with their own design. The votes for mine were in the double digits for each class," Kosmala said.

"She won hands down. On every sheet she had a high number of votes," House said.

In spite of the controversy, Kosmala claims to have had good intentions for the design.

See "Buttons"
(continued on Page 2)

Lane students attend Key Club Convention

By Aleksandra Bursac

Rain is hitting the windows of the bus. The wet air is making clothes stick to the skin and the leather seats smell. But Magdalena Masztalerza's mood cannot be swayed by the crummy weather. She and 31 other Lane students are on their way to the 61st annual Illinois and Eastern Iowa Key Club District Convention. The Lane Tech Key Club attends this prestigious celebration every year and this year people were excited early about the trip, which took place from April 8th-10th.

"Basically, every year in April, Key Club members from all over Illinois gather for three days at a hotel. We have formal balls, conferences, award ceremonies, and we celebrate all of the club's accomplishments. Also, elections are held for the district board governor," said Masztalerza. Div. 283.

"Convention is a great leadership experience, with a few officers in charge of the members. It is set up like the government. Even sororities are run like this. It provides the kids with valuable experience especially if they want to go into politics," said Mr. Wendorf, Key Club sponsor.

Many Key Club officers have gone multiple times to Convention but some of the new members of the club could not wait to attend for the first time.

"I am super excited.

After doing all of this community service from Key Club, I am ecstatic to go and see how this really makes a difference and have some fun with my best friends," said Ania Pukala Div. 264.

Pukala is also working on the official Key Club 2010-2011 scrapbook and finds this to be a prime opportunity for memorable photos. She is hopeful that Lane's Key Club will win the award for best scrapbook this year.

Since the majority of the people who attend are from all over Illinois and Eastern Iowa, the convention is a great way to meet students from different backgrounds.

"All of the kids who attend are from the suburbs or really rural areas. They all basically grew up in corn fields. So when they see us city kids they always have some offensive comments," said Masztalerza.

"They always ask if we have backyards, and are surprised to hear that I have a pool in mine. They seem to think that Chicago is a dirty, ghetto city. They are really funny to watch when they dance. But it's okay since we beat them at almost all the award sessions," said Masztalerza.

The festivities started on April 8 when the students and Mr. Wendorf, the club's supervisor, along with a few chaperones, arrived at the Indian Lakes Hilton in Bloomingdale, IL. The student delegates and their supervisors attended an informational meeting and were assigned to their rooms. Many meetings and award assemblies will take place. There were also two dances for students only, as well as a talent show.

The Convention offers Key Club

members the chance to bring back plaques, certificates, and trophies of the club's accomplishments. There are even scholarships awarded to members if they qualify.

"It is a great honor to win a scholarship. It means that the panel of judges has gone through hundreds of applications and chosen you," said Wendorf.

"There is one major rule at the convention. No Purpleing. Purpleing is defined as any sort of cavorting between boys and girls. The dances are not supervised, but that rule still stands. Anyone who breaks the rule is sent home before the end of the weekend," said Masztalerza.

The dress code is also very formal. Most of Lane's dress code applies. Skirts must be fingertip length and girls must not wear tank tops. But both boys and girls are expected to dress business casual for the meetings and formal for all of the dances and dinners. Casual clothing such as sweat pants and t-shirts are acceptable only at the Spastic Paralysis (SP) Research Foundation Walk which took place on Saturday morning.

The SP Walk takes place at every convention and is a meaningful fundraiser that donates its profits to spastic paralysis research. Anyone interested in donating could have pledged money to a Lane Key Club member participating.

"Truly, I can't wait. I really want to see all the different Key Club members from Illinois. I know that Lane Tech will bring a ton of city flair to the event and I'm hoping that we win lots of awards," said Pukala.

"This is going to be a great weekend. The people who go to convention for the first time always find it inspiring. It makes them want to work ten times harder when they get home because of all of the things they see and learn," said Masztalerza.



Buttons (continued from Page 1)

"We are the Indians. It's like the Indian is overlooking the school. When I set out to design it, I thought of what Lane Tech means to me, and what it encompasses," Kosmala said. "It was not meant to be cryptic."

Fischer compared the situation to the many claims of images of the Virgin Mary or Jesus appearing in food, which are often later sold on ebay.

"We talked about this type of thing in Psychology. People say 'Oh my god. This potato chip looks like the Virgin Mary. I'm special!' People just look for these things," Fischer said.

"It is what it is," Kosmala said. "People will always have their opinions. You just can't let it get to you."

The buttons this year were actually smaller than they were in past years. This year, instead of sending out to have the buttons made by a company, the decision was made to have the buttons made at Lane. With the help of the Lane Alumni Association, the special education department received a grant to buy the materials to go with the new button machines they bought. Two students named Steven and William made all of the more than 1,000 senior buttons.

"They love it. They would do it all the time if they could, and they take a lot of pride in their work," said Special Ed teacher Mrs. Schaefer.

At one time the buttons used to be made in the school, and this revives that old Lane tradition.

The department has also made buttons for the Alumni Association and Cross Country team. They do charge a small fee of 25 cents for small buttons, 50 cents for medium, and 75 for large.

"Most of it goes for the actual cost of the materials. Whatever is left goes towards a pizza party, or to take the students to McDonalds," Schaefer said.

Schaefer hopes to get more students involved after seeing the success of the button makers this year.

"Hopefully with more practice, more students will be able to do it. It's hard because you have to really line things up exactly."

Although this year the buttons were seemingly cryptic and very controversial, they were really just something innocent and simple that was taken out of proportion.

Nat Geo speaker inspires with nature

By Alexandra Alexandru

He twisted and turned his body skillfully to fit through the cave entrance. Once halfway in, he pushed his air tank in ahead of him and swam against the blinding silt. As he entered the cave, a massive open space filled with crystal clear water, stalagmites, stalactites, prehistoric organisms, and undiscovered fossils opened up before him.

This is the world of diver and environmental anthropologist, Dr. Kenny Broad. Broad visited Lane on Apr. 6, as part of the National Geographic program. Broad talked about the unexplored underwater caves (blue holes) of the Bahamas. He and his team made various expeditions to these blue holes and made discoveries crucial to various scientific fields.

"[Blue holes] are one of the least understood ecosystems on the planet because they are one of the least explored," said Broad. "What we learned here can tell us about life somewhere else."

Broad and his team dive into blue holes in order to collect animal fossils for study. They have discovered prehistoric animals and even 3,000-year-old crocodile skulls. The animals they encounter while exploring blue holes are also unusual because most of them do not have pigmentation or eyes, which are useless in the pitch-black caves.

However, the expeditions to the Bahamas' blue holes can be dangerous as well as informative. Divers must first squeeze to fit through the cave opening, pass their lifeline down a hole, avoid sharks, and swim through dirty water to reach the beautiful insides of the cave.

"You always see the glorious stuff in magazines, but it's a lot of getting bit by bugs and drudgery before you get to the crystal clear water," said Broad. "There's low visibility, stuff falling on you, and many times you have to push your tank ahead to fit through."

Divers also have to swim through a 30 foot layer of poisonous hydrogen sulfide before they reach their destination. They must swim quickly through this layer because it is especially dangerous and can cause numbed lips and twitching.

However, Broad believes the dangers are worth the magnificent views of unexplored blue holes.

"You feel like they're imprinted on your brain, like you're the first person who saw these," he said.

Broad began cave diving at 18 and has experienced over 4,000 dives. He had his own share of dangerous situations and a few close-calls.

When Broad first began diving in blue holes, he once got caught in a massive whirlpool and could not swim his way out.

"I took off my equipment because I thought there would be less drag," Broad said. He ended up rock climbing his way out of the hole while holding his breath.

According to Broad, his most extreme near-death experience happened 20 years ago in Mexico while exploring a cave. An expedition to the bottom of the cave required the team to live underground for a couple of months until they could reach the bottom. One night it was pitch black and Broad tried to get back into his hammock to sleep after getting up to use the bathroom. However, he fell and hit his head on a nearby rock. After this, he passed out and fell 12-15 feet down to the water below. Luckily, his arm and chest fell on a rope that supported him so he did not drown.

"My close call was going to the bathroom," he now jokes.

Nevertheless, Broad still believes that cave diving is not as dangerous as it seems. He says that it is all about "how you experience risks as feelings." He is a strong advocate for Paul Slovic's research in 1987 about different types of risks. According to Slovic, the familiar gives us a sense of lower risk and what is unknown to us gives us a sense of greater risk, although this may not always be true. For example,

more people get hurt because of fireworks or alcohol accidents than cave diving, but it is familiar to us so we do not think much of it.

"We need to think about how we perceive risks based on our instinct versus what actually happens," said Broad. "We often worry about big catastrophic events but it is often the day-to-day events that get us that are statistically more dangerous."

Broad hopes that his exploration of blue holes influences the scientific community and raises awareness about pollution. Broad has dived through numerous polluted blue holes. He has even found old swing sets and diapers underwater.

"The pollution on land makes its way underwater and in our drinking water, either through toxins or directly," he said.

Other than working with scientists to discover prehistoric fossils and advocating for freshwater conservation, Broad has also worked as a stunt double for a few movies such as *The Cave* and *Into the Blue*. While playing a monster for a movie role, he started bleeding from his ears due to ear problems he acquired from diving in deep waters.

"It does come with some consequences. I can't really chew; it hurts to close my jaw. It's mostly sinus and ear problems," he said.

No matter the consequences, it is clear that Broad's exploration of blue holes has an impact on not only the scientific community, but the student body as well. Broad's life continues to spark curiosity for adventure in today's students.

"After seeing this [presentation], I would love to go down at least once to see a blue hole," said Clarice Bennett, Div. 378.

"If I could do cave diving, I would. I was captivated by all the footage," said Kiri Youngquist, Div. 474.

"I really appreciate what cave divers do to track down the history of the earth and its unknown wonders," said Dennis Hehn, Div. 365.



Editors-In-Chief

Sofia Kerpan
Benjamin Palmer

Managing Editors

Katarzyna Barnak
Aleks Pavlovic
Vivian Troche

Copy Editors

Alexandra Alexandru
Nicole Jacobs

Features Editor

Kelly Sineni

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Brianna Toney

OnLine Editor

Mary Nguyen

Photographers

Jessica Barajas
William Felton
Bianca Rodriguez

Sports Editor

Johnny Stacewicz

Business Managers

Harina Dzebic
Mary Nguyen
Bianca Rodriguez

Advisor

Mr. Seth Johnson

Technical Advisor

Mr. Damir Ara

Principal

Dr. Antoinette LoBosco

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: lanejournalism@yahoo.com or Feedback@lanewarrior.com

Visit THE **WARRIOR** online:
www.lanewarrior.com

**Advertise in
The Warrior**

For more information, email us at
lanejournalism@yahoo.com

Posse grants three seniors free tuition at top schools next year

By Aleks Pavlovic

Anthony Harb's face was streaked with tears. His father had just grabbed the mic at the Posse awards ceremony and praised his son for his hard work and academic success. Yes, his son was just accepted into Carleton College. And yes, his son had just won the Posse scholarship - a leadership scholarship which pays for all four years of the chosen student's tuition at one of the most highly recognized schools in the nation.

The Posse Foundation strives to find students who might have been overlooked by the nation's institutions to give them the college experience that they deserve. They take the entire life of the student into consideration, paying attention to extracurriculars and special circumstances the student might be facing rather than making decisions strictly based off of grades or test scores.

Kevin Dao, Div. 170, and Victoria Sanchez, Div. 174, were the other two lucky scholars picked from Lane. Dao was chosen for Denison University in Granville, Ohio and Sanchez was also chosen for Carleton.

"I wasn't expecting to go to the next round, but the letters kept coming," said Dao. "When I heard the news I blasted music in my car. I was so amazed, so surprised. I was happy beyond words."

Dao plays an active role at the Multi-Cultural Youth Project, mainly participating in 'spoken word,' dealing with poetry and forms of musical entertainment. He visited D.C. for the comprehensive Immigration Reform March, is active in a basketball league outside of school, and participates at the Korean Resource and Cultural Center. He has played volleyball at Lane since his freshman year and has been a member of Korean Club, Vietnamese Club, and Japanese Club. Dao also maintains a part-time job at Old Navy.

"I didn't think I was going to make it to the first interview at all," said Sanchez. "My sister's babysitter couldn't make it and I ended up coming late. It's funny how that worked out."

Throughout her high school career, Sanchez has been involved with Key Club, the science olympiad, the Green Stars mentoring program, and student council.

The Posse experience includes going through three interviews referred to as the Dynamic Assessment Process- DAP 1, DAP 2, and DAP 3. The first is a group interview where around 150 nominated CPS students participate in team building activities and interact with other each while Posse staff observes and takes notes. DAP 2 is a more intimate one-on-one interview with Posse staff in which the student discusses their extracurriculars, their transcript, and why they chose their particular college. DAP 3 is similar to DAP 1, except it includes administrators as well as Posse staff and the number of students is decreased to approximately 25.

"Going through these interviews was a long, stressful, spread out process," said Harb, Div. 174. "I just felt major anxiety throughout the whole process. I knew I had to have backup schools, but in the back of my mind I couldn't help but hope for Posse."

Harb has also been involved in activities both inside and outside of school. He was an officer for NHS, and similar to Dao, has played volleyball for all four years of high school and works part-time at Old Navy.

At the awards ceremony, ten students are chosen for each partner school. These schools include Carleton College, Connecticut College, Denison University, Depauw University, Oberlin College, Pomona College, Trinity College, and the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Students become united with their "Posse" who will follow them to their selected college and receive articles of school pride as gifts.

"Everyone in Posse has such great goals," said Dao. "I have a friend who wants to be a doctor and a friend who wants to be an actress and I see this all happening. Posse watches over us. They constantly call and check up on us. Career coaches hook us up with internships. We have resume coaches and writing coaches to help us get these internships. More people need to know about this so that more money could be given out to people who want to pursue their dreams."

Each scholar must attend a meeting at the downtown location once a week to participate in writing and career workshops, workshops that will help them prepare for the future. They also discuss current events and spend time getting acquainted with one another.

"My parents didn't go to college so they don't know how to help me," said Harb. "Posse does."

"What people need to know about Posse is that it is not a minority scholarship," said Dao. "This opportunity to go to college and study out of state is available to everyone and anyone."

Dao hopes for Posse to gain recognition so that others can reap the same benefits that he did.

"Lane doesn't put the word out there. If we can have Max Schneider Day, we can recognize Posse winners. Some people don't even know how to pro-



The three Posse Scholarship winners of Lane - Harb, Dao, and Sanchez - wear hoodies representing the schools they will attend for free next year.

town location once a week to participate in writing and career workshops, workshops that will help them prepare for the future. They also discuss current events and spend time getting acquainted with one another.

"My parents didn't go to college so they don't know how to help me," said Harb. "Posse does."

"What people need to know about Posse is that it is not a minority scholarship," said Dao. "This opportunity to go to college and study out of state is available to everyone and anyone."

Dao hopes for Posse to gain recognition so that others can reap the same benefits that he did.

"Lane doesn't put the word out there. If we can have Max Schneider Day, we can recognize Posse winners. Some people don't even know how to pro-

nounce it; they call it 'Poh-say.' We must motivate future generations to go to college, to want to go to college."

If prospective scholars make it to the final round but do not win the scholarship, they still have more opportunities ahead. Posse also has locations in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Miami, and Washington D.C., and each city is partnered with different schools around the nation. Posse-Access sends the student's information to each participating Posse school.

These lucky scholars will not only enter college with the comforting thought of a paid tuition, but they will enter with a strong support system and group of friends. They will enter with their Posse.

Fire ravages student home; possessions charred, covered in debris

By Bill Felton

The roof was torn down, broken wiring and pipes were left hanging, the windows were broken, and debris covered everything inside. This was the bedroom of Suad Causevic, Div. 151, after his fourth floor apartment caught fire.

Causevic, went to his uncle's house the day before first semester exams. News that his house caught fire hours earlier had recently come to his attention. The damage was estimated to be at least \$250,000 and the rebuilding was estimated to take up to nine months.

The fire started in the basement of the four floor apartment when a renting tenant used an extension cord to plug in a space heater next to his bed. The mattress of the bed caught on fire and the tenant threw a bucket of water on the flames, accidentally sparking an even larger electrical fire.

Residents were standing outside and smoke filled the windows when Causevic's mother came home from running an errand. However, fearing for others who may have been inside she ran into the smoke-filled apartment and soon passed out from smoke inhalation. She later awoke in the hospital.

"She couldn't talk for a day and coughed up black [bile]," Causevic said. "For a week she had to go to a hospital to get shots and medication," he continued.

Damage was seen throughout the four floors. However, the basement where the fire started was unrecognizable. Black rubble and ash filled the floor, the ceiling fell to the floor exposing the insulation of the floor above, and the dry wall that once separated each room was gone.

"On the first floor everything was gone," Causevic said. "You [couldn't] even see the walls or floors. They're burned off."

Extensive damage was also seen on the top floor. Fearing that the fire would reach the roof and move to other apartments, the fire department tore down the roof and broke the windows in the process of stopping the fire and letting out smoke.

"When I walked in I had no roof," Causevic said.

Along with the visible damages to the apartment and piles of debris, the smell of smoke permeated everything.

"The smell was horrible. I stepped in and it hit me," he said.

Insurance is covering the entire cost of the damages and the costs of the family's temporary townhouse home. Causevic moved from his home, to his uncle's home, to a hotel, and finally a townhouse within

about two weeks. Each move was made without personal belongings, which remained at his original home with extensive smoke damage.

"When we first moved to the hotel I [only] had two pairs of pants and two shirts," he said.

Along with moving to other homes, Causevic lost the luxury of having a personal home.

"In my house I could call things my own... Now there is no freedom," he said.

Causevic lived on the top floor of the apartment and his belongings were not burned, but were covered in debris from the roof and damaged with smoke. The building was over 100 years old, and the smoke contained deadly toxins and chemicals. All of his personal belongings had to be thoroughly cleaned.

"I still haven't gotten some things back," Causevic said.

Through this experience, Causevic feels he has learned a valuable lesson.

"Don't take a house for granted," he said. "You never know how you will feel without one," he said.

He is expected to move back into his original home some time during July or August of this year.

Letterman Club suffers low attendance, dismisses members

By Jasmine O'Donnell

Strengthening fan bases and supporting fellow athletes, Letterman Club aims to create a strong community among Varsity athletics participants. This has not been the case recently. The commitment to the Letterman Club has decreased, noted in its membership's low attendance at recent meetings and mandatory events.

"The club was on the verge of closing and I personally was in favor of canceling it," said Club President, Jackson Perri, Div. 185. "There was no dedication. The only reason people joined the club was for the Turkey Bowl and Cubs games. And that made me, as a president, mad... I lost the heart. It made no sense to keep something going that is already dead. The athletes here at Lane have changed and have lost their competitive nature and tradition."

The club did not close, but several Letterman events were canceled.

The Friday after the February snow days, members of the Letterman Club were instructed to pick

up their tickets to the mandatory Chicago Wolves game. Many students were not at school or did not pick up their tickets, resulting in a very low turnout.

"I believe that it wasn't that anyone didn't want to go or made up excuses, but that not everyone was aware of what was going on because of the blizzard and school closings," said club member Vianey Hernandez, Div. 277. "[We] weren't sure if the event was happening."

Letterman hoped to bring back the spaghetti dinner/dance, an annual event to support athletics that was held several years ago. As a result of the Wolves game turnout, the dinner/dance was canceled.

"[Basically] no one showed up to the Wolves game... We spent so much money on the [Wolves] tickets that we could not fund the dance," said Perri.

"The officers, [club sponsor] Mr. Logalbo, and I thought it was better not to do [the dinner] this year and to focus on other things," said club co-sponsor, Ms. Lorenz.

The dinner/dance was going to be a lively fundraiser for the whole school to attend.

"I was disappointed. I know a lot of seniors were looking forward to [the dance], even ones not in the club," said Stephanie Werner, Div. 162.

"To be honest I'm kind of glad they canceled it, because I didn't feel like selling the [dance] tickets... I guess we could get kicked out of the club [if we did not sell tickets]," said club member, Jackie Bynes Div. 378.

Besides missing Lane sports games and other events, weekly meeting attendance was also a problem. Members are only able to miss two meetings or else they are kicked out of the club. Many members surpassed their limit, causing the number of active members to decrease significantly.

"It isn't a club like any other. If there weren't rules, they [would] just show up for the doughnuts," Logalbo said.

Officers have a difficult time enforcing the rules, because there are far fewer officers than there are members. The club does intend on becoming more forceful with these rules during the second semester.

"It should be a chill thing. I get that we [are supposed to] 'rep Lane Tech,' but come on, lighten

up," said former member, Bailey Bryan, Div. 265.

Other students agree with the strict policies.

"You have to go to certain games. I understand it. It's the point [of the club]: to support the other teams," said Ellen Bialek, Div. 154.

"Honestly, I think kids just don't want be at school at seven [to attend the club meetings], but I don't really mind [being there that early]," Werner said.

In response to these matters, the club has changed its rules to make attending events easier for members. Athletes who are currently in season are only expected to attend three out of the five mandatory sporting events per semester. This change in rules should allow students to fulfill their requirements easier.

Letterman continues to rebuild the club and strengthen athlete dedication. The club hopes to end the school year on a good note with good attendance at their long-awaited Cubs game and Bowling Banquet events.

Students unite to raise money for Japan disaster relief

By Jessica Barajas

On March 11 catastrophe struck Japan. A massive 8.9 earthquake struck Japan's east coast, resulting in a devastating tsunami that swept away buildings, boats, cars, and people miles inland. In response Lane students along with many famous artists have partnered with various organizations such as the Red Cross and Students Rebuild to help Japan in any way possible.

The Great Eastern Japanese Earthquake, as named by the Japanese government, took the lives of more than 12,000 people and left more than 15,000 missing. It also caused extensive and severe structural damage in Japan, including heavy damages to roads and railways, fires in many areas, and a dam collapse. Many electrical generators were taken down and three nuclear reactors suffered explosions due to hydrogen gas that had built up after a cooling system failure. The explosion forced thousands of Japanese residents to evacuate their homes.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan asked Japanese citizens to unite in overcoming what he says is the country's worst crisis since the second World War.

When students first heard of the tragedy that occurred in Japan many were in disbelief. Weeks before the earthquake occurred Alexandra Salazar, Div. 168, had entered a contest at Morton East High School called "Carta para mis Padres" in which she won a free trip to Japan.

"The night before I [should have left for] Japan I received a call from one of the sponsors of the trip telling me that my flight was canceled due to an earthquake that occurred in Japan that day," Salazar said. "At the moment I didn't know whether to feel fortunate that I wasn't in Japan yet, or unlucky that from all the places in the world, an earthquake had struck where I had so eagerly been waiting to go."

Salazar won the contest by writing a letter to her dad in which she talked about the death of her mother

when she was seven years old and how they had to learn how to manage their home and new lives. Salazar was thrilled about winning the trip and counted the days until she left.

"The trip to Japan included visiting the Governor of Hiroshima, Tokyo police department, and even riding on the famous Bullet Train," Salazar said.

Salazar was scheduled to leave for Japan on Saturday, March 12 along with 20 other contest winners from Mexico. Salazar's trip has been rescheduled for March or April of next year. She is eager to visit and help the Japanese citizens in any way she can.

Japan's tragic earthquake not only had great impact on students, but teachers as well. Ceramics teacher Mrs. Moore lived in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. For Moore, seeing what was occurring in Japan was like reliving Katrina all over again.

"It has a special impact on me to watch other people have to go through that," Moore said.

Moore could also relate to the fear that Japanese citizens have due to the nuclear reactor explosions.

"I grew up in the 80s, so we were always worried about nuclear threats. It brings back that fear of the past we always had. It's a tragedy what is occurring in Japan and I feel bad for everyone living through it," she said.

Besides donating money to Red Cross, Moore conducted a fundraiser at Lane through an organization called "Do Something," which is working to help rebuild communities in Japan. Money was raised by getting students to make paper cranes as an origami project. For each crane received, the Bezos Family Foundation donated two dollars to the Architecture for Humanity's reconstruction efforts in Japan.

According to Japanese culture, cranes are sacred creatures and anyone who folds a thousands paper cranes will be granted a wish by a crane. The goal of the organization was to collect 100,000 origami cranes from young students to represent 100 wishes of support and healing to Japan.

"At first I started with classes, offering extra credit to anyone who knew how to make cranes. Then more students wanted to become involved in helping Japan, so we printed step by step directions on how to make cranes and offered them to anyone who was interested," Moore said.

Within only a couple of days Moore received thousands of cranes from students. She was overwhelmed by the number of students that wanted to help. Students such as Jesselyn Magana, Div. 173, made more than 30 cranes in one day.

"I felt bad for everything that happened in Japan and I thought this was a great way I could help them. While I made cranes in school, I would encourage other student to make some. Making cranes became my hobby for those couple days," Magana said.

"When I saw dozens of students making paper cranes outside the lunchroom I hurried to grab directions so I could contribute to the cause," said Troy Daquioag, Div. 161.

Lane students not only donated money to the Red Cross or made paper cranes, but also found fashionable ways to help raise money for Japan. Lady Gaga designed a simple bracelet that said "We pray for Japan" in English and Japanese. The bracelets cost \$5 each and all proceeds were donated to tsunami relief. Many of Lady Gaga's loyal fans quickly purchased one.

"I love Lady Gaga," said Kevin Pozos, Div. 176. "I love the fact that one of my idols, someone I look up to with incredible talent, is behind such a great cause that already has helped so much. It's a horrible travesty what happened in Japan, and her support is remarkable... I bought two: one for myself and one



Students folded origami cranes at the bottom of stairwell Z during lunch periods.

for a friend."

"When I heard that Lady Gaga created a bracelet to help Japan I had to get it," said Liceth Robles, Div. 160. "It's a really unique way to help, and it causes awareness every time someone sees it."

After just two days of the bracelets going on sale Lady Gaga tweeted: "Monsters: in just 48 hrs you've raised a quarter of a million dollars for Japan Relief. It's important we help."

Lady Gaga is not the only person in the fashion industry who is lending Japan a helping hand during this crisis. Designers and artists such as Kenneth Cole, Vera Wang, Chris Brown, and Katy Perry tweeted a link to the International Red Cross's disaster relief page, asking their followers to donate. Rock band, Lincoln Park, created \$25 shirts that read, "not alone" with all proceeds being donated to Music for Relief to help survivors of the earthquake.

Whether it be through the Red Cross, paper cranes, or Lady Gaga bracelets, Lane students and teachers have joined forces in helping Japan during these hard times.

Tensions flare in Middle East

By Kelly Sineni

When the situation in Libya heated up recently, the United States with several other countries joined the fight to enforce a no fly zone put into place by NATO over the country. NATO is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, an allied military organization of 28 countries from Europe and North America.

Like many other countries in North Africa and the Middle East, protests broke out in Libya in February. What started out as 200 protestors taking to the streets in Benghazi (a city on the coast of Libya) has become a NATO military mission. Protests built up as Colonel Moammar Gadhafi, the leader of Libya since 1969, was called to step down. Police began firing on rebel protesters. Many Libyans fled the country to neighboring Tunisia, but the ones that stayed have been left to face an estimated 10,000 death toll according to the New Republic.

When Gadhafi ordered air strikes on the rioters, NATO stepped in and imposed the no fly zone over Libya. When this was ignored and the strikes continued, NATO began a mission led by the US to enforce the no fly zone.

The move was controversial because the U.S. is currently still fighting two wars (Afghanistan and Iraq). On March 28 President Obama addressed the nation's concerns on the nation's involvement.

"To brush aside America's responsibility as a leader, and -- more profoundly -- our responsibilities to our fellow human beings under such circumstances, would have been a betrayal of who we are," Obama said before assuring that the U.S. would only be playing a supporting role after the initial air strikes.

Obama also said that no U.S. ground-troops would be used in Libya, and that the lead role in the air strikes would be passed off to other NATO forces within a matter of days.

Two days later on March 30 the administration announced that although no armed forces had been deployed, CIA operatives were on the ground in Libya trying to find information on the rebels. One fear of U.S. involvement is that we don't know who exactly the rebels are. By supporting them and possibly giving them weapons we could be endangering

ourselves.

Obama's primary goal was regime change without sending in the military, which was criticized by Senator John McCain. Politicians of both parties have criticized Obama. Some for waiting too long to get involved, and some for getting involved at all.

Since being involved in the conflict NATO has been responsible for at least 14 rebel deaths. The country watches as Gaddafi refuses to step down and the U.S. becomes more and more involved.

Tunisia

Tunisia was the first country to begin protesting in the region. Protests started in the middle of December with a fruit vendor who, after he was beaten by an inspector, lit himself on fire. He later died due to his burns. Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali was overthrown and fled to Saudi Arabia. Power turned over to the prime minister, Mohammed Ghannouchi, who later resigned. With democracy possibly coming to Tunisia, the uprising inspired citizens of other countries in the Middle East and North Africa to revolt. The U.S. pledged \$20 million to help build democracy in Tunisia.

Egypt

The protests in Egypt were brought on by the resignation of the dictator of Tunisia. In late January people began coming out to Tahrir Square (later nicknamed Liberation Square) in Cairo to protest corruption in the government led for 30 years by President Mubarak.

The protests were peaceful until Pro-Mubarak protesters arrived in the Square. Unbelievably, they arrived on horses and camels, and were later rumored to be paid by the Mubarak regime. Bombings and shootings on Anti Mubarak protestors ensued. Even journalists were targeted. Around 140 journalists reported being attacked including Anderson Cooper of CNN, Christiane Amanpour of ABC, and Katie Couric of CBS.

After 18 days of revolution, Mubarak stepped down leaving the military in control. On March 30, their current military government announced a presidential election will be held in November. On April 8, however, protestors returned to Tahrir Square and shots rang out for the first time since Mubarak stepped down.

Course Selection Day has students running for classes

By Nathalia Mercado

A hot, sticky auditorium full of Lane students was the beginning location of Course Selection Day. Plenty of students get anxious on this day worrying about whether or not they will get the classes they want. For weeks in advance, it slips into conversations throughout the hallways; friends try to match their schedules and cross their fingers in hopes of getting classes together. Many students look forward to Course Selection Day and hope they get lucky.

"I was so surprised when I was the last person to sign up for photography," said Danny Gomez, Div. 285.

Gomez went to the photography room three times before he finally got his course card signed. Photography is known as one of the classes that fills up fast, and art majors have first priority over other students to take this class. This makes it even harder to get into.

"She kept telling me to come back because she wasn't sure if she had room, but I'm glad I got it because it sounds like fun," said Gomez.

"I couldn't get Guitar, but I understand it fills up really quick," said Willa Sachs, Div. 278.

Dave del Rosario, Div. 280, felt very lucky when he was the second to last person to sign up for Percussion.

"I needed a music class and I really wanted Percussion," del Rosario said. "I jogged to the lunchroom when they called my card and that was the first place I went."

Right after del Rosario, came Jorge Manriquez, Div. 252.

"I wanted Guitar, but it was full so I ran to Percussion and was the last one to sign up," Manriquez said.

For some students though, this chaotic day didn't go so well. Manriquez did manage to get one class he wanted, but every honors class he was hoping for was full.

"I got stuck with all regulars, so I wasn't very happy about that," Manriquez said.

For others, it just goes from bad to

worse. When students hear that all of their classes are full, they usually don't panic too much because most people have back-ups. But what do you do when even your back-ups are full?

"At the beginning I was so eager to get all my classes for next year," said Daniela Rodriguez, Div. 278.

Rodriguez planned to sign up for Psychology and Anatomy last year, but didn't make it. So she was very upset when she heard they were both full again this year, especially since next year is her last year at Lane, and she won't get another chance to take them.

"In the end I was running around signing up for random classes because I literally had to change my schedule like three times," Rodriguez said. "I thought it was going to be a great day, but I walked out so sad and frustrated."

As if the chaos of hundreds of students frantically running around isn't enough, some students also have to deal with the embarrassment of their brightly colored cards, indicating their level of GPA, being seen from across the auditorium. Many students, however, think that signing up for classes in order of GPA is the most fair way to do it.

"It's fair because if you work hard to keep your GPA up, then you deserve to get the classes you want," said Marlon Castellanos.

Castellanos is proud to admit that he's kept his GPA high enough to get into both AP Psychology and Photography, which are two of the most sought-after classes at Lane. He had to take a quick jog from the auditorium to the lunchroom to get these classes, but he thinks it was definitely worth it.

"I don't think it's unfair, and I don't really think there would be another way to do it," said Emma Hodzic, Div. 357.

"I think if you're striving to do good in school then you deserve to have first choice on your classes," said Sachs.

Although Sachs believes this arrangement is fair, she also believes there is a more organized way to do it without so much chaos.

"Everyone running to the lunchroom is

a big issue," Sachs said. "They should do something to change that."

Many, however, find the GPA order to be very unfair. Some students mess up while adjusting to high school, and their mistakes stick with them through their four years at Lane, in their GPA.

"I don't think it's fair because people feel discouraged to go last," said Desiree Diaz, Div. 255

Armando Rivera, Div. 358, got the classes he wanted, even though he was in one of the last groups called, but he still doesn't like the fact that students are ranked.

"We have to wait so long and most people don't even get their classes," said Rivera. "It seems like a waste of time."

"I don't like it because I couldn't get the classes I wanted," said Melissa Echeverria, Div. 363.

Echeverria says she works hard and her GPA doesn't seem to be rising.

Crystal Saldana, Div. 278, isn't quite sure how she feels about the situation, but she does have in mind a couple suggestions for improvements.

"Maybe if we go in either bigger or smaller groups it could go faster, and we won't be stuck in there so long," said Saldana.

Students aren't the only ones feeling the pressure of Course Selection Day. Electives are very competitive not only for students but also for teachers.

"Physics II is going to be a lot of fun," said Mr. Green. "It didn't get enough people at first because it didn't get an honors title, so the audience it was intended for weren't really interested."

After Course Selection Day, Physics II was still open to students. It didn't attract many people because not too many people are interested in taking more classes that involve math.

"It involves a lot of field trips and it won't be as bad as people think," said Green.

Although students differ in opinion on how Course Selection Day is run, all agree that it is one of the most hectic days that take place at Lane throughout the year.

STANDOUT OF THE ISSUE: Safet Susterac

By Sofi Kerpan

Scandinavia was the last thing on Safet Susterac's mind when he was watching *The Fighter* at a friend's house Friday, Mar. 18. Minutes later, a Danish frenzy ensued when Susterac, Div. 184, received a phone call from his little brother: Susterac was offered a record deal in Denmark!

Susterac, or "Sa-Yo," as he refers to himself when rapping, produces his own original songs in which he sings and raps. He often produces the beats himself, but has collaborated on beats created by other producers as well.

Susterac got the record deal by entering a competition for the "Best New Song" through a company called Slikhaar TV, the biggest talent company in northern Europe.

"They scout hairstylists, DJs, artists, models, and web developers," Susterac said.

Having submitted a song featuring himself and his 16-year-old brother rapping, the news of the record deal came as quite a surprise. The deal entails Susterac recording a demo song that the company will promote in Europe. He says he will never let anyone write anything for him, so it will be an original song. If the song receives buzz, negotiations of a full-length album will begin.

"When they said our song was so good [that] they'd offer us the deal and promotion, my eyes got a little watery," he said.

But they were happy tears. Susterac

aspiring rapper recalls his father walking two hours every morning to get to work because he didn't have a car. Working as a janitor, Susterac's father often earned only 20 dollars a day. Today, his father owns his own contracting management business, embodying the American dream.

Now, Susterac has some of his own "hustling" to do. He is currently working on the promo song to be released in Europe. He hopes to visit Denmark this summer to work on his dream, but admits that he cannot commit to moving to Europe permanently. Consequently, he is still trying to make a name for himself here in the U.S.

"I sent out eight demos to record companies all over the country. I've gotten emails back from some of them," Susterac said.

Next year, Susterac also plans to further his music education by studying music and business at Depaul University. He hopes to combine these disciplines in order to make music for the rest of his life.

Susterac is certain of his rap aspirations, and works toward recognition unceasingly. A major theme in his songs is "trying to make it," which is exactly what he does.



Safet Susterac, Div. 184, recently won a record deal in Europe.

has been making mixtapes since the 8th grade, when he wrote his first rap, dedicated to his girlfriend at the time. He has been "hustling to stay fresh" in his raps ever since.

"I draw inspiration from my pops. We're immigrants. When we came here [from Serbia] we were dirt poor, but he hustled hard to make it so that we hardly noticed our poverty," Susterac said.

Having come to America in 1995, the

Students anticipate prom; some plan years in advance

By Jocely Pacheco

She sat in 6th period, staring at the clock waiting for time to pass. It was Valentines Day, and she had never been so nervous.

Seventeen year old Kiara Colone, Div. 156, decided to do what most high school girls would never try to do. She asked out her crush, who already had a girlfriend, to prom.

"At first, I was a little bit nervous about asking," said Colone. "But I've never been the type to plan anything ahead of time, even something as important as prom."

As Colone rushed down the stairs to meet her crush, she was very nervous. Knees trembling, teeth chattering, and with her heart beating fast, she managed to march up to him and gave him a Valentine's card. On the back it read, "Will you go to prom with me?"

She was disappointed when her response was less than ideal.

"I don't know, I have a girlfriend and I don't know if she would be okay with that," her crush told her.

However, that weekend he broke up with his girlfriend and accepted Colone's invitation to prom. What started as a disaster turned into a happy ending for Colone.

Like Colone, Lane seniors start to worry as one of the most important events of their high school career approaches. Prom is a coming of age event, a celebration that high school is over, and the marking of new chapter of their lives.

Some girls plan months, even years in advance to have the perfect day. They dream of having the perfect date, the

best dress, the limo, and the matching corsage.

Jessica Ramos, Div. 123, dreamed of her perfect dress ever since she was a little girl. She knew the color, the style, and even what she dreamed her date would look like.

"I always thought he would be tall, dark, and handsome, like the princes in the fairy tales. My prom date is far from what I thought he would be, but he's better than I expected," said Ramos. "I found my dress in a magazine when I was eight years old, and I've kept it ever since. Now that prom is coming around, I couldn't be more excited."

However, not everyone thinks of prom in the same way.

"I was never one of those girls that like to plan everything years before it happens," said Carmen Derr, Div. 134. "I am taking my boyfriend to prom, and I am very excited about it. We've been dating a few months so it will be fun. I haven't even gotten my dress yet, but I'll wait till it gets closer."

Others are more spontaneous. They would rather wait until the last minute, go with their friends, or even alone. To some Lane seniors, prom is not a big deal.

"I don't have a prom date yet, and I'm perfectly fine with it. If anything, I can just go alone. It's not a big deal," said Eduardo Bustamante, Div. 124.

Prom is an important event to many, but it does not have to be commercialized so that it turns into something more materialistic than sentimental.

"I really thought that I would go to prom alone, and it honestly didn't bother me," said Colone. "But, now that I'm not, I'm actually really happy about it."

Of All the Fallen gain recognition; perform gigs around Chicago

By Maximilian Albekier

The guitars let out a steady drone and then the drums kick in, "du-du-du-du du dudududu-dudu dudududu-dudu." A hyped up group of teens chanting, "I CHOOSE THE BROAD SWORD," follows. The energy explodes and the fists and feet of fans swing wildly to the breakdowns of the band Of All The Fallen, also known by their acronym, OATF.

OATF was formed when guitarist Tom "Senior" Chaplin, Div.185, vocalist Dan Porcz, Div.175, bassist Alex Barrera, senior at Gordon Tech, and drummer Tim Puczkowski, freshman at Elmhurst college, started a conversation about how their favorite band, Between The Buried & Me, was the most talented group of musicians that ever put together a band. From that moment in 2008-2009, the foundation for what was to be the future for OATF was set. Since then the band has gone through many transitions and matured both in their personal lives and musically.

"We started off as a funky Blink-182 cover band because at first we had no idea what we wanted to play," Chaplin said. "After deciding that we wanted to play metal and heavier music we could not think of a name."

"The band was thinking too hard about a name and rushed to propositions," Porcz said. "Names like Isla Sorna, Skeletons of Society, Kildare, Escaton, and a few more ridiculous combinations of words [were considered]."

Puczkowski proposed the name "The Fallen Martyrs," for the band. After playing around with the combination of the words, "Of All The Fallen" was proposed and agreed on by the rest of the band.

"The key to finding a good band name is to not look for it to hard, let it come to you," Chaplin said. "Don't be thirsty and you will not die of thirst."

After a few practices, OATF swapped out Barrera for their former bassist John O'Callaghan, sophomore at Northeastern, and added former guitarist Matt Curtis, Div. 186, and a full line up

was intact. Once OATF had a set list it was time for their first show.

"The first show was one of the most embarrassing situations in my life," Porcz said. "None of us had ever played before to an audience outside of school and we messed up a lot. Everyone made fun of us."

"The performance started okay and got progressively worse," Chaplin said. "Due to delays, we were setting up during the time we should have been playing and overall [the performance] became fairly sloppy as the show progressed."

"The opening band needs three things," Chaplin said. "Energy to start the show off; good, balanced live sounds to impress the crowd and prove them wrong with their [doubt] in you; and finally, charisma and looks for the ladies. We possessed none of these qualities."

As OATF became more of a stable group, they tweaked and altered the line up and sound to get what they were looking for.

"Some people play sports, I play metal," Chaplin said. "It's just what I'm good at and I have a great time doing what I do. I definitely feel like we've improved as a band, musically, and as band mates. I know over the years I've picked up a few things that have helped me learn to play better and how to write better material."

"At times it can be very stressful," Porcz said. "Dealing with band drama, getting practice together, getting [merchandise] and a recording set up, but the experiences I've had with the band are incredible and I wouldn't trade them for the world."

In Jan. 2010 OATF was to release their demo album. With so much going on between former drummer Dylan Bean and Porcz, tensions grew.

"Challenges come up all the time," Porcz said. "I think the most stressful time for me was the month before we released our demo CD in January 2010. At this point we had Dylan as a drummer, who was a jerk to everyone, and John was also becoming more of a [jerk]. I almost quit because of it. There is always a challenge to face and you never know when [it] will appear."

As the band slowly grew in popularity they were able to meet new fans, bands, and potential future



Of All the Fallen pose in a recent promo photoshoot.

members.

"One time we played with this band [called] Decayal and they had an 'interesting' front man," Porcz said. "He was actually pulling out some of his hair and throwing it into the crowd as he was performing. As he did that I was trying to catch all the hair before it hit the ground."

OATF booked a show in May to play at the Congress theatre. This was Curtis's, current guitarist at the time, last show. It was advertised through posters, Facebook, and word of mouth. At the final show, Tom "Junior" Conway, current guitarist, came out to see the band he was going to audition for. He liked what he heard from OATF and contacted Chaplin right away.

"[Conway] is a great kid. He is funny, easy to get along with, and he can shred. He fit right in," Chaplin said. "The reason we call him Junior and me Senior is because I can grow a beard and he can't."

"Tom "Senior" Chaplin, guitar, Tom "Junior" Conway, guitar, Dan Porcz, vocals, Anthony Mo-

relli, bass, Drew Stevens, drums. This is the current line-up of OATF, three years in the making," Chaplin said. "I have absolutely no hard feelings with any ex-members or anything, and I believe it's the same way for them."

With a strong line-up in place and ever growing popularity, OATF plays regularly in the Chicagoland area and suburbs. This past summer they released a three song E.P. that showcased their maturity as a band since their freshman/sophomore years of high school and this year plan on spreading their music.

"If all goes according to plan we will be touring this summer," Porcz said.

"I remember when we were opening for local shows and everyone stood around hearing, but not listening to our music," Chaplin said. Now, I'm amazed by how many people are at our shows "throwin' down," moshing, and mouthing our words. People started coming to shows not only because they were our friends, but because they wanted to."

Who is Albert G. Lane?

By Diana Barragan

Just because someone goes to Lane does not mean they know every fact about the school's namesake, or anything at all for that matter.

Regardless of whether they are freshmen, sophmores, juniors, seniors, or even teachers, there are still misconceptions about who Albert G. Lane actually was.

"I think he wanted to represent the Native Americans, so he founded the school and the Indian of Lane represents the Native American warriors," said a student who preferred not to be named.

Another student, who also wants to remain anonymous said, "I'm pretty sure he was in the Revolutionary War."

Jennifer Idrovo, Div. 281, guessed that his middle initial was "Gordon."

"I don't even know what is his middle initial and I have been working at Lane for the past five years," said Mrs. Isaacson, a French teacher.

Mrs. Hanly, an English teacher, admits to that same confession.

Another student, Alan Chavez, Div. 280, thought that Lane was a "senator."

Albert Grannis, not "Gordon", Lane was born on March 15, 1841 in Galewood, IL. He began working at the age of seven in order to help his family. Ten years later, he took the City Teacher's

Exam just to see what would happen. Lane passed the test.

This completely changed his life, launching him into the field of education. At the age of 17, he became the principal of the Franklin School.

Guitar teacher Mr. Sweet said, "I think he was a principal at like age 17?" Sweet is right. Lane had not finished high school when he became principal of the Franklin School.

"I heard that he wasn't the principal of Lane Tech, but he was the head of the school department," said Mark Lewandowski, Div. 350. Lewandowski is almost correct.

He was actually elected Cook County Superintendent of Schools, which is close to being head of a school department, and was married to Francis Smallwood. She was a teacher at Central High School and they had two daughters. Not "seven children" like Phibin Philip, Div. 275, thought.

In fact, one of Lane's dreams was to incorporate manual training in high schools. Using his influence as Superintendent of Schools, Lane was able to achieve his dream and have manual training in Crane High School.

After his death on August 22, 1906, he was honored by having a school named after him. It was originally called Albert Grannis Lane Manual Training High School and located on Division and Sedgwick. It was founded in 1908, but dedicated to Lane in February 1909.

Since the school's population in the 1930's had grown to a huge number (over 7,000) they relocated the school to its current loca-



Lane Tech was dedicated to Albert G. Lane in 1909.

tion. The new school was opened on September 17, 1934. This school also went through a name change to Albert Grannis Lane Technical High School and finally College Prep was added to the name in 2004.

Hidden treasures discovered in Lane classrooms

By Sophia Swenson

Mr. O'Brien wearily cleans out one of his orchestra cabinets, which is filled to the brim with old garbage left by the last teacher. He gets to the bottom of the heap and stops for a moment, spotting the corner of a \$20 bill sitting under the huge pile of trash. Hesitantly, he grabs hold of it, thinking this must be a joke. But what Mr. O'Brien does not realize is that he has just stumbled across \$1,600 in \$20 bills, lying under an old pile of junk.

Lane Tech is built around collective piles of trash... or treasure, depending on who you ask. Stuffed inside cupboards or even hidden behind walls,

chaos for practicing.

"It was a disaster," said Mr. O'Brien, "I wasn't going to take the job. It was just like, I didn't know if they were trying to hire a cleaning person, or if they really wanted to change the whole orchestra program."

By the time Mr. O'Brien had finished cleaning his room, he had uncovered three desks, a piano, and over 200 McDonalds coffee cups. Among other things were the \$1,600, which were accumulated and easily forgotten by the previous teacher under all the trash. But that was just the beginning. There were also cardboard boxes full of ticket stubs, bags of old clothes, soda bottles the past teacher had hoarded, and not to mention a

of tools crowd a bench in the back, while ramps, a slide ruler, and even a mini blue telephone booth (a la Doctor Who) line the walls, and hang from the ceiling.

"Pack rats with good intentions" is what Mr. Vessalo fondly calls the previous owners of the room, and with good reason. Even after almost 50 trash bags full of junk have been hauled out of the area throughout the year, he is not nearly done with sorting his room's trash from treasure.

Mr. Vessalo pulls up a chalkboard to reveal even more random objects ranging from magnifying lenses to rows and rows of identical heavy pieces of metal, each about the size of a softball, and completely coated in dust. This is only one of the cabinets that he has not looked through yet, and as he sifts through the arid collection, some of the odds and ends are still in their original package.

"Most of this stuff is at least 70 or 80 years old. I've found things that have had dates of the 1920's or 1930's," said Mr. Vessalo. "I'm still finding stuff."

He is not the only one.

Through the ceramics classroom, into a pottery-filled back room, and in a pitch-black makeshift storage space, Ms. Moore, Lane's ceramics teacher, leads the way to multiple tubs of a mystery liquid. These three huge containers, each about three feet high and one foot across, were put into the dark, cluttered room after a previous teacher knocked a hole in the wall to make some extra space. The entrance to the room is pretty big, enough for a person to climb through and the cramped passage that leads to the obscure hiding spot adds to an ominous feel.

"It's just a lot of toxic chemicals from the past machine shop," said Ms. Moore.

Lane's ceramics classroom used to serve as one of Lane's previous machine shops, like many of the first floor classrooms.

Ms. Moore was one of the teachers who helped clean out Lane's art storage room about 10 years ago, where old prints made by artists from the Works Progress Administration



Tanks of a mystery liquid are found in the hidden cave of the ceramics room.

(WPA)/ Federal Art Project around the 1930's were found.

Even an homage that consisted of a picture of a previous art teacher, with the years he taught was found and kept by Ms. McMeans, Lane's photography teacher, who decided to keep it in the storage place for a "good omen". Like many other teachers, she's kept some of the broken materials she has found for educational purposes.

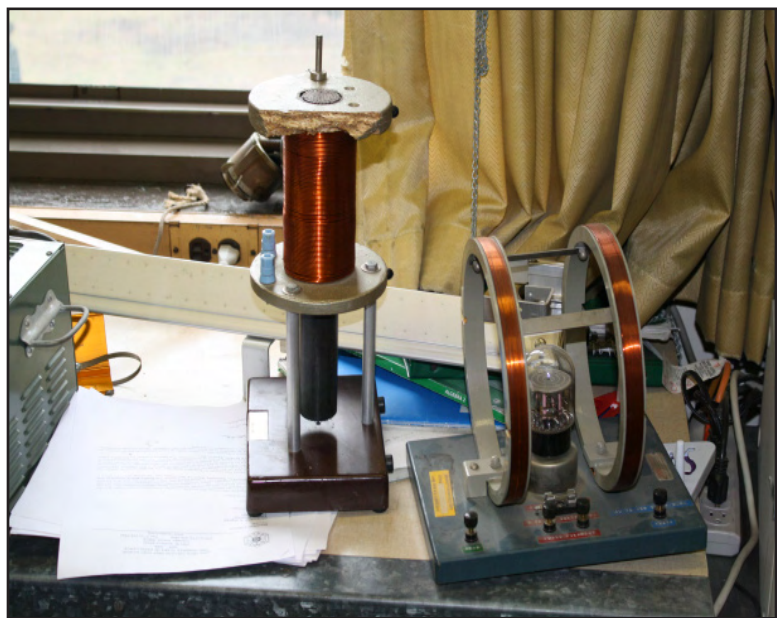
"I've put up a sort-of museum of all the pieces that I've excavated from that area," said Ms. McMeans, who sports a top shelf full of old broken cameras, and even an old projector.

After the art storage room was finished, a table was put out that held old, dusty odds and ends that were free for anyone's taking.

Lane's current drama nest, another previous machine shop, has

been called home by what seem to be hundreds of props and costumes since Mrs. Hanson moved in from her second floor room. The balcony of the current classroom is lined with old Lane lockers, while on the ground sits a telephone booth along with a working fake fire place, which has a light bulb that lights up its fake logs; both odd props that Mrs. Hanson has found useful over the years.

Lane's teachers are still coming across and using old items in their classrooms, whether they are from previous teachers, or provided by the school itself. And whether these small glimpses of the past are accidental, or if treasure hunting is on the agenda, there is a good chance one might stumble across something pretty interesting.



Mr. Vessalo has found old, metal objects used for labs in Room 241.

Lane's past has been swept under the carpet in the process of making room for new possibilities. But little by little, Lane's teachers are stumbling upon these memories as they use their classrooms.

Mr. O'Brien, the current band director, came to Lane in 2001, taking a job as the new orchestra director. What Mr. O'Brien did not know was that along with taking a position as a teacher, he would also be taking the position as the orchestra room's maid. Literally piles of garbage crept up the walls and smothered the room. In fact, Lane's orchestra students only had a small clearing in the middle of the

huge bank safe that was taken down by hired movers. Needless to say, the orchestra room's current condition is a nice change from what it was 10 years ago.

In Lane's lower floors, although not many messes can claim to be as intense as Mr. O'Brien's, many art and science classrooms still hold large collections of trinkets and toys from their pasts.

Mr. Vessalo, one of Lanes physics teachers, just moved into his classroom this year and has been trying to clean it ever since. It does not take too much to guess that Room 241 has been a physics niche since Lane moved to its current location. Heaps



Random objects hang on display from the ceiling in Room 241.

Lane girls make effort to impress in spite of painful heels

By Bria Perry

Oh you're fancy, huh? Nails done, hair done, everything done... do not forget about the sore-feet part too! For some students at Lane, wearing heels to school is a regular style choice and everything else, good or bad, comes with the territory, including the occasional sore foot.

Carla Martinez, Div. 252, has been consistently wearing heels to school since the fall of her junior year.

"I have recently started to model dresses, so I'm trying to get as much experience as possible," Martinez said.

Because she is new at wearing heels, Martinez's mother has suggested that she start off small, but that does not completely keep the pain away of walking in the shoes.

"My feet do hurt when I wear heels. By 7th period my feet are killing me," Martinez said.

If they are not killing her feet, then her heels are probably making it very awkward for her to walk into class.

"I get annoyed by the noise my heels make. I hate walking in the middle of class during a test and having my heels cause a distraction," Martinez said.

Martinez's problems with her shoes being uncomfortable or too loud are not new to women who wear heels, and has caused many to question why women wear them at all.

"I can't imagine those heels being comfortable," said Damian Taraszka, Div. 262. "So why wear something that's uncomfortable?"

Taraszka has also noticed some girls who seem to have a difficult time just walking in them.

"At least two to three times a week I see a girl in the halls wearing heels and it looks like her ankles are about to break," said Taraszka.

Although he does not hate heels, Taraszka believes many girls only wear them because they want to be noticed and that is why they are willing to deal with the discomfort.

On the other hand, Ale Garcia, Div. 279, appreciates the ex-

tra effort that girls make when they wear heels.

"It looks nice and it's pretty gutsy," she said.

Garcia, who is much more into flat boots, laughs when she pictures herself wearing high-heeled shoes.

"I'm pretty sure if I wear anything above three inches I'd be flat on my face," Garcia said.

She is much more comfortable as an onlooker, and enjoys seeing people who take time to get fancy while in school.

"I think it's very admirable to see people who dress nice every day with the heels," said Garcia.

Both points of views about wearing heels have been discussed in various blogs and magazines.

According to an article on Rollasole.com, research has shown that heels elongate the leg, straighten the posture, push out the chest, and lift the "bum." These factors help to increase a woman's self-confidence. The article also notes that women are dressing to stand out, and now, heels have become a unique fashion statement.

Many students like making this "statement." Martinez claims she gets regularly complimented on her heels, which is the reason she wears them in the first place.

"I wear heels in order for me to get more confidence and poise," Martinez said. "They help me have control on the way I walk, and I think that is very important. I also wear them because they're cute."

Tenzin Moenkyi, Div. 466, also thinks that heels are cute, and has been wearing them for a while.

"I started wearing heels at 10. [The heels] varied from one inch to three and a half inches," Moenkyi said. "It was something I liked."

Although she enjoys wearing heels, Moenkyi does not think it is necessary to wear them every day to school. Instead, the freshman likes to wear them for special occasions.

"[I'll wear heels] if it's my birthday or if I'm going somewhere after school and I don't feel like changing," Moenkyi said.

There actually is not much to wearing heels for Moenkyi. For her, they are just another fashion expression. Sometimes though, the extra height can bring attention.

"I'm already pretty tall for a girl, so I feel like I'm taller than everybody," Moenkyi said.

Still, this does not keep this Steve Madden fan from feeling like a true lady while wearing her shoes.



"I think that heels add to a woman's femininity. I honestly don't care what people think," Moenkyi said.

Jessica Cleary, Div. 273, shares Moenkyi's "don't care" attitude, and enjoys wearing high heels and looking like a model while doing it.

"I think they make me look better. I love walking in them and strutting like I'm on the runway with them in the hallways," Cleary said. "I feel more powerful with them."

This "power" often gives girls who wear heels a bad rep as snooty, bossy, or as the mean girls of the school, something that Cleary finds completely untrue.

"Heels don't make me a bad person. I just like to express myself," Cleary said. "I know I'm not stuck up. Girls want to feel beautiful without being called that."

Molly Winter, Div. 277, does not get called stuck up because of her heels and she does not have to worry about the pain in her feet either.

"I actually think that [heels] are more comfortable," Winter said.

Winter is most comfortable in a pair with a heel no smaller than three inches, and she can wear them in all types of weather, although, she has to be more careful during the winter months.

"On rare occasions I'll bring boots in and I'll switch them during school," said Winter.

For the most part, her heels bring her happiness, but sometimes they have brought embarrassment.

"[One time] my shoes broke in school. The wedge part of the shoe popped off," said Winter. "It looked like my shoes were talking. I even tried to tape it. It was pretty bad."

Besides her "talking shoes," there is not much that can bother Winter about her heels, not even the loud noise they make.

In fact, the loud "tap tap" from a four inch pump worn by a lady with a sophisticated button-down and a crisp pencil skirt might not be a staff member at all, but Winter, who thrives on the her more mature look and sound.

"Most people think that I'm a teacher so they'll stop whatever they're doing," said Winter.

Winter loves the respect she gets from students in the halls who confuse her for an adult.

Whether they are wearing them to practice modeling, using the hallways as runways, being confused for a teacher, or simply watching from afar, Lane girls are wearing heels to school and nothing seems to slow them down.... except, of course, the occasional sore foot!

Short people find overcoming height challenge a tall order

By Kelly Mrofcza

In the 1988 film *Big*, starring Tom Hanks, a preteen boy faces disadvantages due to his short height. One night, he and his family go to an amusement park. He decides to break away and go on one of the scariest rides at the park with one of the prettiest girls in his class. He waits anxiously in line to find out he is too short to ride it. Embarrassed, he leaves and stumbles across a machine with a genie that offers to grant one wish for the small price of a quarter.

"I wish to be big," he said.

Little did he know the machine paid close attention to his wish. When he awoke the next morning, he had magically transformed into an adult.

Adolescents are often heard wishing they were older. One thing that humans have no control over is height. Though faced with many obstacles and jokes, if most Lane students fell across a magic genie, they would not wish to be big.

"I love who I am. I have been the same height since sixth grade and I have grown accustomed to being short. I cannot imagine myself being tall," said 5-foot-1-inch Karolina Krol, Div. 272.

Being short has all sorts of advantages. One for example, is being able to weave in and out of people in the hallways.

"I don't have to wait for people on the stairs

because I easily pass through them," said 4-foot-11-inch Kristian Sanchez, Div. 381.

Angela Jose, Div. 178, who is also 4-foot-11, says that being short helps her do great in hide-and-go-seek. She is the ultimate hider. Because she was always short, as a kid she was able to fit into all the small hiding spots, like kitchen cupboards. Often, she would still be hiding, thinking the game was still on, when really the seekers had just given up.

For one student, being short also helps him save money.

"When I go to the movies, I can often get by for paying child's price. I think that is awesome," said 5-foot-1-inch Sean Dimagiba, Div. 271.

Life is not perfect for these small Lane students. They also face many obstacles.

Patricia Sporschill, Div. 471, is four feet and seven inches tall. She says that riding the CTA is an obstacle. When there is nowhere to sit on the bus, she has trouble reaching the handles to hold onto. When she does sit down, her feet cannot reach the floor.

Being short can also interfere with after-school jobs.

"When I work [at Muvico] I always dread when people ask for a large drink. I have to hold the cup with both hands as I fill it up! It's the only way I can do it to avoid spilling pop all over!" said Krol.

For one student, her height even gets in the

way of her hobby.

"Being short really affects my modeling. I have to wear five inch heels. I have to try really hard and prove that I can be just as good as the tall models, because, of course, the tall models are chosen before me," said Chitavia Murph, Div. 271.

Witnessed only by a few people, Dimagiba is a hero and it's all thanks to his short height.

"Once when I went to Lincoln Park Zoo with my little brother, there was this little kid stuck in the play area in the children's petting zoo. His mom couldn't go in and get him since the place was full of toddlers. So, I climbed into this high-up maze thing and had to get through a bunch of kids to get to him. I carried him out and the mom thanked me for it," said Dimagiba.

Of course, being short also brings in the nicknames. From "shorty" and "shrimp" to "little person," Jose gets a lot of additional names to the one she was born with.

Funny gestures just cannot be avoided when it comes to height.

"I cannot go a day without someone reminding me how small I am. Not one day! I was convinced I can get handicapped parking for being a legal midget," said Sanchez.

Her only wish is to reach five feet.

"Some of my teachers always make little jokes about me being short. But the jokes do not bother me. I don't go home and cry because I'm



short," said Benjamin Vega, Div. 380.

There are petite people, wide people, short and tall. There are so many different physical appearances in the world. Though dreams of being an NBA hoops star are slightly delusional, short people still have many advantages due to their petite stature.



Comic by Edwin Cho

LANE STAFF MEMBER GETS HOT DOUG'S TATTOO; WILL EAT FREE FOR LIFE

By Katarzyna Barnak

Special Education staff member Mr. Liam O'Donnell has several tattoos: a lemon and a heart on the inside of his knees, a family shield and an anchor on his arms, an etching on his bicep, a quote on his elbow, a line from a poem on his chest, and now - Hot diggity dog! - his eighth piece of body art.

O'Donnell's most recent tattoo is a hot dog in a leather jacket. But this is no ordinary tattoo; it comes with a perk. The tattoo will allow him to eat free food from Hot Doug's restaurant (3324 North California) for the rest of his life.

"[The tattoo] is a combination of the logo for Hot Doug's and a T-shirt for this band called Minor Threat," said O'Donnell.

The tattoo is located on his right shin - one of the most painful spots to get a tattoo since it is right over a bone.

"I wanted to feel like I earned my free food," O'Donnell said.

O'Donnell is not the first person to have the logo inked on his skin. Doug Sohn, the creator

and owner of Hot Doug's: The Sausage Superstore and Encased Meat Emporium, says that the whole tattoo phenomenon was actually started about 10 years ago by a hotdog-loving Lane student.

"He got the tattoo and I said 'Well, I can't charge you for that.' Someone must have overheard," Sohn said.

Since then 21 people, 12 men and nine women, have had a Hot Doug's tattoo inked onto them. The tattoo trend took off even more about four months ago after an article about Hot Doug's tattoo deal was published in the Chicago Tribune. More people are now taking an interest in getting the tattoo. Sohn says the size of the tattoo and its location on the body do not matter as long as the person is able to show it.

The Hot Doug's logo resembles Sohn because of the thick-rimmed glasses worn by both the hotdog and Sohn.

"It's incredibly flattering and creepy at the same time," Sohn said.

There are limits to how much free food a tattooed customer can order. Only they are entitled to eat for free. They can't come with a group of friends and order food for all of them. But there is no limit as to how many hot dogs the tattoo holder can eat.

"I'm a big believer in self-policing," Sohn said. "But if someone came in and ordered 20 hot dogs, I would make them sit down and watch them eat all twenty."

O'Donnell is not planning on abusing his new privilege and has only been going once a week since getting the tattoo. He says he never orders more than three hot dogs and some fries.

One thing the tattoo is not useful for is cutting the long lines that routinely stretch outside the restaurant's entrance, around the corner, and past the dumpsters in the back alley. Waiting by the alley is considered "the two-hour wait." Sometimes lines stretch down the entire block.

"There is nothing you can do to cut in line and I'm not planning on opening that can of worms," Sohn said.

Nevertheless, O'Donnell is not disheartened by the long waits that he'll still have to go through to take

advantage of the free food. And Sohn clarified that free food for life means not just that of the customer, but of his as well.

"You get to eat here for the rest of your life...or for the rest of my life," said Doug. "A tattoo is permanent, but I'm not."

O'Donnell isn't worried that one day the free food might end. He would have gotten the tattoo even if the free meals were not involved.

"It's just skin and when I get older one day its going to get wrinkly and saggy and I probably won't be able to see it. But I'll have a patch of black ink reminding me of this time in my life," O'Donnell said.

On that note, O'Donnell is already planning a ninth tattoo that would be photography themed as a reminder of his first kodachrome camera.

"I think I'll be doing this for a while," O'Donnell said.

Hot Doug's is located on the corner of California and Roscoe. The restaurant is known for its celebrity sausages, its duck fat fries, and loooong lines. Doug works the register and personally takes the orders of his customers.

"On my first visit, I didn't know hot dogs could be that good," O'Donnell said. "It was really fun and unlike any other dining experience I'd had before."

O'Donnell has been a devoted customer since that first visit six years ago. His favorite hot dogs are the Marty Allen (thunderer) and Salma Hayek (spicy andouille sausage).

"He [Doug] really knows how to put the flavors together," O'Donnell said.

Sohn gets his ideas for the unique "encased meats" from traveling, cook books, shows, etc.

"Nothing's on [the menu] that I don't like," Sohn said.

Sohn never planned on opening a restaurant, especially one that specialized in gourmet hot dogs. It was sort of a spur of the moment decision.

"A friend of mine had a bad hot dog once and that's how it happened," Sohn said.

As Doug continues to provide Chicago with



The Hot Doug's logo wears glasses causing it to resemble the owner Doug Sohn.



Mr. Liam O'Donnell's shin tattoo of Hot Doug in a Sex Pistols t-shirt guarantees him free food for life from the restaurant.



The line to get into Hot Doug's typically extends well out of the entrance and down the block all the way into the back alley.

high-quality hot dogs, O'Donnell will be a regular visitor displaying his tattoo and enjoying several free meals.

Class clowns try turning school into circus

By Cherrell Anderson

Julian Vasquez, Div. 263, writes an inappropriate note and finds a sneaky way to stick it on his teacher's back. He sits down at his desk with a mischievous grin as he waits for his classmates to acknowledge his prank. Everyone starts laughing as they see the note on their clueless teacher's back. It is a long time before the teacher realizes that the joke is on her, which makes the prankster laugh even more.

Students like Vasquez are labeled as the "funny guy." Not only do the funny guys pull pranks in class, they do things such as make random noises, blurt out inappropriate comments, and pick on their classmates. Their behavior entertains some, but annoys others. There may be a reason why these "class clowns" are almost always male.

According to some male students who are considered "funny guys," their main purpose for their behavior is to entertain.

"I behave this way because it makes my day to hear a person laugh because of me," said Vasquez. "If [being a class clown] is such a bad thing, why are there so many people who enjoy having me in a class? It's just the point blank truth that every class

needs a class clown."

"It's fun making everyone laugh. Class is boring if there isn't someone funny in class," said Abdul Kulam, Div. 263, who is considered obnoxious by some of his peers with his class jokes.

While students like Vasquez and Kulam say their behavior is entertaining, some students think otherwise.

"[The behavior] is annoying, but everyone else in class knows it's just for the attention, so no one really cares that much," said Gabriella Quinones, Div. 156. "It gets obnoxious [after a while.] You can only say 'Your mom' so many times before I want to punch you in the face."

"Those funny guys are usually the ones who I end up not liking because they're a distraction. It is very annoying rather than entertaining and they think that they're funny, but in actuality, they're not," said Delano Meredith, Div. 359.

Meredith described an experience he had with a "funny guy" in his class. The student was cracking jokes "every five seconds," which made his teacher constantly stop the lesson. It bothered Meredith because he had to sit and listen to his teacher continuously scold the student, which he felt was a waste of time.

"Honestly, I know I am obnoxious, but I could

[not] care less," said Vasquez. "People like me aren't thirsty for attention. We just have outgoing personalities and love to be the life of the classroom."

Vasquez and Kulam agreed that it is mostly males who behave more disruptively than females. According to Vasquez, "most women aren't that funny," and Kulam said that "girls are usually much more mature [than boys]."

The reason for more disruptive behavior in males than females may go deeper than just trying to get a laugh out of their classmates. It may be due to the development of their brain as well as their socialization. AP Psychology teacher, Mr. Parsons, says the numbers support the theory.

"In general, girls are more academically successful right now throughout the United States," said Parsons. "Eighty percent of people in the world who are diagnosed with ADHD (Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) are American boys."

ADHD is a condition of the brain that results in excessive activity, impulsivity, and difficulties with focusing attention. ADHD often makes it difficult for children to control their behavior in school and social settings. Some characteristics of ADHD are excessive running, talking, restlessness, manipulation of objects, and aggressive behavior.

Parsons also believes that media, as well as other

social influences, contribute to the behavior of some boys.

"What's happening in society today is that being academic is known as a 'female thing' and that 'real men' don't study. In the last 20 years, boys are being taught to be loud, violent, and obnoxious," Parsons said.

The cause of disruptive behavior in males is something Parsons is very interested in. His class watched *Raising Cain*, a documentary of how MTV and corporations in general sell to young boys an image of what they should be. A term for males that was used in the film is a "mook," which is a teenage boy who is loud, crude, messy, obnoxious, and wears his hair and clothes in a sloppy manner.

"Kids imitate what they see on TV. Movies like Jackass and [TV show] Jersey Shore have guys that act like mooks," Parsons said.

The funny guy in the classroom could be suffering from a case of ADHD, or his obnoxious behavior may just be a part of his personality. He could be trying to be "The Situation" of the classroom, or just grew up thinking that obnoxious behavior is the way to go. Whatever the reason for the obnoxious behavior, it certainly seems to be a "guy thing."

SLANGTIONARY

By Sofia Kerpan

Much slang is the product of adolescent subculture, making Lane a breeding ground for linguistic invention. I think it should be embraced. I don't mean that we should disregard the English language entirely, but just have fun with it. Shakespeare made up words in his day, just like we do. Here is a guide to today's most popular slang words, for those who want to stay informed.

Based - adj. to go about one's own business with confidence.
Also Synonymous with "swag".
Beyoncé is so based, she takes fashion risks all the time.

Bougie - adj. (pronounced Boo-zhee) Stuck up and obsessed with wealth and status. Derived from French word bourgeoisie.
He's so bougie, he got the same car that Beyoncé drives.

Cake - noun./adj. used to describe endearing actions or behavior, often cheesy or romantic in nature. Can also refer to PDA in the hallways, or other public romantic behavior.
It was so cake when he held her hand and told her she was prettier than Beyoncé.

Clutch - adj. awesome, cool, pleasant.
I want a clutch leotard like the one Beyoncé wears in the "Single Ladies" music video.

Dece - adj. shortened form of the word "decent". Meaning is the same.
Every Beyoncé song is more dece than the last.

Going ham - verb expression. to put forth effort and dedication in executing something. Also synonymous with "go hawrd" as in to perform well.
I went so ham last night, I made a Beyoncé shrine.

Going Hawrd (alternate spelling: going hoard) - verb expression. alternate spelling of the word "hard". Used to express or commend exceptional performance.
THAT BEYONCÉ CONCERT WENT SO HAWWWWRD!

Goon - noun. respectable being, usually a man. A term of endearment or esteem.
Beyoncé married that goon Jay-Z.

Gravy - noun. good, alright. Usually used in a consolatory manner.
*-You don't like Beyoncé?
-No.
-It's all gravy, we just can't be friends anymore. :)*

Flame - adj. awesome, pleasant.
Destiny's Child was flame. Mostly because of Beyoncé.

Hella - adj. 1. very, profoundly 2. A lot of
*i. You are hella crazy if you don't like Beyoncé.
ii. There were hella pregnancy rumors about Beyoncé last week.*

Hitting - adj. awesome, pleasant
If I woke up next to Beyoncé, that would be so hitting.

Hitting the lick - verb expression. stealing, shoplifting and/or acquiring wealth or material possessions swiftly and deftly.
I hit the lick when I got my paycheck, so I bought Beyoncé's new perfume!

Hitting the line - verb expression to call or text on the phone.
Hit my line if you want to know some Beyoncé trivia.



Ethan Vanlear, Div. 368, Eli Boyd, Div. 261, and Ro West, Div. 257, claim to have coined the term "loud."

Huff - adj. sulking anger, usually unwarranted and unnecessary hostility.
Don't get huff just because I resemble Beyoncé.

Larry - noun. a person that doesn't deserve respect, someone who is naive or mistaken in some way.
You're a Larry if don't respect Beyoncé as an artist.

Lml - acronym. for "love my life" optimism in abbreviation.
I JUST MET BEYONCÉ. LML.

Loud - adj. bold, audacious.
Kanye was so loud when he stole the mic from Taylor Swift to say, "Beyoncé had the best video of all time. OF ALL TIME."

Lowkey - adj. simple translation of "on the downlow." Often used in shame, as in something that one would prefer not to admit.
Lowkey, I am Beyoncé's number one fan.

Mad - 1. very 2. a lot of
*i. Beyoncé is mad bootylicious.
ii. Beyoncé has mad fans.*

Meanmug - noun. a mean glance or stare that typically prompts the question "Why you meanmuggin?!"
She was meanmuggin when i did the Single Ladies dance at that party. She's just jealous.

Obvi - adverb. shortened form of obviously. Often used alone, as it's own sentence.
*-Did you watch Beyoncé's True Hollywood Story Last night?
-Obvi.*

Real talk - noun expression. expression of acknowledgment of a widespread truth. Also a way of announcing agreement with another.
*-Beyoncé is a beautiful woman.
-Real talk.*

On the grind - engaging in productive, beneficial endeavors.
I was on the grind today. I joined the Beyoncé fan club.

Salty - adj. uncalled for, extremely rude
It was salty of you to steal my Beyoncé CD.

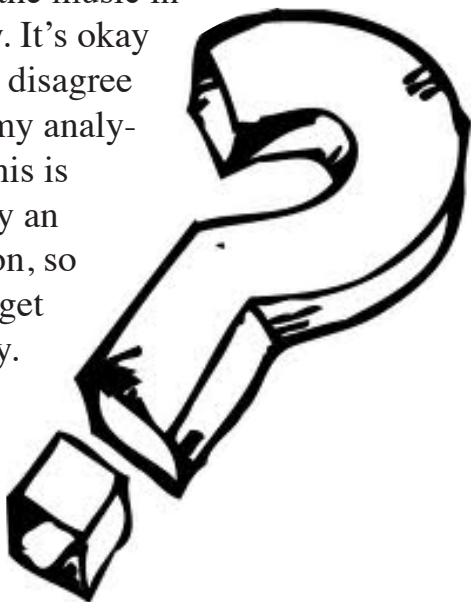
Smh - acronym for "shaking my head". Disapproval, disappointment, etc.
You don't like Beyoncé? Smh...

Swag - noun. short for "swagger." That certain something that sets a person apart from others. Can refer to personal style, gusto, or general demeanor.
Beyoncé is replete with swag when she performs.

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!

Slang: Beyonce went so hawrd with that hitting new single. Real talk, Jay-Z was obvi on the grind when he put a ring on it. And it doesn't hurt that she always looks mad flame. He is no larry. But even meanmugging Jay gets all cake sometimes. He hit the lick when he bought that clutch private island for her birthday last year. So loud. What a goon move. But she is hella worth it. They're a power couple going ham on everyone. It's all gravy if you don't agree, but don't be all huff about it.

Translation: Beyonce's new single is fantastic. No doubt, Jay-Z was smart for marrying her. She is a beautiful woman. He isn't dumb. But even the stoic Jay-Z gets a little romantic. He splurged on a wonderful private island for her birthday last year. Very bold. I respect him for that. Beyonce is worth it, though. They are a power couple that dominates the music industry. It's okay if you disagree with my analysis. This is merely an opinion, so don't get touchy.



Superstitious beliefs leave students on edge

Black cats, ladders, broken mirrors some common fears

By Nicole Jacobs
& Claudia Maj

As the mirror falls to the floor and the loud crack of shattered glass shocks Kellye Williams, Div. 151, she immediately begins to freak out. She stands there, motionless as she stares down at the remains of the mirror. Her nervousness is apparent by the sweatiness of her hands. In shock, she rambles on to her friend about how she ruined her life.

"It was a small mirror that my friend had and when I bumped into it, it fell and I stepped on it," said Williams. "I think that [stepping on a mirror] gives you bad luck, but I hope that it doesn't last seven whole years."

The human brain takes any occurrence and turns it into a "cause," and any consequence that comes along with it into an "effect." If you break a mirror, it is said that you will receive seven years of bad luck, a superstition that came from the Victorian times in England. Mirrors used to be very expensive to produce and to buy, therefore when a staff member or house cleaner broke one, it would take them about seven years to pay it back, with the little money that they were receiving. Another explanation, according to Richard Webster, international author from New Zealand, is that the origin of 'breaking a mirror' can be traced back to the Romans, who were the first to create glass mirrors. Along with the Romans, Greek, Chinese, African and Indian cultures once believed that one's reflection in a mirror represented their soul. If someone happened to break the reflection, it is similar to breaking one's soul.

Whether you believe in superstitions or not, their presence still lingers in the back of your head.

"I'm half and half with superstitions, I don't believe in them but I'm cautious of it," said Justin Joseph, Div. 352. "Once I was walking and there was a ladder, and I knowingly went around the ladder."

Joseph was just spared a days worth of bad luck.

"I catch myself not stepping on cracks, and I get paranoid when I spill salt," said Alejandro Serrano, Div. 269. "I waste time grabbing more salt and tossing it behind my back."

In Webster's book, *The Encyclopedia of Superstitions*, the superstition of spilling salt is traced back to the Middle Ages. During that period of history, salt was considered to be a very valuable and expensive condiment and wasting it would bring bad luck. To avoid receiving bad luck, throwing a pinch of salt over your left shoulder would suffice. This remedy has Christian origins and deals with the devil, which is why salt is thrown over the left shoulder.

Natalie Santiago, Div. 480, experienced a near death situation that dealt with a common superstition that many individuals believe in.

"I walked under a ladder by this tattoo shop and I was about to cross the street when a car came out of nowhere," Santiago said. "I was about an inch away from the car."

History can explain why some superstitions are believable. According to research done by David Brooks, fiction writer of suspense/thriller novels and short stories, the triangle represented a symbol of life. Disturbing the form

is considered an act of the devil. Walking through the ladder is considered to be tempting one's fate. Instinctively, we avoid walking under a ladder for the fear of it actually collapsing.

As for opening an umbrella indoors, Brooks' research explains that an umbrella is a protector against the storms of life. If one is opened inside, household guardian spirits might feel their protection was insufficient. Thus, everyone in the house would be cursed without protection.

"When I [opened an umbrella inside] on accident, I freaked out a little and thought something would happen," said Alyssa Muriel, Div. 156. "The minute I did it, I gasped, closed it back up, and looked around as if I was in trouble."

The history behind "knocking on wood" twice is to keep from jinxing a good fortune. It was thought that trees are the home of gods and that by knocking once, you are mentioning your wish to the tree. By knocking a second time, you are showing your appreciation by saying thank you.

"If I have a bad thought in my mind, I would [immediately] knock on wood to not jinx myself," said Evalydi Rodriguez, Div. 471.

Some students have invented their own personal superstitions that have become a routine or a ritual.

"Everyday I put both hands on my locker to avoid getting shocked by the metal," said Camilla Misiasek, Div. 453.

"Every morning I bless my clothing because I feel it will bring me good luck," said Shadynna Redmond, Div. 163. "It's just something that I came up with when I was younger as a good luck kind of thing and it stuck."

Haris Latic, Div. 180, never listens to the Black Eyed Peas song "I Got a Feeling" because he thinks it will bring him bad luck for the day. He considers it a jinx.

"As soon as I hear the song, I change it. If not, I will be thinking about the song all day," said Latic. "It's a jinx, like when you're outside on a sunny day and someone says the weather's great and then it starts to rain."

Some students have specific procedures that they follow when they pass a cemetery.

"Everytime I pass a cemetery, I cross myself and I tell the people who passed away that I miss them," said Ciamarah Gomez, Div. 174. "I give respect to those who passed."

"I would hold my breath every time I pass a graveyard and won't stop until I pass it," Adam Rebor, Div. 372, said.

A fear of the number 13 is one of the most common superstitions today.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the combination of Friday and the 13th were deemed as the unluckiest day on the calendar. This superstition comes directly from Christianity. It was on a Friday that Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden, the day that Christ died, and the day Noah's great flood began.

Thirteen people were in attendance at The Last Supper; Judas being the 13th guest.

So how has this fear of the number 13 influenced us today? More than 80 percent of high-

risers lack a 13th floor, many airports skip the 13th gate, some airplanes have no 13th aisle, Italians omit the number 13 from their national lottery, and several more. The believability of the unlucky number 13 even created a phobia called triskaidekaphobia. However, numerous individuals do not believe in Friday the 13th.

Sometimes students take advantage of their friend's belief in superstitions.

"I have a lot of friends that are not believers and [they] always want to do dumb things like, 'talk to the dead' just for the fun of it," Kimberly Silva, Div. 269, said.

"My friends do laugh and say they find it weird," Gomez said. "I don't hide [my superstitions] because they make me who I am."

"Besides the ladder [superstition] I think the rest don't make sense," said Monica Juarez Div. 275. "Honestly, I find them dumb and nonfactual."

"A lot of superstitions are outdated and [are not] to a practicality," said Amir Allam, Div. 263. "Whatever happens, happens."

Nicole Liwanag, Div. 153, is not superstitious herself, but she follows some of her family's superstitions. For example, on New Year's Eve her mom hangs grapes above doors and throws coins in the air for good luck.

"I think of it as a tradition we've been doing since I was little. It's more encouraging because I don't mind having a little bit of luck."

Certain teachers and coaches at Lane also follow superstitions, while some just admit they don't believe them.

Chemistry teacher Mrs. Abbas follows her grandma's old superstition that you should never let a person who has just come from a funeral into your house if you have a newborn baby

there. Her grandma had ten children, and out of the ten, three of them died after someone had visited them after a funeral.

On the other hand, Chemistry teacher Mr. Reid can quickly tell you that he does not believe in superstitions.

"I'm not superstitious, but I know athletes are," Mr. Reid said.

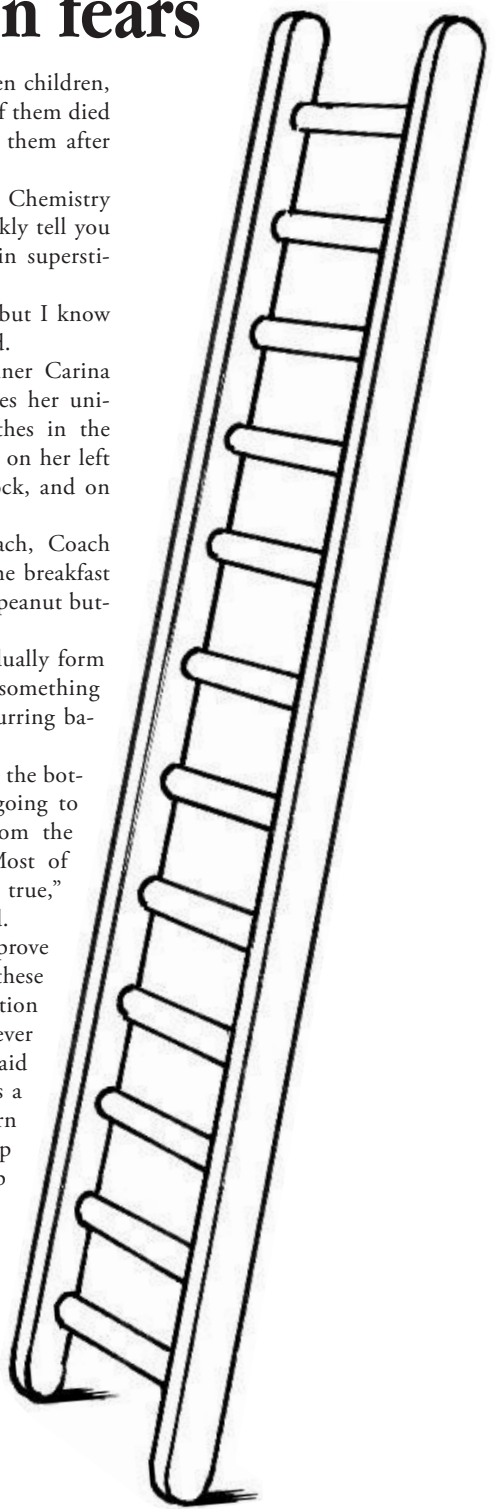
Girl's Track team runner Carina Coss Div. 375 only washes her uniform, with no other clothes in the washer before a meet, and on her left foot, she wears a green sock, and on her right, a polka dot one.

And Girl's Track coach, Coach Kevin, always eats the same breakfast before a run: a bagel with peanut butter.

Some superstitions gradually form over the course of time, if something weird happens on a reoccurring basis.

"If my eye twitches from the bottom, something good is going to happen. If it twitches from the top, I'm going to cry. Most of the time it actually comes true," Anani Tilapa Div. 281 said.

Though science cannot prove (or has already disproven) these superstitions, a little caution or hope for good luck never hurt anyone. It has been said that a bird in the house is a sign of death, and an acorn in the window will keep lightning out. Salty soup is a sign that the cook is in love, and cover your mouth when you sneeze so your soul will not escape. According to Corsinet Trivia, where hundreds of superstitions are listed, get ready for some bad luck the next time you kill a ladybug.



Students experience haunted side of Chicago

By Harina Dzebic

Chicago, a city known for its pizza and corruption, is known for something else as well: ghosts. The legend of the "Resurrection Mary" can be heard throughout the country, but few know that it originates right here in Chicago. In addition to the infamous lady, Graceland cemetery attracts numerous visitors a year. It is known for the robed man statue that supposedly shows a person their death if they look into his eyes.

Multiple haunted tours exist for those that seek out a new experience or to simply learn more about Chicago's history. After going on a "Haunted Chicago Tour," Karl Gustafson may not be going back.

"In Bachelor's Grove [a stop on the tour] I felt like [dead] people were around me. The rain and fog didn't help either," said Gustafson, Div. 171.

Emily Ayers, on the other hand, experienced no such thing. Although she wished she did.

"Nothing happened. It was even sunny one time I went and that was definitely not scary. I'm still determined to see something," said Ayers, Div. 185.

Justin Smith, Div. 180, did not experience anything either.

"There was nothing scary about it. It was kinda peaceful," said Smith.

For some people, looking for a part of haunted Chicago may mean going no further than the backyard. Cassandra Brownlow, Div. 173, experienced strange things

at her old house in Berwyn. At times the doors would slam shut by themselves.

"It was like 'how did this happen!?' Even the hamster would be creeped out. He would stop moving and just stare at the doors as they closed," said Brownlow.

Niki Giani, Div.161, shared a similar experience when she lived in an apartment building where a woman committed suicide. In addition to this, the apartment was also a cat refuge and many cats died there as well.

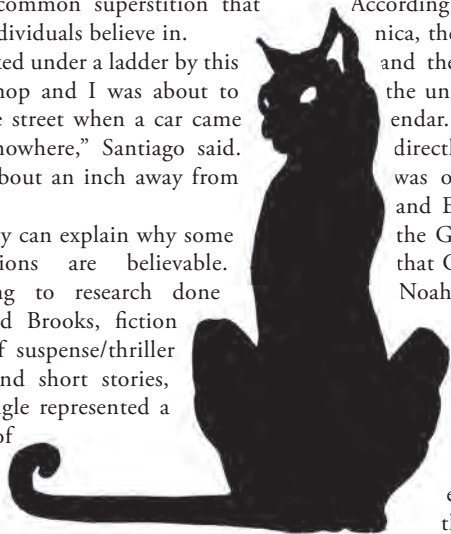
"Sometimes you think you hear or see something. You might or it might just be your imagination," said Giani.

Sometimes it is not buildings that are haunted, but entire areas. Some students believe a forest preserve by Harlem Irving Plaza may be haunted. At one point it was an old Indian burial ground.

"I saw a tree just randomly fall on the ground and a skinned animal hanging from another tree. That place was eerie, like about-to-be-mugged eerie," said Battle Moran, Div. 162.

According to folklore, ghosts are the spirits of people who have unfinished business on Earth, while science claims ghosts are just a figment of our imaginations. Ghosts can also be explained as infrasound causing smeared vision in humans and mind tricks.

Evolution also plays a role in ghost sightings as well. This is due to the human brain evolving to be overly cautious creating "false positives" like the rustling of leaves. Nothing may actually be there, but our minds can confabulate the existence of our worst fears, especially when you live in Chicago.



College Career Center new lunch hotspot

By Vanessa Pena

Recently, the number of students going to the Hewitt College and Career Center (CCC) has increased, making the center a very popular place. Lunch period after another brings regular attendees to the CCC who scatter about looking for a place to open up their lunch bag, or even a book.

With the weather being icky the last several months, Lane students have found the CCC to be a place they can socialize, study, and eat lunch. It has created a study hall atmosphere, reviving the days before study hall was removed from Lane in 1993.

The CCC opened in 2009 for Lane students with the intentions of providing easy access to information on college and scholarships, but now students come in for other reasons as well.

"I started coming here because it's a warm place and I can bring my food here and get work done. Besides, colleges have many rooms where people can just sit down and eat, so why can't high schools have this?" said Hannah Otto, Div. 179.

The CCC has grown to become a very valuable place for students such as Jennifer Guillen, Div. 253, who comes in during lunch to sit on the couch and chat with her friends while watching the fish tank.

"It is just so comfortable here," said Guillen. "I consider myself lucky [for] having this center. You have all the resources you need, so I come here everyday."

The CCC has become an extension of the library with the added bonus of being able to eat in the CCC. Some students find the CCC to be a more relaxing vibe, even with the chatter in the background.

"I started coming here about a month ago because the library is too quiet and I feel more relaxed instead of feeling the pressure of school," said Mingas Matkus, Div. 451. "It's nice to come here and feel no pressure."

"In order to study I have to feel like I am at ease, like a home atmosphere, and in the CCC I feel it," said Melissa Molina, Div. 375.

The library is still very busy during lunch periods and has not been affected by the increasing number of students filling the CCC. The library also still maintains its peaceful environment and its 'no eating' policy.

"This is a place for peaceful people who don't want mice running over their toes. That's why there is no eating," said Lane librarian Mrs. Kane.

Molina actually finds the peaceful environment the library provides more stressful.

"[The CCC is] not as disruptive as the library with all the shushing," she said.

Mr. Vacek, a Lane counselor whose office is located in

the CCC, spends most of his time in the CCC interacting with students. All Lane counselors rotate daily so that one other besides Vacek is there.

"The CCC got me where I am at right now with a scholarship that is almost a full ride, thanks to Mr. Vacek encouraging me," Martinez said.

"The staff and advisors provide a very college-like atmosphere to make school work enjoyable," said Chole Hish-Genve, Div. 256.

Vacek noticed the increase in Lane students attending the CCC during their lunch periods around the first semester.

"At first I think it was due to colleges, but now there's definitely regulars. Fifth period lunch is the busiest, fourth busy, and sixth getting busier" he said.

Vacek said there had been some issues with students leaving a mess behind, but after the rules were reinforced the problems disappeared.

Vacek and Dr. LoBosco confirmed that students are allowed to eat in the CCC, but if anything is spilled students must clean up after themselves.

"I love it," LoBosco said. "The social part is good and lunch is added. [The] Hewitt people are impressed and want to share practices with one in Atlanta."

Proper behavior in the CCC during lunch periods has been good, but a few students would prefer it to be quieter.

"When people get too loud and start yelling and causing attention it just annoys me," said Kathy Grolle, Div. 271. "School work can't possibly be so exciting to being yelling and screaming about it! So some people need to keep it down at times."

Few other College and Career Centers have been built other than the one at Lane. According to Vacek, however, nothing he has seen compares to the atmosphere found in Lane's.

"I visited a center in a northern suburb and it seemed dead," Vacek said.

A noticeable difference in the northern suburb center is that it had little counselor presence such as that found in Lane's CCC where counselors regularly move in and out throughout the day.

With growing numbers of students in the CCC, Vacek has had the opportunity to communicate more with students on a higher level and noticed that the number of transcripts being sent out has increased.

"This year 53,000 transcripts have been sent out, while last year 36,000 transcripts were sent," Vacek said.

The new popularity of the CCC is benefiting students in ways it was intended when originally built.

"I think word is spreading about being able to talk and not getting shushed," Vacek said.



Students lounge in the CCC during lunch.

Students value senior class rings differently

By Agnieszka Chrzanowska

She looks at her hand where her class ring used to be and laughs.

"Memories of high school cannot be stored in a piece of [metal]," Mrs. Langford, a psychology teacher, said. "When I think about high school, I don't think of the day when I got my class ring."

Langford is part of the handful of people at Lane who think it is pointless to purchase a high school class ring. Whether it is the cost, the style, or the lack of interest, many students choose to throw away their order form.

Every year Jostens, the class ring provider for Lane, offers a unique ring to the junior class. The ring has an Indian with a bow and arrow on one side as well as a green gem on top of the ring. The other side can either be the clock tower or a design chosen from a style book. Designs range from track to duck hunting, allowing students a wide variety from which to choose.

Even though there are many options, the ring does not appeal to Kristie Magafas, Div. 175.

"I thought that it would be an ugly reminder of high school. I don't think the rings are exactly my style. They're too chunky," she said.

Magafas believes that most students do not wear their rings once they leave high school. The rings become a memory of the past.

Although Langford has a strong opinion about class rings, she does have one exception.

"It's okay to buy something to celebrate, but the money would be better invested in a timeless piece of jewelry like a band, earrings, or a birthstone," she said.

Langford did not wear her ring in college but an antique emerald ring her mother passed onto her when she graduated.

Stephanie Harnett, Div. 274, is in favor of buying a ring, except it will have a deeper meaning. The design she chose commemorates someone in her family who passed away.

"I'm getting an ovarian cancer ring in memory of my grandma," she said.

Other than the sentimental purpose, she thinks that class rings are a great way to remember the high school experience.

On the other hand, Emmanuel Odiase, Div. 251, does not think he needs to remember high school. Odiase is not completely against class rings, but for him a high school class ring does not have much importance. He will buy a ring one day, but it will be for a different stepping stone in his life.

"I'd rather have a class ring for college," he said.

He does not want to ask his parents for something that he knows he will not care much about.

Mylan Siscar, Div. 157, has not bought a ring just yet. She plans on purchasing one from a jewelry store sometime this year.

One of her reasons for not buying the ring junior year is because she did not know what she enjoyed doing yet. She had trouble choosing a design for the ring at the time.

Siscar also chose to purchase the ring at an outside jewelry store because the prices are more reasonable. Jostens rings range from \$195 to \$650 while a ring from a different jewelry store will be more affordable.

Milos Zaric, Div. 177, was one of the handful of students who looked past the price and bought a class ring. Although it was pricey, he does not regret it.

"Being in high school, people would rather spend the money on a car or something. Some kids just like to toss

it off as 'uncool,' but I figure we spend so much time at [Lane] that we should be proud getting out alive," Zaric said.

He believes that not a lot of schools have the opportunity to purchase a ring like Jostens offers the students.

"They are a great company with great coverage," Zaric said. "[Jostens has] been a part of Lane tradition for years and they should always be a Lane Tech student's first choice when it comes to class rings."

Class rings are a love it or leave it deal. Now, it is up to the juniors to fill out their order form or throw it in the trash.

"I'm getting an ovarian cancer ring in memory of my grandma," - Stephanie Harnett, Div. 274

Advertise in

THE WARRIOR

Contact us at advertising@lanewarrior.com



Students talk about experiences with foreign exchange students

By Agnieszka Chrznowska

Français, Español, العربية, Italiano, Deutsche...

Learning about different cultures is not the only part of hosting a foreign exchange student. Sometimes the experience of gaining a new family member stands out the most.

This year, some families of Lane students have prepared and opened up their homes to foreign exchange students. They clean, cook, entertain, and adjust their own lifestyles to show the best of American life.

Mrs. Paganelli, creator of the Italian Exchange Student Program at Lane and an Italian teacher, said that students get to know the "real culture" rather than the stereotype associated with it after participating in the program.

Nicki Searl, Div. 161, was one of the students to experience this "real culture." She had two exchange students from Germany who shared their traditions in her home.

"The students cooked German dishes for [my family]," Searl said. "They wrote the recipes in a journal and gave it to me."

Searl's exchange students also gave her German gifts before they returned to their country. She was given a photo book about Hamburg, an apron with a picture of Hamburg on it, and marzipan, which is a traditional German candy usually made out of sugar and almond meal.

Elizabeth Winters, Div. 264, said that her mother and exchange student would talk to each other in German.

"Having a German exchange student really reminded my mom of her culture and she was able to actually relate to someone in the house," she said.

Although not all cases were this cross-culturally smooth, they were still a pleasant experience for the hosts.

Georgia Tankard, Div. 354, has a Malaysian student living with her. Although Tankard was younger than her international guest by four years, they got along very well.

"We bake together," Tankard said. "She has a great sense of humor and a hearty laugh."

When Tankard was having a bad day her exchange student would comfort her.

"We would go on the roof of my house and have heart to heart conversations," Tankard said. "She also came to my room once and told me to not worry. Then she gave me a hug. She has such a vibrant aura."



Tankard said she will definitely keep contact with her "sister" when she goes back to her home country.

Egle Sidekyte, Div. 177, also enjoyed time with her exchange student. They talked via Facebook before she came to Chicago. That way, they were comfortable with each other before they met.

"She got along well with my parents," Sidekyte said. "She fell right into the swing of things in our house."

Sidekyte took her visitor

to the Hard Rock Cafe, Water Tower Place, and on frequent visits to Starbucks. Sidekyte's favorite memory was when she took her to the Statesville Haunted Prison, a haunted house.

"She was terrified. She kept grabbing on to the guy in front of her who was there with his girlfriend. It was hilarious!"

Although many of the students were a pleasure to host, some were a hassle.

An anonymous student, Div. 367, said her guest was adding all of her friends on Facebook.

She said her guest had "never even met [them] before," and eventually deleted her student as a friend on the website.

The anonymous student also noticed her guest displaying odd habits during her stay. Her exchange student would take random pictures of herself at Lane and Jewel.

"They weren't just normal pictures either, they were the kissy face ones," she said.

The exchange student would wait for doors to be opened for her everywhere she went and expected to be treated like a princess.

"I know she was an only child,"

said the anonymous student, "so I think that can be the reason she acted so differently."

Despite the good and bad experiences, students who took advantage of the opportunity of hosting an exchange student were left with lasting memories. They were able to meet new people, make friends, and experience different personalities. Except this time, they did it with a cultural twist.



Missteps, mishaps mark International Days

By Alexandria Martinez

Bohdana Bahriy, Div. 275, laid her head on the desk in front of her slowly. Only a few minutes had passed since one of her Ukrainian club members informed her that he would not be able to dance for International Days. He had recently suffered a knee injury, and his mother did not think it was a good idea for him to participate. She argued with him angrily until she decided to give up and try to fix the mess that was about to unravel in front of her. As president, she had to find a solution to fill the now empty spot, and fast. Like many other ethnic clubs who perform on International Days, Ukrainian Club had some drama about to break loose.

"Ukrainian Club all worked really

hard this year and had a perfect routine," said Bahriy. "Then all of a sudden we lost a dancer and I broke down. I knew it was not his fault, but all I could think

about was how hard it would be to fix this. Soon enough I realized that I had to deal with the situation and find my vice president a partner."

Bahriy decided to have one of the gentlemen in her group dance with two ladies while everyone else danced with partners, so nobody was left out.

"I feel I made the best decision for my club, and I am completely happy about how everything turned out," said Bahriy.

Italian club also experienced several issues this year.

"Our booth was a mess, and half of our dancers were missing on Saturday night because they had a Dance Team competition. We had to redo all of our formations," said Italian Club member, Bailey Bryan, Div. 265.

Instead of the 11 dance couples Italian originally had, they danced

with only five on Saturday.

Jeet Patel, Div. 251, attended International Nights on Saturday and noticed the lack of dance couples.

"I saw Italian perform on I-Days, so I knew something was a little off when there were less people Saturday night. They still did a good job though," Patel said.

Italian Club also had some costume troubles during their dress rehearsals.

"When we spun around in our dresses, our stomachs were visible, so we all ended up having to wear tank tops underneath," said Bryan. "In the end though, everything looked great and I'm proud of our club."

Like Italian Club, O.L.A.S. also had some costume trouble.

"We had some trouble with our dresses. We did not like the first one we ordered, but we're happy with the

final one," said Whitney Bellido, Div. 173.

The O.L.A.S. girls received their final dresses only two weeks before the International Day's dress rehearsal.

"Besides the

problems with our dresses, everyone worked so hard, and showed up to practice. Now we're like family," said Bellido.

Middle Eastern Club had to dance in the dark for Saturdays International Night.

"When the lights on the stage went out, it felt like my heart fell to the floor," said Middle Eastern Club member, Brandi Lee, Div. 261. "Thank God we were wearing white, because even with the lights out, it was possible to see us. We all just kept dancing and it turned out fine. They even gave us a redo! Lights on this time."

Through the work, sweat, and some tears, International Days was a success for most of the ethnic clubs involved - even if a few headaches, injured knees, and a shortage of dancers had to be overcome to get there.



Aspira gives spirited performance at Chicago Salsa Congress

By Dirce Toca

Drum-heavy music, energetic rhythm, complete with spins - all part of their routine. Flashes of pink and white, casual smiles, and salsa styling. This is Aspira on stage performing at the Chicago Salsa Congress.

At the yearly event, Chicago celebrates the rich cultural traditions of Latin and Afro-Caribbean music and dance. It adds up to a total of four nights and three days of non-stop excitement and dance productions for Aspira members.

"Performing in front of a crowd full of professionals and experienced dancers both makes me nervous and excited," said Aspira president Giovanny Ospina, Div. 172.

Aspira began practicing in late October, two times a week for two to four hours a practice.

Their choreographer, Chris Rios, a Lane alum, created their routine. Rios was an Aspira member himself during his four years of high school. And this year, he wanted to present the crowd with Bomba and Salsa, the two main cultural dances of Puerto Rico.

Aspira's routine was chosen as the best when they performed in the Amateur Show, and as a result they earned the opportunity to perform again opening the night show.

"It's not a competition really but a showcase," said vice-president Micaela Sabbi, Div. 258.

For many of the dancers in Aspira, Congress was a first experience.

Raul Navarrete, Div. 457, already looks forward to being part of the hype all over again.

"I want to stay with Aspira for the next three years. Because once an Aspirante, always an Aspirante," Navarrete said.

Navarrete's dance partner, Noele Contreras, Div. 251, has been performing at Congress since 2009. Two years ago, she performed with another of Lane's clubs, ABC, and has started to enjoy the performances more and more.

"Different groups, same excitement, different experience. I still feel the same rush minutes before I'm about to perform," Contreras said.

The same excitement triples for Aspira's seniors. Three years an Aspirante, Aracelis Perez, Div. 179, is sad to have completed her last Congress performance.

"Dancing is my passion. I can express myself through dance. And it didn't hit me that I was a senior until my last performance in both Congress and International Days," she said.

Another of Aspira's seniors, Francesca Burns, Div. 184, performed her first and last routine at Congress.

"I definitely wish I could've been in Aspira earlier because it really was one of the most fun things I've done and Congress was amazing," Burns said.

Dancing is not just practicing and memorizing a four minute routine. For some of these dancers, it is their passion. Performing is a

privilege.

"When I'm on stage performing, it is just the best feeling you can get," Burns said.

Aspira performs to get the crowd going. Hearing the audience get louder and louder as they respond with cheers motivates Aspirantes to perform even better.

"When I first start, I give it my all," Navarrete said. "And if I hear that the audience likes it, I give them more. At the end of the show, I feel lucky and blessed to have a family like Aspira by my side."

Aspira, now in their eighth year performing at Congress, continue to excel in delivering outstanding performances and look forward to performing again next year.



Members of Aspira pose before dancing at Congress.

Coming of age traditions still embraced

By Jasmine Grullon

After her mother announced her name, Mosadi Goodman, Div. 267, entered her party with the smooth beat of “She Got It Made” by Plies playing in the background. She grinned at all her party guests, who were wearing pink and purple clothing and glow-in-the-dark accessories that matched the decor of the venue. The sound of the music and the applause from the guests was a moment she will never forget. It was a night all about her. It was her Sweet 16.

These girls put a bang in their birthdays, going far beyond party hats, balloons and pin the tail on the donkey. Coming of a certain age is a big deal for some cultures, whether it be 15, 16, 18, or maybe even 21. Having a banquet hall filled with your closest friends and family members to help celebrate your special day is one popular way to celebrate your birthday.

Goodman celebrated her 16th birthday with friends and family. Along with colorful decorations, Goodman had a photo booth set up and a massive

cake with her favorite colors and cartoon character, Tinker Bell, on top. After eating and socializing, guests and the birthday girl danced until the end of the party.

Christine Javonillo, Div. 155, celebrated her 18th birthday the traditional Filipino way by having a Debutante Ball, also known as a Debut.

Javonillo discussed with her parents whether they should spend their money on just one night, because Javonillo had her own plans to spend that money on a car. As the year went on, she believed that the debut was not going to happen.

“It wasn’t until my friend’s debut that really inspired me to finalize my decision,” said Javonillo. “That was the night I had asked a close friend of mine to be my escort—and so it began.”

For a traditional Filipino Debut, the 18 year-old girl wears a beautiful ball gown to her party. The debutant also has a court of 18 members, nine girls and nine guys. In addition, she has her own escort as her dance partner.

Javonillo wore a purple gown with little silver crystals detailing her dress. She also wore a silver rhinestone tiara and a white corsage with purple flowers. Her female court each wore a purple one-shoulder dress and the males wore a black shirt and

pants with a matching purple tie.

The celebrant and her court danced a waltz where each female of the court presented her with a single candle and each male with a rose then they each danced with her for a short while. After the waltz was the Father-Daughter dance.

Faviola Loza, Div. 354, celebrated her Sweet 16 with a twist on tradition.

Instead of having a Quinceanera on her 15th birthday, she celebrated it on her 16th.

Like a Filipino Debut, a Quinceanera also represents the beginning of womanhood but for Hispanic girls.

Loza had a poofy dress with turquoise and purple ruffles while her five Damas, a group of girls in her court of honor, had purple colored dresses. Her five Chambelanes, a group of guys in her court of honor, wore white tuxedos with turquoise ties that matched her dress.

Damas and Chambelanes act in the Quinceanera’s court as if they were a bride’s bridesmaids or groomsmen. They all took photos with the Quinceanera.

Before taking pictures, a Quinceanera traditionally begins at a church to receive the blessing from the priest.

After her blessing, Loza continued on with her celebration with a grand party at a banquet hall.

Traditionally, the young girl has La Ultima Muñeca, The Last Doll, that tells everyone that she is no longer in need of that toy. Another tradition is El Cambio del Zapato, Shoe change, where the young girl switches her flat shoe, that she wore entering the party, with high heeled shoes.

Loza enjoyed these traditions at her Quinceanera, along with a waltz with her court and a surprise hip-hop dance with her Damas.



Faviola Loza, Div. 354, celebrated her Quinceanera on her 16th birthday.



Christine Javonillo, Div. 155, poses in her dress for her Debutante Ball, a traditional Filipino birthday celebration.

“[The Quinceanera is] a really nice experience,” said Loza. “I wish I could re-do it just for the feeling of that day being all about you. It’s a once in a lifetime experience.”

“We wanted to experience something symbolizing my entrance to womanhood,” said Javonillo. “I have no regrets. I’m glad I had the party.”

Spring brings relief from long winter; Lane outdoor life springs to life

By Cody Lee

Ahh, spring time... hang your coats up, and throw your boots in the back of the closet. Bust out the booty shorts, tank tops and flip flops, and replace your frostbite with sunburn. The spring offers a cornucopia of options not possible in the winter.

Want to skateboard, or ride a bike around? Feel free, the snow is no longer falling. Want to go down to the beach and swim? Go ahead! The layer of ice over the lake has finally melted.

Abbey Schuster, Div. 379, welcomes the warmth of spring with open arms.

“I’ve waited so long for [spring], I’m so done with snow, freezing weather, and

nothing to do,” she said. “When it’s warm, everything is so much better. Everyone is out and about. It just makes you feel so happy!”

As the weather gets warmer after the snowy winter, more activities become available.

“I’m going to take up skateboarding this spring. I’ve been wanting to for a while, but I obviously couldn’t in the winter,” Daniel Gomez, Div. 285 said. “I really like being downtown when it’s nice out, so I’d love being downtown...on a skateboard.”

If skateboarding downtown does not tickle your fancy, maybe the beach is the place to be.

“The best thing to do, hands down, is chill at the beach. Me and my buddies can do that for hours when it’s warm,” said Patrick

O’Connell, Div. 182. “Sand everywhere, and people everywhere. Nothing’s better than that.”

The arrival of spring also makes Lane a popular after-school hangout. You could catch people playing football in the front of the school, soccer balls getting kicked around in the parking lot, and couples lying together out on the grass. The campus is so vast, it leaves room for anyone and everyone to relax and enjoy the weather.

Who really cares about sledding and snowball fights when we could finally come to school in shorts and sandals? The winter is played out, it is time for the spring breeze to come into effect, and that it is. Condolances to the freshman who cannot go out for lunch.



A student enjoys the weather throwing a frisbee on the lawn.

Lane students stuck between ethnic cultures

By Julia Kulon

Her eyes are elsewhere. Everything else about her is right there in the classroom. She holds a mascara rod in one hand and a mirror in the other, her keys lay on the desk, and her book bag sits at her knees.

“I feel like I’m stuck in between two worlds,” she says softly. “It’s difficult.”

She blinks, and her eyes come back, finding their place somewhere beside her keys and that backpack.

Yousra Jougla, Div. 269, is talking about her relationship between two countries: Morocco and the United States. Divided by the large North Atlantic Ocean, the two are a whopping 4,273 miles apart.

Jougla, born in Kenitra, Morocco, emigrated to the United States at the age of four. Having attended an international school in Kenitra, Jougla knew English but still found the transition to the U.S. to be incredibly rough in the beginning.

“I had a really hard time adjusting. My parents [a diplomat and professor] were never around, and I found myself not being really able to associate with anyone,” said Jougla.

Her parents moved to the United States for more opportunities for their two daughters. The educational system in Morocco was mediocre and the future was predictable.

Ana Lovric, Div. 267, has parents who also moved to the United States for a better life. Her parents made the move because of the Bosnia and Herzegovina War that happened between 1992 and 1995. Her father came first to America shortly after Lovric’s birth and sent for her and her mother after establishing a home for them.

“I remember learning English by watching TV

when I was little,” said Lovric.

As a little girl, Lovric’s biggest dream was to move back to Croatia and live there. The feeling now is not exactly the same. Lovric considers Chicago to be her home and while she can appreciate going back to Croatia, she gets bored there easily. The village where her family lives back in Croatia can get a bit claustrophobic and life is subject to routine. The whole village knows everyone there, and bus drivers have the most solid jobs.

“We go back every two years during the summer,” said Lovric. “When we’re there, it’s like we’ve never left.”

Lovric considers herself be “Americanized” for the most part.

But Edyta Borek, Div. 257, longs for Poland more than anything.

Borek moved to the United States when she was ten years old. She stayed with her grandparents for the first year and then her parents found jobs.

She remembers her first day of school in America. Her teacher did not realize that Borek could not understand half of the story that she was told to read.

“I remember when I came into the classroom, and the people were reading a book. I was told to follow along as they were reading but I wasn’t able to,” said Borek.

Borek, a native of the small village Greboszow, had to adjust to Chicago. She couldn’t sleep in the beginning because she lived by a busy street and everything seemed too loud. Eventually she did get

used to it, but her nostalgia has not worn off.

“I miss the freedom of the countryside, the ability to breathe fresh air,” said Borek. “I miss the silence.”

Borek definitely wants to return to Poland after she finishes her studies. She goes back every summer for two months, but feels that isn’t enough.

“Poland is my home,” said Borek.

Zorgie Sanchez, Div. 284, was born in Chicago but feels an incredible connection to her parents’

homeland, Venezuela. Sanchez’s parents came to the United States for a vacation, and upon becoming situated, ended up extending their stay indefinitely. She and her family make way to Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela, every two years for three to four weeks. Unlike Lake Michigan, the water is a clear blue and the mountains reflect on the shoreline.

“I always look forward to seeing my whole family,” said Sanchez. “I don’t get to see them every day. It’s special.”

Christina Leung, Div. 270, feels a tremendous tie to her homeland, China, even though she was born in Chicago. Leung’s parents made sure that she was raised in a traditional Chinese environment and Leung is grateful for that.

“It’s nice to have that cultural identity,” said Leung.

Leung has only been to China twice in her life: once in seventh grade and the second time the summer before her junior year. It was her second time

“I feel like I’m stuck in between two worlds,” said Yousra Jougla, Div. 269.

that Leung met her family’s relatives for the first time. Having never met them, Leung was nervous but discovered that they were the most generous people she had ever met.

“I felt like I knew them all my life,” said Leung.

Leung’s biggest shock was the quick pace of the country and of the people. It took her most of her trip to get used to being pushed in the streets - an aspect of everyday life. At the end of her travels in China, she had come to realize that she had developed the same pace.

“At the airport when they announced that they were now accepting boarding passes, everyone [on the flight] immediately got up, and ran to the terminal,” said Leung. “It was crazy.”

Sanchez also feels a difference between the US and Venezuela.

“I feel like the teenagers [in Venezuela] are more polite,” said Sanchez. “The communities are much smaller, and people have a habit of just coming in for dinner.”

There are some perks of living in another world for a little while.

“Waking up in the morning, eating breakfast, and then going to the beach and sitting at local cafes is just heaven,” said Jougla.

“My grandmother cooks the best food,” said Lovric. “She always makes my favorite food, which is a flaky pastry made out of dough.”

“I loved eating left over rice for breakfast,” said Leung. “Crab rangoon, egg rolls, and orange chicken are not real Chinese food.”

Even in a bustling metropolis of diversity like Chicago, some things in life are still missing for immigrant students - things that can only be reached with a lengthy plane flight and a heavy case of jet-lag afterwards.

ACT prep classes: wise investment or waste of money?

By Mary Presley

From school to Irish Club to swimming practice, straight to ACT prep classes, Hannah Viti, Div. 252, was exhausted, but determined. Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays for five weeks from 5-9pm, Viti was studying persistently at Kaplan's ACT prep class program. Viti is serious about her future, and will do anything it takes to get into top universities, Tulane and Tufts, even if it means paying around \$600 for the Kaplan sessions, and \$350 for four weeks of tutoring sessions on Sundays for two hours.

Most juniors have started to prepare for the ACT test, but it is the high achievers at Lane that are giving other students a run for their ACT scores.

"I have goals and I have been ready to go to college since freshman year. I'm just ready to go," said Viti.

In order to take control of her future, Viti had to take the first step by investing a lot of money in the Kaplan program. But through it all, the money proved to be a good investment.

"I took the ACT test sophomore year and I received a 25 or 26. When I took the practice test this year, I thought it was hard and long, but with Kaplan, I learned how to time it and it made me more comfortable. We took four practice tests, and I just got more used to it, so when I took the test at the end of the Kaplan session I got a 28," Viti said.

Not settling for a 28, Viti really wants a 30 when she takes the ACT test in April at Lane. Even if she does not get a 30, she will still be happy with her score of 28.

Viti is not the only Lane student that is trying to reach his or her full potential. Other Lane students are also devoted to extra ACT prep classes outside of Lane to guarantee them a high score.

Milan Micou, Div. 381, is only a sophomore and is a step ahead of her peers because she is already preparing for the ACT test for next year. She is attending classes at the University of Illinois at Chicago, every Saturday from 9am-1pm. Both of Micou's parents are college graduates, so they decided her taking the ACT prep class a year in advance will give her good preparation for next year.

"It is a goal to succeed in my family, and it is a lot of pressure. In order for

me to go out of state to college, I need to score in the high 20s," said Micou.

Even though Micou feels pressure, she knows the ACT prep classes will help her in the long run.

"Taking the class is definitely worth it, because when you are trying to get into a good college, you have to succeed the ACT part, and I do not want to be a failure," said Micou.

Micou is thinking about going to Duke or Georgetown; she certainly has her eye on her goals.

"I want to be in the top 10th percentile at Lane, and I want to be a psychologist," said Micou.

Micou admits that the ACT practice at UIC is more than just preparation for the test.

"I think it is good preparation because it is helping me out with my classes this year, besides the ACT. It is also preparing me for my junior classes next year, so everything will not be a complete shocker," said Micou.

Senior Andrea Castellanos, Div. 157, is another student taking extra steps to reach her goals. Like Viti, Castellanos took ACT prep classes with the Kaplan program, which cost her \$1000. At the same time she also took the ACT prep classes at Lane. The Kaplan program lasted five months, and she went twice a week.

"The Kaplan program was longer than Lane's. It was more classes, so it was more dedication. They go step by step with problem solving, and it is more one on one," said Castellanos.

Castellanos knows the demands of high expectations.

"There was a lot of pressure from my parents, because they know with a low ACT score, I would not have been able to get into a good college, but with a good score I would have had lots of opportunities. Besides that, the Kaplan program gives you a homework session that they expect you to do and it is over whelming. Then I have my homework from school and trying to keep my grades up, it is all very stressful," said Castellanos.

The Kaplan program also helped Castellanos with her math classes she was taking at the time, and she has learned things she still remembers.

Castellanos did overcome the stress and came through the experience alive, with no wrinkles, and a good ACT score.

Senior Christine Malone, Div.182,

took her ACT prep classes junior year at Hunting Learning Center in Park Ridge. It cost about \$3000, and she went once a week. She started them last summer, and finished in March.

"My mom and I thought it would be the best program because it was one on one tutoring, and I would have gotten all the attention I needed," said Malone.

But Malone feels the program did not benefit her much, and if she could do it again, she would not take the course at all.

"I personally do not think I learned anything, because I got a pretty low score. I think my mom should have spent her money somewhere else, or I should have tried a little harder. Everything was a waste of money," said Malone.

In spite of her negative feelings about the Kaplan classes, Malone's hard work still landed her an acceptance letter to Illinois State, making her mom really

happy.

Junior, Natalie Frazier, Div. 281, recently started a Princeton ACT review program. It cost \$449 and she has to go Saturdays and Sundays from 2-5pm. Frazier knows she is not good at test taking, which is why she decided to seek extra help. Frazier knows what she wants, and knows how to get it.

"All universities require high ACT scores, and with a high score, I can get scholarships and grants. I want to get into a big university; I'm even aiming for Ivy League schools, so it is a personal goal for me," Frazier said.

Frazier confesses that the ACT prep classes keep her really busy, and make her work really hard.

"ACT classes take a lot of work and determination, especially on week-ends. My whole Saturdays and Sundays are gone, and then they give so much homework," she said.

Frazier is confident, however, that she will get a lot out of the work.

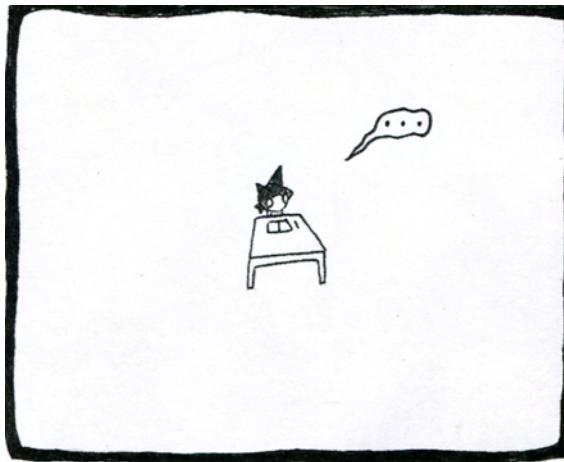
Some students take ACT prep classes outside of Lane free of charge. Kevin Palacios, Div. 265 has just started taking the Gear Up ACT prep classes on Mondays and Wednesdays 5-6pm. These classes are only free for the students that are a part of the program.

"The instructors are really patient and they even went over my wrong answers from the PSAT test that I took at Lane," Palacios said.

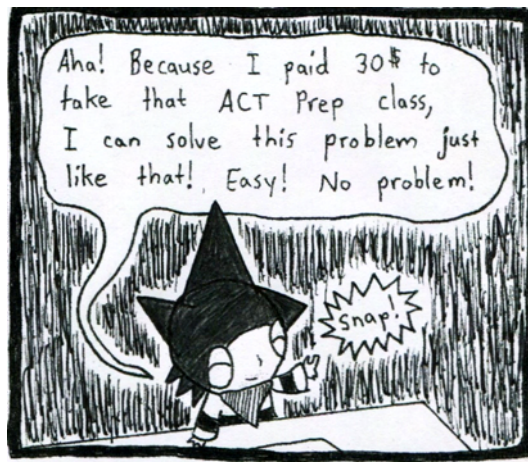
Palacios found Lane's ACT prep classes a problem in his schedule.

"I was doing track and it was difficult going after school or in the morning. The gear up program is really convenient for me," he said.

Whether students are taking ACT prep classes at Lane or somewhere else, most agree that what really makes a difference in their scores is how hard they choose to work.



Comic by Edwin Cho



Students report on adventures in babysitting

By Estefania Rodriguez

Oluwamide Agunloye, Div. 285, ran into the kitchen not knowing what to expect when he heard his mom yelling. He looked at his baby sister, whom he was babysitting at the time, and she looked fine. As

he got to the kitchen he quickly noticed the problem. There were ants everywhere. For most teens, babysitting is a fast way to make money, but for others it's a disaster waiting to happen.

For Agunloye, it was the latter.

"One time when I was babysitting my little sister, she went into the fridge, got out the salsa and spread it all over the floors. I didn't notice until my mom came home screaming because she saw ants everywhere. We sprayed bug spray all over the place and eventually had to call an exterminator. That was one of the last times I babysat," Agunloye said.

Whenever Agunloye's mom asks him to babysit he just has to bring up the "salsa incident" for her to change her mind.

Madalina Bic, Div. 259, also had a bad babysitting experience when babysitting her cousin.

"He was staring at the vacuum, and I figured he was curious to see how it worked so I turned it on. He started screaming



and crying so I turned it off really fast. He eventually calmed down, but he was still a little scared," she said.

Daniela Zermeno, Div. 268, entered the house she was getting ready to babysit in and was tackled by 5 children. They were the excited kids she was getting ready to

babysit. They were full of energy and ready to have fun.

"It was overwhelming but it all turned out all right," she said.

Most Lane students agree that the hardest part of babysitting is putting the kids to sleep.

"One time the little girl I was babysitting decided to put on her bathing suit and glittery shoes right before bed," said Rachel Brustein, Div. 251.

Babysitters everywhere can rejoice in the fact that most babysitting stories are pretty normal and have a good ending.

"I babysit my sister and neighborhood kids and the worst thing that's happened is me burning the popcorn," said Charles Bania, Div. 253.

While babysitting can sometimes prove to be "difficult and a little crazy," most Lane students agree that it is worth it in the end.

LANE JACKETS

WOOL BODY LEATHER SLEEVES QUILT LINED
Complete with all lettering and emblems
Made the way you want!

CHOICE OF SLEEVE COLOR
SPORT NAMES ADDED
YOUR LETTERS AND PATCHES SEWN ON
EMBLEMS AND ADDITIONS SEWN ON JACKETS
VARSITY JACKET CLEANING

CHICAGO KNITTING MILLS
3344 W. MONTROSE, CHICAGO (773)463-1464



www.g33ktest.com

RECESSION HITS LANE STUDENTS HARD

By Luis Rios

Tighten up your wallets, cut out your coupons, wait for the sales. Saving time is about to start. Some Lane students continue to suffer the effects of the current economic recession on their wallet.

As the economic crisis continues its toll, many students at Lane find it necessary to do everything they can to save up as much money as possible. Christine Javonillo, Div. 155, saves up the green in her wallet and the green in the environment.

"I just recently began to carpool with my friend. At the end of the week, I save up some money and I protect the environment," said Javonillo.

While some students save their transportation money, others are having to change their eating habits.

"I used to eat out every day. Now I am restricted to stay inside the cafeteria," said Huyen Vo Div. 227.

Other Lane students have been encouraged to take out their scissors and commence a "coupon clipping frenzy."

Madeline Gutierrez, Div. 364, has experienced the positive effects coupons have on her

mother's wallet.

"Last time I went grocery shopping with my mom, we purchased over \$100 worth of groceries, but we only ended up paying about \$60 after we used some coupons. Since then, just as soon as the newspaper arrives, I clip out the coupons for future shopping," said Gutierrez.

Some Lane students prefer to save as much possible and forget where they placed their money. That is the case for Grisel Medina, Div. 472.

"I used to get more allowance money from my dad, but he recently got his hours cut off. My allowance money has become extremely valuable to the point that I hide my money in a book and place the book in a box under my bed. I try not to remember about the money until it is Friday night and I am out with my friends," said Medina.

For other students at Lane, saving money is not something they do by themselves, but with the person he or she most love. Couple, Wanda Nguyen, Div. 182, and Paul Yalda, Div. 162, have taken an oath

to challenge the recession together.

"We do not do anything expensive on a date. Sometimes we just stay home and spend the afternoon playing board games. We have been together for such a long time that I do not look for those material aspects anymore. His presence is what makes me happy," said Nguyen.

But for Nguyen and Yalda, saving

money is not something they do for fun, but for that special night that would mark the end of their high school career: prom.

"We are really looking forward for prom, but we have estimated all the costs to be around \$500. I personally have given up my water bottle habit and began saving that money instead. In the long run, seven dollars I save a week can really add up," said Nguyen.

Nguyen advises all the girls who are looking for a prom dress to buy a dress that can be worn for future occasions.

"I am looking to buy a inexpensive dress that is not very extravagant. Therefore I can reuse the dress for another event and use up the value of the dress," said Nguyen.

Other Lane students have been forced to become "bargain hunters" and voraciously search for clothing deals.

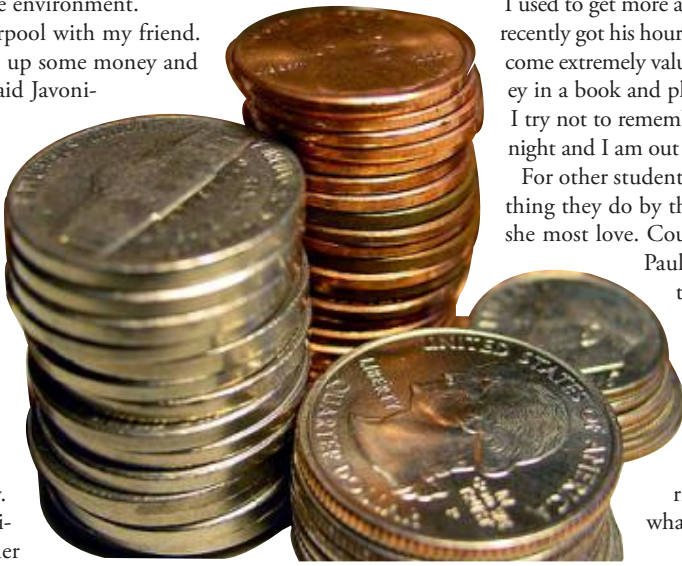
Jennifer Alvarez, Div. 162, believes that it does not take much money to stay fashionable.

"I have started to shop only when sales are going on. I often look in the store's clearance section. You just have to search where to look for deals without sacrificing the style," said Alvarez.

Nguyen advises students to be smart and realistic when they buy their clothes.

"When I enter a store, my eyes fly straight at the sales and clearance section. Sometimes you can find the exact same thing you are looking for or even better, at a much lower price. The key is to not to overspend on trends because they come and go very fast," said Nguyen.

As the recession persists, prom couple, Nguyen and Yalda, and other students at Lane, become more money wise and conscious, without disregarding the power of the penny.



Navigating ins, outs of Lane tough for students not 'in the know'

By Mady Savoie

Some people say there is no worse feeling than looking back on a situation and thinking, "If only I had known that then..." Looking back on their months, or years, at Lane, students have these thoughts all the time as the secrets about making life at Lane easier are exposed a little too late. It is high time these tips and tricks are shared before it is too late for them to be helpful.

One of the usual pieces of advice given to all freshmen for getting around Lane consists of something along the lines of, "Only take staircases H, Z, and O when absolutely necessary." Although this advice is often assumed to be well known by all freshmen, it never got around to junior, Amna Shafqat, Div. 251, until this year.

Although Shafqat's

knowledge of Lane's hallways seemed to be lacking, she did have other helpful tips to give.

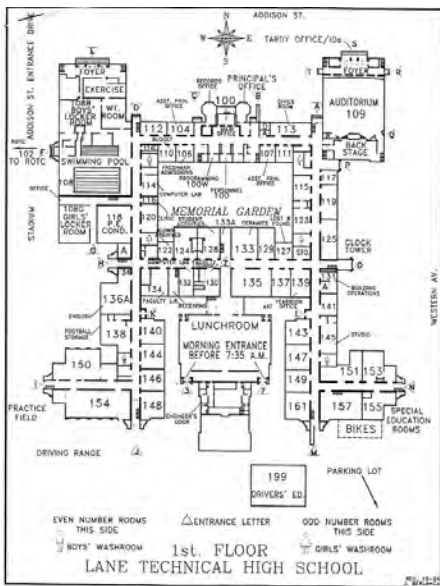
"Joining clubs matters a lot," said Shafqat. "It looks good on your transcript and service points get you into NHS...which looks even better on your transcript"

For dealing with those teachers, Shafqat, along with Stephen Yoshida, Div. 250, advises to talk to them and not be afraid to ask for help.

"They're sweeter once you get the chance to know them," Shafqat said.

Yoshida advises students to remember that teachers are people too. He says it is important to remember that they want to help whenever they can.

"Every time I've asked for any sort of help I've gotten it," said Yoshida. "So instead of crying about not understanding anything, you should ask a teacher."



Unlike Shafqat, a junior who still has trouble getting around, Hannah Paral, Div. 474, discovered a way to get ahead of the game when it came to getting around Lane's hallways this year.

"Do a fall sport because then you get an extra month to get to know the building before anyone else," she said.

As for money saving tips, Tall had a helpful hint as well; a Jewel preferred card is not necessary to get back those crucial savings. Key in the code four, plus any ten random numbers and your, "card," will be accepted.

"Had I known that freshmen year, I could have saved at least 80 bucks by now," Tall said.

Then, there are always those who stick to the usual tips of surviving the immensity of Lane. Dana Torres, Div. 460, says to heed these warnings.

"Do not fall behind right away. It's so easy to get lost in Lane's massive size. Stay on top of school work!" he said.

On the other hand, with almost four years of Lane behind her, Jordan Shaughnessy, Div. 178, wished she had come into Lane knowing how small of a place it really is.

"I thought you would walk down the halls and get lost but every way you walk you know someone," she said.

Her advice to all students is to know that there is a place for everyone, whether in a club, a sport, or a group of people.

"We are legit one family," she said.

Whether seniors or freshmen, every Lane student learns their own tips for getting around and most students do not mind sharing what they have learned. Anything to help a fellow student make these four short years of high school as easy as possible.



Texting more than habit; becoming addiction

By Ivelisse Negron

There is a thin line between the need to text and the addiction to it. Texting has become a part of teens' daily lives. It's more than just something they do. It's something they need. From the second they wake up to the minute they lay their head down to sleep, many teenagers are glued to their cell phones.

Night or day, teens seem to find themselves having to reply to every text they receive: work, before school, during school, after school, even at two in the morning. Even with the bright light blinding their eyes from the keyboard, teens do what needs to be done to stay connected.

"I feel like I'm not a part of the world when my phone dies," said Christiano Aranez, Div. 278.

Although some use their phones to keep in contact with their parents and for emergencies, most text socially.

Some find themselves to be empty without it. Others feel that it's unhealthy to text so much.

"Texting becomes an addiction when you have your phone in your hand 24/7. My cousin has it in her hand all day, everyday and doesn't even speak when she has it. It's like she's in her own little world," said Amanda Sturgill, Div. 271.

Many don't know what they would do without their unlimited

texting, while others use as minimum as needed per month.

"I send about 200 texts a month. I'm really not a big texter. I text the most when I need help on homework or just bored," said Clara Mata, Div. 328.

Teens have different opinions as to when they believe someone is addicted to texting and although some admit they do it more than others, they do agree that it is something they do.

"You're addicted when you take it with you everywhere and are constantly checking it, even when you're in the shower...or when you think you feel it vibrate when it really hasn't," said Diana Guzman, Div. 281.

"You're an addict when you get your phone taken away and you beg to use your friend's," said Erik Perez, Div. 282.

"You're addicted when you wake up in the morning and you look at your phone and you're not trying to see what time it is. You're looking for a text. I admit I sometimes do that," said Christiano Aranez, Div. 278.

Some find it easier and less awkward to text than call or talk in person, while some strongly disagree.

"It's kind of takes you away from your face-to-face social skills," said Amanda Sturgill, Div. 271.

"I feel like I'm not a part of the world when my phone dies," said Christiano Aranez, Div. 278.

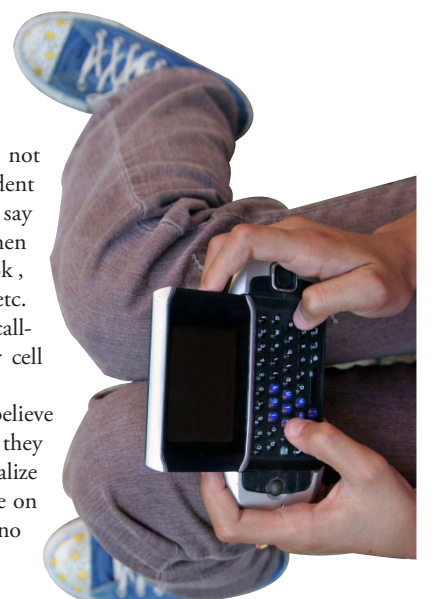
More than seeing people text all day, some are more annoyed when someone texts because they do not have the confidence to speak to them in person.

"I have no problem with texting. I like it, but don't text me all day long and then not say 'hi' in person. I don't get when people do that," said Savannah Crespo, Div. 281.

"I am a firm believer in person to person interaction," said Moses Castro, Div. 192.

Many say that's its not good to be so dependent on your phone. Some say it's so much more than just texting, it's Facebook, Twitter, BBM, music, etc. Something is always calling teens back to their cell phones.

Although many believe they're not addicted, they agree that they don't realize how dependent they are on their phones until they no longer have it.



Security starting to crack down on beverages brought into building

By Emina Cirkic

It's early Monday morning and Door A is bustling with students squirming to get in. Tracy Conoboy, Div. 251, walks through the door with a medium sized coffee from Dunkin Donuts, eager to start her day. As she walks past the security guards, Ms. O'Neil, a teacher at Lane, stops Conoboy and tells her to throw away the coffee or finish it outside. Frustrated that she cannot drink the hot beverage in a few minutes, Conoboy is forced to throw the drink away. A \$1.69 thrown in the trash. She'll know better next time.

A rule recently enforced at Lane has raised controversy among many students. According to the Lane Student Handbook, "If you buy food/or drinks at an outside facility, you are not to bring it into the lunchroom. Eat and drink where you made your purchase." However, many students disagree with the rule because they think it is unfair to be limited to what they eat or drink at school.

"If we are allowed to go out and buy food and drinks, we should be allowed to finish it in the school," said Aishe Beque, Div. 162.

Students want the freedom to go out and buy food and finish it in the

lunchroom or classrooms they are allowed to eat in. When the weather gets cold outside, students want the privilege of bringing hot drinks to school to stay warm. The drinks many students buy have caffeine in them, which helps students concentrate during school.

"My teacher saw me drinking Dunkin Donuts in the morning and said I should keep drinking it because I pay attention more in his class and stay awake during his lectures," Conoboy said. "The rule is so unfair because if I pour my coffee from Dunkin Donuts into a thermos, I could bring it in the building. What's the difference if it's in a cup or thermos? What harm does a cup of coffee pose to the school?"

"If it was up to me, I wouldn't allow thermoses in the building either," said Mr. Jarka, Dean of Students. "[The thermos] is considered private property so we cannot make students throw it away."

This year, there have been multiple accidents in the hallways where students spill coffee or drinks. Some students walk away from the mess and the wet floor becomes a hazard to other students' safety. A spill requires security or Mr. Jarka to stand over it in the halls, preventing slips until it can be cleaned up. This also creates extra work for the maintenance staff.

Some students, however, worry more about personal messes than they do

about causing hallway hazards.

"I stained my entire white jacket one morning trying to sneak in coffee. I smelled like coffee and perfume all day. It was horrible," said Joselyn Baddillo, Div. 260.

"This one time, in my class, my friend Francisco Moreno tried to steal my coffee and spilled it all over my hoodie. We didn't clean it up. I just took off my hoodie," said Philip Troung, Div. 280.

"I have seen students try to sneak the coffee cups in their side pockets," said Ms. O'Neil. "The hot drink is a safety issue. If the coffee cup breaks, the drink can burn the student's leg."

CPS enforced this rule in all public

schools mainly because it is a safety issue.

"I don't the view the rule as unfair. I've heard of past experiences where students brought alcohol in the building [in coffee cups]. It's a safety concern," O'Neil said.

Security cannot ensure that there is coffee or hot chocolate in the cup and not alcohol. The rule is mainly supposed to protect the students' safety. Lane Tech security has nothing to do with the rule; they just enforce the rules given to them by the Board Of Education.

"If students can't handle the responsibility [of bringing outside drinks to school] they won't get the privilege to

do so," Mr. Jarka said.

Compared to other CPS schools, Lane's security issues are not as severe.

"Lane students are good people who have been brought up right by their parents. If our major concern is people sneaking coffee into the building, then we are having a great year," Mr. Jarka said.

Mr. Jarka is keen on enforcing the rules and making sure all of Lane's students are safe. His suggestion to the coffee dilemma: Lane should open a Starbucks in the lunchroom, but the coffee should only be consumed in the lunch room, of course!

"What's the difference if it's in a cup or thermos? What harm does a cup of coffee pose to the school?"

- Tracy Conoboy, Div. 251.



Comic by Edwin Cho

Popularity of energy drinks skyrockets; Students deal with unhealthy effects

By Nicole Jacobs

It occurred on a Monday afternoon during lunch last year. Raul Saucedo, Div. 192, started to feel a heavy sensation in his chest and it quickly grew difficult for him to breathe. At that moment, he thought he was going to have a heart attack right in the cafeteria.

"I tried to be as calm as possible and after a few minutes it just sort of went away," Saucedo said.

What Saucedo endured was a heart palpitation, which are sensations that feel like your heart is pounding or racing. They can be felt in your chest, throat, or neck.

Earlier that day, Saucedo consumed one Nos energy drink and drank another can during the first 10 minutes of his lunch period. He usually consumed two to three Nos energy drinks each day until the incident during lunch occurred. Now, he limits his intake and is more cautious of how many cans he drinks.

According to a recent study by the University of Miami, side effects to consuming numerous energy drinks include elevated heart rates, anxiety, hypertension, and headaches. More serious

outcomes are heart palpitations, strokes, and even sudden death.

With the increasing popularity of energy drinks sky-rocketing, a great number of people rely on these drinks instead of a regular cup of coffee in the morning. Popular energy drinks among teens and adults include Monster, Rockstar, Nos, Red Bull, and more.

According to Roland Griffiths, Ph.D. of Johns Hopkins University of Medicine and co-author of an article published in Drug and Alcohol Dependence, the caffeine content of energy drinks varies over a 10-fold range. Some energy drinks contain the equivalent of 14 cans of coca-cola.

After the incident Saucedo drinks just one Monster, Nos, or Rockstar a day; occasionally three cans a day. However, he tries to be more cautious in choosing which energy drink to consume.

"I actually pay attention to the labels. I usually drink the ones that are sugar free/ really low in sugar," Saucedo said.

Elena Betancourt, Div. 155, drinks coffee more than energy drinks, but still drinks them once in a while.

"I just buy the low calorie Monster and Max

Velocity regardless of the nutritional facts, but only if it's on sale or if I'm really tired," said Betancourt.

Energy drinks include a number of unregulated herbal stimulants and natural blends like taurine, guarana, ginseng and B vitamins. According to the New York Times, the combination of chemicals does more harm than good. Certain people can risk dangerous, possibly life-threatening effects on blood pressure, heart rate, and brain function.

Alexandria Melton, Div. 163, used to drink energy drinks every day, but started to have some health issues and limited her intake to between three to five times a week.

"The summer before my sophomore year I used to drink Rockstar everyday. At Cross Country practice I started to have a lot of trouble breathing, (more than normal) chest pains, my heart rate increased, and I would get panic attacks during my races," said Melton.

Now that Melton reduces the amount of en-



ergy drinks she consumes, she no longer has as much trouble breathing.

Troy D. Tuttle, an exercise physiologist at Houston University says that the caffeine in some energy drinks is known to improve muscle action and performance, especially in endurance activities, which is why some energy drinks are banned from many sport competitions.

According to Kevin A. Clauson, doctor of pharmacy at Nova Southeastern University in West Palm Beach, Florida, the average healthy person who consumes one serving of an energy drink is unlikely to encounter problems. The at risk individuals are teens that over indulge and people

with heart conditions.

Although energy drinks claim to provide people with energy that keep them active and alert, they may not always energize you, but leave you with a crash or can cause serious health problems.

Lane students inspired by words of wisdom

By Anexy Diaz

Standing at an open mic show, he stared off into the distance listening vaguely. That is until the poet Anis Mojgani stepped up to read his poem, "Here I am." As the poet opened his mouth, Jesus Cisneros, Div.180, was touched by the things Mojgani had said.

The words that motivate, affect and influence someone can say a lot about them and their mentality when it comes to life, love and relationships. While some Lane students relate to things they hear in the media on shows like Jersey Shore, others use the words, phrases, and advice that have meaning to them as a guide through not only high school, but life.

"[The poem] left me in awe and it truly had a profound impact on me. I was just astounded at the delivery and how beautiful it all sounded. I thought the beauty of the piece laid in its simple truth," said Cisneros.

After Cisneros left the open mic performance, he did not forget the words that Mojgani spoke. Cisneros plans on getting a tattoo before graduation with an excerpt from that piece.

"I love the fact that it's permanent. It makes me think about it not once or twice but leaves me debating it for a while. Knowing that it's permanent forces me to be contemplative," Cisneros said.

When substitute teacher Mr. Yost was in high school he picked his yearbook quote to be, "I'm right. You're wrong. Shut up." After entering a serious relationship, he now chooses wiser advice to follow.

"My new motto in life is; when in doubt, shut up," Yost said.

This motto was proven to be effective when he accidentally left the back door of his house open and his girlfriend thought someone had broken in. Instead of telling her what really happened, he went along with her idea of what had occurred. Eventually the incident died down. She never found out the truth, he did not get in trouble, and a fight was avoided.

"My new motto in life is; when in doubt, shut up," said Mr. Yost

Max Guerra, Div. 251, is also smart when it comes to following the right advice.

"My mom always told me to not go on a date without money," said Guerra.

Freshman year, Guerra went on a date only to find, when he looked in his wallet, only \$2 there.

"The girl wasn't mad, but it was awkward and embarrassing. I learned my lesson," he said.

Like Guerra, Laura Harris, Div. 475, has received advice from her mom, which she applies to her life.

"She's always told me to try my hardest," Harris said.

Harris is currently on the cheerleading team and in Greek club.

"When things get hard, or on a test or homework, I always re-play my mom's advice in my head, and try not being down about things," affirms Harris.

Harris credits her mom's advice for her academic success and positive outlook on life.

Zamar Iqbal, Div. 363, has also made use of encouraging expressions to help him when it comes to school. Last year, Iqbal went through a rough experience and was forced to take some time off. When he returned, his ROTC mentor, Elias Acevedo, helped him readjust.

"I was just depressed and I asked him what should I do and he told me not to worry about it and that it would make me a more mature, better person in the future," Iqbal said.

At the time, Iqbal was not very sure this would prove to be the case, but now, a year later, the advice rings true. The incident has died down and now he passes on this advice to those that are going

through hardships too.

Economics teacher Mr. DeRoss served in the military and found the words that stuck with him the most were those of Chief Master Sergeant Dylan who said that, "The only people that never screw up is them people that never done nothing."

DeRoss says he uses that mantra daily and thinks that you need to try things in order to grow as a person. Since the age of 13, he has worked countless jobs. He has worked in the meat packing industry, as a pizza man, in the military, selling insurance and cars, and at one point even ran for alderman.

He tried many things until choosing his current profession as a teacher. Along the way, he has picked up plenty of experience and knowledge.

Similarly, Sonya Boykins, Div. 276, is inspired by the quote, "Don't tell me to reach for the stars when there are footprints on the moon."

She plans on running for class president and uses this quote to inspire her

"Don't tell me to reach for the stars when there are footprints on the moon," said Sonya Boykins, Div. 276.

when she doubts herself.

Like Boykins, when Alejandra Escobar, Div. 256, doubts herself she looks to words that help remind her that she can achieve great things. Escobar is in the Colombian Club at Lane and applies a saying she heard in grammar school. In sixth grade her teacher talked about Eleanor Roosevelt and her words that one cannot make you feel inferior without your consent.

"I see a lot of people that dance better than me and sometimes I'm like, '...I can't dance like that,' but when I think about that quote it encourages me to try harder and to understand that everyone learns at a different pace, and that doesn't make them better than me," Escobar said.

Sure, some people spend their time watching and quoting countless shows and songs, but there are also those that use the words that have more meaning to them as a little push in the right direction.

Student use of profanity becoming more common

By Monica Hernandez

In the crowded hallways of Lane, students hang out by their lockers with friends waiting for the bell to ring. "*\$@#! I forgot my homework," says a panicking student. He just remembered that he forgot to grab his homework assignment from the printer at home before he left in a rush to catch the bus.

Profanity in our schools today has reached epic proportions. Thanks primarily to music and television, teenagers are openly exposed today, more than ever, to language that can be considered inappropriate.

It may seem there are no serious consequences for profanity in schools, as it is no longer considered to be a serious offense. This does not mean that teachers and faculty will accept free use of profanity in their classrooms, but the hallways and lunchrooms are quite a different story.

Mrs. Langford, an AP Psychology teacher, admits to hearing students using curse words all the time at Lane, especially in the hallways or even just walking to Jewel.

"I should say something, but I don't," said Langford.

Langford does not believe swearing is an easily-punishable offense. She explained that if a teacher sent a student to the discipline office for swearing, it would not be taken as seriously because there are bigger issues to deal with. Still, she believes students should be held accountable for the language they use.

"I always try to call out a student and say, 'Hey! Watch your mouth!'" Langford said.

Langford also said if she heard profanity in the classroom, she would not laugh it off, but she would not be likely to take time away from teaching her class to have a long discussion about it.

Langford also believes that when students swear, they do not always seem to be serious about it. It gets more serious if the tone is threatening.

Ms. Jennings a yearbook and British literature teacher has not had any serious situations with students swearing in her class.

"The general environment and everyday conversations in class are built on respect," said Jennings. "I offer respect to my students and tell them upfront that I believe in treating them as adults, until or unless they prove me otherwise."

She believes her students are mature enough to respect one another with their language and be able to have a civilized conversation with each other.

"I think that teenagers often experiment with swearing in an attempt to prove their independence and maturity," said Jennings, "but if I hear a student swear in class I tell them that it is inappropriate and unappreciated."

She also reminds them that as their English teacher, she knows for a fact that they have a vocabulary that would enable to use words that are not profane.


Ja'lessa Hardwick, Div. 158, has never personally been in trouble for swearing in class or around a teacher.

"I have seen many cases where a kid will swear in class during a presentation and the teacher would just laugh it off without any major consequences except maybe a warning," said Hardwick.

She believes that swearing has become a second nature to and it helps people to be able to relate to each other, especially towards teens. Hardwick thinks the households definitely play a role in the language that kids use. She has seen kids as young as three years old swearing and thinks it is just plain inappropriate. Swearing in public is very disrespectful to her and she would never even think of using profanity around a teacher or elder.

"Everybody does it and I guess it's considered a way for teens to relate," said Hardwick. "I use profanity, but I also have other words to replace them with. Sadly, some teens don't." Schools, parents and the media all have a responsibility to curtail this growing epidemic.

@#%\$&!



STAND OUT

On Your College Application with SAT Subject Tests™


- The **only** national college admission tests where **you choose** the subject
- One-hour tests in a variety of subject areas: math, science, literature, history and foreign languages
- Required or recommended by many colleges

This spring, take an SAT Subject Test; next fall, make your college application shine.

Upcoming Test Dates: May 7 & June 4

Learn More, Register and Get Free Practice Tools:
www.SATSubjectTests.org

11b-2267 © 2011 The College Board





Source Code something all will enjoy deciphering

By Ben Palmer

Source Code is a modern cognitive thriller, the type of film Alfred Hitchcock might have made had he been given an iPhone.

Upon hearing the plot, I screwed up my face thinking, "Oh man, they can fit all that into an hour and a half? And have it make sense?" Clearly I underestimated the talent of leading man Jake Gyllenhaal, and supporting cast Michelle Monaghan (Eagle Eye) and Vera Farmiga (Up in the Air).

A disoriented Captain Colter Stevens (Gyllenhaal) is used to identify the bomber of a commuter train headed for Chicago. Sounds like any Die Hard-esque thriller, right?

Wrong. The catch is, the train has already blown up. A government agency is using a technology known as the Source Code, which captures the last eight minutes of a person's life and records it as computer data. Stevens must relive the last minutes of a passenger's life and stop the bomber from detonating a larger device in downtown Chicago.

Stop me if I've lost you. Because I was lost too.

I herald this warning to any and all who plan to see Source Code: IT IS NOT EASY TO UNDERSTAND! Anyone who proudly wears an "I understood Inception" shirt shouldn't have a problem with this movie. Those of you who don't own one may want to bring a geeky friend with you to the theater, as it's a mentally bumpy ride.

The almost complete lack of technological back plot drove me insane. It is possible, theorizes the Source Code's creator (played by Jeffrey Wright), to copy and paste the short-term-memory data saved by the brain's circuitry after the body has almost died. Instead of pasting into

a Word document, it is pasted into the Source Code, where it can be explored by Stevens until he discovers the bomber's identity.

When Gyllenhaal questions this technology, as he and the audience do almost simultaneously, the reasoning behind its function is given as, "It's all quantum mechanics and such. You wouldn't understand."

And he didn't! Neither did most of the audience. However, the repeatedly fleeting yet genuine romance between Gyllenhaal and Monaghan (an unaware passenger on the train) and the gentle guidance of government agent Goodwin (Farmiga) allow the plot holes to go almost unnoticed, filled in by the emotional grounding.

Source Code is, in many ways, the product of many influences, including modern technology, The War On Terror, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Bill Murray.

Stop me if I've lost you.

Actually, I'll assume you're lost, so allow me to explain.

The bomb is cell-phone detonated, instant messages and emails are providers of plot, and Gyllenhaal's hunt for a phone takes up a good one-third of the film. Not to mention the stretch of imagination required to believe in the Source Code device. Modern Technology: check.

The fact that the film is about the prevention of a metropolitan terrorist attack is an obvious sign of the times. As if this weren't enough,

a government agent references the source code as "finally, a weapon against The War On Terror." Couldn't have drawn a better parallel myself. The War on Terror: check.

The critical and box office success of Inception clearly was the locomotive tugging at this plot-heavy mammoth of a film. Like The Hangover did for "bromantic" comedies, Inception spurred a new genre of "it's all in your head thanks to this cool technological thing-y!" films. Inception (and, in turn, Leo DiCap): check.

That leaves Bill Murray. He starred in Groundhog Day (1993) a film about a man having to relive the same day over and over again until he did something right. Of course, he wasn't identifying terrorists or utilizing an advanced government machine, but he had some ambiguous mission in his day-again cycle, just like Gyllenhaal. Bill Murray: check.

Although I had to spend a great deal of time contemplating parallel realities (because obviously "it's all quantum mechanics and such. You wouldn't understand,") I found the film quite enjoyable. It raises questions of how we live our day-to-day lives, and it even asks us if our day-to-day lives are real or part of a giant government experiment.

Oh my god, I just found another distant cousin to this movie: THE MATRIX. Duh!

This film fivesome was glorious in its cinematic presentation. It was complexly filmed, complimenting the complexity of the plot. Modern thrillers these days often do not connect on the proper levels, but this definitely did. It uses events, ideas, technologies, and actors that most high schoolers are familiar with. It's PG-13 rating means even freshmen can enjoy its mind-bending offerings!

I would recommend the film to anyone, whether it be for a date (there's a fair amount of kissing) a group of friends (it's loaded with excitement and at least a dozen explosions) or just a hungry mind (the amount of cinematic and scientific food for thought is like a huge bowl of candy).

Sandler, Aniston romance... unlikely, but *Just Go With It*



By Alexandra Alexandru

Just Go With It, starring Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston, may seem like a sappy, dry-humored romantic comedy, but it is surprisingly amusing and sweet.

Just Go With It begins with Danny (Sandler), a guy not too smooth with the ladies, breaking off his wedding at the last minute.

Just after he calls off his wedding and while still wearing his wedding ring, Danny meets a beautiful woman who is willing to talk to him because of said ring. It seems that women find the ring seductive and cannot resist talking to a man who is apparently "off the market." Flash forward ten or so years later and Danny is still using the old wedding ring trick to pick up women. During this time Danny becomes a successful plastic surgeon and works with Katherine (Aniston), a funny and sweet single-mom of two.

Later on Danny meets a young schoolteacher (Brooklyn Decker) at a party and he falls for her, thinking she might be "The One." However, there is a catch. She refuses to date Danny because she finds his wedding ring and thinks Danny is married. Instead of telling her the truth, Danny tells her he plans on getting a divorce and convinces his assistant Katherine

to pretend to be his soon to be ex-wife. The plot gets much crazier and they all end up taking a vacation together to Hawaii, with Katherine pretending to be Danny's wife and Katherine's children pretending to be Danny's children as well. Danny's crazy but

hilarious cousin Eddie (Nick Swardson) also decides to tag along and pretends to be Katherine's German boyfriend who she left Danny for. As if this plot was not bizarre enough, they all run into Nicole Kidman playing the cliché role of the popular girl that was mean to geeky Katherine in high school - a whole other story. Despite the almost absurd events in the movie, it is full of hilarious scenes and lines that only Sandler could pull off. There is also a sweet, almost cheesy side to the story that will make even the biggest cynics go "awwww."

Perhaps the best part of Just Go With It is the chemistry between Aniston and Sandler. Both of their acting is right

on point and their characters seem to match and complement each other perfectly. Sandler once again masters the role of adult goofball who has almost given up on love and Aniston plays her role perfectly as the smart, funny, and intriguing assistant that may be able to change Sandler's opinions about love. Characters such as Eddie, who poses as a German sheep shipper (yes, he sells and ships sheep to people on eBay and knows all about sheep fights), also add to the movie and make it even more hilarious. However, Delvin Adams (Kidman) did not did not meet my expectations or significantly contribute to the movie because she played a very limited and small role.

Another flaw in the movie is how Danny can supposedly get any woman he wants just by pretending he is married. In the real world, most women would not consider dating a man because he says his wife is horrible to him and wants to find compassion elsewhere. I honestly don't know what the writer of the script was thinking, but I highly doubt this works. I also do not understand how Danny worked with Katherine as her assistant for years but never noticed how sweet and beautiful she is because she had her hair up and wore glasses. It took a vacation to Hawaii and a couple bikini shots before he could finally realize they share more in common than just office space.

The filming style of this movie is simple and consists mostly of eye-level shots and establishing shots, which set up a scene's setting and actors. There are also cuts that occur every few seconds in order to keep viewers from becoming bored.

The only time the shots change and become close-ups are during love scenes when only the actors' faces were in the frame to give the viewer a sense of intimacy. There are no special lighting effects throughout the movie, with the exception of the scenes set in Hawaii which used extra bright lighting to make it seem like paradise.

Overall, this movie is definitely worth a watch. The plot may be overwhelming, but it is interesting and will keep you guessing at what hilarious change in the plot can possibly come next. The ending is similar to most romantic comedies, but the road that leads there is filled with funny, heart-felt moments that everyone can enjoy.



No adjustment needed for *Adjustment Bureau*

By Bill Fenton

The Adjustment Bureau is a good combination of science fiction, action, mystery and romance that many Lane students would find captivating. Special effects and great acting add to this movie, but the story is undermined by an out of place religious tone.

The Adjustment Bureau is the story of the up and coming politician David Norris (played by Matt Damon) who accidentally discovers that human actions are determined by an outside group, the Adjustment Bureau. The members of the bureau are omniscient angels who claim that humans are not capable of having free will. According to the angels, each person's life must be adjusted to fit their predestined path. When people move away from their determined path, the bureau does anything possible to keep them on course, including stopping time and changing the way people think.

Unfortunately for Norris, his predestined path does not include falling in love with ballet dancer Elise Sellas (played by Emily Blunt). Norris meets Sellas by chance and quickly falls in love with her, creating a case of forbidden love. The Adjustment Bureau intervenes, determined to halt any interaction between the two. However, Norris fights his fate and pursues his love, challenging the bureau and fighting for not only love, but free will.

Matt Damon and Emily Blunt are both phenomenal in this movie and combine to create a love that is both quirky and believable. Along with the acting, the special ef-

fects are incredible and seamless.

The Adjustment Bureau is a movie that does not hold back on special effects. One of many special effects is when the bureau teleports around the world. The special effects for these teleportations are incredible.

Anyone who has read (or is reading) George Orwell's dystopia, 1984, will find plenty of similarities between the book and

this movie. There is a striking similarity between 1984's "thought police" and the members of the Adjustment Bureau, who will read, change, and completely erase one's thoughts.

The Adjustment Bureau is a movie that also will make one think about human free will. Anyone who has taken psychology has learned about the debate between free will and determinism, and most branches in

psychology claim that people do not have free will. This movie further challenges that concept of free will, claiming that an outside group of people determines our fates and daily actions.

While the film is both interesting and thought provoking, its blatant religious undertone takes away from the suspense of the film. The Bureau is an angelic organization, however, they are fumbling and disorganized, giving the film unintentionally funny moments.

The Adjustment Bureau is an interesting, exciting, and captivating film. The film is especially interesting with the acting of Matt Damon and Emily Blunt and the use of special effects. A religious tone takes away from the plot of the movie, but most everyone seeing this movie will find something about it they enjoy.



Chris Brown scores number one album with *F.A.M.E.*

By Brianna Toney

Chris Brown is back at it. No, he's not dating Rihanna again, or throwing more chairs out of windows. He's back proving why he's one of the best R&B artists out today. His new album *F.A.M.E.*, which stand for *Forgiving All My Enemies* and *Fans Are My Everything*, was released March 22, 2011. With this album, Brown is coming back harder than ever. Giving fans what he failed to give them in his last album, *Graffiti*, he delivers hit after hit. There are many potential number one songs, such as "Beautiful People" and collaborations with Justin Bieber in "Next to You" and Wiz Khalifa in "Bomb." Brown has two number one hits with this album already, "Deuces" which seemed to be the summer time break up anthem, and "Look At Me Now," a collaboration with rappers Lil Wayne and Busta Rhymes that seems to be 2011 'new year, new me' anthem.

In this album, Brown gives a great variety of music, successfully. Not many artist can do that. With songs such as "Bomb" and "Look at me now" and "Yeah 3x," playing Brown's CD will definitely get the party started. He has delivered feel good music. There are songs that you cant help but dance to. With the different acoustics and techno soundings beats, his songs create a dance mood. "Oh My

Love" is a party song where he is trying to convince the girl to give him a chance to make her fall in love with him. Cute right? Who doesn't like parties and love? And "Beautiful People" is another pop/dance track that inspires listeners to let go and enjoy the great things in life. This song clearly shows the progression of CB from his last album which included the pop song "Forever."

But Pop isn't the only genre Brown has decided to explore. In songs such as "Look at Me Now," we see the rapper side of Chris Brown... (Who even knew that was there?) It wasn't a total fail. His verse was pretty catchy to me, but I think he needs to stick with singing. Then finally, we get to the R&B side of CB that we know and love. He displays a more soft and subtle side with songs such as "Up To You," a ballad where he sings "I don't have a clue what to do when it comes to you. Baby, you're so beautiful every time I see you girl, it throw me off. It's so unusual," letting the girl know she's beautiful, he's in love, and he doesn't want to lose her. (AWWW!) There even seems to be a song dedicated to Rihanna with "All Back"

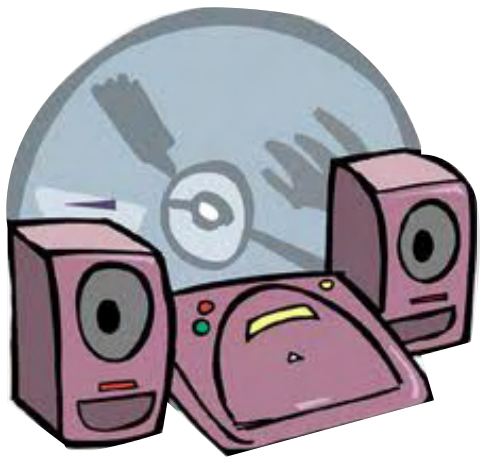


where Brown expresses how he foolishly let go of a great girlfriend and now misses it, singing "I didn't know what I had until I lost you. Now I want it all, now I want it all back."

He also samples the late Michael Jackson's "Human Nature" in "She Ain't You," which is one of the best songs on the album. Brown shows a lot of talent and dedication in *F.A.M.E.* With this album, we see a more mature Brown. He is different from when he first entered the industry in 2005, and different from the Chris Brown that we read and heard so much about 2 years ago because of his altercation with then girlfriend Rihanna. With this album, we see more confidence from Brown. We also hear a more evolved Chris Brown. He shows that he still has the talent and passion to be a lasting figure in the music industry. He shows his creativity and versatility as an artist by using different sounds and genres in *F.A.M.E.* He's being daring and trying different things. He raps, sings, and creates definite party songs. Brown shows that he's not just a singer, but an artist.

With collaborations with artist like Lil Wayne, Justin Bieber, Tyga, Wiz Khalifa, Busta Rhymes, and Big Sean, and samples from greats like Michael

Jackson and SWV, Chris Brown definitely gives us an all around great album. It has reached number one on the Billboard 200 and the Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums charts, which gives him his first album to top the Billboard Top 200. After everything Brown has done, gone through, and learned from, I think the number one spot is well deserved. He gives his fans great music and shows his growth as both a person and an artist. *F.A.M.E.* is a great attempt by Chris to win back the heart of his fans. I think it definitely deserves to be heard.



Lupe Fiasco takes on world, himself with *LASERS*

By Nicole Jacobs

"We are not losers...we are LASERS!" In Lupe Fiasco's highly anticipated third album *LASERS*, which stands for "Love Always Shines Everytime: Remember to Smile," he combines his frustrations with the media, politics, and his rough, yet memorable, childhood growing up on the West Side of Chicago and creates awe inspiring, catchy melodies that address all audiences. His contribution to the music world has been phenomenal since the release of his first two albums, *Food & Liquor* (2006) and *The Cool* (2007). Now Fiasco is back after his four year absence and it is safe to say that his third album is his best yet. He released his latest album, *LASERS*, on March, 8, 2011.

Wasalu Muhammad Jaco, better known as Lupe Fiasco, is of West African descent and was raised as a Muslim in Chicago. Despite living in a neighborhood filled with drug dealers, prostitutes, and gangbangers on every corner, Lupe was exposed to the world outside of his neighborhood through family. His mother supplied him with numerous issues of the National Geographic and his father taught him karate and enriched his ears with famous artists from the music world. He also joined the Chess Club and Academic Decathlon while in high school.

Thanks to Jay Z, Fiasco is signed with Atlantic Records. Before his first hit single, "Kick Push," was released and nominated for two 2007 Grammy Awards, Fiasco worked alongside some other famous artists such as Kanye West, Jay Z, and Nas. Inspiration from these artists and many more helped Fiasco develop into the innovative rapper he is today.

In his first single off of *LASERS*, "The Show Goes On" Fiasco stresses the importance of persevering when times get rough and seem hopeless. The struggles and difficulties of reaching goals is a

more rewarding journey than the actual prize itself. Its upbeat, catchy melody instantly draws fans in due to his inspiring lyrics and same energetic flow we have seen in his previous songs. However, many argue with the truthfulness in this song. Yes, "The Show Goes On" is sampled from Modest Mouse's, "Float On," but he did it with respect and appreciation. I believe that Fiasco sampled his song as a tribute to "Float On" not to try and steal/copy it. Despite the concerns of a few fans, this song has the perfect melody and incorporates the use of great instruments. It conveys the message of never throwing in the towel and not letting where you live or what you have been through affect your capabilities in the world; simply stated; to achieve you must believe.

LASERS begins with the single entitled, "Letting Go" featuring Sarah Green. Anyone who knows what it is like to have someone hold them back from accomplishing a dream can relate to this song. Fiasco raps about being weighed down by another's negativity and how 'letting go' or leaving them behind is the best option; especially if it means pursuing dreams. He raps, "Things are getting out of control, feels like I'm running out of soul, you're getting heavy to hold, think I'll be letting you go." He raps how he is not only struggling with the world, but also with himself. "Lost inside my recent fights, burdens on my shoulders now, burning all my motives down, inspiration drying up, motivation slowing down," raps Fiasco. Sarah Green's added vocals to this song completes the overall message Lupe is sending to his audiences.

"Till I get there" is a song that explains how Fiasco stays chill and calm and lets things take their course



when it comes to living life. He accepts where he comes from and does not let that hinder where he wants to go in the future. Everything is understood as whatever happens in life happens and he just takes things how they come. In the song he uses Muhammad Ali as an example that there are some things in life that you win and you lose, but the important thing is to not stress or linger over it. "And yeah I got flaws, I know I'm not perfect, but all the ups and downs, will soon be worth it when I get there." "Till I get there" and several other songs on Lupe's album are inspiring and reminds fans to keep their heads up.

My favorite song on this album, hands down, has got to be "Words I never said," featuring Skylar

Grey. It incorporates a bit of everything. It has beautifully formed verses that address politics, violence, and Fiasco's opinion about society in general. I love Fiasco's honesty and how he takes a risk by including controversial topics in this remarkably well composed album. This song did spark a bit of controversy due to some of the lyrics added. Fiasco raps, "Linbaugh is a racist, Glenn Beck is a racist, Gaza Strip was getting bombed, Obama didn't say s****, that's why I ain't vote for him, the next one either, I'm a part of the problem, my problem is I'm peaceful, and I believe in the people." This marks Fiasco's second public verbal jab at Obama, the first back in 2008 when he refused to support Obama's candidacy during the elections. I honestly respect Lupe's actions because unlike many other artists, he is not afraid to speak his mind concerning issues that he feels strongly about. "I think that

all the silence is worse than all the violence, fear is such a weak emotion that's why I despise it," raps Fiasco. Many of his fans, including myself, respect that he is a different type of rapper. According to the LA Times, "These are among the moments that illustrate Fiasco has something far more important than a No. 1 hit: an opinion."

Another one of my favorites on *LASERS*, is the song "Never Forget You," featuring John Legend. In this wonderfully created melody, Fiasco reminisces about his unforgettable memories whether they were good or bad. Lupe lost his father to type II diabetes and this song is a tribute to all the cherished memories he felt and shared with his father. I definitely can relate to this song by Fiasco. Losing a loved one is always tough, but remembering the times spent together can help one persevere and get through each day. John Legend's beautiful, soulful voice makes this song even more likable due to its sweet rhythm and hopeful vibe.

Other songs in this album that I enjoy are, "All Black Everything," "Beautiful Lasers," featuring MDMA, and "Out of My Head," featuring Trey Songz. All the songs in *LASERS* are upbeat and easy to relate to which adds to its popularity. Lupe Fiasco has come a long way in the music industry and keeps getting better.

Overall, *LASERS* is certainly Lupe Fiasco's best album yet. It incorporates just about everything and demonstrates how talented Fiasco is as an artist. After waiting four long years for the release of this album, it is finally here and celebrated. Fiasco did not disappoint his fans and I do not think he ever will. Despite the minor controversies that came along with the release of this album, in its entirety, it is truly a beautiful third album. It is nothing short of brilliance. I embrace the fact that Fiasco will always be my favorite artist, rapper, and musician to come alive in this musical world.

Hop right into basket of corny jokes, songs, situations

By Katarzyna Barnak

One night. One giant egg-shaped sled. Millions of eager children awaiting their baskets of goodies. Sounds familiar? Well it should since the unoriginal story of Hop should be dubbed "Flop" due to its rip-off of children's favorite Christmastime story of Santa Claus.

Hop is the story of a young, rebellious bunny, E.B. (Russell Brand) who, rather than replace his father (Hugh Laurie) as the official Easter Bunny, wants to pursue his dream of being a famous drummer. He escapes to Hollywood where he meets Fred O'Hare (James Marsden), a human who has a hard time finding what his true passions are. As Fred helps E.B. pursue his dream, the Easter Island world issues three Charlie's Angelesque female bunnies (aka the Pink Berets) to track down E.B in time for his coronation and Easter. But this is only

part of the problem. Carlos, the chick who is E.B.'s father's right hand, is scheming a revolt against the bunnies and trying to become the bearer of Easter baskets.

This movie is like a mish-mash of rock n' roll, America's Got Talent, Charlie's Angels, and Christmas, which ends up being a deflated soufflé of too many flavors. It's as though the writers just threw in whatever happened to be playing on the Sunday flashback movie channel because they were incapable of coming up with something truly original. Just because this is one of the first Easter movies does not mean that their job was done. The script is full of cheesy remarks and cliché phrases. For example, when E.B. is cheering up Fred about not getting a job he was interviewing for, he says "Every cloud has a silver lining," rather than something more inspiring and motivating.

Among the cute and cuddly scenes of the chicks

and bunnies preparing chocolates were somewhat obscene scenes in this PG rated movie. First of all, when E.B. is looking for a place to stay, he goes to what he thinks is the most obvious place - Playboy Mansion. This, and the fact that he poops jelly beans, (which by the way adds nothing to the story) are some of the inappropriate and pointless content. E.B. also tries hitting on Fred's human sister Sam. The movie also includes a ridiculous performance from David Hasselhoff as the judge of "Hoff Knows Talent," which E.B. auditions for.

Another aspect of the movie that could have been better was the music. This movie provided a great opportunity for an original song, especially since E.B. wants to be a musician. Yes, Russell Brand and James Marsden do sing a duet in this movie, but it is only when they crash Fred's little sister's play. The song, however, is the



hackneyed "I Want Candy." I was hoping E.B. would at least sing something about perseverance and fulfilling his goal. Or it could have been a catchy song about loving his hobby, the drums. Otherwise, it's like a subliminal message for kids to go and eat candy, especially after seeing cascades of jelly beans, marshmallows, chocolate, lollipops, etc. in the Easter Island factory.

Overall, this movie was not what I expected. I'm happy that I didn't have to pay \$10 to see it, since I went on a weekday. It was a semi-entertaining spin-off of other movies. I don't think it sent out any valuable message to the audience. The only person benefiting from this is Russell Brand who will get to brag to his children one day that he played the Easter Bunny. Meanwhile, Brand's wife, Katy Perry, has been off voicing Smurfette in the upcoming movie, *Smurfs*. Hopefully that movie will be more genuine and be something she can truly brag about.

Burning of Qur'an leads to Anti-American protests



By Kelly Sineni

Late last month Terry Jones (also the planner of Burn a Qur'an day which was supposed to happen 9/11 of last year, but was talked out of it by the federal government), a pastor at a small church in Florida, kicked off his controversial "International Judge a Qur'an Day". This eventually lead to burning a copy of the Qur'an after finding it was guilty of crimes against humanity.

Yes, the Qur'an was found guilty of crimes against humanity (because that's not weird at all...). According to the Dove World Outreach Center, the Qur'an itself, the sacred text of Islam,

was found guilty after it was put on trial. They gave the Qur'an a legitimate trial with jurors, witnesses, etc. before finding it guilty of the following charges: "1. The Koran is charged with the training and promoting of terrorist activities around the world. To that charge the Koran has been found guilty. 2. The Koran is charged with the death, rape, and torture of people worldwide whose only crime is 'not being of Islamic faith.' To this charge the Koran has been found guilty. 3. The Koran is charged with crimes against women, against minorities, against Christians, and with the promoting of prejudice and racism against anyone who is not a Moslem. To this charge, the Koran has been found guilty," said the Dove World Outreach Center on their blog after the event.

After news of the burning hit Afghanistan, the country erupted in Anti-American protests. In a three day span of April 1-3, 24 people have been killed in the riots, including 7 UN workers.

Back in September Terry Jones was very public about his plans to Burn a Qur'an, and was warned about the consequences by the government. The massive riots which lead to endangerment of American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and the reactions of Islamic countries is what the government was worried about.

First off, I think burning the Qur'an was absolutely immoral. This organization is known to make many Anti Islam statements, and are known for being a radical (but small) organization. They put on a completely ridiculous trial and then burned the Qur'an. I think Terry Jones and his bigot followers who put on this trial have a few screws loose. Aside from being just flat out wrong and sickening, the burning of it put so many people in danger.

It's a ridiculous thought that the Qur'an itself is the sole cause of terrorism, rape, torture, and racism. Clearly, Terry Jones has lived under a rock his whole life. Yes, there are Muslim extremists who

are involved with terrorism, who do torture people not of Islamic faith, who do support the suppressing of women. But they are EXTREMISTS: A minority group that sometimes overshadows the overwhelming majority of Muslims who are not like that. There are Christian extremists who are guilty of the same things. His own congregation is guilty of supporting prejudices against non Christians.

Although it was extremely wrong for Jones to oversee the burning of the Qur'an and to say all that he has about Islam, the reaction of the rioters were uncalled for as well. Of course it is understandable to be upset. I know myself, I get angry when I see images of the American flag being burned in other places on the news. We have definitely seen this enough on the news in the past few years. But is rioting, attacking a UN building, and ranting Anti American slogans the necessary way to take care of this? Especially since in recent years there

have been many videos of some Afghans burning American flags, isn't it pretty much the same idea as Terry Jones' congregation burning the Qur'an? It hurts just the same to see something you care deeply about being disrespected.

On both sides (Afghan rioters and the congregation of Terry Jones) I think it takes a distinction between the majority of a population and the few radicals. Obviously not all Americans are Anti-Islam, Qur'an burning bigots, and not all Muslims are Anti-American, flag burning terrorists. Every group of people, be it religious groups, political parties, or racial groups is bound to have a few intolerant people, but fighting back with violence doesn't solve anything as we have seen with the deaths of more than 20 people. You can't fight extremism with more extremism. Tolerance is important, and in this case realizing that extremists are not the majority is the only way to help these issues.

My first Bulls game: taking baby steps into love of game

By Aleks Pavlovic

Convincing my friend to splurge on his Bulls ticket was quite a mission. Somehow coming up with \$50 on my own was another. Parking was a bit complicated, but stepping into the United Center to watch the Bulls play the New Orleans Hornets was the jalapeno on top of my senior year's Nachos Grande.

The last time I visited the United Center was with my father when I was seven or eight. I'm pretty sure it was there that I saw Arthur live or The Big Comfy Couch. Coming back just hurtled me back into the past.

The game itself was mind-blowing. Television cannot provide the viewer with a fraction of the incredible live experience. It's hard to figure out which part I enjoyed the most - Derrick Rose or the Nachos Grande.

I don't know everything there is to know about basketball, but with each perfect shot I fell deeper and deeper in love with Derrick Rose. I noticed my mouth opening slightly and my eyes widening as I watched him score 24 points and dish out nine assists. I was speechless when I decided that

the MVP's shots are smooth enough to be on an "I can't believe it's not butter" commercial.

Generally, I hate nachos.

The ones from 7-11 are the most soggy, unappetizing things I have ever seen. I can't say that the \$10.00 nachos I bought that night were better than Rose, but they could definitely compare. Complete with salsa-seasoned ground beef, creamy cheese, onion, tomato, and jalapeno, these nachos had sass. Only at a Bulls game would this price be totally and completely worth it.

Aside from Rose and nachos, I was amused at the fact that the game itself was only about 40% of the entire experience.

One guy won a trip to a country of his choice in Latin America or Europe after Benny the Bull hit a half-court shot backwards. I ended up winning a free cup of coffee from Dunkin Donuts during a

contest in which numbered trucks drove around a track on the jumbotron; the winner was the truck labeled '2' and I had the lucky number. That doesn't come close to a round-trip, but it definitely counts for something.



The lights and the chanting and the overweight topless dancing guys did it all for me. I loved that the action didn't stop during time-outs. While people at home dawdled during commercials, everybody at the game continued to be entertained by all of the crazy games and contests going on at the stadium. I loved that shirts were flying out of the ceiling, and I loved that the

little boy sitting next to me knew more about what was going on than I did. I have to mention that my only disappointment was waiting patiently for the final buzzer but then not hearing it. I knew the

Bulls were going to win, and they did with a score of 85-77, but I needed that sound to complete the game. Even though I missed it, I was still an excited mess when I exited the United Center.

When I came home I did a bit of research on all of the players, and a few things stuck out to me. Omer Asik has a surprisingly strong Turkish accent and Kyle Korver's favorite meal consists of meat and potatoes. (His unoriginality takes away from his Ashton Kutcher look-alike swag.) I would pay \$100 for nachos if I could stroke Joakim Noah's gorgeous, bushy head, and although I'm not the biggest fan, Carlos Boozer believes in "Jay-Z. All day." I wasn't fond of Brian Scalabrine's redheaded self at first, but after searching a bit deeper I discovered that he trains rigorously in the off-season by jumping off of cliffs and swimming in rivers. I respect that.

I keep bugging my friend about the next game we will go to because I'm eventually going to get sick of constantly replaying this game in my head. I would suggest a Bulls game to anybody, regardless of whether or not they're a sports fan. But after a Bulls game, it's hard not to be. Especially after a bite of those nachos. Or a bite of D. Rose.

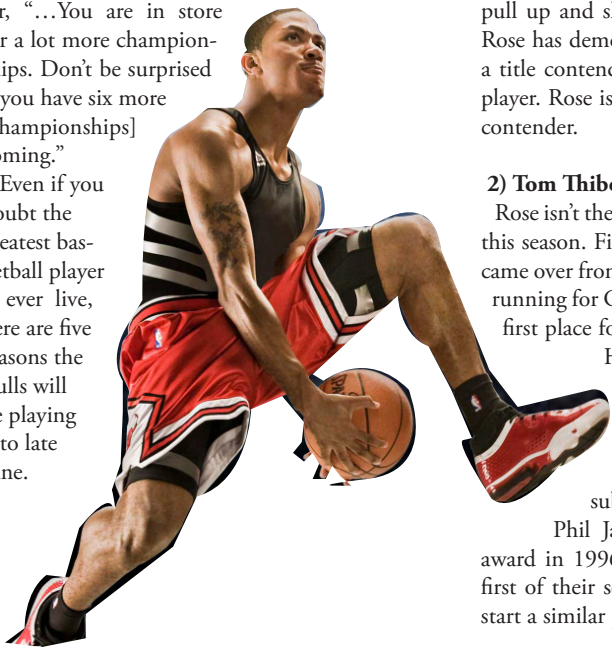
Five reasons the Bulls are playoff team to watch



By Johnny Stacewicz

I was born and raised in Chicago, so I know better than to predict a basketball championship coming back to the city. So this will be a bold statement: not only do I think the Bulls finally have a team capable of making a championship run, I think they are front runners. Think about it: Derrick Rose is playing out of his mind, and the team has beaten practically every other title contender in the league, so I have to agree with Michael Jordan when he told the crowd at the United Center, "...You are in store for a lot more championships. Don't be surprised if you have six more [championships] coming."

Even if you doubt the greatest basketball player to ever live, here are five reasons the Bulls will be playing into late June.



1) Derrick Rose

Watching Rose play is like watching poetry in motion. I saw him play at the United Center in 2007, except in the blue and yellow of Simeon Career Academy. He had the same hesitation dribble that puts defenders to sleep and the fastest first step to match: the same steps that now freeze the best defenders in the NBA. Rose has been putting up career numbers during his MVP season. His 24.9 points, 7.9 assists, and 4.2 rebounds per game are all up from last season. His 3 point field goal percentage is up this year to 33%, finally making him a consistent threat, either to dribble and drive or pull up and shoot. This has been the first season Rose has demonstrated a real killer instinct. To be a title contender in the NBA teams need a go-to player. Rose is that player, and the Bulls are a title contender.

2) Tom Thibodeau

Rose isn't the only one in Chicago up for an award this season. First year coach Tom Thibodeau, who came over from Boston, has been mentioned in the running for Coach of the Year and has the Bulls in first place for the first time since the Jordan era.

He doesn't stand for the showboating that now consumes most of the NBA and he constantly preaches defense. Thibodeau has kept the Bulls humble and has managed substitutions to keep his players rested.

Phil Jackson won the coach of the year award in 1996, the same year the Bulls won the first of their second three-peats. Thibodeau could start a similar pattern.

3) The Supporting Cast

The Bulls are one of the few teams in the league that actually play like a team. Luol Deng is finally playing up to the potential that he has hovered around for his first six years in the league. Joakim Noah plays every game with everything he has in him, which is contagious. His passion rubs off on everyone around him. In the off-season the Bulls acquired center Carlos Boozer. Boozer brings a big physical presence in the paint that the Bulls have never really had.

Other than the all-star and the other four starters, the Bulls are a team made up of role players. Everyone has a job on the court, and seeing from their conference-leading record, everyone is doing that job.

Take Omer Asik for example. It seems as though he has never seen a basketball in his life, yet he manages to always come up with a handful of rebounds and a basket or two. Kyle Korver is becoming one of the deadliest 3-point shooters in the league; he just needs to play some defense. Kurt Thomas can barely make it up and down the court after 15 years in the NBA. And for some reason, everyone loves Brian Scalabrine.

The point is that the Bulls are not the best team on paper (statistically), but the fact that they actually play as five players makes them a real threat, and now, a championship contender.

4) The Defense

It might be that I used to play basketball, but there is something inside me that gets so worked up when I see a team play good defense. I see that every night in Bulls games. The NBA has been

known as a league where defense no longer exists, and how can there be when teams constantly put up over 100 points and Kobe can drop 81? In a league where zone defense is illegal, the rules make it easy for stars to get one-on-one match-ups so they can score spectacularly, which brings in the fans. Many believe this is why the NBA is more like entertainment than PURE BASKETBALL.

Thibodeau came in saying his main focus is defense. And so far, he has kept his word. The Bulls rank second in the league allowing 91.9 pts/game, which is also down from last year's 99.1 average. Everyone gets in a stance, everyone boxes out, everyone commits to every play, and this is what separates the good teams from the great ones.

5) The United Center

You can only know what I am talking about if you have been to a Bulls game. It is an experience you will never forget. There are no bad seats, there are no empty seats, and by the end of the game there are no "seat-filled" seats, because the entire crowd is on its feet.

The Bulls will be entering the playoffs with home court advantage, a place where they have been dominant. Their 35-5 record at home this season (at press time) is among the best in the league. Chicago takes its basketball very seriously. The United Center gets loud, emotion takes over, and luckily neither can the other team.

As the Bulls make their run for a championship, their fan base will be just as crucial as the bench. So scrape some money together, and get to a game. You won't regret it. You might just catch a glimpse of history.

Swim, bike, run...teach? World record Iron Man student teaches at Lane

By Johnny Stacewicz

In 2005, Sean Stringer could not swim a full lap in a pool; in 2009 he set the world record for most Iron Man competitions completed in a calendar year.

He is better known in the hallways as Mr. Stringer, a student teacher working with Ms. Malstrom and Ms. Sebestyen.

Other than the fact that he is built like a solid oak tree, Mr. Stringer has the same nervous curiosity that all student teachers have; no one would guess he was a world-class athlete.

For those who are not aware of what the Iron Man competition is, here is a short lesson. The Iron Man is considered by many to be the most physically grueling and intense competition an athlete can endure. The race consists of swimming, biking and running portions. Just like a triathlon right? Wrong! The Iron Man kicks off with a 2.4 mile swim, in either fresh or salt water. Swimmers sprint out of the water to their bikes, swapping wetsuits for helmets and taking off on their 112 mile bike ride. And then of course the marathon run (26.2 miles) is the cherry on top of the entire race. The previous world record was 14 completed competitions; Stringer completed 20 in just over nine months.

After completing his first Iron Man in 2007 Stringer set a goal.

"Just after one Iron Man I wanted the record. I spent the entire next year planning," Stringer said.

One cannot simply show up at an Iron Man and participate. There are a number of slots in every race

that are bought by competitors. So if Stringer was really going to break this record he was going to have to pay in advance for every competition. He did, out of his own pocket.

"Usually people have sponsors and in 2007 I was sponsored by Land Rover. But by the time 2009 came around the economy had tanked, so no more sponsor. I had to reach into savings and pay for it myself," Stringer said.

Deciding to go for the world record after only completing one competition is a bold decision. In addition to planning the races and working on financing them, Stringer spent the year training. Stringer knew that he would also need to have his body in pristine condition if he was going to accomplish his goal. Stringer, who is, for the most part, a vegetarian, but eats fish for protein, maintained a steady diet.

"I said no fried food, and haven't eaten chicken or red meat since 1997. I don't drink. And I try to eat lots of fish, especially salmon, for the protein. And lots and lots of bananas," Stringer said.

Stringer trained six days a week during the year leading up to his world record. He rested on Mondays and put his body through hell during the rest of the week.

"Tuesday and Thursdays would be a 30 mile bike ride and an 8 mile run. Wednesday would be a long swim, about two miles. Friday I would swim a mile and then go on a 10 mile run. Saturday I would go on a long bike ride, between 80-100 miles and then a 3-5 mile run. Sunday would be a 15 mile run and a mile swim. And then all over again the next week," laughed Stringer, seemingly surprised at just how much he put

himself through.

Stringer has loved traveling since he was a child.

"When I was younger I set a goal that I wanted to visit a different country every year," Stringer said.

The Iron Man competitions took Stringer all over the world. Some events took place stateside in places like Wisconsin and Louisville while others took him to different corners of the world. He traveled to Mexico, Brazil, China, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland and Spain to name a few. Australia and New Zealand were among his favorite countries.

"My first and last [competitions] were in Australia, so that made it kind of a special place. The people there were also by far the nicest I had been around," Stringer said. "After the race [in New Zealand] I rented a camper and drove around the north and south islands for three weeks."

Stringer has the record for completing 20 races in a year, although he originally signed up for 22. There were two races that Stringer was unable to finish. The first one came in his fourth race, held in China. The temperature was hovering around 115 degrees with 80% humidity, which made it feel like 130. The water current in which the competitors were swimming was flowing at 1.5 mph, meaning it felt as if they were swimming an extra half-mile per mile. On top of that, his bike broke down. Bananas (his favorite) and water ran out so he was running on empty, and with eight miles to go in the marathon his body gave out. His other incompletion came in Nice, France. A bad batch of sports drink made him sick.

"I was throwing up during the entire bike ride and most of the marathon. Half-way through the marathon I had to stop," Stringer said.

Both of those races came in the first half of his year. He finished his last 14 races and now holds the world record. Forget Land Rover, Stringer needs an Adidas sponsorship; he personifies the slogan "Impossible is Nothing."



Stringer finishes the swim and moves onto the bike during the Lake Placid Iron Man.

"It's the most exhilarating feeling in the world just to finish a race. You can't put the seemingly impossible into words. Once you accomplish something that seems impossible it leads to that unique feeling of...uh...um," says Stringer as he tries to find the right words.

Years from now, those words may still evade him since the greatest accomplishments simply cannot be put into words.

Practice not perfect

By Katarzyna Barnak

Practice makes perfect...but some teams aren't really practicing.

February and March are conditioning and tryout time for spring sports. It is during this time that going to one's locker after school is difficult, unless one is okay with being trampled by a crowd of athletes.

The object of conditioning is to get athletes into shape and ready for the season. For Omar Orellana, Div. 182, conditioning was hell.

The first day back from vacation I threw up," said Orellana. "I just shook it off and kept going."

Orellana tried out for soccer and made the team. Conditioning started in early August and was held twice a day.

"Pretty much the routine was: practice, go home, eat, sleep til like 6, do something, go to bed early, and repeat for a month until school started. If you didn't get rest [the workout] the next day was nearly impossible," said Orellana.

However, some would say that after teams are picked, athletes do not push themselves as much during practice.

"I saw this repeatedly last year; the best effort was shown during tryouts. The rest of the season I saw mostly slacking in some of the players," said track runner, Gabriel Mendoza Div. 273.

Mendoza also played soccer in previous years and believes that during tryouts and conditioning the students want to impress their coaches and beat out their friends for the spot on the team, but once in a while, "some individuals tend to slack."

Orellana believes that once the season starts, there is not much time for intense practices.

"We had games every other day and sometimes back to back. Coaches wanted us to be ready for games so we did more tactical stuff," said Orellana.

A member of the swim team reported that after conditioning at school at 6:00am, practice is "a joke." The student was not willing to go on record with this information in the fear that if coaches found out, practices would become more demanding.

For Girls Soccer conditioning, Coach Wasielewski requires his team to do "sixties." It is an intense workout where the girls have to sprint eight 60-yard laps. This adds up to 480 yards in less than 1min and 30sec.

"The kids hate these with a passion, but I think it makes a huge difference in our playing ability," said Wasielewski.

Wasielewski believes his team works equally hard before and during the season.

"They have to compete with their teammates to get playing time. They know they can't slack during season or someone will take their spot on the field," he said.

A former cross-country runner in Div. 365, who wishes to remain anonymous, said that coaches are much harder on new runners since it is a no-cut sport. This means everyone who stays committed

makes the team and tough conditioning is a way to weed out the weaklings.

"They make you run around Horner Park three times, while Varsity has to run to the lake and back. It's all timed and they push you to run faster. Once the season starts it's more relaxed. You run around Clark Park for 40 minutes at your own pace."

Other students think that there is not enough time for conditioning in certain areas like running. In Lacrosse, the girls JV hopefuls are expected to run a mile in under 10 minutes. For first timers, this was a challenge.

"The mile was pretty hard because we didn't have enough time to get into shape. I don't think three weeks was enough," said Mari Ramirez, Div. 284.

Others agree that conditioning does not always focus on things necessary for tryouts.

"I only had three days to learn how to throw and catch ground balls and learn new skills," said Claire Hoy, Div. 377, who tried out for Lacrosse.

According to Girls Lacrosse Co-captain Jenna Wasserman, Div. 153, the reason teams focus on getting fit is because of the rules from IHSA (Illinois High School Association). The IHSA makes all the regulations for Illinois High School athletics. There is a certain date and season provided for every sport to begin. Until that date, teams cannot practice with equipment to ensure teams start at the same level.

"Every team has to follow that rule," said Wasserman.

This may be the reason why coaches force their teams to work-out more and get into shape before the seasons start.

"Practice is nothing compared to try-outs. I definitely don't sweat as much," said a Lacrosse player who wishes to remain anonymous.

Ms. Malstrom, Lacrosse coach, agrees that conditioning may have been more "grueling" at times, but since Lacrosse is an unfamiliar sport to most new players, once the team is picked, they focus on developing the skills needed for playing the game.

"Once you're in season working out in the weight room won't tremendously show in the game, while drills and field placement is essential," said Malstrom.

She also believes that after the girls get to know each other, practice becomes enjoyable and might appear easier.

"Once you're comfortable with your teammates, players seem to have more fun and the hard work is less noticeable [to them]," said Malstrom.

"We want it to be serious, but we want the girls to have fun," said Leonor Borja, Div. 153, Co-Captain of Lacrosse.

Even though it might seem that the teams are slacking, they are really just focusing on being a team rather than individual players. It is those intense conditioning months, when we cannot go to our lockers, that we see them work on themselves individually and attempt to avoid bumping in to those of us who are marveling at their perseverance.

Ultimate Frisbee now official sport

By Nicole Jacobs

It is a brisk Sunday afternoon with clear skies and cool temperatures. Fans and fellow teammates excitedly cheer and chant loudly while standing on the sidelines, awaiting the game to begin. As the disc glides high in the air, the players rush the field in a cohesive formation hyped on energy and nervousness. It might not be as popular of a sport as soccer and football, but when you combine the athletic endurance of soccer with the passing skills of football, you get the sport of Ultimate Frisbee.

According to Mr. McAdam, math teacher and current sponsor of the club, Ultimate frisbee was first introduced by Ms. Gesky, former Physical Education teacher at Lane. After paperwork put in by Mr. McAdam and Steven Ngyuen, Div. 161, this school year is the first year that marks Ultimate as an official sponsored club. The Ultimate frisbee team plays in a recreational league, not a CPS sponsored league which is why they were considered an unofficial club in the past.

"Now, teams must pay a collective fee to play and due to this, we felt the need to become an official club so that we could participate in fundraising," said Mr. McAdam.

Mr. McAdam played Ultimate for three years while in college and considers it one of his favorite sports to watch and play. He has endured several injuries from playing Ultimate.

"I've twisted ankles, bruised ribs, and broken my nose three times playing Ultimate Frisbee," Mr. McAdam said. "While technically a non-contact sport, due to the constant movement and congestion on the field, collision often occurs."

Ultimate is a self-funded club that raises money to participate in games that occur over a six week period.

According to Ngyuen, one of the captains/presidents of Ultimate Frisbee, practices are usually held at Paul Revere Park three times a week and games are played every Sunday, mainly at St. Paul Woods or Bunker Hill. Ultimate frisbee is a co-ed team that consists of 23 members. Lane currently has 19 members, seven of which are the starting players.

Similar to football, in Ultimate, each team must score and defend in the end zones. The only differences are that there is absolutely no physical contact and when a player is in possession of the frisbee, they can move, but only with a pivot foot like in basketball. There is also no downtime in Ultimate, no referees are present during games, and the game does not stop until one of the teams scores. The goal of the game is to catch the frisbee in the end zone to score points.

One of the presidents of the club, James Wenzel, Div. 267, has played Ultimate since fifth grade.

"I was playing with some friends and time passed so we started playing regularly and became more competitive," Wenzel said. "Eventually, we started what is now a club at Lane."

Steven Truong, Div. 261 has played Ultimate since

7th grade.

"I'm actually kind of proud that Ultimate is an official club at Lane because I love this sport so much," Truong said.

Mary Geyer, Div. 251, first started playing her freshman year when she noticed a flyer in the hallway. She believes more students should join the club.

"A vast majority of the Lane student body does not know we, the Ultimate team, exist," said Geyer. "I find this quite silly because Ultimate is pretty much the best game ever invented."

For those who have never experienced an Ultimate frisbee game before, the competition between teams can become pretty heated. Although there is no physical contact, it takes endurance to run back and forth on the field and great hand-eye coordination to complete passes.

"It definitely takes a certain type of person to play ultimate frisbee. You need a bit of athleticism, a great attitude, and sportsmanship," said Geyer.

"You're constantly running up and down the field and honestly everyone wants to win, so it can get rough at times," said Truong.

For some students in the club, it is their very first time playing Ultimate frisbee.

"I really like that you don't have to have experience when it comes to the game," Frances Diaz, Div. 177, said. "You catch on quick and it's a lot of fun."

"I have never really played on a team before, but I really got into the sport two summers ago," Lily Ochs, Div. 367, said. "I like the idea that the two presidents/captains are really open to everyone joining and they send the vibe that the team isn't all about winning, but about having fun."

The season for Ultimate consists of several games against multiple schools within the city and suburbs. Some of the schools in their league are Northside College Prep, York High School, St. Ignatius College Prep, Neuqua Valley, and many more. Neuqua Valley is Lane's biggest rival and last year, they ranked 3rd in the yearly league tournament. Ngyuen is ambitious about this season because of the hard work, dedication, and bond the team has created during practices.

"I'm confident that we'll get first this year. Ultimate creates bonds beyond school. It's not just a teammate out there, but a friend or a brother," Ngyuen said.

Although it took three years for Ultimate frisbee to become an official club at Lane, the members are proud to finally have it recognized as an official club and they enjoy participating in the games.

"It's starting to become more of a team and everyone involved became a family real quick," said Wenzel.

"I love that this sport/club is unique in a way that it's about the 'spirit of the game'," Truong said.

"I feel a sense of responsibility for each one of them. If something were to happen [to any of them], I would be the first one to defend them," Ngyuen said.

They hope more Lane students can become involved in the Ultimate Frisbee club in the future because it is not only about winning, but it is for the love of the game.

Athlete of the Issue

Liceth Robles

Div. 176



Robles, a center midfielder, has helped Girls' Varsity Soccer get off to a 7-3-1 start this season. Her four goals this season are among the most on the team. This is Robles' fourth and final year on the Varsity team and she will be playing next year at St. Francis University (Indiana) on a scholarship.

Favorites

Food: Fries and chicken wings
Movie: Superbad
Store: Target, I can find everything
Celeb Crush: David Beckham
Class: Ceramics
Teacher: Ms. Paganelli
Color: Pink

Warrior: Why do you think the team is doing so well this year?

Robles: We're monsters. It helps that most of us have been playing together for a while. Also, everyone is very skilled. When everyone brings their part to the field, we perform really well.

W: Has there been a single game in your Lane career that stands out to you?

LR: It was last year when we played Evanston Township HS for the regional title. I scored both goals that led us to a double overtime win. It was really intense.

W: What is it like finally being the oldest on the varsity team? How are you handling the responsibility?

LR: It's definitely a lot of weight on your shoulders but I like having that respon-

sibility. I was chosen captain for a reason and it's my job. Also being a senior, it feels great because we have worked hard our 3 past years and this is our last, so we should strive to make it our best.

W: How do you expect this season to finish up? Are you motivated any more than you have been in the past because it is your last season?

LR: I'm pretty pumped for the rest of this season because we are all confident we're going to win city and get pretty far in the state playoffs. We perform really well against suburban teams and that is getting us more recognition, which just motivates us even more. Being that it's my last year playing for Lane, of course that pushes me to play harder. Seniors always want to be remembered for what they accomplish.

Senior athletes left with no "next year"

By Brianna Toney

After his last game as a Lane student, senior Armando Rodriguez and his soccer teammates stood over the field, gazing and soaking up as much as they could, trying to remember every aspect of their final game. Sometimes, ending a season can be the hardest thing for an athlete. So much of their time is spent preparing for the sport, or actually competing, that it can be hard to return to normal life.

"It's hard to adjust because you don't realize how much time you put into it till it's done," said basketball player Anthony Torres, Div. 158.

In most sports, athletes dedicate a lot of time to practice.

"I practice 1-3 hours every day after school," said Tony Abreu, Div. 378, who plays basketball, football, and runs track. "Since I play three sports I never have a break, except in the summer, and that's only for like 2 weeks."

"Practice takes up about 15 hours of my time [each] school week. When my season is over I honestly don't know what to do," said Dominique Peatry, Div. 162, a member of Lane's track team. "You feel lost for a while."

"We have practice Monday through Friday and most meets on Saturdays, so a social life is practically out of the window during the season," said track member Sierra Evans, Div. 157.

After dedicating so much time to practice and competing, the last few moments of that final game can be bittersweet. Because most varsity players are seniors, for some, it is the last game they will ever play. For others, it is the last they will be involved in an athletic team for a couple months. Before the game ends, so many different thoughts and feelings go through each player's mind.

"Senior year is all about going hard or going home," said senior Girls' Basketball player Gianni Serrano, Div. 162. "So, after my last game, driving home it hit me really hard because despite our crazy season, it was my last and I realized it wasn't going to continue next year. I feel like I've been doing it forever. Knowing you might not be able to play for a team ever again... it's pretty depressing."

"It sucks knowing my senior year is over," said basketball player Eric Butler, Div. 170. "I remember my last home game for



Coach LoGalbo hugs senior basketball player Eric Butler on Senior Night.

senior night. There was ten seconds left and all I could think was 'this is my last time in a Lane uniform with my seniors in front of this crowd.' It was crazy."

"Our last [football] game against Dunbar, we still had a chance to win at the end and we needed to win to get to the playoffs. As I realized time was running out, so many ideas ran through my head of different ways to win," said football player Miguel Olivo, Div. 170. "Most of them were unrealistic ways. Then, I remember looking at one of my best friends on the team, Kyle Mitchell, and we kind of gave each other that look like, 'it's over bud.'"

"It's the weirdest feeling to have (on your Senior Night) that this is the last game I'll ever play on this court," said volleyball player, Tara Gillen, Div. 151. "Sure the water wells were going, but we know we would always have that bond with these players."

Those last moments can also become very emotional for senior athletes.

"After we lost our last game, I couldn't sleep that night," said senior soccer player Manny Guzman, Div. 181.

"When that last buzzer went off, I felt like someone I loved with all my heart died," Olivo said. "I was looking down at the grass crying. I cried on the car ride home, I stopped, got in the shower, and then, I cried some more."

When their season actually ends, most athletes have to find something to do to pass the time. No longer attending practice takes time to set in.

"The first day [of not having practice] right after school, I asked one of my friends what time was practice and he just laughed, saying we don't have it anymore," said Torres. "I felt like I didn't have anywhere to go or anything to do. It was an empty feeling."

"Knowing the season is over, it sucks

more than any feeling ever. More than losing a girl, more than getting grounded for grades. [It was] the worst feeling I've ever felt," said senior football player Olivo.

Many athletes know from previous seasons how empty it can feel when the season ends.

"The transition is hard. I always end up missing the team a lot. I'm going to miss my team and the close knit family feeling you get," said Cross Country and Track runner Eleni Tianis, Div. 151. "When you're a sophomore or junior you know there's another season to look forward to and to better yourself as an athlete. As a senior, everything is like, 'this is the last time I'll be at this meet.' It's going to be tough when the season ends."

"When the season is over, we don't know what to do. We're so used to barely having free time during the season. When that free time comes it's like, 'okay, what is there for me to do?'" Peatry said.

"Everyone gets that feeling of 'what's next' because you've been committed for at least 4 months to a sport. But it feels good to have free time," Gillen said.

Sometimes the bond between the team members also fades away once the season is over.

"You don't spend as much time with all the (guys) on the team. Everyone usually does their own thing and goes their separate ways," Torres said.

Although the season's end can be hard to handle, the athletes appreciate the season and the time they've had with one another. Most of them are given awards, gifts, and banquets to celebrate the end of their season. Although senior athletes don't all play the same sports, most have one thing in common: at the end of the season they are left with an empty feeling that only their sport can fill.

Spending time on bench helps mature, motivate athletes

By Johnny Stacewicz

For an athlete, it's more grueling than 6 am practices, tougher than back-to-back suicides, and more heartbreaking than a season ending loss; sitting on the bench can be the loneliest place in the world.

In many ways, players who come off the bench are asked to do more than starters. They are asked to come into the games and immediately be ready. There is no warm-up for them. Players have to sit and watch, but are expected to be ready at any moment.

"Staying ready was a big challenge because when you finally get your chance to get in the game, you get shocked by the level of competition you are being exposed to," said Matt Villanueva, Div. 168, a member of the Varsity Basketball Team.

Players coming off the bench have to be ready to play any position, at any time, under any circumstances.

"After playing literally a minute in my first game, I knew it was up to me to work my way up. I had to stay ready and be willing to play any position at any time when called upon," said Patrick O'Connell, Div. 181, a member of the Varsity Lacrosse Team.

Bench players also have to come to terms with the fact that in their coach's opinion, another player can do a better job. When so much of sports depends on players' confidence and momentum, it is a coach's job to make sure all players

stay involved mentally. They are coming off the bench for a reason, but for the most part, spectators overlook these players. The starters bring out the fans, but benches win games.

"Teams that win championships have the best benches. Benches are critical during a game because when starters are tired, your bench is expected to pick up right where that starter left off," said Villanueva.

It is often assumed that a player's age factors into the amount of game time they get. The seniors get priority while the younger athletes come off the bench. Chemistry is an incredibly important factor when building a successful team, Although some seniors may not have the talent of the best underclassmen, they have been playing together over the course of four years. Molly Dunbar, Div. 153, a member of the Varsity Soccer team since her sophomore year claims age is not a factor in the decision of coaches.

"On the soccer team age is just a number, skill is the only thing that matters. Every girl on the team is given a fair chance to earn a spot," said Dunbar. "All five seniors on the team this year have been playing together since 6th grade, that has helped a lot."

Earning a spot in the starting rotation can do wonders for an athlete's confidence. At the same time, losing a spot can kill it. Preston Oshita, Div. 178, was the starting varsity quarterback for the first four games of the season. The week before taking on Whitney Young

for Homecoming, he was informed by coaches that he would be moving to outside linebacker and a junior would take over the starting role.

"I felt snaked [because] it was Homecoming my senior year. I didn't deserve that," said Oshita.

It can be hard to keep cool when this happens and it can be even harder to bounce back. Instead of dwelling on the decision, Oshita tried to make the best of the situation.

"I knew I wasn't going to get my spot back, but I was still a captain and had to lead the team. I had to do the best I possibly could at whatever position they put me at," said Oshita.

The greatest athletes are not necessarily the ones with the most skill, but those with the best mental approach. Whether it is shooting clutch free throws or convincing oneself to push past physical boundaries, mental toughness is crucial. Armando Rodriguez, Div. 151, went from playing frosh/soph soccer his freshman and sophomore year to starting on Varsity in his final two years. He actually credits coming off the bench with motivating him to get to the next level.

"[Coming off the bench] didn't faze me at all. If anything, it motivated me to give 110% and get better. Dedication, commitment and hard work were probably the keys aspects of me moving to the next level," said Rodriguez.

It doesn't matter if they are taking the court or the field; the team with players who can keep their heads wins games. In

other words, the team that can stay mentally involved and ready usually come out on top. The same idea can be applied to players coming off the bench versus those who start. Omar Orellana, Div. 182, spent practically the entire soccer season on the bench his junior year. Senior year was a different story. After winning a spot as a starter, he realized just how much the mental approach changes.

"When you start you know you have time to adjust and get into the flow of the game, when coming off the bench you feel like you have to make an impact as soon as you get in," said Orellana. "You don't know when you will get another chance to perform so there is a lot more pressure on you to not make mistakes."

Sadzid Grahic, better known in the hallways of Lane as "Big Z," Div. 285, came into high school hovering around 6'5. He made the Varsity Basketball Team but spent his first season coming off the bench. The speed of the varsity game can be overwhelming especially for a freshman. Grahic credits coming off the bench his first year with helping him learn the game.

"[Being on the bench] helps you understand plays. You can see when people make mistakes and learn how to correct them. I really studied how the older guys played," said Grahic.

Grahic moved into a starting role his sophomore year and all of a sudden he was the one players were looking up to.

"After becoming a starter I felt more responsible. I felt like I had to grow up

fast. People looked at me like I was on the Varsity Basketball Team, not a sophomore," said Grahic.

There are those with god-given talents; all they need to do is show up. Then there is the rest: those who may not be the fastest or strongest. If they want to move up to the next level, they have to put in the work. This past summer Villanueva dedicated himself to earning a spot in the starting rotation.

"I lifted weights four out of seven days in the week and spent the other three getting 100-200 different jump-shots in per day. I took my training a lot more seriously once I realized that I had the potential of representing my school as a starter."

Lane is also not the easiest school to earn a spot on a team. The Freshmen Boys' Basketball try-outs usually see over 100 students try out for about 15 spots.

"Going from playing every sport in grammar school to riding bench in high school was a hard pill to swallow," O'Connell said. "The hardest thing would have to be proving myself ready to the coaching staff."

Athletes are made in the gym. The best of the best are not born that way, they are not superior beings, and they are the best because they train harder and longer than everyone else. It's hard to love a game when it doesn't always love back. That is something all athletes know, from the all-stars to the last ones off the bench.