

THE WARRIOR

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Lane Technical College Prep High School

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Die hard Nicki Minaj fan and friend, pg. 8.



Sailing to become new club sport at Lane, pg. 19.

AP sculpture students help Navy Pier Snow Days shine bright

By Almasa Pecanin

Jesus Monroy, Div. 376, stood on top of the Lego figure's shoulders, attacking its head with a chisel. He then took a scraper and began rounding the edges.

He stepped down from the ladder and backed up to admire his work. Monroy then joined his other teammates to help carve the arms of the figure.

Monroy, along with 19 other AP Sculpture students, participated in this year's Snow Days Chicago at Navy Pier. The students represented Lane on Jan. 23 - 26 by carving blocks of man-made snow into four different designs.

The designs included the Chicago skyline on a turtle's back, a ferris wheel, a drink with a lemon slice and ice cubes, and a Lego figure.

Javier Reyes, Div. 385, was the designer of the sculpture titled "Chicago on the Turtle's Back." Reyes didn't have trouble with his design because he's been working on it since sophomore year.

"Sophomore year we read *The World on the Turtle's Back* and that inspired me to draw this design," he said. "I wanted to honor Chicago in a way."

Although he had no difficulties drawing the design, turning it into a snow sculpture wasn't as easy. He wasn't alone, though. Reyes had help from his teammates, Amanda Amil, Div. 361, Nishly Lopez, Div. 378, Cynthia Gonzalez, Div. 373, and Kendria Helm, Div. 372. The team was named Spiele & Spaß, which is German for fun and games.

Reyes walked around the block of snow a number of times, fixing little details and helping out his teammates when they had a question. Reyes let the group take their own creative approach with it, although he did give them some pointers so the sculpture turned out the way he envisioned it.

People stopped by Reyes's sculpture and the sculptures of the other Lane students constantly to watch the groups while they were working. Parents came with their children, pointing out things like "Hey look, it's

a turtle!" while the children would shout "It's a robot!" Snow Days Chicago attracts tourists, so the Lane teams were being judged by not only Chicago residents but also people from various places around the world. This made Reyes nervous.

"There's a pressure to make it nice and beautiful because it's not just people from Lane who will see it but people from all around the world," he said.

Agnes Szumska, Div. 365, was the designer and team captain of the "Ferris Wheel" sculpture. Szumska was surprised when she found out her sculpture would be one of those being carved at the event.

"I turned in a couple of designs and turned this one in as a joke because I didn't think it would get picked," she said. "When Ms. Moore told me my design was picked I kinda freaked out."

Szumska said that she did not have as much confidence in the design because she was not completely confident they could actually do it.

"I thought since it was such a complicated design that they wouldn't even consider picking it because we're high school students," she said.

Moore had more freedom this year while picking designs. Lane was able to carve four blocks of snow this

year, compared to the one or two blocks in the previous years of the event.

Although Moore was confident in all of the sculptures turning out well, she did express some concern for the ferris wheel, the same ones that Szumska had.

"[The ferris wheel] was almost pulled from the submissions because I thought it was impossible," Moore said. "They couldn't possibly sculpt a ferris wheel."

Moore and many of the members of Team Power Rangers were worried that the sculpture would tip over because of how thin it was and because they would be making holes in it.

This ended up not being a problem, though, because the weather was on their side during the event. It was cold enough outside to keep the sculpture frozen and upright, which Moore said was not the case with a couple of the sculptures in the past years.

"We got lucky because it's not negative forty, but it's been almost freezing and cool enough to keep the sculptures cold," she said.

Although the sculptures needed to be kept cold at all times, this was not the same case with the students sculpting them. Lane students and the other competitors had a warming station in Crystal Gardens where they were able to go at any point during the competition.

"It was probably the number one reason why no one ended up getting frostbite," said Paulina Wojtkowski, Div. 373, who was also part of Team Power Rangers. "They also had glove warmers which are the best invention ever, no doubt about it."

The Lane teams interacted with various people during the com-



Lane ice sculpture "The Ferris Wheel."



Lane ice sculpture "Keep Kool."



Lane ice sculpture "Minifig."

petition, including the creator of the event, Fran Volz, and even the professional teams. A couple of the comments from the professionals made the sculptors of the ferris wheel nervous, though.

"A lot of the professionals were surprised at our design," Szumska said. "They said things like 'Wow, you guys are actually going to make that?' or 'I wouldn't have even picked that and I've been doing this for years.'"

The ferris wheel sculpture ended up overcoming everyone's expectations, taking second place in the competition, following Chicago High School for the Arts.

"I was so proud of my teammates and all the effort and time they put into it," Szumska said. "It was an incredible feeling walking up there to accept the medal and have everyone, even the professionals, applaud for us."

Even if they did not win, Szumska said she was just thankful to have participated in the event.

"Not everyone gets the chance to say, 'My team got to make a snow sculpture that was on display for all of Chicago to see,'" she said.

Code red drills to prepare staff, students for worst

By Marissa Higgs

The events that took place on December 14, 2012 in Newtown, Connecticut sent waves of terror and shock throughout the country. Since then, CPS has ordered all city schools to better prepare themselves in the case of such a tragic incident.

In January, Lane practiced a Code Red drill, the first of three per school year from now on. This was ordered partly as a way to better educate students and staff, and partly as a way of healing with the hope that practice will calm nervous Americans.

Code Red is performed if a very serious situation exists and students are in immediate danger. Such situations can include intruders with firearms, simi-

lar to the shooting crisis earlier this school year in Connecticut.

Mr. Jarka, Dean of Students, has been working at Lane for 13 years. This is the first time he has ever exercised this drill.

"Obviously with the shootings lately in schools, we have to take safety very seriously, and we do here at Lane anyway. We have to make sure people know what they're doing, students, faculty, everybody," he said.

During 7th period on Jan. 18, an announcement was made signaling the drill had begun. Students and teachers turned off the lights, locked their doors, huddled against the walls avoiding windows and doors, and within seconds the school was silent.

It was a disturbing few minutes for Jarka. 4,300 students were in the building, but no one could be

seen. Complete silence. Everyone followed the rules exactly as planned.

That was not the last Code Red of the school year though. At least two more will be done before the end of the school year. They may be during a non-lunch period again; however, it could be done during any point of the day. The element of surprise could play a role in the upcoming practice runs.

"Some [drills] will be announced, some won't," Jarka said. "[Previously] we let you know ahead of time that there was going to be a drill. We may not do that next time...we might just say 'Code Red drill' and not tell you in advance."

The students and teachers have in some way been left in the dark when it comes to knowing about the drills. This is done on purpose by the administration

with the hope that it will better prepare them in case of an actual emergency. It is also a way for them to see where any problems in the building may be, such as a door not locking.

The safety plans must be altered though if the drill were to take place at a different time, like a lunch period or passing period. Jarka said that students who are off campus for lunch stay off campus, but not leave to go home for attendance purposes. Jarka also said it is essential, in such a situation, that students are signed up for Lane's text message alerts.

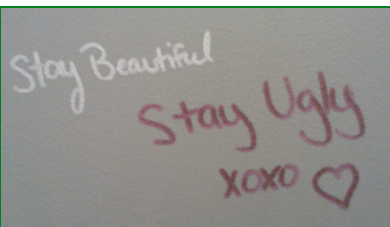
The plan for what students should do who are in the cafeteria during a code red is not as clear.

Continued on pg. 4
See "Code Red"

**IN THE HEART
OF THE
WARRIOR**



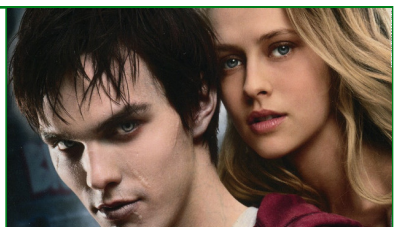
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Love is in the air...



Cyber relationships: creepy or cute?

By Deanna Schnotala

From the recent Manti Te'o scandal to the MTV show Catfish, cyber relationships are becoming more prominent in today's society. They have always had negative connotations tied to them; comments such as "he's probably a 40 year-old pedophile" or "she's probably a dude" tend to make people hesitant about dating someone they have only met on the Internet. Contrary to what most people think, cyber relationships don't always end badly. But there will always be those stories...

It was the summer going into her freshman year when Alyssa Argentine, Div. 363, met a boy, "Robby," online. It all started when she saw her friend messaging him.

"I thought he was cute, so [my friend] told him to message me," Argentine said. "We started talking and after about a week, he told me he 'wanted to call me his'. I didn't take it seriously because it was online, so [as a joke] I said sure."

Although she agreed to be in a relationship with him online, Argentine said there were many things that just didn't add up about "Robby."

"His 'friends' kept messaging me and asking about him, and I just got really weirded out," she said.

Argentine later learned that "Robby's friends" were actually fake Facebook accounts managed by none other than "Robby" himself. This was just one of the many things about her supposed boyfriend that didn't add up.

"All of his pictures looked kind of different, and then I found out he lived in Seattle," Argentine said.

Shortly after that, she decided to ask her friend about "Robby."

"I just saw her talking to him, so I assumed she actually knew him," Argentine said. "But then I asked her about it, and she told me she met him online. After that, I knew that he had to be fake."

It was then that Argentine decided to break it off with her "online boyfriend."

"I didn't take the relationship seriously because of the fact that it was online, so it didn't really bother me that much that it ended up being fake," she said.

At this point, Argentine thought she would never have to deal with "Robby" again. But again, she was mistaken.

"About a month later, he contacted me saying he lied to me. It turned out to be a girl, and she told me she did it because she wanted to find out if she was a lesbian," she said. "I told her she was nuts and blocked her."

In the end, Argentine got one thing out of this cyber relationship.

"It just gives me a funny story to tell. I got catfished!" she said, referring to the television show. "I just think [people who lie about themselves online] are crazy."

There are many other horrifying stories about online relationships, and those are usually the only ones people hear. But what about the stories with the happy endings?

Diana Chaidez, Div.382, is currently in her second online relationship. She was introduced to her boyfriend through a friend she also met online while playing video games. Although she and her boyfriend haven't been dating a considerably long time they started dating Jan. 8, they had

been talking for four months prior. They have yet to meet because he lives in Buffalo, NY, but Chaidez says they have plans to.

"It's mainly just finding time and the way our schedules are," she said. "He can't leave school, and I don't think my parents will let me fly all the way to New York by myself."

As for her parents, Chaidez says they each have different views on her online relationship.

"My dad doesn't see it as a real relationship," she said. "But my mom says as long as I'm happy, it's fine."

And according to Chaidez, she is.

"I am happy, really happy with him and the relationship we have," she said. "Even though he's not here, he can still make me smile and give me butterflies."

While her current relationship is going great, Chaidez's previous online relationship did not end well.

"We [were in a relationship] for three months, and then his [supposed] ex-girlfriend messaged me, saying they were still together," she said. "After that, there were a lot of unanswered questions, so I just had to leave."

Trust is a common necessity in most relationships, whether they are online or 'in person'. But Chaidez argues that trust is even more important in an online relationship.

"You definitely have to have a lot more trust," she said. "In person' relationships, you see them every day and you know what they're doing. I don't know what my boyfriend's doing."

After her first experience, Chaidez argues that she is more careful with people online now.

"I learned from the first one. I'm definitely more cautious now," she said. "The first month

into my current relationship, I hadn't seen him on Skype or anything yet, so I had all these questions. I thought, 'What if he's lying to me? What if he's not my age? What if he's not a guy?' But once I saw him on Skype, I was [reassured]."

The fact that Chaidez can physically see her boyfriend over webcam is a big reason why she doesn't have many doubts about him. "Skyping" with him is apart of her daily routine, along with other ways of communication.

"We text each other throughout the day. Some nights we talk on the phone, but usually every night from around nine to 11, we skype."

Chaidez plans on meeting her boyfriend in person by this upcoming summer.

"I expect it to be awkward at first. I'm so used to seeing him over webcam," she said. "I'll get to see the 'real real' him, and I'll probably get really emotional."

But what about when it's time for him to go back?

"It'll definitely be harder [not seeing each other] after we meet for the first time. I'll have experienced how he hugs, how feels, all that kind of stuff," she said. "But, if the relationship continues after that, I think it'll keep me going. I'll think, 'Remember how he hugged you? You get to feel that again. Stick through this.'"

When it comes to love online, Chaidez believes it's very possible.

"I would say I love him," she said. "I love him for his personality. You definitely get to know a person's personality first when you're dating online because you don't see them first. Love can happen at any moment between any two people."

By Isaac Ceh

From the time of Romeo and Juliet to our current hit movies and TV shows (vampire love) there has been an element of secrecy with couples and their romance. Secret meeting places, private phone calls, avoiding places where their family could be shopping, and even lies are all possibilities one may have to consider while secretly dating behind the backs of parents or even their friends.

Casey Cusano, Div. 370 was one of many to experience the life of dating behind the back of her parents and friends.

"My parents didn't like my boyfriend at all! Whenever I would cry or be sad they knew it was because of him. That would cause me and my parents to always argue and I decided I would just keep it a secret and tell them I broke up with him. I was hoping they would leave me alone and not lecture me about dating and tell me I wasn't allowed to date him anymore," Cusano said.

Cusano would tell her parents different lies when she went to go hang out with her boyfriend. The most common one was she was going to go hang at her "friend's" house. But she almost had some close calls of getting caught.

"The closest call I had was when I was hanging out with him and my mom kept calling me and texting me to call her back. She wanted to know where me and my friends were and I just kept ignoring the calls and texts. But when I got back home I made up a lie about how my phone was broken and how I needed a new one. Im pretty sure she didn't believe me," Cusano said.

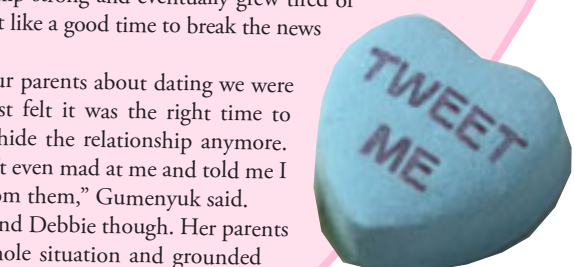
Her relationship lasted about seven months before it ended. The biggest reason why Casey felt it ended was because of the secrecy of their relationship from everyone.

"The whole relationship made me feel like he didn't want anyone to know because I wasn't 'good enough' for him. He didn't even want my friends to know about it, but of course they knew I was dating him," Cusano said.

She now believes it is just not worth dating someone if it is going to be a secret.

"It just got very stressful trying to find a place and time to hang out and not get caught. It's just too much to do in a relationship, a relationship should be fun," Cusano said.

Cusano was not the only student who had to lie to her parents about dating. Mary Lindahl, Div. 580, has also had some experience with secret dating. At the time,



Bromances blossom between boys at Lane

By Matthew Wetig

Strolling down the Lane hallways, Kevin Carreno, Div. 381, is rarely alone. Joining him are Kenneth Linares, Div. 384, and Marko Barrera, Div. 373, and together the three form a self-proclaimed "bromantic relationship."

Bromance is often defined as the loving, non-sexual bond shared between two or more straight males. To someone looking in on the relationship, it may seem like nothing more than a friendship, but to its participants, it can be so much more.

Carreno, Linares, and Barrera have been best friends since they met freshman year. They do everything together, from sports and clubs to hanging out on the weekends. The three can often be seen dancing down the halls with each other.

Sometimes people confuse them as being gay, but it does not bother them because "we're all comfortable with our sexuality, and as long as we know, that's all that matters," Carreno says.

Even Linares' mother has had doubts of their sexuality says Barrera, citing a time they were at Linares' house. His mom walked in, with the

three of them laying with together, just hanging out. She awkwardly walked out, and came back a few minutes later giving them time to re-adjust themselves, as if they were gay. But, when his mom came back in, they were laying there, the same as before.

"It was kind of weird for [our parents] at first, but they've realized how our friendship is," Linares said.

They know everything about each other, and say that they can almost feel what the other is thinking.

"I know how they'll react a split second before they do something," Barrera said.

But, things have not always been smooth-sailing for them. Sophomore year, Carreno and Barrera did not speak to each other from February until the end of the year, because Carreno had a problem with Barrera's girlfriend. Slowly the two began to talk again, gaining back mutual trust. Also, they realized how much they missed each other and soon again became inseparable.

A defining moment in the relationship for Carreno and Linares came during this year's rice bowl. Carreno had fallen, badly spraining his knee. In Carreno's time of need, Linares was

there for him. He called Carreno's mom and waited with him until help arrived.

"I was about to get in the ambulance with him, but they didn't let me because I wasn't a family member," Linares said.

For Michael Hugh, Div. 377, his bromance is something he thinks he will cherish for the rest of his life. He and Garrett Augustyn, Div. 369, met in sixth grade when Hugh commented on a picture Augustyn was drawing in class. But, it was not until eighth grade when their bromance really kicked off. Hugh attributes this to their both getting accepted into Lane.

"Going from elementary school where you knew everyone to this huge place, having that underlying connection really helped to start [the friendship]," Hugh said.

Hugh has taken a liking to breaking his bromance down into stages in their relationship. First, it begins with bro-dating, classified with activities such as sleepovers and movies. A crucial turning point comes with hanging out with each other's family members.

"I refer to his mom as 'mom.' Things like that," Hugh said.

Next, their interests start to merge.

Lindahl's parents did not feel like she was ready for a boyfriend and wanted her to stay focused on school. "I wanted to date someone, but I knew my parents would kill me if they found out about the relationship," Lindahl said. The closest call Lindahl had getting caught with her boyfriend was because of Facebook.

"Someone had put a picture of us on Facebook and I didn't think that anything bad would have happened at the moment. And about a week later my mom asked me who this boy was and if I was dating him. I just told her he was a friend of mine and she believed me," Lindahl said.

Michael Gumenyuk, Div. 459, was secretly dating his girlfriend Debbie for an entire year before they decided to tell their parents about dating. Throughout the year, Michael and Debbie came up with different places where they would meet.

"We usually just met up at a movie or a couple different restaurants like 10 minutes from Debbie's house. I would always invite her to my house when my mom would leave for a couple hours or go out of town, and Debbie would make up a lie about how she was going to hang with her friends," Gumenyuk said.

"The reason we kept it a secret was because Debbie's parents were very strict about her dating. They didn't want her to have a boyfriend. We decided I would just keep it a secret so my parents wouldn't ask any questions about the relationship. I mostly just did it for Debbie," Gumenyuk said.

The two kept their relationship strong and eventually grew tired of keeping it a secret. Finally it felt like a good time to break the news to their parents.

"When we decided to tell our parents about dating we were both very nervous, but we just felt it was the right time to tell them. We didn't want to hide the relationship anymore. Surprisingly, my parents weren't even mad at me and told me I never had to keep the secret from them," Gumenyuk said.

It was different for his girlfriend Debbie though. Her parents were pretty mad about the whole situation and grounded her for a month. They did not make her break up with Michael but they did want to meet him.

"I was very nervous to meet her parents for the first time. I thought they were going to be mean to me but they were actually very nice. We all ate dinner together that night, and to this day we still date each other," Gumenyuk said.

"I never thought I'd be liking Johnny Cash or bluegrass music, and I don't think he'd ever thought he'd be liking half the stuff he likes now," Hugh said.

They believe their friendship is so much more than just the normal friendship.

"This is real," Hugh said. "I look at some [relationships] people consider their best friend, and they just don't have what we do."

Hugh visits Augustyn's ceramics class every day during his lunch period and the two are often together after school and on weekends. And tasks like delivering chocolates to Augustyn's girlfriend when he cannot are a no-brainer for Hugh, because he knows Augustyn would do the same for him.

Hugh believes that their friendship will stand the test of time. With him attending Michigan State next fall and Augustyn staying here for college, Hugh believes that their friendship will remain.

Hugh also has a word of advice for people who are jealous of the two's friendship.

"Just keep looking," he said. "You'll find your bromance someday, and when you do, you'll feel the happiness that it brings."

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Diana Cintora, I love you with all my heart and soul.
Love, your boyfriend, Jeremy <3

Anne Puralewski,
I love you so much. BEST FRIEND!
- Christina

Kendrick can you plaese stop cheating on me? You know I love you. I don't cheaton cheat on you LOL just kidding. Love you buddy.

Happy Valentines Day to my freshmen in Div. 676. Hope you guys are having a great year.
Love your Mentor
Jacqui

Zephaniah 3:17 "The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." Let the revival begin. Project Recro
Gaby Garcia

Happy Valentine's Day Chula! I love you cutey 3.14!

To my freshman girlfriend, I really enjoy art class with you! Especially when we play footsie under the table. You are the most beautiful thing I have ever seen. You are my Mona Lisa and I am your Da Vinci. I also love my Alexis My Chipmunk Jankowski.

I've only ever met one girl named Michael, and I've only ever met one girl like you! I love you swetroll! <3

I'm sorry kiddo.

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First off, shout out to the Sophomores '15. Second, I want to tell my baby Reginald I love him so much. 12.29.12 =)

I love you sooooo much baby!!! It's going to be 10 months with you by my side which have been more than I could ever ask for... We've been through so much whether good or bad but we've made it this far and I'm fortunate to have you... You've made me the happiest girl ever be- ing able to call you mine, and I can't wait to be with you on February 14! HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY BABY!!

CHECK PRINT! HEY, I'M ON THE PAPER! IT'S SO WORTH IT.

Konstancja + An- gelica= friends forever. Happy Valentines Day!!

Congratulations on your genes Angie! and Steph Melo you are awesome and will one day be a great coprologist!

Konney, they see you rollin' they hatin.

We obviously like each other...now make your move!

SOPMORE ART MAJORS SENDING YOU THIS VALENTINE. YOU ARE THE BEST! KSL

There are so many things I can say about you in this tiny space, but I'm not sure if any of them can sum up how I feel. How can I capture your smile with this. Simple: I can't. I'm not one for words, writing was never my thing, and never will be. But I will paint you, and show you through my eyes. I will use my painting to write my 1,000 words, and even then it still wont feel like it's enough.
-Anonymous

To Kirk and Marco,
Happy Valentines Day! You guys never fail to make us smile everyday. We are lucky to have you both in our lives. You always know the right words to say. We couldn't ask for better boyfriends. Whenever one of us has a bad day, we always our "love-square" to depend on. Will you be our valentines?

There's no one else that can be compared to you. NO one else can make me smile or laugh the way you do. No one else who can make me feel what I feel for you. MY one and only, and I'm glad it's you. Happy Valentines Day!

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Let the revival begin. Project Recro

Dear Arino I like you a lot. I know your secret :) know that I'm here for you. I been crushing on you for awhile. I think I love you. Do you love me? Good Day.

Love you Sabs! Happy Valentine's Day! XOXO

Hello Switzy! Happy Valentine's Day! I just wanted to thank you for always being so supportive of me and becoming one of my closest friends. You're super helpful and talented. Stay the wonderful you!!

Alfee, my bestfriend. I love you with all my heart. We may not be able to see each other often enough but I cheerish every moment we have together and I love you with all my heart. Awesome Valentine's

Shout out to my mother and sister! <3 Ana & Rosie & Nat

Your a QT π, I love you! Fortunate I am to have you as my Valentine. Knowing there's many more months to come with you by my side.
-For Vanessa A

Happy Valentines Day Naomi <3

Wiki you're loveable,sweet,and petite. Angela you're crazy, amazing, and wild. Adrianna you're beloved, intelligent and beautiful. David you're inspiring, awesome,and great. Just thought I'd let you all know. Happy Valentine's Day!

Hey Karina, It's Raul! I hope you're not late ever again. I'll make sure to send another letter for Ms. Kim to read. And it's going to be as funny as Sophia's :)

These past 4 months have been the most enjoyable in my life. Happy Four month anniverary Bria :)!
Dear NHUY, Roses are Red Violets are blue When I think of love It starts with you

Dear Asia,You're so awesome and really cool.You're just so beautiful. Have a great Valentines day hot stuff. Love, Anonymous

Break all the legs OUAM- cast!! Love, Aggravain

Happy Valentines Day, always remember you are my white rose!

There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about you.
To Yasmine Romas <3

"Well hello and hi there, I never knew you were weird like me, thought I was the only one you make me feel like I'm not that lonely"- D pryde. I know what this song is. The song that brought us + united us. We've been through a lot and I know we're here to stay. Happy valentines babe and I want you to know you can bet your bottom dollar, I'll be there.

Hi, everyone! A shout- out to all my friends! Lily, Ben, Milhouse, Moosa, Vera, Hope, the list goes on. However, Valentines Day isn't about being forever alone. Go out and do stuff, people! Live your lives.

Roses are red
Kisses are sour
Give me a hug
or buy me a flower.

Valentine's Day is Over- rated!! (Forever Alone)

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Shnicker
Shnackers :*
-D

Hailey,
Roses are Red
Violets are Blue
You love food
But you love me too...
P.S. Meet me 2nd floor D, for I must confess my undying love for you.
-D

For you, I took on the whole world all to have the honor of calling you my girl. I knew you were special from the start, be- cause slowly you were stealing my heart. 10 months ago I asked you to be mine. But now I'll ask you, "Be my valentine?"
-Javier

Happy valentine's day baby
The butterflies in my stomach are still going crazy
I used to think love was a silly thing
Now I hope I can be your king, because you are my queen
On this day filled with love
You're the one I can't get enough of
Words can't describe the way I feel
I still can't believe this is real
Bianca be my Valentine?
I'll be yours and you'll be mine
You're my one and only
As long as I'm here , you'll never feel lonely
Being with you I realize I'm such a lucky guy
I smile everyday and you're the reason why
I love you Bianca Vazquez
-Bill Ortiz

Dear Aolife Leahy,
Besides all of the other woman that I have written about in this newspa- per you are truly special. You are the jelly to my peanut butter, the axel to my wheel, the link to my pen, the teacher to my classroom, the sun to my solar system, the lion to my jungle but most importantly you are my gf.

I John 4:10 "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." Do not love God because of religion but because He loved us first.
- Victor Gonzalez. Let the revival begin. Project Recro

I love you all Division 457 ;;;<3

When it's winter, you make it summer. When it's cold and the wind is nipping at my face, you warm me. You carry me. You carry me through the mundane. Through the hours of testing and broken pencil leads. You add color to the bleakest of days. The corners of my eyes filled with light when you're in the room. The beacon just beyond the stormy seas that lay before me. The storm is lifting. Your light now stronger with time passed. The Goddess of Wisdom.

Hailey, Never out anything inside my locker again and I might speak to you.

Matt, I like you. You're cute.
-Anthony Tran

Amber you are an amazing friend! You're like a sister to me and I don't know what I would do without you.

happy Vday

To my lax girls you guys were my first love. Shouts to the seniors, remember "Make it nasty"- Arisbeth
P.S. Lots of love to Samantha K.

I love you Walker.
-Anonymous

Agnes Fraczek,
I love you sooooooooo much. Having you as my best friend for these past 11 years is the best thing that has ever happened to me. LOVE YOU <33333
- Claudia :)

Gabriela Garcia,
Your beauty is all natural. You don't need make-up. Not many girls can look as beautiful as you without make-up. Don't ever ac- cept a guy who doesn't sweep you off your feet. I love you.
-Your man friend

You are my sunshine on a cloudy day. meow MEOW meow <4

"Me, I'm just proud of the fact that you've done it your way." It is exactly one year we met! Crazy I know, but I wouldn't change anything, because it has been more than amazing. I LOVE YOU HONEY.

Lauren-
Happy Valentine's Day! Mia and Deanna love you. Deanna promises not to take away your medicine. Mia promises to never be like Deanna. You are our sunshine. Our only sunshine. You make us happy when skies are gray! Yay!

SASA AND MASA 4EVA <3 <3 <3 <3 <3 <3 <3

"To love is nothing. To be loved is something. To love and to be loved is everything. I am nothing, you're something so let me be your everything."
To Julia Niewiadomska
P.S. See you in third period. :)

Dear Jackie,
I love you dearly and truly. I would do anything for you and you know that. I hope you come to realize that I was made for you. You deserve true happiness and i'm going to give it to you.
Sincerely,
your little secret

Baby, if you were words on a page, you'd be what they call FINE PRINT! - to elisha, love taylor.

Never gonna give you up, never gonna let you down, never gonna run around or desert you baby.

you named your parrot Monkey? that's life. Because every Wednesday I look forward to those 27 minutes I Grace's mindless ranting. I insistantly paking and ranting. I abnormally huge and a half years past two hands. Division 477, wouldn't have been the best love you guys. I love you. -Nayeli

IT'S A MICHELEPHANT

Is your last name Gillette? Because you are the best a man can get!

Dear Marissa,
The way you rap makes my heart explode. And Marissa, the way that you flip your hair gets me overwhelmed, you don't know you're beautiful. And that's what makes you beautiful. <3
- Claudia & Almara

Fishiey,
Thank you for these amazing ten months. You showed me to live life and to be happy. I love you <3 Let's run away into the sunset, yea? Hold on, let me go get running shoes.
- Your butterfly

JUNIORS

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO ALL OF MY ETHNIC STUDIES STUDENTS! YOU ARE THE BEST!
- MR. COCKRELL

To Jesus: You go girl
From: Jesus
P.S. Naomi, I have a strong disposition towards your existence. Much love. Bonjour

My dearest Wendy Ramirez, Div. 468 -
You are my Harry Styles and I am your Louis Tomlinson LOL. JK you're just an ok friend
Happy Valentine's day!

Dear Isaac,
I'm in love with you.
With love,
Secret Admirer

Now I know why Solomon had 700 wives...because he never met you.
Do you need a prayer because I am certainly willing to lay hands on you.
- Anonymous

Dear Marcos Alhman,
Is your body from McDonald's? - Cuz I'm lovin' it :)
Are you a parking ticket? - Cuz you've got fine written all over you.
- Your secret admirer

Jazzy,
Everyone believes we are together, haha. Let the rumors continue. I thank you for being an amazing friend! Love you!
Happy Valentine's day!
Love always, yo best friend

Nate the Great,
I love you, best friend. Wanna split a pineapple with me? :)
FROM YOUR REAL BEST FRIEND (not Yordanos)
- Destince

Amarilys Juarez! HAPPY BIRTHDAY MY LOVE!
This was the gift that I “left in my locker”. Anywhooo I love you sooooo much and now everybody knows!
<3 Monie

Je vous aime Valerie.
- Roberto Millan-Ayala

Dear Salim,
Can we start over? I miss being friends.
- MJ

You're Beautiful, you'll be mine forever, you are still the once, I need you. You're my hero, I'll never let you go. I miss you. I love you. These are all the things that I want you to hear.
Happy Valentine's Day Kailah.

To: The sweetest, smartest, and most beautiful girls. Happy Valentine's Day,
CTC <3

Dear Phil Reimer,
You're such a stud! It's not hard to stare at your bulging biceps in class. You rock! Seeing you in class makes our day. Thanks for being so great.
Love,
The Girls from 8th :)

Dear M.G.L.O.V.R, You guys are the greatest people I've ever met. We've had our fair share of chaotic experiences, but we've gotten through them all together. Without y'all high school would suck. BESOS :* <3
From the girl who doesn't even go here, Miah <3 <3

Happy Valentines day to my girlfriend Alex. You mean everything to me. <3
HD + AD 08-30-11 <3

Peyton, I never stopped liking you. It's when you're 6 feet away and I can't seem to speak. I want to tell I miss you and still love you.

Jake Zurkowski - I love you!
- Madi Maldonado

“Marellie” will always be my favorite ship.
My OTP: I love you, Grisel M. Medina.
-Marissa

Maddie Lord!
You are one of the greatest friends I've ever had and I love you more than anything!

Erin McDermott will you run away with me? I love you!

Espinoza, love you forever and ever XOXO

Shout out to Erin McDermott:
YOU SHALL NOT PASS...
...without giving me those digits >:}

Ayyyyyyyyyyy!!!
Jackie and Paige are awesome!

I am in love with ou Marko Cecez.
- <3 anonymous

Jessica, I LOVE YOU, YOU ARE MY WORLD and my Life. Without you, I don't know where I'd be. You're perf.
Stay Beautiful

Thanks for being so super 30 cheers for Marcel10, Marcel10, Marcel10, Marcel10, Marcel10, Marcel10, Marcel10, Marcel10, Marcel10, Marcel10, Marcel10, Marcel10, Marcel10, Marcel10, Marcel10, Marcel10 !!
-Marcos and Rene

Go work the case, Rissa!
Happy Valentine's day!

D,
Let me know if you still like me. I think you're really cute and I want to get to know you <3

Anthony Spingola
Your lovely smile seems to always brighten my day. I'm not sure how to put how I feel in words, So I'll just leave it at this. Can I get your number?
- Dezarayray

Dear Joe Loch,
From the moment I laid eyes on you, I knew I'd fallen in love. I hope one day I can grow the courage to finally talk to you. Till then I'll admire from a distance.

Dear Hailey, I love you.
-Henry

UGH
Happy Valentines day to the most amazing girl I know, Desiree V. <3

Dear Maddie Lord,
You're so hot. You always look so cute when I see you walking to 2nd. I have a black JANS SPORT, just like you. Why don't we wave to each other?
-Anonymous

WELL WASSUP WITH THAT OR WHAT!
:)- When you coming back from Hollywood?
-Jess & Alondra -,-

To Adam, Angel, Karina, John, and Alex, you guys are the greatest friends anyone could ask for. ALWAYS keep our head up, and everything will be fine. Love you all to the moon and back. :)

One last year with the best division in the school! <3 you Div. 467!
-Ms. Sebestyen

To everyone in the Cuddle Puddle
- GET DOWN MR. PRESIDENT!
-Levi

How come I never see you any-more? That's cool I still <3 you KASIA!

There is 14.5 billion light years of space and time, and through all hundreds of trillions of galaxies and planets and stars, you are the most beautiful biological creature in the Universe, Emma Ryan!
Much Love, Anthony Q.

To William Lino,
You're a cutie w/ a booty. I like the way you move (; Hmu. :) <3 Love you!
From: Justin & Emely

The past few months, I've been lost, I can't remember the last time, that I smiled quite like this. Starting now, I'm lying down to sleep but can't close my eyes, could this be? Maybe, just maybe, I know that this is crazy, But can you blame me? I mean, look at you. Look at you... :)

You stole a kiss, and then you stole my heart. I love you Cristian <3 Ale.
2 years and going strong.

Dear Maddie,
I pass you in the hall a lot expect you never look my way. We have a class together too. I need you to stop texting me. It's not me it's you. Maybe one day we can be friends. :)
-From <3

Haily Perchini words cannot describe my feelings toward you, you remind me of a crisp summer breeze brushing my cheek. If you were an animal you would be an egal. Yes Egal Peruchini for you are wise and all knowing. One day Haily Peruchini you will grow up like the rest of us and I'll be there, waiting.
Ur Secrate Admirerer.

Hey Carolyn, Ninja is watching you at Belmont! Oh and Jacob too! Will you remember me when you're famous?

Nick Zartles, you ugly boy
-DB Daugherty

Hailey, From the day I met you I have never been better. I never want to leave you. Hailey Marrie Pierrvccihi, will you marry me?

“You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams” TE AMO CLAUDIA

Hey Sailor

Dear Juan,
You're okay, I guess.
Love Megan

Maria and Nina! Have lunch with you gorgeous ladies every-day. You guys always put a smile on my face. Besties forever! One day we will go to Europe together. Las quiero much! Ya tu sabe.

Collards is green, yer eyes ain't blue. I am so lucky to have a friend like you, Edgar Perez.
Happy Valentine's Day! We should go get chocolate!

To Yarely and Chyna,
you guys are the best friends anyone could ever ask for! (: NYC.
Happy Valentine's Day! I love you guys.

Dear Karen Cirules,
The moment I saw you freshmen year, I knew you were the one for me :) I wrote you a song...You are beautiful, x20!
Love, Anonymous

Dear Ivonne Casas,
You are the apple of my eye. My love for you is greater than Transformers. I see you everyday. You and your coffee sweep me off my feet. I love you.
- Anonymous

I love all my girls dearly. Thanks for everything pretties.
-Aleks <3

Grisel Medina; you are the best girlfriend I could ever have.

I love my boos Aleksandra, Adwanna, Alena. Be my valentine?

Happy Valentine's Day Jackie, Diana, Maciej, Jimmy, Andrea, Lucia, and Nia. Love you guys!

I'm so glad I started to talk to you last year. You have been an amazing friend. You're so much fun to talk to and I feel like I can tell you anything. Thanks so much for making me laugh when I need it the most. You're one of a kind; stay gold!
Love ya Gabe Franco :)
-Erica R.

I love you Joanna Nida

Alison, Kiri, Nia, Michelle & Kayla,
Thank you for saving me from being a very lonely Senior at lunch.
-Cindy Lou Who

You're fabulous and your curves are to die for (NO HOMO)
- Vanessa Mendez

wo ai ni jla nu er

Even through the hardest of times we will find a way back. The biggest downfalls have the strongest outcomes. <you3 Don't give up, just fight. It takes time. 100110
- Burger King

Tqm chiquita “Ya tu sabe chica,” and Boy do not think I forgot about you man! ;D
Babe you're amazing, thank you for being there.

Roses are RED, Violets are BLUE, Division 477 I love you
Shoutout to SHANIA, DENEb, AND JOSSELINE =>)
Happy Valentine's Day! <3
xoxo Beata

Thanks for everything Carina & Gaby! Love you!

Stupid Glarien lost my paper, so I had to write this again. Hey Glarien Sanchez! (DIV 468) Hi Briana Slaughter! Hey Janet Morales (DIV 472)! Thanks for keeping me sane and being such a good friend to me! OK, bye guys!
- Leslie

Be mine Micheal (7th Period AP Chem)

Dear Gaby Num Num,
Happy Valentine's Day! I will always stay committed to you because you have my heart. Your ears are cute, you have nice hair, I like your smile and you're always beautiful. Have a great day.
-Secret Admirer

Dear Valentine,
Roses are red, violets are - just kidding. Well for starters, I'm glad that we started off as good friends, and fate has brought us closer. I wish that our love continues to grow so that our relationship gets stronger xoxo

RPeia roses are red, violets are blue
You're ugly I hate you.
JK love you

Glarien Sanchez Rodriguez Garcia Robles, you're cool :)
Happy Valentine's Day
- Edgar Perez

Hey Sanja, we should have went to Belmont! Too bad Ninja and Jacob are there...

To my favorite cheerleader, Jessica. I WUB WUB WUB you.
Your favorite DJ, poopyyyy (;

Stephen you are a great guy and a really sweet person

Turtle love forever <3

Javi I love you so much! You're the best friend ever and I'm so glad that you are my friend <3 We've been through so much. You're gorgeous & beautiful. I love you 5 ever.

My dearest Jook:
You're the Nick to my Lindsay, the feym to my Gags, the dope daddy to my Lana. I will love you till the end of time (high school).
Je t'aime, Jabba.

I love you my Orange Cutie Pie! Marry me yeah?
Your future wife (:

Happy Valentine's Day to my beautiful best friends Jacky, Karolina and Adrianna! Love you guys!

-Tenzin <3

Kinga Postolowicz, best friend, sister, and tree. You know I love you to pieces. So, be my valentine? (:
#Vakinga2013 <3

Michael Cisneros we all love you!!!
You're hawt ;)

Maddie, with those eyes and that smile? You're definitely worth more than 2 dollars. Happy Valentines Day baby <3
-Anthony Tran

“Though we may wither away, my love for you is timeless.”
These words of yours have brought nothing but happiness to me, and I only hope that I can do the say. Ofelia of the De La O type. Ma copine!!! Je t'aime!

Hailey, I wanted to take this time to declare my unfaltering love for you. No but in all seriousness, you're freaking gorgeous. Be my valentine?

Dear J1,
Keep digging.
Love, J2

SENIORS

Love my Flag girls <3

To my Women In Lit Class: Talk less.
Love, Mr. Yost <3

BoomShakaLaka
7-9-11 <3

Best friends forever yo.
@Garrett_Leo &
@JennaWenzlaff

- Mykee Hugh

To my lovely division 369:
It's been a treat to know you and to watch you grow and change into young adults, I can't wait to watch you graduate and find out what you will all be doing next year! I will miss you!
- Miss Caracci

Dear Diana Chaidez, you have the most curliest curly hair in Lane Tech :) You are the sunshine to my day. You always make me smile even though I like watching you fail I still <3 you.
- Love, Nunya

Dear Jessica Suarez and Yvette Smith, you are both dorks! But I love you guys anyways. We are the three musketeers of speech class. Yvette with your awesomeness and Jessica with your hilarious being poked reflexes. You guys are amazing.
-Love Dirty Diana

Oana u r 2 cool luv u bby g
haha <3 :)

Coraima!! You're the best thing thats happened to me this year. You make me so happy and I hope I do the same for you. Laser tagging was our first date and from then I just couldn't get over your cute laugh and that beautiful smile. When I lose a game in soccer I just think of you <3 ... and that helps me smile again, I've never had that <3. I made a promise to myself the second you were in my arms and said yes. It was to make you the happiest girl in any way that I could, I hope that I've been keeping it. HAPPY VALENTINES DAY <3

I love you to the moon and back 25 times... and then multiply that by a gazillion :)
- deisi renee

Ajka Jasarevic
will you go to prom with me? <3
- Emina Malic

Dear Alexa Repp,
You are a dating service. But I still love you. Sincerely Baby Deer (aka Kelly Quinn) <3

Alexis Higgs is one of the most amazing people I have ever met. She is so intelligent and funny, and I'm glad I get to call her my sister. I love you!
-Rissa

Happy Valentines Day Annabear! <3
-Ryan

Happy Valentines Day 1st Period! -Ms.Chappell <3<3

Thank you for being in my life and being so amazing to me. Happy Valentine's Day Kristen K. <3
-Andy K.

Mrs.Vale-Suarez loves division 362, her freshman, her Latin Amercan Literature students, and her soccer team.

WHAT IF?

Timothy,
You're okay, I guess - Christina

Joe Longhini - You make me smile every-day!
:) Mrs. Smith

To Joshykins:
I love you like I love corn. Your the creamed corn of my heart. You a-maize me. I hope I'm not being to corn.

My Dear lunchroom crew,
You guys brighten my day! The past four years have been great and you made it all the better. I love you guys!
Rasu

I <3 Maggie Popek
-Sarah B

To my bby gurl doe <3 lol :)
Angel Cuevas

Hey Jacklyn will you go out with me?

I love Maggie Popek and Mr. Jeon's class!!

To = Justin
Ay that girl fell down the stairs...THEY TURN'T UP!
-Marcus Mason

Happy Valentine's Day 2nd period!
-Mrs. Chappell <3

Happy Valentine's Day to the most handsome little one, my best friend in the world, the boy I'd trust with my life and the one I ove with all my being, Isaiah J. Quine.
Love, Lemonia

Happy Valentine's Day 8th period!
-Mrs. Chappell <3

I LOVE DEANNA SCHNOTALA AROUND MY BACK
6/2/11

I'm glad that I am dating a girl like you and I'm really happy around you :) I'm looking forward to a great rest of the year with you.

Happy Valentine's Day to the most wonderful boyfriend on the planet! I love you Tay!! Happy nine months, the best nine months of my life. Here is to the next nine months.
Love, Amber

Because maybe you're gonna be the one that saves me. And after all, you're my wonderwall.
-BK

The stars, the moon, the sun, all their brightness can not compare themselves to the brilliant shine that comes from your eyes. They resolve around you, just like my thoughts. Your beauty is like no one else's, not even your twin can compare to your beauty. Oh Lizet you're my dream, that may never come true, but a guy can dream can he not?
-Joel

Shouts out to Mr. Wilson, Angela, Sabrina, Mohammed, Jazmine, and Joel. You guys are my favorite group of crazy intellectualls.

Dear John Black,
I have loved you since freshmen year - please love me back.
kidding...

“Roses are red,
violets are blue,
you abuse me,
Yet I still love you.”
-GLA

You are my sunshine. My only sunshine. You make me happy when skies are grey. You'll never know dear how much I love you. Please don't take my sunshine away.

Dedicated to my loves,
Denisa, Izabela, Olivia, Rich, Lexe, Nate, Mike, Bes, Matt, Kate, Alex, and last but not least, my forever and always, Bryan.

Hey 366, it's been a fun 3 1/2 years so far. Never forget what side you came from Northside/Southside :)

To my bby gurl doe lol <3

,=,e

,=,e

Daniel M.
Before I say anything, let's say that I will always be here for you, why? Cuz since I met you I've <# u.

Dear beautiful Kristen I loves you mucho, and I was wondering if you would accompany me to McDona's for a date. Love you baby cakes.
-Rudy Vargas

Happy Valentine's Day 4th period!
-Mrs. Chappell <3

If you love something set it free...or cripple it so it won't get away. <3
Happy Valentine's Day my mangawian. I love you.

My students are perfect. Please don't tell them. <3 Ms. Sebestyen
I'm just going to go out and say this. Ms. Constantine, will you marry me? I know I don't have much but hopefully my love for you will be enough.
-Andrew Pinto

A.K.: I like you and your face.

Nicki,
I don't really know what to say to you. Want to go to Jamba Juice?
-Chris

If I asked you to go out with me, would the answer to that question be the same as the asnwer to this one?
-Sam Waddick

Ryan Arce,
Happy Valentine's Day to the best boyfriend ever! I love you so much. I don't know what I would do without my best friend.
Love you, Liz
P.S. I can't wait for prom!

From when I first met you, you were at your prime. And to this very day, You have always been mine. So can I ask you this, "Will you be my Valentine?" :)
-Mr. Katie

Happy Valentine's Day 6th period!
-Mrs. Chappell <3

Chris and Shani! You guys are absolutley adorable! I wish you guys the very best. Happy Valentine's Day, love birds!

SUP HOMIE? That's as ghetto as I can go. Our friendship all began with a lie, but I'll cherish it forever. PATRON: . . . SO that's why you act like a bunny haha !!! BTW. You carry your physics book around WAY too much. That's why you have so many impossible problems! LOVE U JAMIE AZULA :)
Sincerely,
Your Angry Physics Partner

In chemistry, you are one of the least reactive elements. You are bright and noble. You prevent wounds. You are the only exception (most of the time) in chemistry, but you are the only exception to my heart. Anyways, I told Popeye a joke about you. He went AG AG AG AG AG. <3 U SILVER!

Stacy, I've loved you since the day I met you. You're awesome and beautiful. I hope you never get sick of me and feel the way I do. I will love you forever and hope you'll be my valentine.
-Andrew

Hey Best friend! Love you! To Airbear. Love Kristen <3

It's been more then 3 years since I saw you that one October day, I mst say, Still like you more than ever. You're the most beautiful girl I've ever seen Diana Meza <3

Lucas Bautista, I just wanted you to know that you and Grace are just the best and I love you guys so much! Happy Valentines Day BTW.

Hey so you have been the best thing that has happened to me . You have saved my life so many times and I will thank you forever. I love you. <3
Your Wife
Kassandra T.

Shouts to all of my lovely, obnoxious, and funny friends. Priscilla, Amanda, Celia, Kendria, Edth, Mercedes, Javier, Oscar and Meredith. :) xoxo, Monica

I couldn't have asked for better friends! Thank-you 4 always being there for me!! I love you guys! Angie, Diana x 2, Crystal, Evelyn <3 xoxo -Nina

Tati, my little cafe can leche, I really don't know what I would do without you! always remember, through chaos as it swirls, It's us against the world! I LOVE YOU SO MUCH BEST FRIEND <3
-Stef

Diana, Jessica, and Martin . . . it's impossible to explain how much I care about you guys in such few words. TThank you for letting me be a part of your life, I feel like I've gotten to know you guys on a much deeper level. It really is true when people say you narrow down your true friends by senior year. I love you guys so much please don't ever forget that! <3

COSA! Look I'm in the newspaper! :3 I LOVE YOU! HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! <3 :+ POM! I hope this makes you smile! You look so cute when you do! <3
-Your Dino

COPI! I should really have this in the Juniors section because your not even old enough to be a Senior... Anyways, you will always be MY best friend, even if you disagree. Que te la pases bien youngling!

Dear Kevin Mac, I didn't have enough money to get you something nice, so here are a dozen roses: Red Rose, White Rose, Yellow Rose, Pink Rose, Peach Rose, D Rose, De Rose, Der Rose, Derr Rose, Derri ROse, Derric Rose, Derrick Rose (: Would you like to see a Bulls Game with me ... again?
Love, Your Girlfriend

I have enjoyed these past 4 years with you. I'm going to miss you so very much. I'm wishing you the best. I love you Div. 352!
Love, Ms. Ojo & Kenton <3

To my Sweet Tooth,
Girl you know I love you, No matter what you do And I hope you understand me, Every word I say is true
Cause I Love You
Baby I'm thinking of you, Trying to be more of a man for you
Some men need lots of women, BUt I want only you girl
Cause I Love You
Your love makes me grow stronger, It keeps me going on

Brian,
I just love you, okay?
-Deanna <3

Happy Valentine's Day Metal Kitty, Pecan Pie, and Mandarin Oranges. I love you guys bunches!
-Cloudy

Dear Daniel Birt,
I love you. You are the smartest, funniest, most beautiful man I have ever met. Everyone loves you but no one loves you more than the person you look at in the mirror everyday. You're perfect don't ever change!

Here's to SENIOR YEAR, prom, graduating, going to college and enjoying these last few months with my closest & dearest friends. I love you guys- Angie, Crystal, the Dianas, Evelyn! You guys are the BEST! HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
XOXO-Nina

My sweet drummer boy, Peter Brozyna, I have admired you from afar. You have hurt me in the past, like when you had parties and did not invite me. I was destroyed! That does not change how I feel everytime I see you beat your drums. I feel like you play them for me. The most attractive thing about you are the holes in your ears. Don't leave a hole in my heart! Ask me to prom! I LOVE YOU!

Shoutout to my sisters Ashley, Rubi, Khizra, Joselyn, Diana, Marlene, and Jessica! I love you!
-<3 Pam

Ayye mami, u r da best evur! Casey u shine bright like a diamond. Thanks for being such a rockstar! Having two classes with u is so amazing. I look foward to them just for u. Love u mamacita ;)

Your love has led me to believing in a forever with you. I love you, Karole Miranda! Happy Valentine's Day my bebehkins!
-Brian Scott Villanueva

Let's go to Mars where only our love exists #whoneedssoxygen
Love,
Iron Will Melt

Happy Valentine's Day 8th period!
-Mrs. Chappell <3

Happy Valentines Day to my loves: Mercedes, Nory and Arely!

~Your favorite asian girl (:

ACR La La La La <3
Est. July 2009

I <3 Ninnyhammer

Nina, Diana, Angie, Crystal, Evelyn, Izabela, Nishly, Ceci, & Cynthia . . . I love you girlies sooo much! You're all like sisters to me. Happy Valentines Day!
- D. Reyes

Te quiero mucho mi mensito! <3
Happy Valentines Day!
- D. Reyes

SENIORS

My last year could not have been better since I met you. We all know that you are an amazing person. I really like spending time with you. Every time I see you smile makes my heart fill with joy. You also inspire me to do a lot of wonderful things such as getting good grades and studying harder. I admire you.

My shell why so cocky? If you were a booger I'd pick you first :)
-Art your head as

Romans 8:37-39 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Victor Gonzalez
* Let the revival begin. Project Recro

Three things in this world that i would love to see, a sunset, a sunrise and you smile. I have never seen a sunrise or set but know of your smile. I would live my life never to see a sunrise or set if it meant only to see you smile because that to me is the best sight in the world.
To: Kayla Condrella

Dear Mr. Johnson,
You are the best teacher any of us could ask for. Even though we're the worst staff ever and suck at meeting deadlines and don't follow our style guides...we hope you still love us.
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love, the Warrior Staff <3
P.S. - see you at your wedding! :)

F.N., you make me smile.

Hey Claudia! What's up home-dawg? Shout out to 8th period Jennings!

Dear Nimrah and Paulina,
You guys are the best concert buddies a girl can have. All I really have to say is:
You can stay, I mean it
Every day, I mean it
If there's a way, I'll be there
Bend over backwards, I'll be there
- Almasa

I love Jeremy Carr's face!
- Anonymous

TO MY LIEBE:
YOU WILL ALWAYS BE DEAR TO ME.
- THE WIFEY

Every year, I can count on him to make me feel special with a grand gesture or small detail. Whether it's for my birthday or for Valentine's Day, he always does something from his heart with all the good intentions that I don't deserve. So it's time that he gets something for a change. I know it's not much but Kevin Carreno, you're so much more special than you or anyone else knows. So instead of making other people feel like the best person in the world, know that you have that in you already. Thank you for your sweetness, your patience, your tolerance, your humor, your dorkiness, & the love that comes from the heart you wear on your sleeve. Happy Valentine's Day Squirrel!
-Love, your snail - Diana Table

To Pat,
Thanks for being so foxy.
from Jesus

Victor Lopez is Perfect.

My ideal Valentine's Day: I fake my own death and then my butler spots you and I at a cafe in Florence. Joseph Gordon-Levitt replaces me.
- Kevin

From the day I smelled your lavender scent, I knew I was in love with you Jenny Schultz
-Jenny's secret admirer

Beyonce
(aka Ashley)
GO GIRL!
-D

CELLA,
XOXO LOVE YOU
-D

Happy Valentine's
Day to the best AP Lit
classes ever!!
<3 Mrs. Thompson

Happy Valentine's Day to the best friend I could ever have! I love you Di, and no matter what you always have me.
-Amber

Ara, I miss you gurrllll.

To my beloved munchkin Kimberly Potocki. Your hair is like rays of sunshine and the depths of your eyes are a mystery. Your lips are so moist and voluptuous. I hope that one day I can massage your toes.

Happy Valentine's Day Jose Patino, you are the best boyfriend a girl could ever ask for. <3
-Aubrey Lynne

Uraniaerson. Ju Jew. Gucci. The three sexiest females of Lane. My wife/husband/girlfriend. You make me feel like how it feels to chew five gum. You are the serrated edges to my chainsaw. My life without y'all would be like a Serbian film - I don't even want to think about it. Sweaty cupcakes. I love you/will you be my Valentine's?/ Prom? That is all. You know who it is...I hope.

Agnieszka,
Forever and always, and a day after that :)
Eric

Hey you. Yeah you reading this. You are BEAUTIFUL. GORGEOUS and if you don't have a valentine, your valentine is out there.
JK :) Forever Alone <3 Prom?
-Shorty

J2,
Roses are red,
violets are blue,
Got a little upset this issue,
but ya'll know how I do.
Dig deeper... --Love, Mr.J

OTHER

Happy Valentine's day OLAS! Im so excited! OLAS DO IT! <3
- Presidente

Eat plenty of meat for a baby boy, Hi nanay. Why don't you let me in the house or feed me? Why did you abandon me? Why did you not stay in contact with Lolo and Lola?
- Anak

I want to love you...forever
signed William

It's Friday, Friday. Gotta get down on Friday. Everybody's lookin' forward to the weekend. Friday, Friday. Gettin' down on Friday. Everybody's lookin' forward to the weekend.

I am mad scientist. Its so cool. Shout out to mah boi Cholas. Would you rather have 10 duck sized horses or 2 horse sized ducks

BATMAN
LOVES YOU!
BATMAN
LOVES YOU
ALL!!!

Five days a week, 8:00 AM; 8:31 on Wednesdays, I see you Ms. McMahon not only in this perfect way to start my day, its the only thing that can make me smile in the morning.
- Anthony Tran

Langford,
may the dark
Side bE with you!
LoVe,
Hairy JEsus, Guy
X, Guy Y, aNd
Eddie Papus

To mi familia, my auntie, my mommy, my everyone. I love you guys <3 with all my heart
- seahorse

Alonje - you are the coolest friend since I met you. You are funny and smart and my best friend.
Happy Valentine's Day.

Ms. <> and Mr. Johnson are amazing!
- "Silla"

You CAN DO IT!
- Mr. Flygt

Mrs. Missy Smith, you rock!
Love, ACDC

Dear Ms. Constantine,
You are beautiful. Will you be my Valentine?
-Henry Daugherty

To my AP classes,
I will always think of you, as I plan on naming my inevitable brain tumor after you.
-Mr Davey

Dear Jackie Bynes you are so beautiful, I love you.

Happy Valentines Day to everyone in 451 Degrees!
-Levi

You are the drill that will pierce through heaven's gate. Don't believe in yourself. Believe in me who believes in you. My life for aivr.
Have a blessed game - J DAWG

Mathies, I love all of you and can't forget you guys.
My students, sa rang hac yo! (I love you)
- Ms. Nam

Aliyah V., I miss you so much! I love being your mentor and I really wish I could see you more often! Have a great year! See you soon.
Sincerely, Ana Serrano

Dear Connecticut,
This feels unreal. I think it is. You're like a spark. Simple ignition of the fire. A tiny flame of perfection in my hands. Will you be my blaze? Will you be mine?
Love, Me (?)

Dear Div. 851,
I miss you all so much! Sorry we haven't been around as much as we should be! Can't wait to see you all again, very soon!
Sincerely, your mentor Anamar

OLAS, you guys are my second family! SO excited for idays and inights. All our hard work will pay off! Thanks for being amazing, love you all. Happy Valentine's day!
Much love, Anissa

ACA-SCUSE ME?!

Happy Valentines Day Everyone!!!

If I could create the perfect friend, one of my own design, a friend to be my companion, a friend for a valentine, it would be like you guys: Elizabeth Salgado, Jocelyn Perez, Renee wong, Yasmine Huerta, and Briana Slaughter. I don't know what I would do without you!
Happy Valentines Day!
-Glarien

To my reg/honors classes,
Love is a four letter word...so is hate...and fine. One pertains to you. I'll let you be optimistic.
- Mr. Davey

The subject I teach causes you a lot of stress. I ask you to remember that I am just the messenger and I love you, even though you do not love the subject I teach
- Anonymous

The subject I teach causes you a lot of stress. I ask you to remember. I am just the messenger and I love you even though you do not love the subject I teach.
- Anonymous

MISANDRY
xoxo, love from the
misandry pixies

Buttz <3
Mr. Parsons, you are my idol!
Love, H-Bomb

Desiree, you are my shining star on a perfect night. Your soul and mine are intertwined forever. Please be the one and only valentine.
XOXO
Anthony Spingola

Mike G + Isaac Ceh FOREVER

Ms. Constantine, you are beautiful.
Mrs. Barrows,
You are my mom away from home and my light through the darkness. Thank you for everything!
-Ariana

Happy Valentines Day Dance Team,
Love ya girlies!!!
Love, Laura

Hey Ms. Jennings's AP Lit - Happy Valentine's Day! Hope literature is the true love of your life =)

Thank you all for being such wonderful Macro classes.
- Mr. Beal

LTVSB, conditioning's almost over! Pull through. All in! Love yah (:
- Casey

A.A. Literature Students:
You are a slice of homemade lemon pound cake (sifted) on a warm Sunday morning before spring break begins.
- Ms. Coleman

Boys and Girls Track:
Happy Valentine's and start of Indoor Season! Train hard, run fast, and do your homework! I miss you guys.
- Coach E.

Mr. B,
Thanks for being the best music teacher ever! We love you, Drew Carey! 2chainz.
- Christina, Almasa, Leah

Ms. Ulmer, you are beautiful.

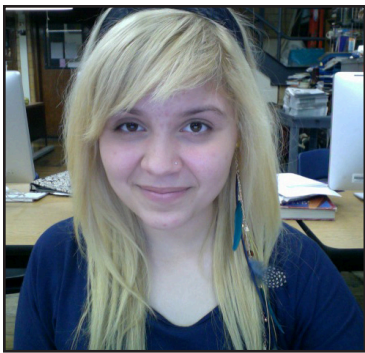
Ms. House,
Although your hand hugs are scarce, your unconditional support is plentiful. I admire, appreciate and respect you as the woman I wish to become. You have made me a better and wiser person, and for that, I am forever grateful.
Your Best Friend 4LYFE
-A

Shout out to my Valentine.....The Lane Tech Football Team! Love y'all! Plus, shout out to my home girl Desiree Velasquez! she cute, she cute...

TO ALL THE CHOIRS!
You know we Love you!
From (Guess Who)

AMY M. YOU ARE THE BEST!
YOUR SECRET ART
DEPARTMENT VALENTINE.

How to keep your girlfriend this Valentine's Day



By Aubrey Caraballo

Valentine's Day is the day of love, the day of caring, the day of giving, and also the day of heartbreak. WAIT, heartbreak?

For those of you who have had bad experiences on February 14, you are not alone. I've had my own Valentine's Day mishaps. So I've got some advice to the guys about how to properly appreciate your ladies this year. Pay attention, boys. Here are a few tips on how NOT to upset your girlfriend on Valentine's Day.

1. Do not bail on her.

If there is one thing, and one thing only, you MUST NOT do on Valentine's Day, it would be to cancel your plans with your girlfriend. She is not going to be happy about it, even if you have a good excuse, like being called into work or discovering your pet ham-

ster has died.

She might act fine with it, but deep down it will bother her. On Valentine's Day she will walk around the school hallways and see girls with their huge teddy bears, chocolates, and roses. Do you want her to feel single on the most important day of your relationship? Yeah, I did not think so.

2. Buy her something

Okay yes, I am guilty of once telling a guy I did not expect much on Valentine's Day and that I was not "that type of girl." WHO WAS I KIDDING? I have been disappointed with the gifts I received on this "special" day. If your girlfriend says, "It's okay, I do not want anything," you should take that as a hint that she DOES want something.

According to a recent Valentine's Day survey found on www.Creditdonkey.com (search "Valentine's Day"), this year 53% of girls said they want to receive dinner, 43% want flowers, and 40% want chocolate. So basically one out of every two girls really wants her Valentine to buy her something or take her out.

Let's say she does not really care if she receives anything or not, it would still be spontaneous if you surprised her and gave her something, right?

3. Do not make a Valentine's reservation at White Castle

Unless she likes that kind of stuff.

4. Show her you appreciate her.

Write her a poem or love letter. Tell her how much she means to you and do some nice things for her like opening the car door, cleaning her room, or even giving her a nice hug. There is nothing more important than showing your appreciation for your girlfriend on Valentine's Day. She needs to know you are not just buying her chocolate and flowers for the sake of the holiday.

5. Keep your anti-Valentine's Day sentiments to yourself.

Maybe you hate and "don't believe" in Valentine's Day because you've had a bad experience before. Or maybe you just see it as the day businesses try to make money off romance, but DO NOT take it out on your girlfriend. Do not punish her for your own opinions. Who knows, maybe she will help you learn to love this cheesy and "over-rated" day.

So there you have it, guys. If you don't break any of these rules, your Valentine's Day should be completely successful.

And by the way, all of these are things should be done on a regular basis. Do not show her you care on only ONE day of the year.

Avoid extreme opinions about Valentine's Day



By Angela Kuqo

If there is any one day that 99% of people will have a strong opinion about, it's Valentine's Day.

The people that love it are typically the ones that have something to do on it - the people with boy-friends/girlfriends, or "Like" interests.

These people will walk around all day with stupid, happy grins on their faces and arms overflowing with red and pink objects. They gush every time they see that special person and melt into tiny puddles of happiness.

Then there are the naysayers, people whodislike this holiday for a variety of reasons. Some call it "corporate" and pass it off as a "Hallmark holiday." Others sink into a certain style of sadness and walk around with a puppy dog pout.

But another group of people HATE Valentine's Day, and let everyone know.

Maybe they wear t-shirts that expresses their discontent, tear down locker signs, tackle hugging couples to the ground. They proudly go around telling people how little they care, how no one could pay them a million, no, a TRILLION dollars to participate in this wretched curse of a day.

What could possibly make these people so hate this most joyous of days?

Seriously, look around. Take a moment to let your senses soak in the sweetness of convenience store chocolates...the vibrant colors of gas station roses...the harmonious sound of teenage girls giggling with delight over reading the most romantic song lyrics heard that week on B96 scribbled in heart littered cards.

Alright, you guys get my point here right? Valentine's Day, shouldn't be something anyone takes too seriously. The people that are getting arbitrary gifts are in their moment - and we should let that be. If you *are* the person getting arbitrary gifts, yay for you! If you say that you hate Valentine's Day but don't seem to shut up about it, it's time you get a hobby.

Best, worst of this year's Super Bowl commercials



By Deanna Schnotala

So, the Super Bowl just passed. Woo-hoo! The game was good, once the 49ers actually started scoring touchdowns... But that's besides the point. Every year, people (including myself) get excited not just for the game, but for the commercials! This is probably the only time of year people actually like commercials because they are usually really good. But I have to say, this year I was a little disappointed.

I think many other people would

agree with me when I say the commercials this year didn't live up to the standards of the Super Bowl. Some of them were boring, and others were just plain stupid. Like Bar Rafaeli swapping saliva with a nerd; come on, GoDaddy, I think you could have done a little better than that. Sure, that commercial is probably the most talked about, but that doesn't mean it is good. Well, I guess it's pretty good, because they got everybody talking about it. But it still doesn't make me want to go on GoDaddy.com and create a domain.

I'm not saying all of the commercials were bad. There were some good ones tossed in there too! Let me give you a list of the five best and the five worst commercials (in my humble opinion).

FIVE BEST:

1. Calvin Klein: Their underwear commercial was one of my personal favorites, as I'm sure it was for the other girls who were drooling (like me) when they watched it. An attractive man with a six-pack walking towards you in box-

ers... Now THAT is good marketing! Nicely done, Calvin Klein. Although you just raised every girl's expectations of what a guy should look like naked, you definitely grabbed our attention.

2. Taco Bell: A commercial with old people acting like rebellious teenagers and "We Are Young" playing in Spanish - priceless. Well, maybe not for the old people watching... But I guess you can't please everybody.

3. Oreo: Featuring the age-old debate: cookie vs. creme. Taking place in a library, the commercial shows people flipping tables, pushing over bookcases, and throwing lamps at the wall while everyone *whispers* "cookie" or "creme."

4. Doritos: Ah, the famous Doritos. They always have good Super Bowl commercials. They had two this year, and one had an adorable little goat that just wouldn't stop chomping on Doritos. The best part was the scream he lets out when the Doritos are gone. HILARIOUS!

5. Budweiser: Now, they had five commercials throughout the whole

game. Not all of them were the greatest... But I have to admit, the last one they played with the Clydesdale horses was sooooo cute. How can you not love watching a baby horse grow up and run to his owner after not seeing him for three years?

FIVE WORST:

1. 21st Century: A commercial that takes place at a wedding and they need a 21st Century agent. Conveniently, there's one sitting in the church. BORING!

2. Volkswagen: Everyone gets in a VW Bug, develops a Jamaican accent, and magically becomes happy. That wasn't implying anything, no, not at all...

3. Lincoln: To set the record straight, there were 2,374,987 car commercials, and none of them were spectacular. I mean, come on, you're trying to sell a car! Nobody cares about the Lincoln MKZ Phoenix being shown from all angles with bright lights shining on it.

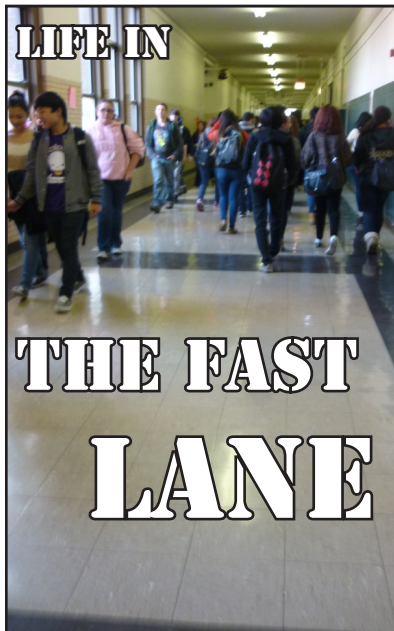
4. Budweiser: Yes, their Clydesdale spot was good. But the rest... Not so

much. The two Bud Light commercials featured Stevie Wonder laughing hysterically, not to mention creepily, in a chair... A little strange if you ask me.

5. Subway: Celebrities that can't say the word "February." It is a hard word to say, but you're going to waste THAT commercial for the Super Bowl? Get outta here.

There you have it: the five best and five worst commercials of this year's Super Bowl. Opinions will vary, and you don't have to agree with me on which five belong where. But you cannot sit there and honestly tell me that you enjoyed every single commercial.

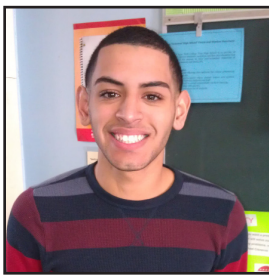
If companies are going to spend the average \$3.5 million for a time slot during the Super Bowl, they should make their commercial worth watching! Of course, companies make commercials solely for the promotional aspect of it. But, it seems logical that they will get more business if people actually like their commercial.



WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE SUPERHERO AND WHY?



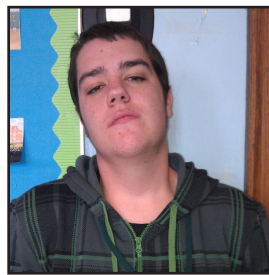
"Ironman because he is sassy!"
- Yvette Smith,
Div. 556



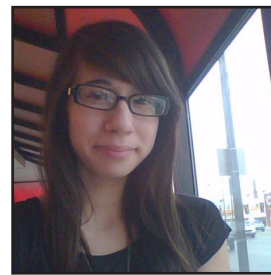
"Spiderman because of his superhuman ability to climb walls and shoot webs. He is a hero!"
- Edwin Vega,
Div. 455



"The Powerpuff girls because they are in kindergarten and have super powers."
- Diana Reyes,
Div. 385



"Superman because of his X-ray vision. And he can fly. That's pretty dope."
- Matthew Sexton,
Div. 379



"Deadpool. He's all about breaking the 4th wall and he can be dark or just hilarious."
- Jazmine Bets,
Div. 353

Deaf student performs in musical

By Robin Buford

Lights! Camera! Mattress? Once again, Lane students and staff have united forces to put together a comical performance for all to enjoy. This time, it's their adaptation of *Princess and the Pea*, a musical called "Once Upon A Mattress". With all the singing and dancing, and sly jokes on the side, the audience is bound to erupt in laughter. But what if you can't hear any of it? Well, that's the case for Julia Ralenkotter, Div. 651. But let's hear her story from the beginning.

"I've been deaf since I was a couple months old, but got a hearing-implant when I was three," Ralenkotter said. "That's why I learned how to speak using my voice, not just signing."

With her ability to use her voice normally, Ralenkotter was able to get into theater early on.

"My parents had always made me watch musicals when I was younger," Ralenkotter said. "When I was ten, I changed schools, and they had a program called Sign Voice Theater that I thought would be cool to be a part of."

Ralenkotter's own curiosity and prior experience was the spark to her getting involved with the play.

"I saw the posters up everywhere and thought why not," Ralenkotter said. "I've already done two plays at my old school, but this will be my first musical. I'm a Freshman, so I plan to do many more."

Ralenkotter doesn't have a speech impediment, but she is completely deaf. Although she has a role in the play, she doesn't have any solo lines. She has to memorize lyrics however, for when she's with a group chorus. Although she has a singing part, she only mouths and signs the words because she can't hear the music.

Nonetheless, Mrs. Hanson, English teacher and Director, had only good things to say about Ralenkotter being involved in the play.

"I've been a Director here at Lane since February 2001," Hanson said. "This is my 11th musical, along with many

other smaller play productions, and we have never had a deaf student even try out before. I was (really) excited."

Although the excitement was mutual, Ralenkotter still expressed some concerns.

"I wasn't sure if I should join. I was a little afraid. But everyone's been so nice and welcoming," Ralenkotter said.

Hanson frequently informed her casts to work ahead on homework and other academic obligations because of approaching finals, and so that they may have more time to really focus on their lines. However, like any other student Ralenkotter still struggled a bit with managing her time with practices and homework. That is because, she's just like any other student. So

how does she manage to get over this obstacle of being deaf? It's simple.

"I struggle with rhythm, that's why I don't sing. Dancing is not a problem though, if you memorize it, but I'm bad at that too," Ralenkotter said, laughing.

But Ralenkotter is not alone. During practices she has sign language interpreters to tell her what's going on or what's being said. Communication and comprehension are key.

"As a sign language interpreter, we are always learning because signs change over time," Ms. Flie said. "The first show, for sure, she will have an interpreter with her backstage, but if she feels she doesn't need us after that, it's her choice."

Ralenkotter will be performing as a Knight and Minstrel in both casts, but her bubbly personality had her thinking of some more leading roles.

"The King would be an interesting part too. It's more of a comedy role," Ralenkotter said.

Ralenkotter's stage progress has surely increased her confidence for future performances.

According to Hanson, students don't necessarily try out for the roles they want. However, when they practice hard she is pleased with their progress.

"I love seeing the actors grow in terms of their characters," Hanson said. "And I really love hearing how the audience responds to the actors on stage."

And speaking of audience, Ralenkotter is really looking forward to the performance because her friends from her old school, Bell Elementary, are coming to see her. Ralenkotter shares the slight nervousness of performing as do the other students, but in her words, "It better look good."

"I wasn't sure if I should join. I was a little afraid. But everyone's been so nice and welcoming."
- Julia Ralenkotter



Julia Ralenkotter in her costume during the play's dress rehearsal.

Warm Bodies portrays Romeo, Juliet of zombie world

By Gabrielle Onyema

Eat your heart out, folks. Literally.

It's that time of the year and love is in the air, so why not enjoy the romantic vibes by watching a cadaver fall head over heels in *Warm Bodies*?

The film is both funny and frustrating with its comical situations and 'lovey-dovey' lines. Though it is unable to escape some of the cliché romance vibes, the story was surprisingly better than I had expected.

It is your typical Romeo and Juliet plot, yet the circumstances are anything but. The movie spins a twist on typical romantic themes by adding unexpected humor

throughout.

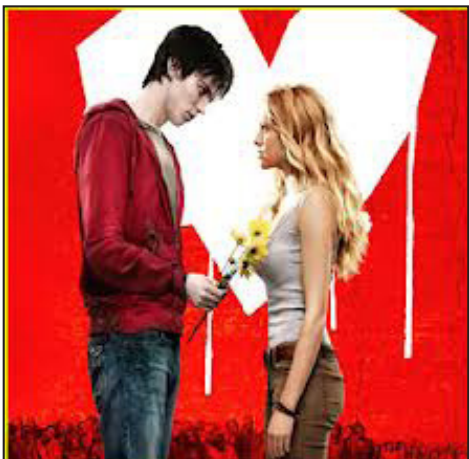
Set in a post-apocalyptic world, a young girl runs into a brain-hungry zombie protagonist, 'R', is capable of

being both a brain-dead corpse and a teenager at the same time.

Though the dialogue is lacking at times-aside from the several grunts and groans- the film does not fail to grab your attention. The pacing is slow and yet the characters remain intriguing through their actions and thoughts.

All in all, I would recommend to go see it. The film has gotten much positive feedback from critics and introduces a cast of actors that-though not world renowned- still get the job done well.

If you don't have a special someone to go with, you could always catch the movie with a friend.



Mama leaves viewers in suspense, terror



By Claudia Maj

After watching *Mama*, I was surprised. Recent horror movies have failed to impress me. But *Mama* had me jumping in my seat and clutching my best friend's arm.

The story line is original and understandable. Two little girls disappear into the woods the day that their father murdered their mother. And during the five years they spent in a cabin, a ghostly creature had begun taking care of them. Soon the girls Victoria and Lilly begin to call the ghost Mama. Mama appears as a lady covered in dirt wearing a dark dirty dress. She floats in the air and travels through the walls.

When Victoria and Lilly are found five years later, they both have developed animal instincts. They are then taken in by their uncle and his girlfriend but remain distant from them. And little does the couple know, while having the girls in their house, Mama is there too. And she is very jealous.

The movie receives high bonus points

from me because it includes many loud scenes where Mama suddenly appears or kills someone. And the horror movie fanatic that I am, I love being scared.

Mama is definitely a movie for open minded people. If you think that ghosts are silly then most likely you will find some of the scenes comedic.

Towards the end of the film, Mama's past is revealed and also the reason why she doesn't want Victoria and Lilly to get attached to their uncle Lucas and Annabel.

Mama is dark and suspense filled and the two young actresses both take on very difficult roles.

Jessica Chastain's character Annabel stands out the most. She is a young woman who is in no rush to have any children. She seems a little bit cold towards the girls at first but then later tries to develop a relationship with them. And that is the moment that you begin to hate Mama the most. This family begins to love each other and she wants to tear them apart.

Safe Haven novel soon to be released in theaters as movie

By Magdalena Popek

Every once in a while I find myself wanting to read a cute sappy novel by authors like Nicholas Sparks. A few months ago I came across "Safe Haven" at the library, and although I was reluctant, I thought, 'why not?'. To this day, however, the thought of this novel also brings back all the emotions I felt when reading it. From the first page, this novel is filled with suspense, to love, mystery, pain and danger. It definitely beat all of my expectations and out of many of Sparks' novels it is hands down the best one so far. And trust me, I don't usually give him much credit.

The novel starts off when the main character Katie moves to a small town with no money, hoping for a chance to start over. As she begins to feel comfortable, she falls in love with Alex, a store owner and father of two kids. Despite the fact that her life seems to be turning around from her past, Katie has a dark secret that keeps her guarded at all times. As the novel progresses, danger approaches.

A part of the description for this this novel reads, "Love hurts. There is nothing as painful as heartbreak. But in order to learn to love again, you must learn to trust again." This is a great love story, and as a matter of fact "Safe Haven" will be playing in theaters February 14, Valentine's Day. True, we have all read that one book that was turned into a movie and it ended up being terrible. However, I'm almost positive that this won't be the case this time. I caught a

glimpse of the preview for this movie and within a few seconds I recognized the characters and the plot, soon finding out it was in fact, a movie based on a Nicholas Sparks novel. Julianne Hough is a great pick for the character Katie, and Josh Dumahel represents Alex just like how I imagined him, looking like a worn out single father raising two kids.

However, there is one aspect in this novel that I found confusing and am looking forward to seeing how it is depicted in the movie. The main character Katie confides in her mysterious neighbor Jo, who is extremely talkative and tries to help her realize that in order to be happy she must overcome her past. But, there is something about Jo that leaves the reader unsure for quite awhile until they come to a point where Jo's

existence is questioned. I wasn't sure if this was supposed to have a fantasy aspect or just add suspense. Hopefully, the movie will clear this up.

I'm looking forward to seeing how true the movie stays to the book. The characters seem like a perfect fit. Now its time to see if the directors cut out any scenes that I thought were extremely significant to the emotional aspect of

the book. I'm positive I cried a little during the novel, and I hope the movie at least leaves that lump in your throat too, (except don't sob and snot all over your date). The suspense the book created, I'm predicting, will be just as good in the movie. I recommend checking out the book as well as the movie. I'll be watching it this weekend and hoping it meets my expectations as well as yours!



Kwansinski helps new club sail into Lane

By Leah Wojtach

The freezing wind shifted and waves beat against the boat as Rebecca Kwansinski, Div. 460, tried to keep the it from capsizing. What started out as a normal sailing trip with her friend quickly turned to trouble.

Last November, as Kwansinski was hanging out with a friend in Montrose harbor on a boat belonging to her yacht club, a huge gust of wind sent the boat capsizing. Her friend swam safely to the dock while Kwansinski stayed in the water to keep the boat from floating away. She floated there for half an hour becoming increasingly cold. Water temperatures in November in Lake Michigan are typically in the high 30s to 40 degree range. When the boat was finally pulled in, Kwansinski could not physically lift herself up to the dock, too cold to move anywhere. Some people on the scene had to help lift her out.

"I almost had hypothermia," Kwansinski said.

The incident has not slowed her lifelong interest in sailing. In fact, Kwansinski is now helping to start a Sailing Club at Lane.

Sailing runs in the Kwansinski family. From the time she was born, she sailed with her family. Her parents own a Vanguard 15 ft. boat that she uses to compete and a 40 ft. sailboat they use for leisure.

Her competitions have taken her across the country to compete against other sailors. She has raced in Florida, Michigan, South Carolina, Indiana, and other states.

Kwansinski's most fondly remembered competition took place just over a year ago in Nov, 2011 when she competed in the Fall series at the Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club (CCYC). She competed for six weekends in multiple races and received one of the lowest scores (the lower the score the better you place). Ultimately, she finished second overall.

When she is not competing, Kwansinski teaches impoverished youth and disabled children and adults at Burnham Harbor to sail during her summers.

"These kids have never been in water before. They have never been swimming or anything," Kwansinski said. "So seeing that and seeing how happy that made them with something I'm so used to doing felt really good."

Kwansinski now brings her passion for the sport to Lane. This is the first year Lane has a Sailing Club. Her friends Dominique and Sabiné Zinserling, Div. 678 and Div. 679, "the twins," are also co-presidents of Sailing Club with Kwansinski. The twins and Kwansinski's younger brother, Phil, Div. 651, have sailed and competed together for years. They met at the same yacht club, CCYC, four years ago.

When the freshman came to Lane, they convinced Rebecca that starting a sailing club would help popularize a sport they love and allow them to represent their school through sport.

Though not very many Lane students know how to sail, Sailing Club is open to anyone to join. Even their sponsor, Ms. Chisholm, does not know much about sailing. The Sailing Club will teach students how to sail and prepare them as team to compete against otehr schools.

"I've never gone sailing and I don't even know what to do, but I am really excited to learn and be a part of it," said Natalia Ziemkiewicz, Div. 464.

Although a new club, the Sailing Club is hoping to start competing against other schools next year. Lane will be able to compete against many suburban schools and Walter Payton High School, the only other CPS school with a sailing club.

Regardless of the Sailing Club's skill or success, none of its members will be able to use their sailing skills to help them get into college.

According to Intercollegiate Sailing Association's



Kwansinski stands in a sailboat on Lake Michigan.

procedural rules, high school sailors cannot receive sailing scholarships for college. Rule 12.f reads "No student-athlete shall receive financial assistance to attend college based upon sailing ability."

"This rule not only prohibits colleges and universities from giving athletic scholarships, but it also limits other organizations from giving scholarships based on sailing ability or performance."

Consequently, sailing for these students will be done simply for the love of the sport. Kwansinski's love for sailing keeps her at it for as much of the year as she can.

"The harbor freezes over in winter, so it is physically impossible for me to sail in winter," Kwansinski said.

The other seasons do provide challenges for Kwansinski though. She has to deal with the cold during fall and spring. In the heat of the summer, Kwansinski suffers from frequent sunburn and "horrible tan lines."

Although Kwansinski enjoys racing her parent's boat, the demands on her time are great.

"Sailing is so time consuming. I can be at practice from like 9am to 3pm every day. It's like school all over again," Kwansinski said.

In spite of the hard work and time spent on the sport, life without sailing for Kwansinski is unimaginable. She says the feeling she gets when racing or sailing is "simply indescribable," and she plans to continue sailing for many years to come.

Project Purple Mission fights substance abuse

Danah Bialoruski

It is no secret that students from Lane and from all over the country are involved with drugs and alcohol. This is why Mr. Logalbo, English teacher and basketball coach, thought it was necessary to bring Project Purple to Lane this year.

Project Purple is a non-profit foundation that was created by Chris Herren, a former NBA basketball player, to help individuals and families that are struggling with substance addiction.

The foundation was created in hopes to break addiction, show the severity of substance abuse, and educate on any possible treatments. Heren was a big time high school and college basketball player who started a serious substance abuse problem in college. Even though the abuse started in college, he says

that he was first introduced to alcohol and drugs in high school. Soon, he was hooked on cocaine, then heroin, and then painkillers over a ten year period. He overdosed several times during those ten years.

With Logalbo's many years at Lane, he has experience the evolution of the student body regarding their use of drugs and alcohol.

"Being a Lane Alumni and feeling like I have a pretty good pulse on the student body, I feel like there are a lot of great people here," Logalbo said. "But I feel like the substance abuse--marijuana and drinking—are becoming more prominent now than it ever has been."

According to The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in the U.S. in 2008, almost one third of adolescents ages 12 to 17 drank alcohol in the past year. And 1 in 6 Teens has used a prescription drug in order to get

high or change their mood according to The Partnership at Drugfree.org.

"It starts in high school because kids just want to socially drink and party and they never learn how to control themselves and it becomes a lifelong battle for them," Logalbo said.

Some students, though, feel like even though the issue of drugs and alcohol should always be addressed, Lane students do not have a problem with those issues.

"I don't think Lane is a "druggie" school, but there are kids who get caught up in the mix," said Dana Torres, Div. 460. "Lane students are focused on their future, which is a great thing."

Logalbo has made many efforts to raise as much awareness for Project Purple as he can and it seems to be slowly paying off.

"I spoke with a student who came to see me to talk about this variation [Project Purple] and thanked me for raising the awareness," he said.

Although this movement was made to help all different sorts of people, Logalbo believes that this is especially important for student athletes to take seriously. He said there is an idea in our country that if you are a "jock," you have to go to parties after a big game. He finds this idea "bizarre" and "grotesque."

Herren was an athlete that fit into this stereotype. Since Herren ended up losing his athletic dream to addiction, he knew how important starting this movement was. Initially, it was called The Herren Project until he created the spinoff of Project Purple.

The name of Project Purple came about in 2011 when Herren stood in front of hundreds of high school students and told his story about his substance abuse. After finishing his story, a girl wearing a purple shirt stood up. She explained that she and the row of students with her, all wearing purple shirts, were the only sober students at her school. The other students around her began to

laugh and make comments about the row of purple shirted students.

Appalled by the laughter but impressed by the courage of that row of students, Herren felt it was necessary to share the symbolism that the purple shirts brought as he tries to make a difference in the fight against adolescent drug abuse across the country.

This year, Jan. 11th-14th was dedicated to be the official Go Project Purple days. Though missed by a day, Lane celebrated Go Project Purple on Jan. 15 where students around the school wore purple and the home basketball game was themed as Project Purple.

"I thought that a mjority of people did wear purple," said Ariana Arnone, Div. 384. "It was great to come together

as a group of peers and people who are sharing this project together to see the school filled with seas of purple."

Along, with participating in the day, Logalbo also hopes to possibly have Herren speak at Lane in the near future.

"I think it would be awesome if Mr. Herren were to visit Lane," Torres said. "His words are powerful and really force teens to ponder on the silliness of using drugs. He set out to make a difference in the lives of his audience and open up their minds."

While some students may brush this movement off, like Chris Herren did at many of these types of events when he was in high school, Logalbo says that if this can help just one student, then it has done what it was meant to do.



The Lane basketball team huddles before the game in their purple shirts as a way to participate in Project Purple.

Hockey possibly to be added as new Lane sport

By Isaac Ceh

In spite of Lane's size and diverse sports program, the school does not have a hockey program. Math teacher Mr. Marzec is looking to change that.

On Thurs, Feb. 7, Marzec held an after-school informational meeting for students interested in playing on a school hockey team.

"I've been playing hockey my whole life and I felt that it was time Lane should get a team. I had people talk to me about starting up a hockey team and many people seemed interested," Marzec said.

Currently Lane students who want to play high school hockey have been able to play on Latin School of Chicago's team. Latin has allowed numerous students from CPS to join their team

because of the lack of hockey teams in CPS schools. The Metro North High School Hockey League has 22 teams, 12 teams that compete at the varsity level and 10 at junior varsity. Latin, Evanston, Whitney Young, New Trier, Stevenson, and Warren are just some of the competition that Lane would face if it joined this league.

McFetridge Ice Center, located on 3843 N. California Ave. is an ice rink less than a mile from Lane and could potentially serve as an arena for practice and games.

In addition to renting ice time at McFetridge, hockey equipment is expensive. The team will likely have to hold fundraisers or find financial support from outside sources to pay for all it will need.

Lavelle breaks numerous school swim records

By Tristan Bugos

Adrenaline-pumping, stomach-churning, with sweaty, shaky hands, Meghan Lavelle, Div. 464, steps up on the block towering over the pool. Feeling uneasy did not begin to cover how Lavelle felt before her State meet in Evanston on Nov. 16-17, 2012 where she finished fourth in the state in the 200 meter individual medley.

With nine school records broken so far in her high school career, Lavelle thinks she still has a ways to go and believes two more school records are still within her reach: the 100m breast stroke and the 200m free swim.

Lavelle has been swimming competitively since age seven. It is as if she is built for it. Measuring in at 5’11 with a wingspan of six feet, she has the body type that makes other swimmers jealous.

It is not just Lavelle’s physique, however, that contributes to her excellence in the sport. Fellow swim teammate Taina Reyes, Div. 475, says Lavelle’s hard work also has something to do with it.

“Meghan is the perfect fit to be a record-breaker swimmer. Her body slides right through the water and her determination towards the sport is amazing,” Reyes said. “She’s definitely the most dedicated swimmer I’ve ever met and [she] trains year-round seeing as she’s been State-bound since freshman year. Meghan always strives to be the best...and that’s exactly what she is.”

Over 26 colleges have mailed or contacted Lavelle, most of the schools Division 1 universities. Her top two college choices are currently Indiana and Michigan State. And college is a central motivation for her hard

work in the pool.

Lavelle knows that a swimming scholarship is one of her best chances at college. Feeling the extra pressure to perform at a high level can take the joy out of the sport. Lavelle admits she does not feel the same passion for swimming as she once did.

“I mean yeah, it sounds bad to say I’m only using swimming for college, but the road to paying for college is becoming tougher so why not keep doing something that’s beneficial towards my future,” Lavelle said. “Swimming has become the main priority in my life, and as much as I hate it sometimes, I have to keep going. Although I have wanted to join gymnastics, my coaches and teammates keep me in check.”

Lavelle claims that the main thing that makes or breaks the outcome of her meets are her nerves. But she tries to calm them

Lavelle’s School Records			
Event	Lavelle’s Time	Record Broken By	Age of Record
100 m Fly	58.41 s	9.75 s	31 years
50 m Free	23.87 s	.16 s	20 years
100 m Free	52.73 s	1.65 s	19 years
500 m Free	5:10.23 min	10.77 s	32 years
100 m Back	56.07	1.74 s	1 year
200 m Individual Medley	2:04.77 min	5.63 s	2 years
400 m Free Relay	3:36.01 min	.3 s	1 year
200 m Free Relay	1:42.97 min	1.15 s	21 years
200 Medley Relay	1:52.70	1.84 s	1 year

with comfort food.

“Before my meets, I like to get Burger King for breakfast as a pre-meet ritual,” Lavelle said.

Her swim mates and family support her with pep talks and motivational advice.

“Before my championship race, my friend Lizzie Rzeznik inspired me with a pep talk in her Morgan Freeman voice, which made me loosen up and I ended up doing really well in the end,” Lavelle said.

Even though Lavelle excels in athletics, she has not done as well in academics as she would like. As swimming season comes and goes, she has noticed a corresponding fluctuation with her grades. With the swim team practicing over twenty-five hours a week, Lavelle claims she hardly has any time to relax.

“I haven’t yet mastered the balancing between sports and school life, but some advice I’d give to students just starting their high school careers would be to keep moving forward and win. Just like my favorite quote from Talladega Nights, ‘If you’re not first, you’re last,’” Lavelle said.

Varsity Swim coach, Mr. Rummelhoff, sees Lavelle as one of Lane’s most prized possessions.

“As a swimmer, Meghan learned how to take practices a day at a time and understood how seasons worked so that she could be at her top game by the end of the season,” he said. “She sets standards for others on the team and shows leadership. Definitely one of the best athletes I have had a privilege of coaching.”



Lavelle stands on the podium after placing at a meet in Nov.

Female wrestlers face numerous obstacles in struggle to compete

By Desiree Velazquez

Jocelyn Martinez, Div. 462, faces the biggest fear she has had all year, and it is not at her wrestling meet. As Jocelyn’s mother walks in to watch her daughter wrestle, her face turns to disapproval as she draws her attention to her daughter in a wrestling uniform. Unaware of what wrestling was, she was shocked to learn her daughter was participating in a male dominated sport.

Womens wrestling became an Olympic sport in 2004, and according to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) 2010-11 participation survey, girls wrestling is the fastest-growing sport for high school girls.

Martinez has been wrestling since sophomore year, when she heard from a friend about the team. Martinez along with teammates Sabrina Aponte, Div. 573, and Sophia Escobar, Div. 660, are the three girls on the wrestling team. Martinez is serious about the sport, and that is why when she learned of her mothers dissatisfaction, she was devastated.

Martinez first told her parents about wrestling her sophomore year, when she invited them to a meet. Without asking any clarifying questions beforehand, her parents showed up. Soon after learning what wrestling really was, they wanted her to quit immediately.

“When my mom walked into the meet, she had the scariest expression on her face. I knew at that moment she did not want me to wrestle,”

Martinez said.

One night at the dinner table Martinez’s parents sat her down to try and convince her to quit wrestling. They took the approach of “bribing” Martinez with a brand new car. Martinez refuses to quit because her parents want her to.

“I enjoy challenging myself and I love this sport. I’m not going to quit for a car,” Martinez said.

Aponte, along with Martinez, has faced the problem of not having her parents support 100 percent. However, after watching Aponte wrestle, her parents had a change of heart.

“At first they were scared of all the injuries that could happen, but after my dad came to watch me wrestle, I could hear him cheering for me,” Aponte said.

Escobar on the other hand has not had to face the problem of unsupportive parents. Escobar’s mother forced her into wrestling, because it was something her mother always wanted to do. Both of Escobar’s parents show up to her meets as much as they can.

“My parents have sacrificed a lot for me to be on the team. It is by

no means easy for me to get to practice every night, but my parents are supportive. I could not ask for better ones,” Martinez said.

The girls practice everyday after school when they do not have matches. All three are on the Junior Varsity team. All three girls have never in fact wrestled another girl. Each of them have only wrestled boys during a match. The girls teammates and coaches are supportive, and even inspired.

Jack Villegas Div. 561 had the opportunity to wrestle Aponte during practice.

“I think it’s super cool they came back another year. This is a tough sport and sometimes I think they’re tougher than some of the guys,” Villegas said.

Coach Toussaint is one of the wrestling coaches at Lane. This is Toussaint’s first year coaching. He was surprised there

were girls on the team.

“When I heard they were on the team I was surprised they came back another year. They show real dedication,” Toussaint said.

The three plan on wrestling till the end of high school. Till then they continue to dedicate themselves to the sport they enjoy.

“At first [my parents] were scared of all the injuries that could happen, but after my dad came to watch me wrestle, I could hear him cheering for me.”
- Sabrina Aponte, Div. 573.

Burbano stands out as stellar runner, sets high goals for this year

By Alexandra Martel

Since he was a little boy Marcelo Burbano, Div. 354, wanted nothing more than to play goalie in his favorite sport, soccer. His entire family played the game and it was something he dreamed of doing throughout his childhood.

However, in sixth grade Burbano experienced an unexplained seizure. It only happened once, but was enough for doctors to categorize it as an epileptic attack. Burbano was forced to quit soccer because the doctors worried if he were hit in the head the attacks would come back. But Burbano didn’t give up.

As an incoming freshman, Burbano defied his doctor’s and parents’ orders and participated in the Boys Soccer Team summer camp. After a week he felt he

“There’s no such thing as a best race for me. I always find something wrong. If don’t push myself, who is [going to]?”
- Marcelo Burbano

knew who was going to be on team, and he wasn’t one of them. So he decided to join the Cross Country Team because it was safer than football and the only option left.

After he joined he began breaking freshmen records.

“It was evident he had an outstanding work ethic and outstanding ability,” said Mr. Roof, the Boy’s Cross Country and Track coach.

His freshmen year of Cross Country, Burbano ran at the Fro-Soph City Championships because for Coach Roof it is very rare that a freshman be moved up to varsity. The 2-mile race had 111 boys entered. Burbano finished seventh, leading his team to a first place finish. By the end of the season Burbano held Lane’s freshmen record for the 1.5 mile, 2 mile, 2.5 mile, and 3 mile. He continued

breaking records throughout his freshman track season as well. He says he still does not even know all the school records he holds.

As a sophomore Burbano was part of the 4x800 meter relay team (that’s two laps around Lane’s track for each runner) that qualified for State. Though they didn’t place, Burbano continued to work hard.

Last year, as a junior, Burbano and the 4x800 meter relay track team once again qualified for State. This time they won. State Champs. Their coaches described it as “historic.” They were the first ever team from a CPS school to win first place in the 4x800. But even this did not satisfy Burbano.

Burbano was not pleased with his performance, running only the third fastest time on the team. He was chosen to start the race because he was the best at handling the pressure, but during the race, just as he was about to pick up the pace, he found himself boxed in by a group of runners. Unable to pass other competitors, he handed off the baton in seventh place position.

Though the team recovered and won the race, Burbano is still bothered that he and his relay team were promised a banner of achievement to be hung in a Lane hallway. Seven months later, he is still waiting.

“You get a full page about how the football team lost and a quarter page about us winning State,” he said. “I don’t get it.”

Burbano takes pride in his running career and is even a captain of the Boy’s Track Team. He takes his role very seriously. During workouts he usually runs alone because his paces are faster than the rest of the varsity team. Even though he runs by himself it is evident that he pushes himself. His coaches and pretty much any one of his team mates would agree, he is harder on himself than anyone.

“There’s no such thing as a best race for me. I always find something wrong,” Burbano said. “If don’t push myself, who is?”

Burbano has been accepted to Iowa State, Illinois State, and North Central College and is still in the process of making his final decisions on where he wants to go to college. Though he has many goals, such as qualifying for State his senior year, he has one ultimate goal.

“I want to finally look back on something and be pleased by my own efforts,” Burbano said. “It’ll be worth it in the end.”

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Police warn jaywalking near Lane will result in tickets

By Priscilla Monsivais

In the video game Frogger, a frog dashes across the street trying to avoid the cars. But sometimes it hops in front of a car and SPLAT! It dies. But it's ok. It gets another chance to get across! Similarly, jaywalkers sometimes dash between cars to make it to the other side, but they only have one shot to make it safely.

Recently, officers have been patrolling Lane right after school at jaywalking hot spots: Addison and Western, and near the McDonalds on Addison. Those caught jaywalking will be ticketed.

According to Mr. Jarka, the Dean of Students, police officers recently came to Lane to announce that because of unsafe driving, jaywalking, and accidents involving pedestrians, police would be patrolling the Lane area before school, during lunch periods, and after school.

Aware of the dangers of the busy streets outside Lane, Jarka had already been working with the local alderman, local police, Local School Council, and the Parent - Teacher - Student Organization to have "school crosswalk" signs installed to make drivers more aware of pedestrian traffic.

Recently, Lane's in-school police officers have been parking their cruiser on Western after school to slow drivers during the busy hour students are leaving for home.

Jarka is glad to see that Lane is getting this "special attention" from officers because there have been numerous accidents involving student pedestrians in the 15 years that he has worked at Lane.

Just last year an SUV hit two fifteen year old girls near Lane. One student was from Lane. Her friend was a Whitney Young student. There are conflicting reports about who was at fault, but the girls were struck on a part of the street not designated for pedestrian crossing.



Students jaywalk across Addison to get to MacDonald's during fifth period lunch on Monday.

Nayelii Duran, Div. 477, used to be a frequent, but careful, jaywalker. She would not cross the street unless cars were out of sight or were completely stopped.

Her sentiment changed while she was learning how to drive. Driving in her neighborhood, Duran saw kids just run into the street unaware of her.

"Oh my God, is that what I do to people?!" she said to herself.

Since then she has stopped jaywalking altogether.

"There could be anyone behind the wheel of that car that's coming towards me, and if they don't know how to work the brake, or if they're not looking, or they fell asleep, or something, anything could happen," Duran said.

Jaywalking is technically illegal in Chicago, yet it is a signature trait most Chicagoans share. Police officers usually only give out tickets or detain people when the jaywalker is being disruptive or dangerous, like a person running in front of a moving vehicle.

This "trying to beat the car" method is a common practice for several Lane students.

Kevin Ortega, Div. 370, notices that teenagers in particular believe they are invincible and that the accidents they hear about will not happen to them.

"People hear about things, but don't experience them, so they don't get that effect," Ortega said.

But will these new officers be able to stop these jaywalkers and others?

Juan Sandoval, Div. 373, says no, claiming that on the first week the officers sat outside Lane, he and other students jaywalked to get to Dunkin Donuts while a police officer just watched.

"If he was really determined to stop us, he would have yelled at us," Sandoval said.

Sandoval did say that there may have been too many people crossing for the officer to stop. Sandoval also said he will continue to cross Western at spots other than designated crossings.

Longtime jaywalker Vanessa Roman,

Div. 351, has stopped jaywalking around Lane because she does not have the money to pay for a ticket if she is cited one. According to a Lane officer, a ticket can cost \$50-60, which Roman knows her parents would refuse to pay.

Roman has noticed less jaywalking from other students as well... at least when the officers are around.

Students have also noticed the officers have already been showing up less and less often after school.

Ortega has noticed them before school, almost always during lunch, but not nearly as much after school. He thinks the officers want to focus on the times when students most frequently jaywalk, which he says is during lunch periods when students are crunched for time.

Officers cannot be present all the time to prevent people from jaywalking or driving recklessly.

"Just like drivers should 'drive defensively', students should 'walk defensively'," Jarka said.

Car break-ins on rise along Rockwell

By Jacquelyn Guillen

After school on Jan. 9, Valerie Spychala, Div. 459, was walking down Rockwell to where she parked her 2000 Cavalier. She noticed that the hood of her car was not closed properly and immediately knew something was wrong.

From the driver's window, she saw a cracked dashboard with wires sticking out and her radio was missing. On the passenger side, Spychala saw that the door had been pried open incorrectly and part of it was on the ground. Additionally, there was a hole where the key lock should have been, the alarm was cut, and her iPod was missing. Someone had broken into her car.

It was not just Spychala though. In the same week, there were two other car break-ins on Rockwell.

Just two days earlier on Jan. 7, Kathleen McCullough, Div. 452, found her Nissan Sentra in a similar condition as Spychala's car: a broken window, damaged dashboard, a missing radio, and a cut alarm system. In addition, her car battery was unplugged, and her garage door opener and phone charger were stolen.



Kowalik's rear passenger window was broken when her car was broken into.

"I thought that I just left the window down even though it was really cold and I don't put my windows down. Then when I got closer I saw all the glass," McCullough said. "I just don't understand why someone would go through so much trouble for a radio and steal from kids. It's just so low."

On the same day as Spychala's break-in, Ricky Reyes, Div. 479, found his window on his '97 Honda Civic shattered. The car's dashboard had elastics sticking out, the radio was missing, his alarm wire was cut, and some of his tools were missing. Reyes had heard about break-ins happening on Rockwell in the past and knew it was possible his car could be broken into. Nonetheless, Reyes was upset.

"I had been working on the car little by little since June," said Reyes. "I finally finished and the next day it got broken into."

For Spychala, something else upset her more.

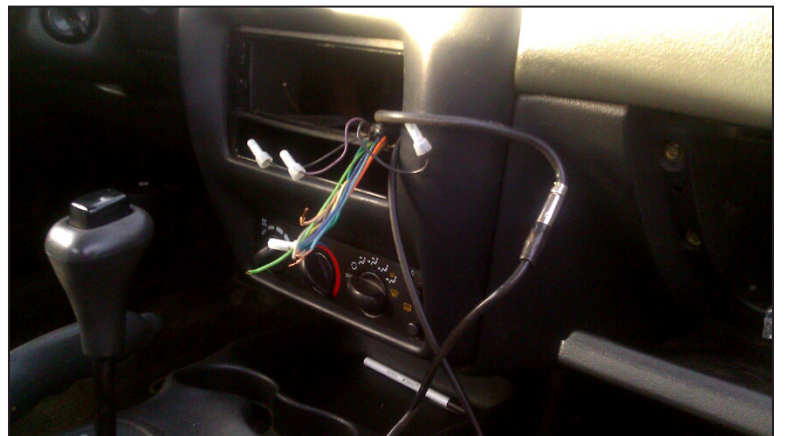
"It isn't losing everything," Spychala said. "It's seeing the evidence every time I still get into my car. I've kind of grown attached to my car. Who doesn't get attached to their first car?"

All three students had what they considered to be a "nice" radio. Spychala said her father installed the radio in her car that was stolen and it was worth around \$300 or \$400.

Reyes installed an Aftermarket Stereo by Sony that was worth about \$150, and McCullough had a new HD radio that the dealer had installed.

McCullough, Reyes, and Spychala park in the Lane parking lot now. They informed Lane about their car break-ins and Mr. Jarka issued them parking permits.

"I wish I could put everyone in the lot, but there's not a lot of room," Mr. Jarka said. "Luckily, no one got hurt."



Spychala's radio was stolen from her Cavalier.

Mr. Jarka also said he alerted the School Sergeant from the 19th Police District about the break-ins on Rockwell.

"I never thought anything of parking on Rockwell, especially with my car," Spychala said. "There were better and more expensive cars on the block. So if anything I thought there was no chance my car would be the one broken into."

McCullough, Reyes, and Spychala all advised people to keep valuable items out of sight when they leave their cars for the school day. Reyes had a clutch-break lock prior to the break in, and advises students to have an alarm system. McCullough said the whole experience made her become more cautious about leaving items in her car.

Recently, Pamela Kowalik, Div. 452, and Christopher Munoz, Div. 384, found their cars robbed and damaged after school on Rockwell. It happened to Kowalik on Feb. 5 and Munoz's happened the next day.

It happened to Kowalik's 2004 Honda CRV for the second time this school year. The first time was in September. At first she thought the rear passenger window was smashed by accident. Later, she noticed her bag was missing.

This time, the same window was broken, and her radio, portable GPS, and iPod connector were all missing. Some cash was also stolen and she found pliers near her dashboard that did not belong to her.

"I went on a swearing rampage. I even wanted to stop driving to school because I felt like someone was after me. Why my car?" Kowalik said.

Munoz was also upset to see that his White Stallion, (the nickname for his '92 Jeep), was broken into. In addition to a broken window and a stolen radio, his mp3 player was stolen. He found flyers in his car that were not there prior to the robbery.

"I felt like it was my fault because I've heard about break-ins on Rockwell before and I still parked there," Munoz said.

Spychala believes that students should just refrain from parking on Rockwell.

"There's no one near to hear an alarm go off," Spychala said. "You have a better chance if you park on side streets with houses and people around. Walking a few minutes is definitely worth it in the long run."

Athlete of the Issue

Danny Carlson, Div. 477



Favorites

Color: Green
Food: Steak
Movie: Stepbrothers
Musical Artist: Red Hot Chilli Peppers
Class: Gym
Sports team: White Sox
Moment: Making it to State freshmen year.

Q&A

Warrior: What obstacles have you had to overcome?
Carlson: Last year in the City championship match I broke my ankle. That was really rough because I knew I had a chance at making it to State.

Warrior: What made you want to join wrestling?
Carlson: My cousins did it when they were younger. They started to coach at a kids club and one day during football practice they said I should try it out because they thought I'd be good at it.
Warrior: What do you do to motivate yourself before a match?
Carlson: Usually I like to think about my opponent and the moves that I hit in practice.
Warrior: How dedicated are you to the sport?
Carlson: I'm pretty dedicated. I've been wrestling for 13 years.

Cheerleaders place at State Championship



The Cheerleaders show off their 11th place plaque won at the ICCA state competition on Feb. 9.

By Victoria Figueroa

Lane's cheerleading squad qualified for the Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association state championship on Jan. 12, the second year in a row they have qualified. ICCA is not to be confused with IHSA. While IHSA is for all sports, ICCA is exclusively for cheerleading. Unlike the IHSA championship, a school has multiple opportunities to qualify for ICCA state. Each squad is given different amount of points depending on the difficulty of the routine and the execution of the routine. ICCA also differs in the pace of the competition. At the ICCA competition, teams perform all their routines in a short amount of time. At normal competitions there is much more wait time between performances as other schools perform their routines. This gives the cheerleading squad time to practice, but also to think. This can leave members of the squad more prone to fall victims to pre-performance jitters. Madeline Lord, Div. 471, admits to panicking and says she sometimes feels like she completely forgets the routine. Lord said that focusing on themselves and not worrying about other schools is what gets the cheerleaders through those moments. "I think it was better for us that we went straight through on," Lord said. "We didn't have time to freak ourselves out. We just went out and had fun." Something that also gives the squad support is the camaraderie from all the cheerleaders from other schools. Teams exchange words of encouragement before they perform and while performing. Shouts like "fight for it" when a cheerleader stumbles on the mat

can be heard coming from the stands encouraging the cheerleader to stay up. Words like these are rare, if heard at all, in other sports. Cheerleading is a very different sport. There is only one team on the mat at a time. Unlike other sports, the cheerleaders are not necessarily staring down their rivals. "You're basically competing against yourself for your best score, and then you get placed," said Alexis Higgs, Div. 378. The need to beat other schools is not something that is on the squad's mind as much as hitting their stunts, staying in sync, and having fun. ICCA gives the squad the opportunity to see other schools from all over Illinois. Lane is one of the few CPS schools competing against suburban schools. And though they all have different routines and styles, all cheerleaders have a mutual understanding on how difficult it is to be on the mat in front of the judges. "It sucks when you're out on the mat and you drop a stunt. You feel awful," Lord said. "You just want to have fun out there. I think with the support of other people you feel that energy. If you give support to other people, they're going to give it to you." Lord says that even though they are competing against other schools, they don't want to see the other cheerleaders crash and fail. The cheerleaders placed 11th in state on Feb. 9 hitting a perfect routine, receiving no deductions from the judges. This is an improvement from last year when Lane didn't place at all. "We've come a lot farther than people thought we could," Higgs said. "We get a lot more respect now. The team really sees it. We work really hard to bring respect to cheerleading at Lane."

Senior Night!! February marks end of winter sports season, end of athletic careers of many seniors



Zach Barth, Div. 355, in the midst of the huddle before starting the game.



The Cheerleaders impress with their stunts.



The Dance team struts one last time for the home crowd.



Left: Ricardo Quezada, Div. 374 (left), pumps up the team before the meet. Right: Sebastian Jimenez, Div. 364, is launched into the pool in a kayak, a tradition for outgoing seniors.

New final exam schedule complies with CPS attendance policy

By Andrew Gilbert

As Final Exams rapidly approached at the end of the 1st semester, Lane released their schedule for the exams. Much to the dismay of students, many changes were made from the previous year's schedule.

The changes included making Finals full student attendance days, and although the testing spanned three days, only two days would be used for the exams, with a day in between for make-up Finals.

The schedule changes were brought on by CPS's Full School Day Initiative. The initiative, attempting to give kids more opportunities to learn and prosper in the district, stated that full student attendance days were required to be

at least 300 minutes long, according to Assistant Principal, Mrs. Thompson.

This change in policy affected some irregular school days, including the ACT Prep testing and Final Exam days. In previous years, students would be able to leave school early on those days. But with the new school length requirements, students are required to stay in

school for the full 300 minutes.

Gary Soto, Div. 469, thought that having testing days for only two days, instead of three days as in years past, was a bad idea.

"[It] gives me more stress than I already have," Soto said, who also felt he had less time to study because of the new schedule.

Tuesday Jan. 29 was a normal school day in between Finals, which were on Monday and Wednesday of the last week of Jan. This break in the Finals is one of the few changes in the schedule that students generally liked better than from the three straight days of testing last year.

Although Soto felt he had less time to study, other students disagreed, and thought the non-testing Tuesday gave them more time to study for their tests on Wednesday.

"It's somewhat useful," said Robert Wilkie, Div. 571, referring to the day in between Finals. "I'm glad I get more of a chance to study for my tests the next day. It helps to make up for having four finals in one day."

Tia McCoy, Div. 561, had mixed feelings about the day in between Finals.

"One of my teachers is giving me my Final on Monday and Tuesday. It is a little bit stressful taking two parts [of the test], but [my teacher] means well in giving us ample time to take the test."

In years past, students were let out of Finals depending on their schedule. Students with sixth period lunch, for instance, were let out as early as 9:30am on the last day of Finals, which made the time spent in school less than the 300 minutes required by the new change. The new schedule solved that problem by letting out every student out at 3:15pm on testing days.

"Having more full student attendance days makes CPS look better, but I don't think it helps me or any other students at all for Finals. [The non-testing periods] are sort of blow off classes because all we're going to do is study in class, which is what I would be doing at home anyway," said Wilkie.

McCoy was also against the full attendance Finals days. "We used the time out of school to study," referring to the Finals schedule last year. "But being in school makes it inconvenient because even though we study in class, the teachers make us study for their class."

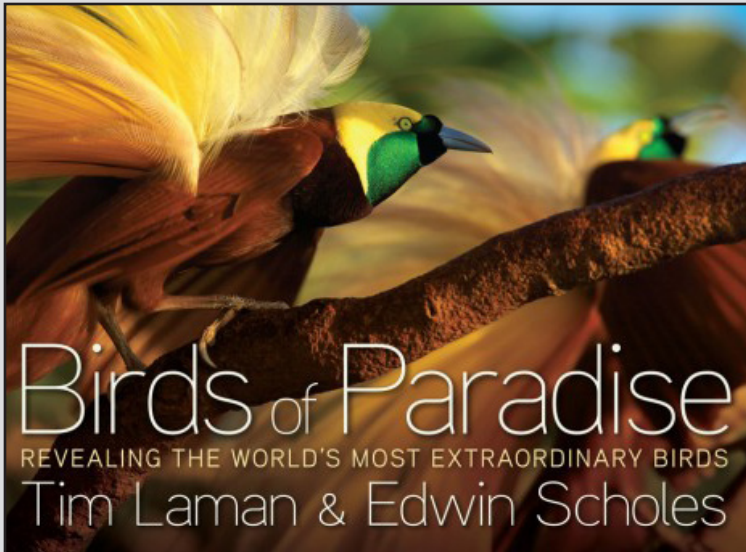
Although Lane submitted different proposals for the Finals schedule, some got rejected because they didn't fit the necessary criteria.

"We understand the seriousness of Finals and try to give students more time to take the tests and for teachers to grade," said Thompson, "but at the same time we can't go breaking the law."

Having more full student attendance days makes CPS look better, but I don't think it helps me or any other students at all for Finals."

-- Robert Wilkie

Birds of Paradise land at Lane



The cover of the book by the National Geographic presenters.

By Diana Castro

The Birds-of-Paradise Project came to Lane on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

Students attended the National Geographic presentation in the auditorium, presented by Tim Laman and Ed Scholes. Nia Robinson, who is part of the Alpha program, introduced them.

Laman and Scholes have spent eight years capturing many hours of recordings and photos of the family of birds that only lives in Papua New Guinea, a few surrounding islands, and a small part of Australia.

The presentation included many of the project's pictures and clips of the colorful birds. One of the clips shown was about sexual selection, a key reason to why the birds evolved the way they did.

"If you think of natural selection as survival of the fittest, you can think of sexual selection as survival of the sexi-

est. It's why they do the things they do," Scholes said.

Scholes, an evolutionary biologist, and Laman, a wildlife photojournalist and field biologist, have gone on 18 expeditions to 51 locations. Laman explained how over 80 hours of recordings will sometimes lead to 60 seconds of usable sound bytes from a bird.

"Not only are we documenting these birds but we are learning things along the way," Scholes said.

The two have documented the behavior of 39 bird species that few scientists knew much of before the project.

A main focus of the project is about mating and the extravagant and colorful displays of the males to gain the attention of the females.

"It's hard work being a bird-of-paradise," Scholes said.

The presentation concluded with Scholes and Laman taking questions from students about the project.

New course offerings added for next year

By Evangeline Lacroix

With the new Course Selection system under way, students have to pare down their list of possible classes from the 150+ options to choose from into seven manageable periods. From the popular classes like AP Psych and Ceramics to newer classes like Robotics and Arabic.

The 2013-2014 school year is host to even more new electives. There are new music classes, English classes, art classes, history classes, and computer science classes for students to choose from.

In the music department, Mr. Sweet's newly transformed Jazz Band and Guitar classroom will be receiving further renovations to create the honors class: **Studio Engineering**.

The class, taught by Mr. Hudson, explores the producing world of music. Students will learn how to create and mix both synthetic and real tracks.

"It's the only program like this in the state," Hudson said. "It was Dr. Dignam's idea, he took the opportunity he saw in this room and ran with it."

The room, which once used to hold the Auto Mechanics department, will partly be changed into a recording studio for the new class. The room has multiple rooms inside that allow for the spaces needed to be created.

The class will push to incorporate as much of the music department as well. With the new recording studio, and a portable recording system, students will be able to produce records of the performers of Lane. Be it the Jazz combo, Choir or a student band.

For students looking to explore writing, Ms. Meacham has created the honors class: **Power of Writing and Reading: Creative Nonfiction**. The class introduces writing styles such as memoirs, biographies, and poetry to students.

"In the class, students will learn the line

between truth and fiction," Meacham said.

Along with learning how to write non-fiction, students will also participate in reading circles. They will read books such as *Friday Night Lights*, *In Cold Blood*, *Into the Wild*, and *The Devil in the White City*.

Interested students should have a strong sense of social justice, and a curiosity on how to tell one's stories.

"As artists, it's easy to get caught up in creating truth from fiction; it's a tremendous gift to create art out of truth. [I hope this class] reflects something students want to comment on. It is hard to read [something] and stay impartial," she said.

Another English class that debuts next fall is Honors **Science Fiction**, taught by Ms. O'Malley, is a reading based class. In the class, students will compare Science Fiction books to their movie counterparts, complete a multimedia project, and participate in literature circles. Students will be exploring the best of the best in science fiction, reading authors such as Asimov, Bradbury, and Vonnegut.

Lane is quickly changing into a more science driven school with more science based curriculum, and students who are genuinely interested in the field. Because of the newly formed love of science within the community, a science fiction class seemed like a natural progression in the curriculum.

"I hope students learn to appreciate science fiction... It is not a genre that is thoroughly explored during the course of English study in the required classes," O'Malley said. "Students have an opportunity to read and write from so many different aspects but it often does not involve an extensive amount of Science Fiction. [In this class, students get to] study a content that is not only interesting but different from what so many other courses offer."

For students interested in expressing themselves in an artistic way, look out for the new art elective: **Fiber, Fabric & Fashion**, run by Mrs. Simanis.

"Chicago has become a center for independent fashion," Mrs. Simanis said.

Simanis hopes to play on that aspect of local culture, creating a class that centers around students learning the basics of sewing and design. It is set up so students are able to think creatively in terms of fashion and the use of fibers and fabrics to create art.

Students will learn the basics of hand sewing, machine sewing, knitting, and crocheting among other topics. They will also have the opportunity to create their own theoretical clothing line.

Throughout the year, students will be challenged to look at fellow peers and pop culture to identify trends in the clothing industry. They will create a blog to share this among themselves and with the student body.

"I want students to think about what it is they are using, to focus on re-purposing materials when creating art," Simanis said.

Printmaking will also be introduced next year. Taught by Ms. Faletto, the class will explore the art of making prints of original artwork through different processes.

"[It's a class for the] not so great artists [because] the art always looks good," Faletto said.

In the class, students will learn etching, woodcut, monoprinting, and screen printing techniques. Students will use both digital and hand drawn techniques to create originals to be copied.

"In the end, the art is a big payoff," Faletto said.

She hopes students will find reward in the art they create. She wants students to be able to try something new in a school that offers so many opportunities.

For those who wish to challenge them-

selves with an AP class, try **AP Comparative Government**, taught by Mr. Deros.

At one point in Lane history, this class was taught with the current AP Government and Politics class, creating one class. Now the two classes will stand alone, giving people interested in political science and international business and relations options to choose from.

"It's a good class. It's hard. In most colleges it would be a 200 level class," Deros said.

The class focuses on the political system of several different countries across the world. Students will learn about the internal governmental components of several countries such as China, Great Britain, Mexico, and Russia.

Another history class that will be offered is **Middle Eastern Studies** taught by Ms. Daifallah. The class focuses on the history, culture, and religion of the region.

"It's important to know what's going on right now [in the world]," Daifallah said.

She said it is important to study cultures, especially if they are gaining national awareness such as Middle Eastern countries. It is important to understand what is happening in the world as students make the transition from teen to adulthood.

In the class, students will learn through music, movies, and literature. Daifallah hopes to have a field trip to the Detroit, MI, Arab/American Institute to explore class topics further as well.

In the Computer Science department, there are five new classes being introduced.

"Most students don't know what [computer science is]. Understanding computer science leads to becoming better consumers," said Mr. Law, a Computer Science teacher.

Honors **Exploring Computer Science**,

is an introductory class that explores human/computer interactions, web design, programming, and robotics. The class, initially offered to the seventh graders will now be open to all students interested in learning about the field. In the class, students will incorporate data collection into computer studies, learning how technology impacts people's lives.

Honors **Media Computation** takes a look at the relationship between multimedia and computers. Students will learn how things like animation and the music industry works. Students will learn how digital media such as art and music can be manipulated into new creations.

Honors **Web Development I** teaches students with some knowledge of HTML advance techniques in creating Web 2.0 applications. In the class students will get a better understanding of JavaScript and CSS in hopes of creating their very own Web App by the end of the year.

"From nothing to Tetris," Law said.

Honors **Elements of Computing Systems** is for students with some knowledge of programming. In the class students will create a hypothetical computer from scratch on a computer program. Students will construct and unit-test a complete hardware platform and software hierarchy from the ground up.

For students with prior programming experience, Honors **Software App I: Android App Design** looks to push that knowledge forward. Students will learn to create applications for the Android platform. By the end of the year, students will be able to upload their projects on Google Play.

Everyone has different tastes and preferences in academics.

"In a school as big as Lane, it is important to try something new," Faletto said.

Art students use skateboards as unique palette for designs

By Robin Buford

Take a step inside Lane hallways. On second floor "D" and in the display cases near the main office, students have put up their unique skateboard designs. Only her first year at Lane and Mrs. Wain has already become a favorite among some students.

Wain, an Art Appreciation and AP Art History teacher, originally got the idea for the skateboard project from another art teacher at a school where she previously worked. Preparation for the project kept Wain busy. She had to make 120 skateboard cut outs from cardboard, one for each of her students.

"It took me awhile. But I didn't let them (the students) do it themselves because I wanted it to be straight, and didn't want them to hurt themselves," Wain said, laughing.

To make students try harder at their designs, she turned it into a contest, where her class and other art students could come to look at the finished boards and vote for their favorite. Even Robotics club heard of the project and decided to make a board themselves. This got many students motivated to do their best and be creative. One of whom was Jacob "Jake" Spaid, Div. 675, a student from

Wain's third period class and the winner of the contest.

"I was originally going to take drafting...I'm glad I didn't," Spaid said. "I thought the project was a cool idea because most of the pieces we did were more realistic, and this one gave us more of a creative license."

As a reward, Spaid's design is in the process of being put on a real skateboard. Although Spaid is over his enjoyment of actual skateboarding from his childhood, he was still overjoyed at this kind of opportunity. However, his victory had caused him to have mixed feelings.

"I was happy, (felt) weird, and embarrassed," Spaid said, laughing. "Everyone was looking at me saying 'nice job'. I'm a freshman so I'm not used to that kind of attention."

The inspiration for Spaid's design came about from practicality.

"People always said I had a pretty cool last name, and with Spaid I thought cards. That's why I put my name and the Ace of Spades on my board," Spaid said. "Plus I'm from Chicago, that's why I included the sky line in my design also."

Wain is proud of Spaid's accomplishment, and the good work of her other art students too. Her plan for her first year and many more to come, is to get the work of every student, at least once, up on display.

Keep a look out for Lane's art. More just might be coming to a hallway near you.



Skateboard art is exhibited in a Lane hallway display case.

Code Red

Continued from Pg. 1

"We're working on a plan for that," Jarka said. "We're trying to figure out what the best means would be. We're talking to the police department trying to figure out what's best. The best means is for everybody to hide the best way they can."

Lorena Trejo, Div. 676, said that while she knew it was a drill and did not take it 100 percent seriously, she still thinks it is essential people at Lane practice it.

"I think we should practice it just as much as we practice fire drills because it is just as important to take equal precautions. I think it's important, but it shouldn't have taken kids getting shot for it to happen," she said.

Maddie Hobaugh, Div. 379, has a similar opinion to Trejo, that maybe this drill came too late.

"I think it's great that Lane is finally doing something to prepare the school for a shooting, but it shouldn't have taken a horrific event like the one in Connecticut to get to this point," Hobaugh said. "We should have been doing Code Red drills for years now."

As a senior, Hobaugh has never experienced this safety drill before at Lane. However, she credits news coverage of previous school shootings to her understanding of what to do in a dangerous situation. She also put her trust in her teachers, hoping that if anything were to ever happen, they would be capable of handling it.

There is another thing Trejo and Hobaugh could agree on: the almost awkward tension in their classrooms during the Code Red. Hobaugh thought the whole thing was silly, but still serious. Trejo said that her friends and her knew it was only a practice run so they only partially took it seriously.

"We were all laughing. I mean some of us were quiet but others were just laughing," Trejo said. "I was somewhat quiet."

The importance of Code Red drills has definitely skyrocketed since the shooting at Sandy Hook, which Trejo believes to be a good thing.

"I feel like depending on the drill, some are more important at different times. Like right now the code red is more important," she said.

If anything similar to the sad event in Connecticut were to happen at Lane, Jarka says that all students and faculty remain calm and understand that they have practiced the Code Red already. He also urges students to be cautious of their surroundings and seek help if they feel unsafe.

"If students feel a threat or something, they need to let a teacher, Mr. Jarka, Mr. Milsap, or someone know...because it seems that in a lot of these schools, someone didn't want to speak up. Hopefully they feel Mr. Milsap and myself are accessible and willing to listen to students," he said.

Filipino Club brings back Break Through talent show

By Priscilla Monsivais

Spending a Friday afternoon sitting on the floor in a stuffy room watching break dancers, steppers, singers, and slam poets perform could not have been more eventful.

This past Friday, Feb. 8, Filipino Club officers brought back their annual talent show called "The Break Through."

After two years of having issues finding a location to hold TBT, Mr. Yadao offered his room to the club, and TBT was finally back.

Tickets for the talent show were three dollars per person, and all the money raised would be donated to UNICEF, particularly towards the August 2012 Philippine flood disaster that affected three million people.

Kristelle Cagabanua, Div. 355, President of Filipino Club, has family in the Philippines who were personally affected by the disaster.

"My family and some of their neighbors had to sleep in the cemetery because [it] was on a hill... that's how they tried to survive," Cagabanua said.

Their homes were not as lucky. Most of them lived in huts, which were destroyed by the flood. Those with cement houses offered their homes to survivors.

To make TBT a successful one, they spread the word verbally and through an event on Facebook.

The event was scheduled to start at 4:00pm, but because of microphone issues it started around 4:45. Despite the delay, only a few of the audience members trickled out. The rest of the 50 plus students mingled about in the stuffily warm room like cousins at a family reunion.

Frustration or impatience at the 45 minute delay was nonexistent and in its place was a hymn of excited and expectant voices.

As exuberant hosts John (JP) Marquez, Div. 380, and Nicholas Del Carmen, Div. 459, leapt

onto the platform that had been set up for event, the crowd almost automatically began cheering. The performances were about to begin.

Throughout TBT, a range of performances brought out a stew full of emotions from the audience.

Calm acoustic performances from the group Sea Breeze or soloist Miseth Luna, Div. 367, hushed the attentive audience.

But performances by the alumni dance group, Outreach, the alumni stepper group, KPib Stroll, and the breakdancing dance off between Jacky Duong, Div. 383, and Joel Villaruel, all caused the room to explode with "OW OWWWW!", "WOOT WOOT!" and shouts of the names of the people performing.

The audience naturally engaged with these and other performers, particularly with Mr. Yadao's rendition of "The Lazy Song" by Bruno Mars.

"Tomorrow I'll wake up...find a really nice girl, have some really nice CONVERSATION!" Mr. Yadao sang. "And she'll scream out..."

"OH MY GOD THIS IS GREAT!" said the audience in a potent girly accent.

By the end of the event, people were lounging on the floor hugging their knees, leaning against walls, or laying on their bellies just listening to the final performance of YouTube star Manny Garcia.

His bellowing voice expanded throughout the room and flew out the open windows behind him into the night's chilling breeze.

Garcia performed three songs, but his final song, "Over the Rainbow" by Judy Garland ended the talent show in a mellow mood.

When Garcia finished, and the TBT was concluded, much of the audience stuck around mingled with the performers and among each other. There were spots of flashes among the crowd of people taking pictures with the performers and loud voices and jovial laughter.

The night ended much as it began, among friends.

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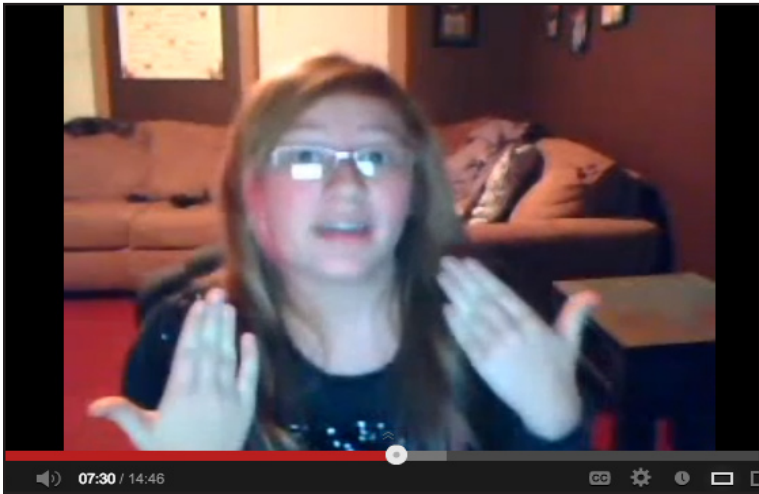
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Anti-bullying video goes viral



Baumgardner tells her personal story in her YouTube video.

By Charles Tharpe
& Karina Maya

Everyone has secrets other people don't know about them. Some of those secrets are tougher to hide than others.

Natalie Baumgardner, Div. 570, is a former victim of bullying and sexual abuse. In her struggle to overcome this, she recently recorded a YouTube video titled "A Message." The video reminds people that things they say can be far more hurtful than they realize, and that people should appreciate inner beauty rather than looks.

"It got a lot off my chest and I felt like I was obligated to [do it]. I wanted to let everyone know that [they] are not alone," Baumgardner said.

Baumgardner likens victims of bullying and abuse to other things with hidden beauty.

"My favorite animal is a snail because they are so small and kind of ugly, but they have lots of inner beauty in their small shells," Baumgardner said.

At the age of five, Baumgardner's was sexually abused, which had lasting effects that worsened as she grew older. Seventh grade was a very awkward stage for her. She struggled to make friends and her closest had friend moved away.

The bullying did not help. She remembers once opening her Facebook page to find a message from a classmate who called her ignorant, ugly and other hurtful things.

Baumgardner was able to take solace in the kind words of her grandmother.

"[My grandmother] was like the only friend I've ever had. She would always greet me like 'Oh, hi beautiful' and she always understood, even though she didn't know what happened," Baumgardner said.

Baumgardner and her grandmother were not always close.

"We didn't really talk for the first 12

years of my life," Baumgardner said. "But when my uncle passed away someone had to take care of her and so my dad did."

Her parents were separated so she only saw her grandma whenever she visited her dad. She would listen to her grandma's stories and they would both watch music videos by Selena and Demi Lovato and sing along with the songs.

Her grandmother has since passed away, but Baumgardner says her grandmother is the reason she started joining extra-curricular activities at school such as chorus and Glee club.

She also credits her 19 year old cousin who was instrumental in helping her get through her personal issues.

"She became my sis," Baumgardner said.

In recovering, Baumgardner felt as though it was her duty to tell her story. She hoped she might be of help to those who were suffering with similar issues to

her own. She was also tired of holding in her secret from friends, so Baumgardner launched her anti-bullying campaign.

"I was tired of feeling like a liar. I'd felt like a fake person my whole life, because pretty much no one knew what I'd been through," she said.

After her video has received over

2000 views, Baumgardner says that the feedback is very surprising.

"You're my hero" one of the comments said.

In October Baumgardner and her friends handed out little papers that read "smile you're beautiful." She also posted the on Facebook, and even in Lane bathrooms.

Today Baumgardner feels as though her life as a Lane student is great. She has a boyfriend, she's in the Glee Club, and she is an ROTC corporal (alpha company).

"Like every [class] period I'm super happy. I run to my locker just because I can see my friends," Baumgardner said.

"I was tired of feeling like a liar. I'd felt like a fake person my whole life, because pretty much no one knew what I'd been through"

- Natalie Baumgardner

Stovall wins Expressions Challenge

By Ivaylo Pasev

We are the champions! We are the champions! No time for losers 'Cause we are the champions - of the world." The song "We Are The Champions" by Queen, was echoing through the home of Gwendolyn Stovall, Div. 573.

Stovall was singing with joy because she had just found out she had won the 2012 Walgreens Expressions Challenge for Chicago Multimedia. The award included \$2,000 for herself, \$500 for Lane, and \$500 for the classroom.

The Expressions Challenge is a way for students 14-18 years of age to voice their opinion when it comes to issues like sexting, self-esteem, teen pregnancy, STD prevention, abstinence, and sexual responsibility awareness.

Stovall's video, "Alice in High-School-Land," uses a technique called Claymation which she describes as her "passion" and wants to continue using in all of her future videos. In this art form, characters or backgrounds are made of flexible material, most often clay (like "Wallace and Gromit" and "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer"). Stovall's video features Alice, a clay-made character, who is being bullied and is going through some hard times in high school.

The video begins with Alice walking in with a chain ball attached to her foot labeled "Fear." A paper ball is thrown at her with the word "Slut" written on it. She turns it over and draws a butterfly named Pedro, which magically comes to life from the paper and becomes real (in terms of Alice's world which is made of clay). Pedro frees her of her "Fear" by breaking the

chain, and rips the paper, setting Alice free. The video ends with Stovall's message to her audience: "Words hurt. Find the strength inside you to overcome them."

The music in the video is Stovall's original work. In her original entry, Stovall used the song *Alice* by Avril Lavigne. After Walgreens saw the video, she was asked to replace the song because of copyright complications. So she created a song using the website eng.musichshake.com.

The video was privately judged. The two minute, thirty-two second clip has a very close and personal connection to Stovall's life.

"I have been bullied before. Many times. I wanted to create a video to inspire others that bullies are everywhere and they can only hurt you if you let them," Stovall said.

Stovall had the idea for her video for some time before she acted on it. She saw it as an opportunity to inspire others. It was an independent project. Her teachers did not even know that she was entering the contest. All of the filming was done on her dining room table.

"I never expected to win, so I didn't tell anyone... I kind of hoped I would win, but I've never won anything before..." Stovall said.

Stovall is an art major at Lane and is taking Studio Drawing and Painting with Mrs. Simanis-Laimins, and Art II with Ms. Diamond.

"Art is a way of self-expression. Whenever you are sad..., art can turn that feeling into an image. It's a wonderful thing," Stovall said.

Lane's hallways are lined with art, (some even famous). The display cases around Lane and student competi-

tions, like the one Stovall won, let students release their creativity in many different ways and inspire others to follow.

"The best way we can inspire them is just to be role models and to be knowledgeable about our subject matter," Simanis said.

Simanis and other art teachers are often suggesting these kinds of contests to their students. Simanis alerted Stovall to the Walgreens competition.

According to Simanis, art is a mode of communication. It is a personal self-expression but must be recognized in order for the artist's voice to be heard. She believes in the importance of competitions such as the Walgreens Expressions Challenge, because they help students project their voices into the world about different kinds of issues.

"If a tree falls in a forest, and there is no one near to hear it, it doesn't make a sound. So with art as well, it's really nice when these students have these kinds of competitions to take part in... so they can see whether or not their voice is being heard," Simanis said.

Stovall is saving her \$2,000 for college. Making "Alice in High School Land" was very stressful for her. She is taking a short break from art competitions, but her passion to inspire people will motivate her to take part in more competitions like this one, and express herself through art in the future.

"If I get another opportunity to inspire people, I wouldn't miss it for the world," she said.

She wants people to see that "even though the people around you are negative, doesn't mean you have to be. Stay you and stay true."



Time-locked vending machines frustrate students

By Jack Harvey

For two and a half years Shray Patwal, Div. 454, would often go to the vending machines and get a pop tart between classes or during a class.

"I live far from Lane and it's hard to eat breakfast and get to school on time," Patwal said. "So many times I would get a pop tart for breakfast during school."

Many other students have done this for years, either out of choice or out of necessity, but as of now it is no longer an option for hungry students.

The school has put a time lock on the vending machines, and they can only be used during lunch periods.

The vending machines are not in use between eight and ten-thirty A.M. and then from one-thirty to three P.M.

Many students feel this is unfair and that they should be allowed to get food when they want it.

"A lot of times I forget to eat breakfast," said Drew Williams, Div. 469, "and I go to the vending machines so I don't get hungry."

"It doesn't seem fair for the school to decide when we can eat and when we can't eat," said Shawn Shaner, Div. 472. "We should be allowed to get food from the vending machines and eat it during the



A student visits one of the vending machines outside the cafeteria.

passing periods."

This move pleased a number of teachers including Mr. Kenmotsu.

"I think it makes sense to put the lock on the vending machines. Students aren't allowed to eat in class, then why should they be able to get food during class," Kenmotsu said.

School administrators decided to put the locks on the vending machine because they did not want students eating when they should be in class.

"I was asked to put time locks on the vending machines," a source within building operations said. "The school does not want students going to the vending machines unless it is before or

after school or during their lunch periods."

Some students have not even noticed the new policy regarding vending machines.

"I didn't even know they had put a time lock on the vending machines until right now. If kids are really that hungry then why can't they bring food from home?" said Sean Birt, Div. 475.

While teachers will no longer have to worry about students leaving their class to get food, students will have to eat at home or on the way to school or risk being hungry throughout the day.

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Theoharis dances her way to college

By Sabrina Mendoza

Katherine Theoharis arrives at her home on January 7 after a gruesome day at school and dance practice. She goes to her mailbox and becomes ecstatic at the sight of package.

"I was just really excited. When I went to get my mail, I saw a package from Columbia and assumed I got in and I did!" said Theoharis, Div. 370.

Theoharis, a senior at Lane, was accepted into the Dance Program at Columbia College Chicago for the fall of 2013. She plans on minoring in Dance to obtain her BA, Bachelor of Arts, at Columbia and later attending Colorado Springs for OTS (Officer Training School) since Columbia does not offer a major in criminal justice.

A dancer since the age of four, Theoharis began with Ballet, Contemporary, Tap, Jazz, and Hip-Hop dances. Later she moved onto African, Ballroom, and Latin. As a freshman, she made it to the AS-PIRA club at Lane and has been with the club ever since. Recently, she and her dancing partner from last year, Alex Peer, were voted as the Class of 2013's best dancers for the senior notables. After numerous years of dedication Theoharis admits to the difficulty of balancing her hobby with her education.

"It was extremely hard to do" Theoharis said. "Even now[...] it is hard to balance out with AS-

PIRA and other dance classes I take downtown. I had to stop dancing at my old dance studio because it was too much for me."

Theoharis also suffered from a sprained ankle at the age of 13 during a role in The Nutcracker. During a rehearsal, she was dancing and, while attempting her first triple pirouette, fell. She simply got up and danced through the little pain she felt.

"I continued but it hurt. As a dancer you can't just quit. You need to keep going and make it look like you aren't in pain." Theoharis said

A sprained ankle was not enough to keep her down though. After a month of rest and full recovery, she went right back into dancing. Despite the hardships, Theoharis has had her moments of glory.

"My favorite performances were International Days at Lane when I performed and Chicago International Salsa

Congress every year," Theoharis said.

The ASPIRA club at Lane performs at Congress where they compete against professional dancers. Theoharis pinpoints this as her moment of glory because the club advanced to the night show based on their performance in the afternoon show which is a difficult thing to do. The fierce competition motivated her to excel in dancing.

Dancing has made up a large portion of Theoharis' life, present and future. It has defined who she is as a person.

"I love it, it's my passion. It's a form of expression



Kathy Theoharis, Div. 370, dances during her free time.

for me. It was my first realization of passion, happiness, and contentment. It means the world to me." Theoharis said. "I express my emotions through my dancing[...] I just express it through the choreography that I come up with."

On her journey to make something out of dancing in college, Theoharis has her future set out for

herself. She plans on opening a dance studio for people of all ages, people of both genders, and offering dance classes such as Latin, Tap, Jazz, Hip-Hop, and Zumba. She envisions her studio like Joffrey's Ballet Studio in downtown Chicago. A spacious and beautiful studio for her to teach others not her talent but her life long passion.

Zamora receives Ivy League acceptance

By Alexandra Madsen

On December 10, Gabriela Zamora, Div. 367, received a phone call that left her speechless. When she first heard the voice she was in shock and the word "welcome" made tears stream down her face. Zamora had not only been accepted to her dream school, Cornell, but also received a full ride scholarship.

Zamora was first nominated for the Posse Scholarship, a scholarship that promotes leadership and team building, by her counselor Ms. Console. Console thought Zamora had an excellent chance to win because Posse wanted kids who stand out, are outgoing, and take initiative. She knew Zamora fit the description.

"She's the kind of person you want in your life," Console said. "That's not just me (saying so). I'm sure any adult in the building that knows her would say that they're glad to know Gabby, because she really inspires you."

Zamora went through a number of struggles in the last few years. This included the death of her step dad.

"It hasn't been easy, but every moment of it, my close friends and some amazing teachers at Lane have helped me through," Zamora said. "That has definitely motivated me to stay strong."

With all that was going on, Zamora persevered, and took little time off from school and her cross country season.

"Through everything, like, school, losing a parent, she got right back at it," said Zamora's Cross Country Coach, Coach Roof. "She doesn't let anything knock her down."

Zamora decided to take advantage of the opportunity of the Posse Scholarship and started the three round acceptance process. The rounds con-

sisted of team building exercises, one on one interviews and leadership tests. Candidates were allowed to pick three schools out of a possible 11 to apply for the scholarship; Zamora's top choices were Cornell, Pomona and Wisconsin-Madison.

"Cornell was definitely my number one choice," Zamora said. "It's an Ivy League with great academics, it's in a city, and the campus is beautiful."

The day of the third round Zamora got home around 8pm and waited for a call from an employer who she was expecting to babysit for.

"The phone rang and I expected it to be a babysitting call," Zamora said. "When they said they were a Cornell representative, I couldn't even process it."

The Cornell representative asked Zamora how she felt about the activities they had been doing earlier that day, and told her how impressed they were with her answers to the questions they had asked her. They then welcomed her to the school. When she put the phone down, she ran to her mom and told her she got it, she got in.

Excited and anxious to attend, Zamora has big plans for the future including studying Biology at Cornell and possibly going to medical school.

"I know this sounds crazy," Zamora said, "but I want to travel all over the world and just help people. I want to in some sort of way, change the world."

People in Zamora's life are supportive and know she's going to make something of her life while helping others along the way.

"Knowing her all the things she's done and accomplished, she would just say oh it's not a big deal and play it off," Console said. "But really that's just the type of person she is, always grateful."



Lane teachers take sides on gun control laws

By Walker Post

More Chicago residents were killed in 2012 than U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Gun laws are being reviewed in Illinois in efforts to stop the escalation of shootings. Numbers like these have sparked widespread cries for a change in gun policy.

With Chicago becoming an increasingly dangerous place to live, teachers have spoken out to voice their opinions on how guns should be regulated. Some argue fiercely for stricter laws that limit firearms and believe that the second amendment does not, in fact, give people the right to bear arms. On the other side of the debate are gun advocates who reason that they have the right to protect themselves.

Mr. O'Brien, band teacher, has been shooting guns for almost 40 years. His love of guns sprouted from his dad taking him to the gun range as a kid. He owns roughly 20 guns.

O'Brien compared his gun collection to how someone might collect baseball cards. His guns are scattered through his home in secretly hidden compartments. He is confident that someone would have 'no chance' of finding them. Although most of them are not loaded, a few are in case of an intruder.

"If I take two or three steps in any part of my condo, I have access to a weapon," O'Brien said.

O'Brien's big red pickup truck has a license plate that reads "LUVGUNS," for which he says he receives a lot of positive feedback from people such as police officers and other gun enthusiasts. He shoots his guns only on a range and does not hunt. O'Brien takes at least one concealed weapon with him when he leaves the state for protection, but is not allowed to do this in Illinois.

In Illinois, it is illegal for a citizen to

carry a concealed firearm. This is the only state where carrying a concealed firearm is illegal. However, in December of 2012, a federal court ruled that Illinois had 180 days to craft a law allowing people to carry a concealed gun if they had the proper permits.

O'Brien feels that citizens have the right to protect themselves and is all for looser regulations of guns in Illinois.

Some teachers were upset with this decision such as AP Psychology teacher, Mr. Parsons, who is doubtful that guns are the answer to our problems.

"I don't think turning Chicago into a wild west town is going to make our city any safer," Parsons said. "The second amendment has been grossly misinterpreted."

The second amendment states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Parsons reasons that the second amendment was originally created because our founding fathers feared a king or a large standing army. He believes that the only citizens that should own guns are those who serve in a militia to protect our country. Parsons claims that most people do not pay attention to the first half of this amendment.

Parsons is not the only teacher at Lane who feels strongly about the ruling in Illinois. Ms. Sebestyen, law teacher, believes 'right to bear arms' should not be applied to citizens.

"It's a phrase they [gun advocates] are taking out of context," Sebestyen said.

Sebestyen supports restricting guns further in Illinois, but O'Brien is under the impression that making laws more rigid will not solve the problem of violence. He makes the case that a law-abiding citizens who owns a gun is not a threat.

"All laws do is gave bad guys the upper

hand." O'Brien said.

Mr. Wendorf is another advocate for Illinois allowing concealed guns on the streets. In fact, him and Obrien believe qualified teachers, such as themselves, should be armed at school in case of an intruder.

Mr. Wasielewski, AP Government teacher, is skeptical of arming teachers.

"I'm not sure if this would deter school shootings or cause more accidents," Wasielewski said. "Maybe this is the direction we have to move for safety, but a lot of parents will not stand for armed teachers."

The Sandy Hook shooting in Newtown, CT, has a lot of schools asking for a better way to protect themselves. A small school in Texas has already allowed for some teachers to carry firearms to keep the school safe. States including Oklahoma, Missouri, Minnesota, South Dakota and Oregon are all considering laws that would permit this in some of their schools.

"This idea that a teacher in the middle of a lecture is going to stop an intruder is a fantasy," Parsons said.

But O'Brien argues that an armed teacher could be the only thing between the intruder and the students.

"Think how many people would have lived in the Connecticut shooting if the teacher stood a chance," O'Brien said.

Sebestyen counters that a teacher with a concealed weapon could be a liability.

"I do not support arming teachers and that is because I've met teachers," Sebestyen said.

Armed teachers at Lane are not an option because Illinois has not even begun to set up the framework to allow such a thing. Gun advocates in Illinois may push for this kind of change in the future, but as of right now it is not being considered in the state.

Bathroom stalls display Lane's creativity



By Angela Kuqo

In the midst of all the “John Smith was here” and “Jane Doe rules!” graffiti that is typically scrawled across the bathroom walls of any given public bathroom, there are a few unique and interesting statements that are truly meant to capture the reader’s thoughts.

“If you want to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first create the universe.”

“We are the universe. The universe is us.”

Those are examples of some of the types of graffiti that students will now stumble across when using the school restrooms. This odd wave of “philosophical” graffiti has some left in thought, and others laughing.

Sara King, Div. 371, is among those that find the messages more amusing than thought provoking.

“They’re good quotes,” King said, “but I’m not going to take something that I see written on a bathroom wall very seriously.”

For every funny or “deep” quote there is another trying to be inspirational. Commonly found messages (especially in the girls bathrooms) are those that say things like, “You’re beautiful” or “Express yourself.”

Pamela Javier, Div. 382, thinks the messages are redundant.

“It’s a nice message they’re trying to spread, but it’s getting a little monotonous,” she said. “It’s just the same two words over and over again.”

Others do find it helpful. Kasia Wszeborowska, Div. 350, spotted a drawing of a person with a

somber expression and the words “sad girl for life” next to them. Next to the drawing someone had written in response: “feel better.”

“Sometimes two simple words like ‘feel better’ can be enough for someone to hold on and regain hope if they were depressed,” Wszeborowska said.

Whether or not the messages are actually meant to make an impact or not is debated. Most people would say that things like this do not actually help them with self esteem issues, so why do people continue to spread them?

“I think it’s done as a reminder to all of us, or kind of like the “grok” post its, it’s whatever they are feeling at that moment,” said Kalina Fleming-Lopez, Div. 355.

Others see it a little more cynically.

“I think some people actually do it to help themselves and others with self esteem issues,” Javier said. “But then there are others who just put it up there because they either think it’s [cool] or just so they can take a photo of it and post it on Instagram or Tumblr for followers and notes.”

Some people take their opinions straight to the source and respond to the original message by writing next to it, or altering the original. An example of this was recently seen in the girls bathroom. The original message read “Stay Beautiful” in silver marker, “Stay Ugly XOXO <3” responded someone in red ink.

“It’s almost like an internet forum,” Fleming-Lopez said. “You’ve got your haters and your appreciators. It always gives me a good laugh when I see a silly argument on a bathroom wall.”

Hidden treasures surface around school

By Kevin Morales

It is the end of the school day. Lane music teacher, Paul Schneider, is entering his students’ grades into his records. Next to each student’s name, he places one of the following letters: S, E, G, F, or U.

For today’s students, it might be tricky trying to figure out how one did in Schneider’s class. But if you were a student at Lane during the 1930-1931 school year, you would have known exactly how you did.

During that time students were graded on whether they had superior, excellent, good, fair, or unsatisfactory performance in the class.

Schneider’s record book is now in the hands of science teacher, Mr. Keating. The record book is just one of several discoveries Keating has made during his time working at Lane.

Within that same record book, Keating found a letter dated Feb. 3, 1937. In the letter, the mother of a student named Walter writes to Schneider ask-

ing if he can retake his final, believing he will do better a second time around.

Keating said it was about 10 years ago when he found the record book laying in the hallway. He has since held on to it.

[The record book] reminds me that teachers and students were doing the same back in 1930 as they are now in 2013.”
- Mr. Keating

“I think it’s so cool,” Keating said. “[The record book] reminds me that teachers and students were doing the same back in 1930 as they are now in 2013.”

Keating’s findings are located all over his room. On top of one of his cases he has an old microphone collar stashed away. In the back of a cabinet rests a still-functioning microscope from 1935.

“I just like having [them] around. I got a lot of old

junk lying around,” Keating said.

Keating is not the only one with a collection of Lane antiques. Assistant principal, Mr. Ara, accumulated quite the collection in his office during the summer.

While the school was going under some renovations, a massive clean-up also took place. Many items were thrown out, however Ara saved anything he “thought was worthy.”

On top of the radiator in his office, Ara keeps a Student Council record book from 1954 that he found. On a bookshelf, rests an old hand drill he picked up. Sitting in one of the corners of his office sits an old projector, which almost resembles a milkshake blender, given to him by Keating.

During the summer, however, Ara made an interesting discovery in the school’s basement. Behind a door that is usually locked is a large collection of items from the school’s past. Old equipment from several of the former workshops are scattered throughout the room along with old signs that once hung in the school’s hallways. Even a bit of



Old practice cars used in Drivers Ed classes remain in the basement collecting dust. (Inset: a plaque affixed to one of the benches commemorates its historical significance).

Drivers Ed’s history can be found in the room.

Three wooden benches with working steering wheels and pedals are what are left of the world’s first driver educational course. A plaque on each bench explains that a film reel would play while a student sat in the “car.” Based on what appeared on the screen, the driver would be graded on their reaction time.

Ara was fascinated by these benches, frequently asking, “Aren’t they cool?” while demonstrating how the benches were used.

Art teacher, Ms. Diamond, was cleaning drawers in her room when she also came across what first appeared to be several random dusty objects.

“At first I was like ‘eww’ with all the dust in there, and confused about what it all was,” Diamond said.

Diamond’s room once served as the metal shop when shops were still offered at Lane. What she

found were materials used by the students for the shop.

Diamond even found an instruction booklet for print shop from 1960 for the first semester of the class. The book walked students through the basics of typesetting such as placing a header, indenting, justification, etc. These adjustments to type are done in seconds with the click of a button using computers today. Years ago, these changes had to be made by hand.

The school is full of nooks and crannies that hold unique pieces of the school’s past. For example, in the boiler room, the original blueprint for the entire room hangs on one of the walls in a wooden frame. Right underneath the blueprint, more machines from shops stand idle.

Several more antiquities could be waiting to found throughout the school.



Mr. Ara flips through a student council record book from 1954.

Lane student, biggest fan of superstar Nicki Minaj

By Tenzin Moenkyi

The roaring crowd and bumping bass grow louder at the I Am Music Tour in April of 2011. With the spotlight on Nicki Minaj, she walks over to the crowd and picks a member of the large audience to join her on stage for a lap dance. Moments later, Minaj is shaking her rear in front of Peter Schmidt.

Ever since, Schmidt, Div. 564, has been a devoted Nicki Minaj fan. Besides owning her albums, perfume, and more, he has met her ten different times and attended five of her concerts.

“The first time I met her it didn’t feel real. She’s just so perfect. It felt like I was staring at a cartoon. We hugged then she called me her ‘cute little husband.’ Seriously, I don’t even feel like the lap dance was real. I was spazzing out,” Schmidt said.

Schmidt has become a familiar face within the large fan base for Nicki Minaj. She often replies to his tweets and always acknowledges him at concerts and meet and greets. He attends all of her album signings and enters many contests in hopes of meeting her again.

“At each concert [I’ve attended] Nicki always gave me some attention, whether it was for 10 seconds or 10 minutes,” he said.



Peter Schmidt, Div. 564, poses with his idol and friend, Nikki Minaj.

Nicki Minaj, real name, Onika Tanya Maraj, is currently a judge on American Idol. Sure enough, Schmidt has been keeping up with every episode. He was on American Idol for a moment when the auditions were held in Chicago. It aired on Thursday, Jan. 17 on Fox Network, showing a glimpse Schmidt wav-

ing to Minaj with a smile, calling out her name, and getting a picture and an autograph.

“I couldn’t believe I was on American Idol. Even though it was only for a couple of seconds it made my life. I love Nicki as a judge, she sees something different than everyone else on idol, the

super star quality,” he said.

Nicki Minaj is often known for her distinct and colorful hairstyles. Schmidt met Minaj’s hairdresser and wig stylist, Terrence Davidson, at one of her concerts. He is now friends with Schmidt on facebook and follows him on twitter. Davidson inspired him to dye his hair

blonde as well.

“The blonde hair is a good look for you, he [Davidson] told me” said Schmidt.

Schmidt is an active member of the Lane Dance Team and enjoys it quite a lot. He is also the only male dancer on the team. He hopes the team will dance to more Nicki Minaj songs in the future and would not mind choreographing the routine next year.

“I love him! I think it’s unique of him because most guys wouldn’t have the guts to join the dance team but he doesn’t care what people think about him and I respect that” said Ruslana Dyakiv, Div. 566.

Being blonde, on the Dance Team, and a Nicki Minaj fan, Schmidt has had his sexuality questioned by many people. Schmidt, however, says he is straight and chooses to ignore the rumors.

“Nicki taught me that not everyone’s going to like you. I hear what everyone says about me, but I don’t like to give it my attention because that’s all that people want. It doesn’t bother me,” Schmidt said. “I’m happy with myself and I could [not] care less [with] what people say about me.”

Despite the gossip, Schmidt will continue to be himself and attend Nicki Minaj events. He dances and listens to her music because she is his passion and inspiration.

Morales evangelizes

By Erica Rocha

“If there’s a heaven and it’s full of people like you then I’d rather go to hell,” a boy wrote to Diana Morales, Div. 371. Four months ago, Morales had sent him a message through Facebook telling him that God exists and that God loves him. He is an atheist and this is how he responded. Morales laughed at his message and thought that it was the best insult anyone had told her.

Morales is a devoted Christian who loves to talk to everyone about her faith. Even though she receives a lot of negative criticism, she remains positive.

“She is absolutely on fire for God,” said Maddie Mette, Div. 585. “She’s not afraid of who she is and what she believes and wants everyone to know it... you can’t really know Diana without knowing about her faith.”

Before she found her faith in God, Morales was different in many ways. She was rebellious and angry. She would disrespect her dad because she did not like his authority. Two years ago, when she was entering high school, her parents were going through a divorce. As the result, she was more rebellious and depressed. Trying to find her own identity in a new school only added to the pressure. She was soon introduced to Young Life, a Christian club at Lane. There, the members of the club would read Bible verses and share their thoughts on them. She loved the new things she was learning and her altitude towards God started to change.

“God gave me joy through the Holy Spirit and by his grace that I can live out and seek out godliness,” Morales said.

Ever since she joined Young Life, she does not curse as much as she used to or behave as badly as she would with her father. She also took it as her job to show non-believers the truth about Christ. Morales does so by sharing what she has learned and read about being a Christian.

“When I see a little window for me to talk about my faith, I just take the chance,” Morales said.

When her World Literature class was reading the story about Noah and the Flood, she began to discuss her faith. Her classmates laughed and teased at her but she did not mind.

“I know that’s how some people are going

to respond. That’s the way people treated Christ, he was treated badly but he just showed his love... that’s what I want to show, the love of God,” Morales said.

Last summer, she went on her first mission trip to Tennessee. There she met Jeremy Kingsley, a speaker and author, who inspired her to wear a shirt with a bold white text that reads “Jesus.” Although she does not wear it everyday year round, like Kingsley once did, Morales wears it every Wednesday.

“It’s a good chance for me to spread curiosity in people. Even if I get negative comments, it is just a chance to show my love of Christ,” Morales said.

One Wednesday, she was wearing her Jesus shirt when she saw her friend walking with another guy. He cursed at Morales and disrespected her faith. Other times, her friends would call her names.

“People call me Jesus freak thinking that they are insulting me but I love it when they call me that,” Morales said.

Along with wearing her Jesus shirt to encourage others to believe in God, she messages her friends verses from the Bible. Morales also asks for any prayer requests that they may have.

She prays and reads the Bible everyday. Although she has not read the whole Bible yet, she has read her favorite part of the Bible, Romans, over five times. Her Bible is full of colorful highlights and annotations.

“I think I do more [annotations] for my Bible than I ever did for any of my literature classes,” Morales said.

Her weekly schedule is filled with religious activities. On Mondays she meets with Young Life, on Tuesdays she prays with her friends at the flagpole outside of Lane, on Wednesdays she meets with Christian club leaders, on Thursday she is a TNT (Truth N’ Training) leader for the Awana youth program at her church and on Fridays she attends Christian club. Along with this, she goes to church every Sunday in the morning and goes to a youth group at night.

“My brother says I barely spend time at home. My life is one third school, one third home, and one third church... and I’m not going to lie, I know everyone in my church, I’ve made it my duty,” Morales said.

In the future, Morales plans to continue her missionary work all over the world and attend a Christian university to study psychology.

Alicea finds purpose in God

By Aysia Alexander

Tears began to roll down her cheeks as the girl before her began to weep. But they weren’t sad tears. They were joyful ones. Because of Jasmeen Alicea’s speech about God, Mireya Rendon had just accepted Jesus into her life.

“She came over to me, she was telling her story and I told a little bit of mine. She was spitting the truth,” said Rendon, Div. 573.

Mireya and Alicea weren’t friends before their chance encounter in the lunch room. Alicea was talking to a mutual friend of theirs when Mireya happened to mention God. She pulled Mireya to the side and began to speak to her about her faith, Alicea wasted no time getting the girl to confess her sins.

“Later on that Friday, she came to church with me and she had like a full on revival,” said Jasmeen Alicea, Div. 569.

Alicea has been claiming that she’s a changed person, taking her new found faith to the halls of Lane and preaching to almost everyone who needs to listen and wants her help.

“I just feel like my story can motivate others. Even if I only help one person,” said Alicea.

Alicea hasn’t always been the cheerful, religious young woman she is now.

Last year alone, she claims to have visited the Discipline Office more than 25 times. But now, whenever she visits the Discipline Office, it’s a joyful reunion.

“The first time I saw Jasmeen at Quick Start I knew she was going to be trouble,” Mr. Milsap said. “[Now] even the way she walks down the hallway has changed.”

A loud, obnoxious student last year, Alicea found a few of her friends skeptical of her change in the beginning of this year.

“I knew Alicea last year. She was loud and she cursed at our teacher because she got caught talking on a cell-phone,” said Tyairra Williams, Div. 567. “I haven’t seen

Alicea this year, but if I see it then I’ll believe it.”

“I didn’t think somebody like her could change,” said Tierra Horton, Div. 567. “No offense. She inspired me because now I wanna start going back to church and start doing better in school.”

Alicea has improved in school. Alicea was only just meeting the passing mark in almost each class. Her behavioral and social issues often resulted in her getting put out of class.

“I was barely passing each class. It was mostly D’s,” Alicea said. “I looked at what I was doing and realized that wasn’t going to be me.”

Alicea has attempted to reconcile with mostly everyone she’d wronged. She has apologizes to past teachers and students whose learning time she interrupted.

“I can’t change anything, but now it’s hard for people to take me seriously,” Alicea said.

Alicea stands now to prove that she can do something else in her life. A member of Chicago Tabernalce church, Alicea is a part of the church’s Youth Worship Team, Youth Welcome Team, and Sunday choir.

“I’ve always had the support, but I was not willing,” Alicea said.

Alicea proved the ideals of many of her family members and church elders.

But her Christian faith doesn’t just reach females who are lost but rather girls who need someone to listen to when no one is around.

“I want to help people who have the same issues as I did and have been through sexual abuse,” Alicea said.

“Just because you went through something like that in your childhood doesn’t mean that should hold you back.”

“She transformed from this loud, hood girl into this Christian girl,” said Dominic Canete, Div. 557.

Paraphrasing one her favorite Bible verses, Alicea describes herself last year as being “lost.” She now considers herself “found” because of the grace of God.

“I didn’t want to be remembered for my attitude,” Alicea said.



Jasmeen Alicea, Div. 569, has found a new focus since last year.

Lane students, teacher share experiences with adoption

By Claudia Maj

As Kiri Youngquist, Div. 474 turns the pages of her photo album, she shares with me a piece of her past in her hometown of Seoul, South Korea. When she was born, Youngquist's birthparents were forced to give her up. In South Korea there was a law stating that in order to have a child, a couple must be married. Youngquist was then placed in an orphanage until the age of three months.

At the news of her adoption, Youngquist was placed in a foster home while waiting for her adoptive parents to take her back with them. At the foster home she had both a foster mom and dad, and a brother and sister.

When Youngquist had lived with them for 100 days, her foster family threw her a small party. In Korea it was traditional to celebrate the hundredth day of the baby's life. Youngquist had cake and flowers.

After a long process of background checks, Youngquist's adoptive mother flew to Korea with her best friend and went to go see her. Youngquist's adoptive mother brought the foster mom a necklace as a gift and in return she received an album with photos from Youngquist's hundred day party. She also received Kiri Youngquist herself.

Years later, Youngquist's life in America is as normal as any other 16 year olds. She is a junior and is on the varsity water polo and tennis team at Lane.

Youngquist admits that sometimes people get a little confused when they see her with her adoptive parents and brother because they are of different ethnicities. But she doesn't get offended.

"Freshman year, the topic of being adopted came up during class and the teacher had me talk about it. Then after class she apologized and hoped she didn't offend me," Youngquist said.

Youngquist wasn't sure how to react, she went home and talked with her adoptive mom about it.

"She said that sometimes when people are adopted, [people think] something bad must have happened to the kid or they came from a bad family," Youngquist said.

As Youngquist speaks of her early childhood, she doesn't have any sorrows.

"I understand the reason they couldn't keep me. I'm not mad in any way," Youngquist said. "If the reason for my adoption was unknown, then I would be a little more confused than mad."

Over the years, Kiri has grown accustomed to feeling more white than Asian as she lives with white parents and brother.

"But I do get my Asian fix from my two Korean best friends," Youngquist said. "When I was younger their families took me in and taught me about Korean foods. [They made] me feel at home."

In her time in America, Youngquist has grown very close with her family. Often times they enjoy going on vacations together. A situation that Youngquist has encountered multiple times is that airport

security does not think she is traveling with her adopted family.

"At security check points where they direct you to places, [security] would look at me and ask me who I'm [traveling] with," Youngquist said. Even though she was standing next to her family.

Some people may be confused by the differences in appearance between Youngquist and her parents. But Youngquist is thankful for her family and is happy to be with them.

"I feel lucky that I got adopted by such a wonderful family that loves me as their own," Youngquist said.

As certain children are forced to be given up, others don't know the exact reason for being placed in an orphanage.

Lily Ochs, Div. 367, was adopted almost 15 years ago from China. She was born with a heart defect that caused her heart to pump blood twice as fast as a normal heart.

"I was found at a bus station at about 18 months old," Ochs said. "At the time of my adoption I was three years old and weighed 19 pounds."

Ochs's heart kept burning off calories. She had an extra artery therefore her heart was only getting half as much oxygen. When she came to the U.S. she had heart surgery and is now perfectly healthy.

If Ochs hadn't gotten adopted, her life in China may have been cut short.

"Because of my medical condition I wouldn't have lived past four," Ochs said.

Ochs was adopted directly from the orphanage. Along

with her, her adoptive parents have one biological daughter and three other adopted daughters from different parts of China.

Ochs and her three other adopted sister all fit into the category of not being born a "perfect child". This means that all of them had some medical disorder.

Ochs has gone back to China twice after being adopted. And when asked if she would want to find her birth parents, she admits that it would be difficult.

"A lot of children are born secretly and their birth isn't recorded. Also the city where I came from has about 10 million people living there. So it would be hard to find them," Ochs said.

Ochs, like Youngquist, feels very lucky to have been adopted. Even if Ochs was born a healthy child, she admits that being an orphan



Youngquist's foster family celebrates her 100th day.



Youngquist meets her adoptive mother in Korea.



Mrs. Kulich, her husband, and adopted daughter Melody (right to left) attend a game at Wrigley Field.

would still have been difficult.

"It would be hard to trust someone, growing up without love and moral support," Ochs said.

Adoption offers children many new opportunities in life. And it also offers a safe home and a loving family.

Music teacher Mrs. Kulich and her husband adopted Melody in August of 2005 from China. Melody was then 27 months old. She had been raised in a foster home the entire time.

"We are like any other family. She can't remember her foster mother. I am the only mother she remembers," Kulich said.

Melody is an active nine year old who takes karate, goes to a public school, and will dance in Lane's musical Once Upon A Mattress. The teachers who are putting in long hours into rehearsal for the musical have invited their children to participate in it.

In order to be able to receive Melody, Kulich and her husband had to put together an extremely large file with their background checks, pictures of their family, pictures of their neighborhood and their neighbors, names of any schools Melody would attend, and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) finger prints. The entire file was put into a book form and was sent to China.

The whole process took a year. And finally Kulich and her husband went to China to get their daughter.

Kulich had always wanted to be a mom. After years of being a widow she met a man. On their first date, Kulich asked him what is something that he regrets. They agreed it was not having children. Eventually they had gotten married and made the decision to adopt a child together.

Melody had known since the age of three that she was adopted. "I told her because I thought it was very important to be open about it because people would give us wondering looks. Therefore, it was better for her to understand the word [adopted] and not feel afraid of it," Kulich said.

Kulich wanted Melody to understand that she has to make her own decision about who her real parents are.

"And real parents are the parents who care for you," Kulich said.

Popular girls club, GEMS, visits Shedd Aquarium

By Bianca I. Mena

GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Math and Science) has been a club at Lane for almost two years, and has not struggled to gather a crowd. Around 75 to 80 girls showed up to GEMS' first club meeting this year and were unable to fit into a classroom. At the monthly meetings GEMS has hosted since, attendance has hovered around 40 to 60 girls.

GEMS began last school year, when Dr. Dignam wanted to start a program to encourage the female population at Lane to explore the math, science and engineering fields.

"In general, boys are encouraged to enter those fields," said Ms. Gonzales, Webmaster & Data Coordinator at Lane. "If you look at toys growing up, [boys] have legos and types of things that stimulate that type of interest, whereas girls are usually given dolls and different kind of toys that steer them away from those interests."

Because of this, Gonzales says that girls become less confident in those areas. Gonzales and Ms. Lain, former math teacher and current LTAC Coordinator, took on the role as sponsors of GEMS to

introduce the girls to a place where they are encouraged to explore these fields.

Earlier in the school year, GEMS took a field trip to the Shedd Aquarium where they participated in activities that someone in the field of marine biology would be doing. One group of girls dissected fish to try to determine the cause of death and see if the fish were edible for human consumption. The other group investigated fish habitat and tried to figure out what habitat is best for each fish species.

In January, Mary Beth Neilly was introduced to the girls at GEMS. Neilly currently does research at the University of Chicago on cancer and genetics. Her job involves trying to identify cancers and to research methods for fighting it.

"Including these activities in GEMS is beneficial because it broadens the horizons on possible careers and interests that the girls may wish to pursue after high school," said Grace Garrity, Div. 468.

GEMS is largely a student run club, where the officers get feedback from club members asking them what they'd like to see for upcoming events.

"In GEMS, girls have a voice and we can mold the club to take any shape we want, because there are no set rules or rigid guide-



Lane GEMS members at gather at the Shedd Aquarium.

lines," said Nina Kucher, Div. 589. "It is really liberating to know that we can essentially do anything we want, as long as it brings the girls closer to envisioning their dreams and their full potential."

Trends change... tradition endures.



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