

# THE WARRIOR

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Lane Technical College Prep High School

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## Asst. Principal Montgomery passes away while in China

By Grace McQueeney & Safiya Merchant

Lane Assistant Principal, Mrs. Dorothy Montgomery passed away on Dec. 7 while on a business trip to Shanghai, China. According to the First People's Hospital of Shanghai, she died of congestive heart failure.

Montgomery and Assistant Principal Dr. Dignam were traveling in Shanghai because Dignam is the point person/contact for the partnership between a Shanghai high school and Lane. According to principal Dr. LoBosco, Lane and an Ohio high school are partnering in an exchange program with a Shanghai high school. The students involved would primarily be those taking Mandarin Chinese. Montgomery accompanied Dignam on the trip because she oversaw the language department.

Dignam claims that on the day she died, Montgomery was feeling congested, but thought it was a cold. He had left to see the Shanghai high school and was not present when she passed. At 11:30pm, he called LoBosco and informed her of Montgomery's death.

"He was very emotional and upset," said LoBosco. "I was so shocked, I just couldn't believe it. I kept repeating, 'Oh my god.' She never talked about any health problems [so it was very unexpected]."

In 1996, Montgomery came to Lane and was primarily a U.S. History teacher. She later became the head of the History department in 2000, and the registrar in the Records Office in 2003. She was finally promoted to assistant principal in 2006. According to History teacher and close friend, Mr. Allegrezza, she was married to a man she "fondly called Montgomery" and had one son, Phillip.

To many, Montgomery was both charming and opinionated.

"What I really liked about her was she was very witty and if she had something to say, she would say it. Most importantly, I've never heard her raise her voice to anyone," said Ms. Kelsey, from Student Records.

"I'm going to miss her wit, her sense of humor, her way of cutting to the bottom line, and her contribution to Lane policies," said



Mrs. Montgomery worked at Lane for 13 years.

LoBosco. "She was never afraid to share her opinion. She was very vocal."

Montgomery was also the epitome of a good friend.

"You could talk to her and know that whatever you said to her

wasn't going to be repeated," said Assistant Principal Ms. Rice.

"You would really need to know her to appreciate and enjoy her. She was the type of person that if you ever came to her with a problem, she would first listen. She had a way of putting you at ease," said Kelsey.

Montgomery loved to travel, according to LoBosco.

"She was a real adventurer. When she fell last year, she was hobbling and still went on a trip to Italy," she said.

"We had lunch together the day before she left for China. She was so happy and excited to go, and was trying to decide what to take with her. I told her, 'You wanna save a lot of space...so you can do a lot of shopping. Then I gave her my dress size,' joked Kelsey.

"She was a wonderful traveling companion, always up for the next place around the corner," said Lane librarian Ms. Kane who traveled with Montgomery through Europe multiple times. Their trips included Ireland, Paris, and Sicily. One of Kane's fondest memories of Montgomery was in Paris, where they took a cruise down the Seine River and ate dinner in the Eiffel Tower.

Although she is gone, many other faculty members have memories of Montgomery that live on.

According to Allegrezza, one of the most touching moments was on Sept. 11, 2001. Montgomery was in his room and when the second tower fell she grabbed him for comfort.

Kelsey's memory involved Montgomery's love for new experiences.

"[What I will miss] is listening to her tell about her weekends. She and her son went to fine-dining restaurants and she [often told me] where they went, what they ate, and how it tasted," said Kelsey. Montgomery would go into so much detail that the listener would feel as if he or she was there, Kelsey added.

LoBosco admits that Montgomery's death is a sober reminder of the value of life.

"It makes you understand how important life is and other people. [One of the greatest compliments] is that the people who you work with show their appreciation by sharing their stories and indicating their love for you," said LoBosco.

## Hewitt College Center opens

By Alexandra Alexandru & Brittany Barth

On Tues, Dec. 8, Lane's Hewitt College and Career Center opened with a traditional ribbon cutting ceremony.

The room in which the center is now located was an old print shop and needed remodeling.

"The challenges were really just coordinating everything. The Hewitt Company gets an immense amount of credit for getting everything together," said John Schwan, President of the Century Foundation.

Planning for the career center first began when Mark Bocianski, a Lane alum and representative from Hewitt, came to Lane for the Principal For a Day program. He came up with the idea for the center after he talked to Dr. LoBosco about Lane students and the college planning process.

Funding for the center was provided largely by Hewitt Career Center and the Century Foundation.

"Hewitt's objective is to really give back to the community," said Bocianski.

The cost for creating

the center was an estimated \$250,000. According to Dr. LoBosco, however, over a dozen organizations made contributions to the center.

"It got to be so much money that we couldn't ask any one organization for it," she said.

Many of Lane's students think that the new center will be beneficial and are looking forward to using it.

"I am still applying [to colleges]. This is going to make it a lot easier," said Ernesto Popoca, Div. 055.

"I need help filling out my applications... I might as well take advantage of it," said Tatiana Wells, Div. 176.

All students are encouraged to visit the career center, which can be used to obtain information on colleges and

scholarships. There are numerous counselors available who can assist students on their college and job applications and help students improve their interview skills.

"The Hewitt College and Career Center's purpose is for Lane students to learn what colleges have to offer," said LoBosco.



A blue ribbon hung across the main entrance of the Hewitt College & Career Center on Dec. 8.

## Ceramics gets fired up over Raku event

By Jessica Barajas & Harina Dzebic

Temperatures began to rise in the middle of winter as Lane's ceramics classes had their annual raku firing Monday, Dec. 14. In spite of a light drizzle, both ceramics and AP chemistry students came together outside door H to take part in the event that ended up lasting 12 hours.

The firing took place outside due to the high temperatures of the kilns and the smoke they gave off.

Raku is a pottery firing technique that uses fire and smoke to create unique patterns and designs. Raku firing differs from other pottery firing techniques because the firing processes requires a special kiln that is fueled by propane and reaches temperatures of up to 1800 degrees Fahrenheit.

Raku firing began in Japan over 350 years ago and is named for the family who first used the method. Raku pieces became prized for use in tea ceremonies.

Famous ceramics instructor Paul Soldner began the revival of Raku firings in Claremont, California. This occurred when Soldner decided to experiment with the Japanese technique during a crafts fair in 1960. Soldner then adopted the oriental technique, which has gained him widespread popularity in the ceramic art world.

AP ceramics teacher Mrs. Moore brought this unique style of firing to Lane eight years ago when she was the only person teaching ceramics.

Now there are 14 ceramics classes and raku firings have become an annual event, with the exception of last year due to financial shortages.

"Raku firing is only one of four firings my AP students do throughout the school year. Every student has the opportu-



Pieces of student pottery glow red hot after being pulled from the kiln at the Raku firing event on Dec. 14.

nity to place their own sculptures in the kilns and see how the firing occurs," said Moore.

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2009-2010



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# Holiday drive gives back to community, students

By Katarzyna Barnak & Mary Nguyen

"No one has ever become poor by giving" read the words of Anne Frank across the top of a fundraising informational poster by stairway M on the first floor. Posters like these may persuade some students to donate, but what gets students participating in masses is the extra credit some teachers offer to students who give.

Lane annually holds holiday fundraisers such as the Children's Holiday Book Drive, the Joe Iacullo Canned Food Drive, Toys for Tots, and Operation Christmas Child.

Some teachers offer students enough extra credit for participating in these drives that it can significantly alter

their grades in the class.

"One of my AP teachers offered enough extra credit [that it] brought me up a whole letter grade," said Melen Teklmichael, Div. 168.

Some teachers say that because they teach an especially rigorous course, they are more willing to provide these students extra credit opportunities.

"When I was teaching the electric shop class at Lane, I didn't offer much extra credit. Now that I teach [AP United States History] there is a greater need for extra credit," said Mr. Allegrezza, who now endorses the Joe Iacullo Canned Food Drive and raised over 5,000 cans from his classes last year.

Mr. Wendorf, who sponsors the Key Club and oversees the Joe Iacullo Canned Food Drive, said that food

pantries have been calling him since October asking Lane for contributions. The pantries are desperately in need of food in the winter, especially with the bad economy.

"Even the kids here at Lane that are the neediest are better off than some people because [those] people have nothing," said Wendorf.

In its dawn, the drive only collected 500 cans. Mr. Iacullo, a former Lane Geography teacher, decided to change that and began collecting about 20,000 cans each year from his students. Wendorf took over the tradition after Mr. Iacullo passed away. The numbers have stayed "pretty consistent" ever since.

Mr. Ruckauf, an AP United States History teacher, has sponsored the Children's Holiday Book Drive for

the past four years. He holds a competition between all his classes to see which one will donate the most books over the duration of the drive, which is four weeks.

"The first class to bring in and donate 500 books gets a pizza party. Of course, I also give them a very marginal extra credit opportunity if the student is academically eligible, and only on a set limit. Nevertheless, the individual donations have exceeded the credit limits and for the most part are done in the spirit of contributing to the drive," said Ruckauf.

The drives have been a success in the past and continue to get better. Last year, Ruckauf collected a little over 1,600 books in his classes. However, there have been over 3,600 books donated this year.

## Kids These Days aiming to succeed in music industry

By Sofi Kerpan & Alison Bellechase

They tweet, text, and wear tight jeans. What's with Kids These Days?

Senior, Lane Beckstrom, Div. 046, can answer that question. As the bassist in local band, *Kids These Days*, he and his bandmates won the 2009 Congress Theatre "Next Big Thing" Battle of the Bands, and were even given a chance to open for Drake this December.

Booking agents for Drake's show reviewed material for *Kids These Days* through Myspace and Facebook upon suggestion by a mutual contact and booked them the spot.

Unfortunately, the Drake gig, (scheduled for Dec. 26 at the UIC Pavillion), was bought out by another band and has since been cancelled entirely.

The band has a large fan base of CPS students and is often praised for their unconventional, yet collaborative, sound.

"[It's] a really good mixture of jazz and rap," said Nathan Alvarado, Div. 035.

The up-and-coming ensemble features seven students who met mainly through their enrollment at The Merit School of Music. They formed the band in late 2008, and feature diverse

sounds in their music, including the trombone, trumpet, saxophone, bass, guitar, vocals, and rhymes.

"The only way I could think to put it is hip-hop/soul/jazz. I guess if you break it down those are three main elements in our music," said Beckstrom.



Lane Beckstrom, Div. 046, performs with his band, *Kids These Days*.

Lane students seem to enjoy their combination of instruments.

"It's something new and reminds me of Coltrane mixed with the Roots," said Sean Pfeiffer, Div. 030.

"I think that they have a pretty mature sound," said Zeljko Andjelic, Div. 027.

Though originally a drummer, Beckstrom taught himself electric bass at age 12. In addition to formal music education, he has been a member of the Lane Tech Jazz Band and Jazz Combo throughout his high school. He hopes to pursue music beyond high school.

"He could definitely make it [in the music business], and I don't say that about very many people," said guitar teacher, Mr. Sweet.

Beckstrom and Kids These Days aim to further the band's exposure.

"We've been practicing, working on new material, working on getting gigs, and there's a plan in the works to take the band to Europe this summer," said Beckstrom.

## Operation Christmas Child reaches out to less fortunate

By Tempestt Daniel

On Nov. 20, One @ Lane club members and other Lane students showed up to room 226 holding shoe boxes filled with assortments of small toys, hygiene materials, and school supplies. They wrapped the boxes as gifts for children in other countries and donated \$7 per box to cover shipping costs.

This event of toy and supply giving, known as Operation Christmas Child, was first established by Samaritan's Purse, an organization designed to aid children in developing countries.

"The title Operation Christmas Child is derived from our ministry's goal to share God's love with hurting children around the world through shoe boxes filled with gifts," said Joshua Simcox, a representative of Donor Ministries and Samaritan's Purse.

"...I thought it would be a good idea [to participate in OCC] because Lane has so many students and no other school was participating," said Alyccia Bennett, Div. 043, founder and President of One @ Lane. "I wanted to represent not just Lane, but Chicago [as well] so that people could be more aware."

Four days after wrapping the shoe boxes, One @ Lane hand-delivered them to Moody Bible Institute, located at Chicago Ave. and Wells.

"When we got there, there were like 100 cardboard boxes [full of] shoe boxes," said Ms. Sebestyen, History teacher and sponsor of One @ Lane.

From here, the members of Samaritan's Purse distribute the gifts to churches, schools, hospitals, orphanages, street children, and refugee camps. National Leadership Teams of the countries are there to help during this process.

Last year, Samaritan's Purse collected and distributed more than 7.9 million gift-filled shoe boxes to children in more than 100 countries. Gospel literature written in the local language is also included.

"These children suffer daily as a result of war, poverty, and disease. Often, these gift-filled shoe boxes are the only present they have ever received," said Simcox.

Though the children are grateful for their gifts, they hope for a more important item to them.

"A lot of the kids asked for water cups," said Sebestyen.

"Even though the kids don't have the basic necessities, the small contribution makes a difference," said Kasey Diep, Div. 054, member of One @ Lane.

Although no Lane students were part of the actual distribution of gifts, just the idea of helping to bring joy to children in need was rewarding.

"[OCC] made me feel like I take everything for granted because something as simple as a pencil would make them happy [while I only see it as a writing utensil]," said Diep.

"I wasn't able to attend the [gift wrapping] that they held, but it made me feel good to know that I was able to participate," said Naomi Reyes, Div. 034.

## >>Ceramics Story

Continued from page 1

Ceramics students weren't the only ones who learned from the firing process. Mr. Reid's AP chemistry class also attended. The chemistry class was researching the presence of oxidation during the firing.

"My students are really excited about the firing. We have even taken the time to take two ceramics classes and make our sculptures to place in the firing," said Reid a week before the event took place.

"I was really looking forward to this so I stayed as long as I could and helped out," said Brandon Scales, Div. 180, one of Reid's students.

Although many students were concerned about the drizzling rain

and cold temperatures, they all seemed to enjoy the experience.

"I liked it; it was a fun experience even though it smelled bad at times from the smoke. The kiln kept us all pretty warm and I plan on keeping the sculpture and putting it in my house," said Tefer Munoz, Div. 173.

"I had been looking forward to the firing so I didn't mind the rain. I was able to place all my sculptures into the firing so it was all worth it," said Juana Zuniga, Div. 039.

Reid hopes that this will be one of many cross-curricular activities between chemistry and other subjects, such as literature and history.



By Caitlyn Kolakowski

Several pieces of pottery sit on display after being fired in the kiln.



# Freshmen enjoy first “Movie Night” with STARS mentors

By Ben Palmer & Bill Felton

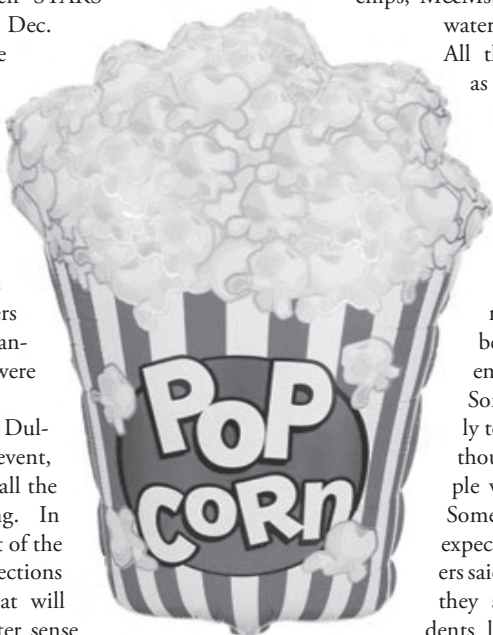
As the movie *Get Smart* began playing for freshmen and their STARS mentors attending the Dec.

10 movie night, the students interested in watching found their way to the front to be closer to the screen. In the back of the lunchroom, however, food was flying, iPods were playing, fingers were texting, and random conversations were buzzing.

Ms. Hart and Ms. Dulberg, the hosts of the event, were not bothered by all the chaos and socializing. In fact, that was the point of the event: to create connections between freshmen that will help them feel a greater sense of belonging early in their high school years.

“The movie night is good,” said Joselyn Avitia, Div. 371. “It gives [us] the chance to know more people.”

To attract students to the event, coordinators promised free MP3 players or \$10 iTunes gift cards to the first 400 freshmen to arrive. Only about 150 actually attended.



The gifts were donations from CPS to the Freshmen Connections campaign. Students were also able to trade their admission tickets in for chips, M&Ms, and bottles of water at the event.

All this was offered as “an incentive rather than an anchor,” Dulberg said.

This proved to be the case as several freshmen left well before the movie ended.

Some of those early to leave said they thought more people would be there. Some said they were expecting pizza. Others said they left when they saw other students leaving. By the

time the movie was half-way through, only about half the crowd remained.

When a group of about 20 freshmen left early in the evening Dulberg told them she wished they would stay longer, but did not force them to.

Though they acknowledged they were hoping for a higher student turnout, both Dulberg and Hart said the event accomplished its intention.

“The kids that were here had fun,” Dulberg



By Alejandra Jimenez

Freshmen enjoy snacks while watching the movie “Get Smart.”

In the spring, the mentors are planning to hold a freshmen dance. There will also be a bowling excursion before the year is through.

“My goal,” Dulberg said, “is four events a year - two [per] semester. It’s just about bringing the students together.”

Some freshmen feel that the attempts to orient their class with the school have been too much.

hard to cater to this year’s freshmen,” said Matthew Sexton, Div. 379.

Hart and Dulberg, however, have no plans of slowing their efforts to make the freshmen class more at home at Lane; though they don’t know if they’ll do so by means of another movie night.

## Asian clubs’ Rice Bowl an undiscovered tradition

By Adina Garneata & Johnny Stacewicz

Two Lane football events took place on Wed, Nov. 25: the Turkey Bowl, a school-sanctioned event held in Lane stadium, and the Rice Bowl, a lesser-known tradition of Lane’s Asian clubs held off-campus - this year at Horner Park.

The participating clubs included: Filipino, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Thai-bodian. Each club was required to wear a specific color to distinguish itself. Members of each club were split into boys’ and girls’ teams of 11 players each. A series of flag football games lasted from noon til 6:30pm.

“It was rough,” said Edrienne Besagar,

Div. 056, member of Filipino Club. “I pulled a muscle playing in the mud and rain.”

Although the teams were competing against each other, members of different clubs showed sportsmanship and friendship.

“Every time someone fell, we would ask them if they were ok,” said Jane Remigio, Div. 029, member of Chinese Club.

Some of the teams took the games more seriously than others by holding pre-Rice Bowl practices. Filipino Club members even had their own chant that they performed before every game.

“We would say ‘Kapamilya Habang Buhay,’” said Besagar, “which means ‘family for life.’”

One anonymous source, however, said that some clubs took Rice Bowl too seriously.

“One club in particular was using bad language [swearing],” said the anonymous source. “There was also unnecessary roughness. One kid threw a football at another kid’s face on purpose.”

“In the moment, sometimes you do or say things you normally wouldn’t,” said Besagar.

This year’s winner for the boys was Filipino club, and Thai-bodian club for the girls. In previous years all players would throw in a certain amount of money, and the winning teams would get the money. This year no buy-in was required, which led to mixed reactions from players.

“I don’t know why there was no money involved, which I thought was lame,” said Filipino club member Amanda Arbolea, Div. 167. “But I’m guessing [it was] because then not as many people would show.”

“I would not have played if money was involved,” said Besagar, who did not like the idea of spending money just to participate.

An anonymous male senior, who has participated in past Rice Bowls said the reason no money was used is because in previous years it led to more fights and arguments.

Because the event took place during school hours, many students refused to comment, believing that talking public-



Photo by Nick Nguyen

Asian club members compete in one of the flag football games held at Horner Park during this year’s Rice Bowl on Nov. 25.

ly about the event could jeopardize Rice Bowl for next year.

One Asian club sponsor refused to comment on the story, and then instructed the president of the club not to answer questions either. Even some students who spoke on the record to reporters about this story later asked to have their names withdrawn in fear they would get in trouble for ditching school. Other students said they viewed publication of this story as an invasion of the privacy of their tradition.

Student members of these clubs were not the only ones who did not want to talk about the event. Dean of Students,

Mr. Jarka, also had no comment.

Still, some students said Rice Bowl should not be discouraged because it unifies students of the Asian clubs.

“I bonded with my club, made new friends, and got closer to everyone,” said an anonymous female senior.

The Asian clubs also host a number of other bowls throughout the year including Noodle Bowl (basketball tournament), Shrimp Bowl (volleyball tournament), Find-a-Bowl (treasure hunt).

“I think other clubs should do something like this [Rice Bowl],” said Remigio, “I had a lot of fun.”



Photo by Nick Nguyen

Alex Huynh, Div. 041, of Vietnamese club tackles an opponent.

## Lane identified as fourth largest school in nation

By Karen Baena

On Dec 9th Lane was named the 4th largest school in the country by U.S. News & World Report. Lane was also given a silver rank/status in America’s Best High Schools.

The largest school in the country is Adlai E. Stevenson High School, which is also located in Illinois. Stevenson has 395 more students than Lane and also has a silver rank. The smallest school in the country, Bridge-

water in South Dakota, has an enrollment of 50 students and a Bronze rank.

U.S. News developed a three-step process in order to determine the best high schools.

“The first two steps ensured that the schools serve all their students well, using state proficiency standards as the benchmarks,” according to the magazine. “For those schools that made it past the first two steps, a third step assessed the degree to which schools prepare students for college-level work.”

Of the 742 high schools in Illinois, only 37 were given a Silver or Gold award. Those that received a Gold status



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# Lane students describe swine flu effects as mild

By Erik Prado

Most students would give almost anything to miss finals. But would it be worth missing finals if it meant being diagnosed with swine flu?

The week before finals last school year, a student who wishes to remain anonymous, was diagnosed with H1N1 influenza. This forced her to miss the last week of school, including finals.

"I was pretty surprised. My doctor had said that I was only the second person she had diagnosed," said Jane Doe, now a junior.

The swine flu outbreak of 2009 began mid-April. Since then, there have been 50 million cases of swine flu in the country, mostly in young adults and children. There have been around 10,000 deaths, 1,100 of those were children, according to information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Shortly before June, the total number of confirmed swine flu cases in Illinois was around 930, according to statistics by the CDC.

Official CPS policy states that a student who has a confirmed case of swine flu must stay home for one week. For that one week home from school, Doe said she was also put under quarantine by her parents.

"I literally had to sit in my house all day, it was really boring. My phone was my best friend. There was nothing else to do," said Doe. "My parents were really big on making sure I went nowhere because they didn't want me getting other people sick."

Her doctor told her she had only a mild strain of H1N1 so she was not given any medication.

"At that point, I think they didn't have any medicine for it, or you only took it if you had a severe case," said Doe. "[It] kinda sucked."

After being diagnosed with the new influenza strain, Doe told some of her

close friends, many of whom already knew Doe to be "accident prone." Her friends' responses were both serious and humorous.

"I told all my close friends, and they were like, 'Oh wow only you,'" said Doe.

"I laughed. Because what were the chances my best friend would end up with swine," said Maddy Sopena, Div. 173.

Despite missing all of her finals, Doe was not in danger of failing any of her classes. She contacted all her teachers and explained the situation to them. She was then excused from all her finals.

"I had good grades and they knew I was a good student...I got extremely lucky for having such great teachers that understood and didn't fail me for not taking the final," said Doe.

According to Doe, it was around two weeks before she felt fully healthy.

How would Doe compare H1N1 to the regular flu?

"It just made me a lot more tired. Other than that, it wasn't too different. I feel like it lasted longer as well," said Doe.

Another junior, Dan Quintero, Div. 167, was diagnosed with swine flu in early November.

"I just got it," said Quintero. "I didn't know anyone who had it. I guess it was from being out in public."

Quintero believes he caught it from someone at a concert he attended a few days before he began to feel sick.

At first, Quintero did not think he had swine flu.

"I just thought it was a cold. But it started to get worse and I just felt really tired," he said.

After one week, he visited the hospital where the doctor delivered the news to Quintero and his mother.

"I thought 'Are you kidding me?'," he said. "My mom was more nervous than me."

Like Doe, Quintero had to miss one week of school. He was able to make up all his classwork and homework after he returned.

"My teachers were really cool. They understood and they spread out all my work," said Quintero.

Since the start of the H1N1 outbreak, Lane students have questioned the severity of the H1N1 influenza strain. Some have also questioned whether they need to get the vaccine, which was made available to the general public in October.

"I don't feel threatened by H1N1. No one is worried," said John Allan Wilson, Div. 051. He does not plan to get the vaccine.

"I'm not getting the vaccine because when you do get it, it often makes you more prone to getting sick," said Clarissa Frayn, Div. 350.

Quintero said he would not be in line to receive the vaccine had he not already contracted swine flu.

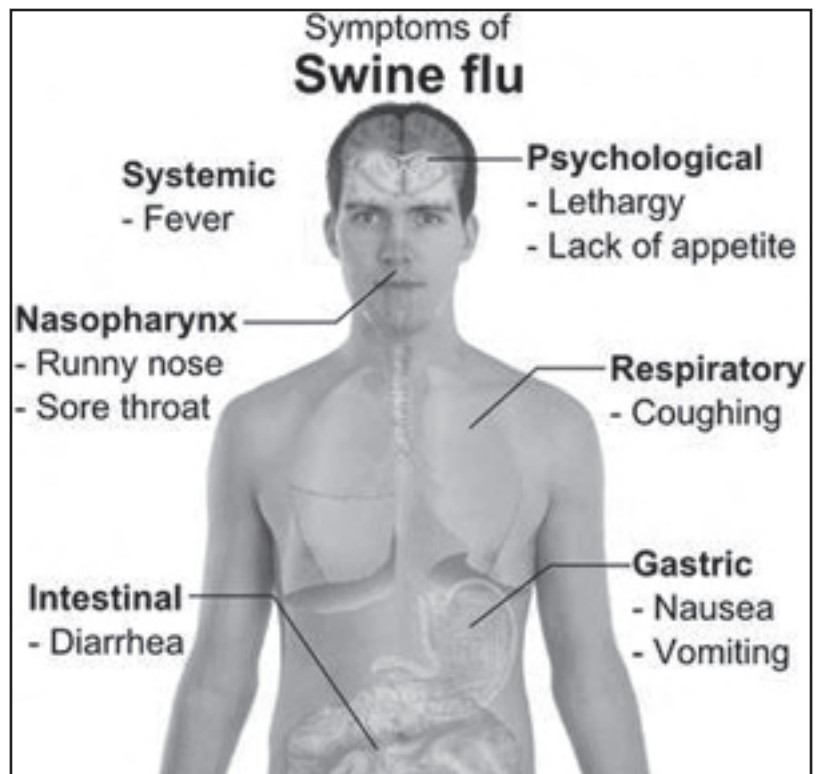
"For the most part, I have a strong immune system. I was just unlucky," said Quintero.

In an article published on webMD.com, flu vaccines may cause common but mild symptoms. Common symptoms for the swine flu vaccine include headache, fatigue, fever, muscle ache, and nausea. Fainting is also common among teenagers who have received the vaccination. The symptoms, however, are a result of the immune system ramping up in response. The vaccine itself should not cause a case of swine flu.

When the vaccine first came out, students like Nic Anderson were in no hurry to get it. But for him, and others, their parents forced them to get the vaccine.

"So far, it's worked," said Anderson, Div. 051.

After he got the shot, Anderson began to feel some of the common side effects.



Mainly, he described terrible headaches that would not go away. Anderson said the headaches lasted two days after he received the shot.

The potential side effects did not influence Anderson's decision to receive the shot.

"I would have gotten [the shot] anyway," said Anderson.

Doe said had she not been infected already, she would have gotten the vaccine.

Since the outbreak began, some students have taken issue with the media coverage.

"[Coverage] did blow out of proportion. During the the actual scare phase, it was [overblown]. The media made it a way to attract more viewers," said Dylan Allingham, Div. 170. "It's to a point where people are making fun of [swine

flu], especially in high school communities."

"People who have died from H1N1 have had pre-existing conditions. I haven't heard of anyone who has died when they were perfectly healthy," said Frayn.

However, there are students that believe the media coverage of the swine flu outbreak has been informative.

"Even though the media's talk of [swine flu] kind of scares people, it's good since it forces [people] to be more cautious," said Doe.

"[The media] is just informing people how severe it is, even if they kind of exaggerate it," said Anderson.

While the swine flu has slowed down, the CDC warns that it is around this time of the year that the flu season picks up.

# Rosa Parks bus restored with help of Lane's Mr. Choffnas

By Nistha Tamrakar

Fifty-four years ago Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, AL, city bus to a white man. This action led to the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott, a significant chapter in the American Civil Rights movement.

Several years later, the historic bus, #2857, that served as the site for that famous event was decommissioned. It sat in an open field in Alabama for 30 years, unprotected from the elements. As a result, the bus fell into poor condition with broken windows, rusted metal, and peeling paint.

In 2001, however, the bus was brought to the Henry Ford Museum outside Detroit, MI, to undergo restoration. Lane staff member Mr. Choffnas [took] part of [in the] project.

Choffnas is a former Lane teacher who still works at Lane delivering packages throughout the school. The time he puts in at the museum, however, is the equivalent of having a second job.

"I have been volunteering for more than 10 years at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan," said Choffnas. "I have put in over 1,000 hours a year. I make a trip up and back to Dearborn every other week, and also during weekends and holidays."

He first was a donor to the museum about 12 years ago. After that he got involved in a project that he had donated money for and from then on, continued volunteering in numerous projects.

"I work in the conservation department, and the Rosa Parks bus was part of that department," said Choffnas. "I asked if they needed help and they said sure, so that was how I got involved in it."

The bus arrived at the museum on Nov 15, 2001. The restoration team of the Ford Museum began cleaning the bus that day. The bus arrived in terrible condition. Choffnas described it as a "big shell."

"I helped clean out the inside of the bus and tape up the windows," said Choffnas. "The actual physical restoration I think began in September 2003 and was finished in January 2003, just before the Black History Month. It went very fast."

The restored bus was first exhibited on Feb 1, 2003. It has remained in the museum since then, attracting many visitors.

Choffnas, who lived through the civil

rights movement of the 1960s, has always had great respect for Parks. He was thrilled to be part of the bus restoration project. He wishes high school history classes spent more time examining that part of American history and pointed out that the Rosa Parks story is inaccurately portrayed in history books.

"That famous photo of Rosa Parks sitting on the bus looking out the window is staged!" said Choffnas. "In the books, the picture is laid next to the written text, and students are thinking that the picture is actually from the exact date of the event."

Although he never got to meet Parks, Choffnas has met some of her family members.

"I would have loved to meet her, but the day that she was at the museum I was here in Chicago," said Choffnas. "She never



The historical bus on display after renovations.

even witnessed the final restored bus, [only seeing it again] when it first arrived in the museum.

She was quite elderly - in her late 80s - and I'm not sure if she recognized the bus exactly. But I did meet her family members because the museum held a gathering to view the newly restored bus and they were present, but Rosa Parks was not."

In his 12 years working at the museum Choffnas has worked on several other projects as well.

"I have worked in the automobile exhibit with Model-Ts and the flight exhibit at the museum," said Choffnas. "I mean I never thought that in my lifetime I would work on a DC -3 airplane. It's a very big airplane!"

Choffnas hopes to be part of many more projects.

"I am going to continue as long as I can," he said. "It's more work than a hobby, and it's been a big expense for me. Last year I made 24 trips to volunteer and so far this year I have made 21 and have one more ahead. However, I have had the chance to meet people I would never [have] imagined, and [also] work on projects I would never have expected."



The Cleveland Avenue bus before the renovations.



# Chicago soup kitchen holds secrets of homeless

By Safiya Merchant

When I used to see homeless people sitting on bags or crates on the street, I always expected a, “Miss, can you spare some change?” I thought that they were all beggars, and that since they had almost nothing, they would take anything they were given without question. However, once I volunteered at the United Church of Rogers Park Community Feast/Soup Kitchen at 1545 W. Morse Avenue, I saw that many of the homeless customers were as picky as any teenager. They would take the pie, but leave the sweet potatoes. If I were homeless and did not know when my next meal would be, I would have eaten everything. After talking to those who ate at the soup kitchen, I realized that my ideas of what homeless people were like were incorrect and even ignorant. They are far more complex and courteous than society’s model of the average “hobo.”

Before talking to 50-year-old Norman Poole, I thought he wouldn’t be interested in talking with me. He was actually eager to answer my questions. Poole became homeless about three months ago, and he was previously installing gas lines for Coley Gas.

“Since I have no income, I have no money for bus fare. Even if I could get a job, I probably wouldn’t be able to make it over there unless it’s in walking distance,” said Poole.

According to Poole, when you become homeless you find out how few friends you really have.

“A friend is only gonna be your friend as long as you got something. When you down and out, nobody be your friend. As long as you can do something for them, they love you. When they see you coming, they put the shades down. When a person becomes homeless, he thinks no one cares for him so he stops caring for himself,” said Poole.

However, Poole insisted that “Homeless doesn’t mean hopeless.”

53-year-old Bob Rice also breaks the mold of homelessness, for he escaped from it. Considering the hardships he has endured, I was amazed by the passion and good humour he expressed when he spoke of his past. He was also one of the most well-spoken men I have ever met. When he was 26 in 1983, he became homeless after his mother did not pay the rent for their apartment. He believes that this was caused by some sort of mental breakdown triggered by loneliness, depression, and stress. He hasn’t seen his mother in about 18 years.

After staying at shelters such as Pacific Garden Mission and the Franciscan House, he moved to the streets. He began a life of crime and alcoholism. In his opinion, what saved him from this life was Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism.

“That religion has saved my soul. It taught me faith, practice, and study. I pray to stay strong. Without Buddhism, I can’t function,” said Rice.

Rice now uses checks from the government to support himself and he has a permanent residence. As a devout Buddhist, he goes to meetings for the Soka Gakkai International-USA Buddhist Association for Peace, Culture, and Education. He also has a Buddhist sponsor, which is akin to a spiritual guide. Instead of turning to harmful addictions, Rice goes to this guide for assistance.

“I can’t go to no alcohol because it can’t help me, can’t go to no dope because it can’t help me, and can’t go to no pimp because he can’t help me,” said Rice.

Another well-spoken man at this soup kitchen was 74-year-old Robert Carlock, whose subtle humor and nearly silent chuckles reminded me of my grandfather. He had a long, white, scraggly beard and his hands constantly shook as he talked. After his divorce in 1981, he walked in the World Peace March from Chicago to New York City in 1982. There, he demonstrated in

front of the delegation headquarters of nations that had nuclear weapons. He now resides in the Mid-America Care Center, but it isn’t exactly what he calls comfortable.

“That’s where I stay. I don’t call it living. I don’t consider it home. I consider it my safe refuge from the weather and the world,” said Carlock. “My property [at the nursing home] is not safe. Within the last month, clean clothes from the laundry have disappeared from my room. Over \$200 has been stolen over the year. I’ve had books and magazines “taken into storage” but I’ve never seen them again.”

Addie Martinez, the 56-year-old kitchen supervisor at the United Church of Rogers Park Community Feast/Soup Kitchen, cooks for the homeless every Sunday. However, she is homeless herself, and, like Carlock, she doesn’t think her current residence, Deborah’s Place, is the most desirable.

“It’s a step above living in the streets, but it’s still not my own place,” she said.

Martinez has been homeless for five years, but one would never be able to tell. She doesn’t fit society’s standard model of homeless people. She is not overweight, illiterate, or lazy. In fact, social services agencies often didn’t think she needed help because she didn’t meet their “requirements.”

Through the kitchen, Martinez wants to combine her faith with her second passion, which is culinary arts.

“My big dream is to start a kitchen in the social services environment,” said Martinez.

As a child, Martinez was often physically abused by her military father and eleven older siblings. Because of this abuse and neglect, she was taken away as a pre-teen.

“My mom was my best friend, but when she wasn’t around I caught hell. Sibling rivalry [was more like] torture,” Martinez said.

Before becoming homeless, Martinez was an administrative assistant in the internal audit department of the AON Corporation. She had an annual salary of more than \$40,000. After her daughter gave birth to a girl, Martinez lost her job due to layoffs within the company.

Although her daughter and granddaughter now have their own place in California, Martinez does not want to follow them. Even though she misses them, she is happy that her granddaughter is far away from her father, who sexually abused her since she was a baby.

“I felt that I needed to have her [her daughter] independent...[she should] create her own life on her own terms,” said Martinez.

Surprisingly, Martinez continued her education while she

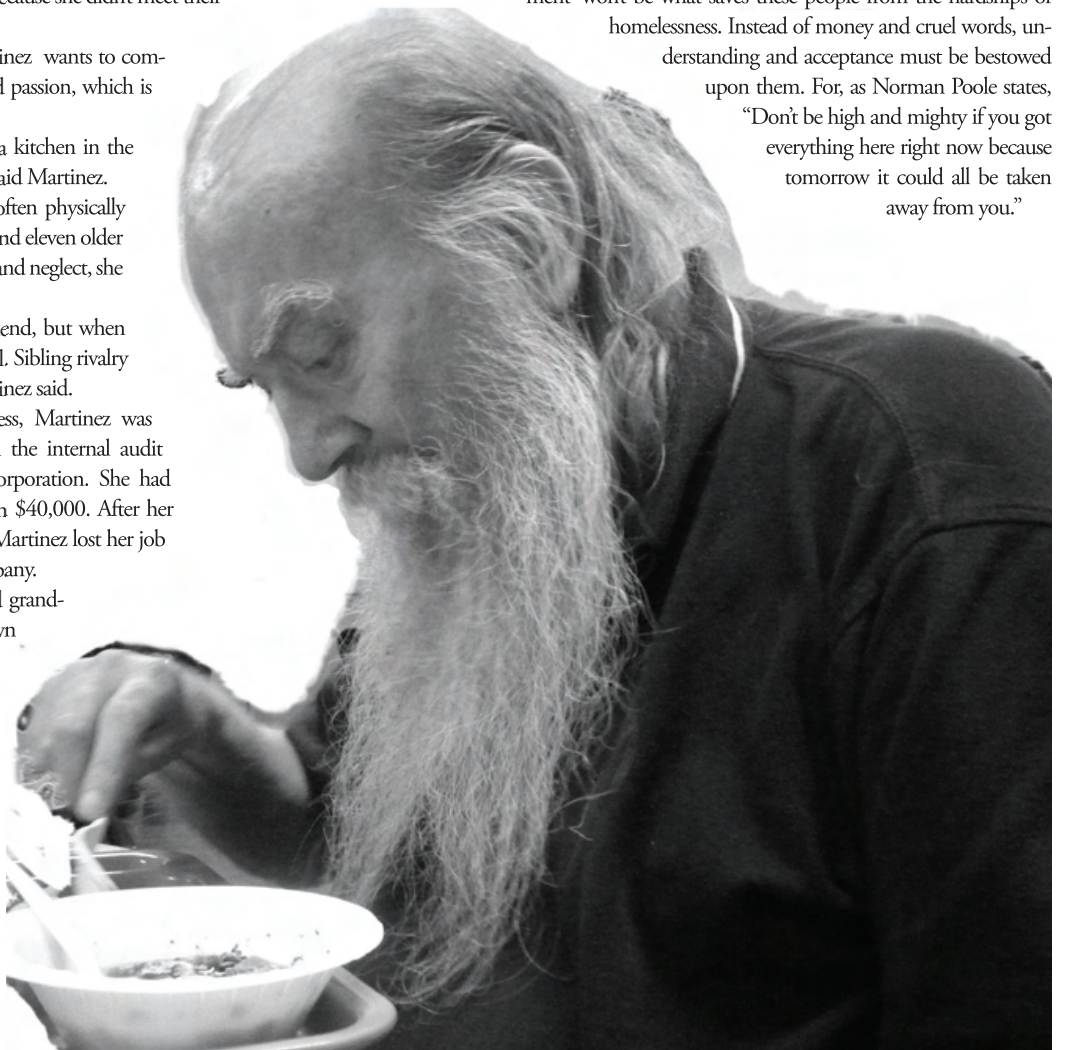
was homeless. She used to attend the Illinois Institute of Art, but once the Sallie Mae Financial Institute refused to give her any more loans she stopped going. Currently, she attends the Washburne Culinary Institute.

Although she is technically homeless, Martinez hates being called homeless. “When I was a child, I was considered either a nerd or a geek because I loved to read, to study, and I won all the spelling bees. There’s a kinder way to relate to people than labeling them. I don’t want to continue in the same hurtful path,” said Martinez.

Like Martinez, Judy Kline, the soup kitchen coordinator, also believes that the issue of homelessness is not accurately understood.

“First, I think they [society] want to ignore it. Secondly, I think they feel that the people could get out of their situation if they chose to. I think everyone is an individual and their circumstances are different. You can’t make a blanket judgment on anyone. There are homeless people you wouldn’t even know are homeless, [and] there are homeless people that are obviously from appearance living on the street. You don’t know what all they tried to do to get out,” said Kline.

From what I saw at the soup kitchen, I can see that a ‘blanket of judgment’ won’t be what saves these people from the hardships of homelessness. Instead of money and cruel words, understanding and acceptance must be bestowed upon them. For, as Norman Poole states, “Don’t be high and mighty if you got everything here right now because tomorrow it could all be taken away from you.”



Robert Carlock takes a spoonful of his soup at the United Church of Rogers Park Soup kitchen.

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# Fully functioning apartment built for special education

By Grace McQueeney

In a room down the short hallway near door M, special needs students learn to cook on a ceramic stove top, use a microwave, bake cakes, choose food from a refrigerator, and launder and put away their clothes.

This past summer, a fully functioning and furnished apartment was built for students in the severely and profoundly disabled program of the special education department.

"The purpose of the apartment is to help build the students' independent living skills," said Ms. Jennifer Schaefer, a special education teacher, who works with the autistic students. "Instead of cooking in the classroom at a table, the students are able to open drawers and make [food] inside a real apartment."

"In the apartment, we teach students to use motor skills such as stirring and pouring, as well as proper [table] behavior," said Ms. Christina Clemons, a special education teacher for severely and profoundly disabled students. "We try to get them to understand multi-step [processes], such as finding something in the refrigerator and then using it to cook a meal."

Depending on the student's specific disabilities, they are taught in different ways in the apartment.

"Some students are more severe than others, and have physical disabilities," said Clemons. "We teach some students to use a spoon to stir, while other students have to be taught to pick up a spoon."

Along with cooking, students are also taught how to properly separate, wash, dry and put away their clothes. They each have their own bins with their names on them that they are able to fold their clothes into when they finish.

Beds, a dresser, a coffee table and other furnishings have been delivered within the past few weeks as the apartment continues to take shape. The bathroom is complete with a toilet, bathtub, shower, and sink, and is used to teach the students about hygiene and proper use of the bathroom.

Schaefer explained that the students are learning daily living skills in the apartment that most people take for granted, such as using a microwave or turning on a dishwasher.

"These are things that people are used to doing, [whereas] the autistic and severe and profound students need to be taught to do these things," said Schaefer.

Students are given recipes to use to cook certain dishes, and the students who cannot read are given more of a visual example of a recipe. Despite their disabilities, they do not get frustrated easily, and patiently work together to cook each dish.

"We try to cook regularly enough so that they will learn to cook these foods on their own," said Tania Petrasz, a special education teacher who works with autistic students. "We have stopped using recipes for things that these kids know how to make."

Schaefer and Petrasz enthusiastically teach the autistic students to make everything from rice krispie treats to cookies to pizza during their sixth period class each day. On days they make pizza, the students take turns spooning the sauce and spreading the cheese on the dough. They smile and encourage each other with messages of "good job." When the pizza came out of the oven, students have learned that it is too hot to eat right away, and will blow on their slices to cool them down.

Although some of the students cannot speak, they are able to help each other cook meals successfully. Each is assigned a job like bringing supplies to

the kitchen or cleaning up the eating area. They work together eagerly to get the job done.

The students had a Thanksgiving party this year to which each class brought a dish that they cooked themselves. They also made place mats and fun decorations such as Thanksgiving themed hats.

"We made green bean casserole," said Petrasz. "The kids were so excited about it!"

Other than PE class, autistic and severe and profound students are in a self-contained room for the majority of their day.

"The transition [between] classrooms is good for them, since they're in their classrooms all the time otherwise," said Clemons.

According to federal law, these students are entitled to free and appropriate education at Lane or any public school until they are 22 years old.

"The students are with us for 9 years," said Clemons. "After they graduate, they will either live at home or in a residential facility with day programs and workshops geared toward vocation."

The primary goal for the students when they graduate would be for them to be able to cook, clean, and have the daily living skills of a normal individual. Lane's unique independent living apartment helps them to do just that, as well as gives them the opportunity to be around regular Lane students.

"The Board of Education came to us with the decision and the funding to [install] this apartment," said Ms. Rice, the Assistant Principal.

Rice, along with the special education department, set up a registry at Target that can be viewed online for people who wish to make donations to the apartment.

"There are things such as tumblers, measuring cups, pizza pans, kitchenware, sheets and hanging racks," said



The apartment kitchen has appliances, countertops, and two tables with chairs.



Students find food in the fridge and prepare it on the counter-tops.

Rice.

This registry or "wish list" can be found on [www.target.com](http://www.target.com). People who wish to make a donation can type in first name "Lane", last name "Tech" to access it and help the complete the apartment with all of its needed items.

Lane has undergone several ADA (American Disabilities Act) renovations since last March, including the Memorial Garden and the new bathrooms. This apartment was part of

those renovations, but Lane is unique in receiving it because of the school's large number of special education students and its physical size.

"Lane is very lucky," said Schaefer. "Independent living [skills] are of equal importance as normal subjects that these students are being taught, and this apartment is [here] to [give them the ability] to live in a home environment where they will be expected to take care of themselves."

# Cultural illiteracy rampant in American youth

By Paulina Yousif

"You don't need a passport to go to Hawaii. It's in America."

"Are you serious? I thought Hawaii was a country!"

No, that's not a comedy sketch on SNL, but an actual conversation overheard in a Lane classroom.

Don't be surprised. There are all sorts of "common-knowledge" facts that many people have just never learned. Certain pieces of information like this, while not essential to one's ability to survive in the world, can severely impair one's ability to appear intelligent.

Knowing some basic things related to all areas of study enables even the uneducated to appear informed about the society they live in. This is known as being culturally literate.

Someone who doesn't know the name of the president who was shot and killed in Dallas, TX in 1963 might be considered culturally illiterate because they are unfamiliar with the widely known details of the Kennedy assassination. Similarly, someone unable to identify the famous golfer who has recently been in trouble for his extra-marital affairs might be considered culturally illiterate because they are uninformed about what is dominating the recent headlines of popular culture.

Whether it's historical information or pieces of pop culture, certain basic pieces of knowledge must be possessed by individuals if they are to be considered culturally literate.

The concept of cultural literacy was first defined by college professor E.D. Hirsch, in his 1987 book Cultural Lit-

eracy: What Every American Needs to Know. He wrote that to be culturally literate is to possess the basic information needed to thrive in the modern world.

Being culturally literate does not necessarily mean being well-educated in the formal sense. Hirsch says that being culturally literate is the "ticket out" for students that come from bad or underprivileged schools because it is essentially the skill of knowing how to communicate on a national level.

Hirsch was inspired to write his book after he realized his college students did not know much about the world around them.

"[He] would be alluding things into his class lectures thinking he was being witty, but he realized his college students knew very little about the world and didn't understand most of what he was saying," said English teacher, Mr. Dongas, who incorporates a game into his classes based on topics listed in Hirsch's Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, published in 1988.

Most Lane students have a basic understanding of what it means to be culturally literate.

"I think cultural literacy is understanding and possessing the general knowledge of our culture and having an intelligent conversation about it," said Renato Yutuc, Div. 037.

"Cultural literacy is being knowledgeable about the world around you: its past and its present," said Christina El Gamal, Div. 162.

These same students, however, agree that cultural literacy continues to be undervalued by many.

"No one really cares about [cultural literacy] anymore. They just think it's another thing having to do with

school," said Henry Prado, Div. 041.

"I believe that our society is minimally culturally literate. We know just enough to get by without looking ignorant, but not enough to truly understand some aspects of our world's culture," said El Gamal. "We could definitely learn so much more if we simply placed a higher value on cultural literacy."

One of the reasons so many people in today's society have a low level of cultural illiteracy is because they focus too much on pop culture, like celebrity news, instead of news about national or international events.

"I think society is more focused on pop culture because that is what gets shoved in our [faces]. If you look at a magazine, [the] television, or go on the internet, you see celebrity news and all of that, and it is big and noticeable," said Candace Palacios, Div. 181.

On a segment of The Jay Leno Show called "Jaywalking," Leno walks around the streets of Los Angeles and asks random people questions in order to show how culturally illiterate our society can be. On one episode, Leno asked a lady on the street, "What state is Barack Obama from?" Her response: "What state is Barack Obama from... ummm The United States!"

He asked another person, "What country did America gain independence from?" Even after Leno hinted about England and King George, she said "Greece."

"I think [Jaywalking] is hilarious. And I don't think it is an exaggeration either because I do meet people like that everyday," said Dongas.

For purposes of this story, a version of "Jaywalking" was conducted at Lane to see if students' cultural literacy was

"pop culture heavy." Basic questions of cultural literacy were combined on the test with questions on pop culture. The quiz questions are included in the graphic appearing with this story.

The average score on questions of basic cultural literacy was three out of 11. The average score on the pop culture questions was nine out of 11.

"I think I did better on the pop culture questions than the culturally literate questions because I am constantly bombarded with pop culture, everywhere I go," said Joel Gonzalez, Div. 037. "There are magazines at work, whenever I go online at home, even on the bus. It is literally everywhere!"

"I believe I did better on the pop

culture questions than the culturally literate questions because I can honestly say, it may be more interesting," said Yutuc. "We are obsessed with the media, and the media is more focused on [celebrities] because most are attractive and have lives that we [wish] we had. In turn, we are tuned towards them by curiosity."

Despite the results of this experiment, some students believe that they could become more culturally literate by changing some personal habits.

"I could become more culturally literate by doing simple things," said El Gamal, "such as reading the newspaper more often, watching the news, using the internet less, and giving less time and attention to mass media."

## How does your cultural literacy compare to your pop cultural literacy?

1. Who lives at 1600 W. Pennsylvania Ave?

Who lives in a pineapple under the sea?

2. Who is on the \$100 bill? Who plays Edward Cullen in Twilight?

3. Who was the 42nd president? Who won the first season of American Idol?

4. What is the largest country in the world? Who hit Rihanna?

5. Where will the 2012 Olympics be held? Who is David Beckham married to?

6. Who is Mark Sanford? Who did Brad Pitt have an affair with?

7. What is NATO? Who is Khloe Kardashian married to?

8. What language is spoken in Egypt? Who interrupted Taylor Swift at the MTV awards?

9. What year did the French Revolution start? Who is the primary mascot of McDonalds?

10. What country is south of India's coast? What does MTV stand for?



# Students give up shaving for good cause

By Alejandra Jimenez

After a few weeks of going unshaven, the hair on the face of Salar Dean, Div. 053, had spread like thick moss. Dean sported this burly look for No Shave November, a month-long event of no shaving, intended to raise awareness and money for men's prostate cancer.

The movement is being pushed by The Movember Foundation, a non-profit organization, whose official website [www.us.movemberfoundation.com](http://www.us.movemberfoundation.com), reports that the foundation's purpose is "to change the attitude men hold toward their

their hair to grow to new lengths.

"It felt weird because my face was all uneven with hair," said Milos Zaric, Div. 177. "My right side would have more hair than my left. It looked silly."

"It was very annoying to feel my mustache go inside my mouth," said Brian Ramirez, Div. 031.

Women were also encouraged to participate by not shaving their legs.

"It felt weird at times," said Karen Rondero, Div. 040. "I was tempted to shave during the last week because I wanted the month to be done with already. I like the feeling of newly [shaved] legs."

Rondero admitted the event provided

year."

"My reason for doing the No Shave November thing was because, to be honest, I thought it would be a time saver," said Vanessa Goite, Div. 161. "My friends didn't know that I didn't shave my legs [though]. Since it's winter no one shows their legs."

Some students were asked by friends and family to shave before the month was over.

"No one liked my scruffy look that whole month. My parents were begging me to shave," said Amir Allam, Div. 263.

"My mom was telling me to get rid of the mustache because I looked like a delinquent," said Ramirez.

Several participants reported being tempted to shave during the month, and some gave in.

"[My facial hair] lasted 18 days," said English teacher Mr. Palmer. "[I shaved for] report cards. I didn't want to look like a hobo when I saw the parents."

"I had no choice. I have wrestling. You have to shave your face," said Juan Campos, Div. 179.

"Whenever Campos [my boyfriend] said I was as hairy as him, I was tempted to shave," said Goite.

When the month finally ended, some were relieved to finally be able to shave.

"I'm clean and I don't feel like a dirtbag anymore," said Ramirez.

"I could [go longer], but I don't want to look like a werewolf," said Zaric.

"If [my girlfriend] wasn't so crazy about me not shaving, I would [have] done the whole winter," said Dean.

Others took such a liking to their new growth they have continued to let it go.

"By late October, I had already been



Photo By: Alejandra Jimenez

A group of friends show off their beards after participating in No Shave November.



Photos By Alejandra Jimenez

Salar Dean, Div. 053, before and after participating in no shave November.

health."

For men, the mustache is a symbol that helps promote awareness. It acts as a walking billboard for the participant to use as a way to promote the cause.

Some student participants allowed

a convenient excuse for not shaving.

"I did it because I'm very lazy during the fall/winter time because I'm not wearing shorts anymore," she said. "A few of my friends understood because they are also too lazy to shave their legs this time of

growing out my facial hair for a self-portrait photography assignment," said Eddy Palacios, Div. 049. "I heard about No Shave November and decided to grow it out for both reasons. [It was] kind of like killing two birds with one stone. I plan on continuing to grow it out until New Years just to see how it goes."

April Aksoy, Div. 040, was not as impressed with the No Shave November movement because she thought the

idea was silly and did not like how "people made it seem like a Facebook gathering."

Others are already thinking about doing it again next year.

"I would do it again [but only] if I'm too lazy to shave again," said Georgie Lawson, Div. 164.

"I'm definitely doing this next year. I like to challenge my will and I like picking out my next facial hairstyle in December," said Allam.

## Lane student takes on animal rights through veganism, protests

By Maria Murczek

Nicole Gianni, Div. 171, sits outside of Macy's on Michigan Ave. wearing a faux fur coat covered in fake blood, shouting "fur is murder." She protests weekly for the creatures of the earth with no voice: animals.

Gianni protests with organizations like Mercy For Animals, a non-profit animal advocacy organization that believes non-human animals are irreplaceable individuals who have morally significant interests and, hence, rights.

Gianni participates in protests because she thinks it's a great way to bring attention to a matter which people often look over. She has been a part of peaceful protests against KFC, Ringling Brothers Circus, McDonalds, the horse drawn carriage industry, the slaughter of dogs and cats in Korea, and the fur industry.

Although peaceful, she goes all-out at protests. She wore a full body elephant costume in a prison uniform outside of Ringling Brothers shows.

In February, she plans to fly out to Miami to protest in front of Seaquarium.

"When I was seven

years old, my mom wanted to take us to Sea World. Through some online research, she found out that hundreds of whales, dolphins, and sea lions have died in the brutal captures or in the chlorinated tanks. Needless to say, we didn't go to Sea World (we went to see wild whales). Ever since, I have been militant against marine parks, Miami Seaquarium in particular."

Lolita, a killer whale currently residing

in Seaquarium, has been in a tank merely one-and-a-half times her size for 39 years, which is illegal according to the USDA.

In Miami, she plans on participating in two protests. On this same trip she also plans to host a showing of the award-winning documentary about Lolita the whale called "Lolita: Slave to Entertainment".

Gianni currently maintains two websites, including one dedicated to saving Lolita.

"The websites I write and maintain are [www.SaveLolita.com](http://www.SaveLolita.com) and [http://www.freewebs.com/let\\_toki\\_go\\_free/](http://www.freewebs.com/let_toki_go_free/).

Between the two sites which have only been up for 8 months, I've had 25,000 visits."

Because of her animal rights activism, Gianni has even encountered celebrities.

"On my 16th birthday, I went to a McDonalds protest with comedian Andy Dick (who I find hilarious). We were protesting the methods McDonalds uses to kill their chickens, asking that they use "control atmosphere killing," which is more humane. I also adopted a rat from the producer of Pulp Fiction & Kill Bill, Lawrence Bender."

Gianni's decision to become more active was accompanied by her change to veganism.

"I went vegan about four years ago



Nicole Gianni, Div. 171, goes to great lengths in order to feel close to her animals.

after seeing a 10 minute video online called Meet Your Meat about the cruel, unethical factory farming industry," she said. "Ingrid, one of my rescued chickens, was also one of my main inspirations because she was such a gentle and beautiful little animal."

Veganism is different from vegetarianism. Vegans choose to avoid the use or consumption of animal products. According to VeganAction.org, "while vegetarians choose not to use flesh foods, vegans also avoid dairy and eggs, as well as fur, leather, wool, down, and cosmetics or chemical products tested on animals."

Because of her diet, Gianni said she feels more compassionate towards all animals. She owns and fosters several pets.

"Currently, I have two rats (Guinness & Ripley), a dog (Oscar), two bunnies

(Phoenix & Bella), and five fish (Maya, Hyak, Heidi, Angel, & Odysseus), all of which were rescued. I'm fostering two baby rats this week (unnamed) and I just adopted out two other rats (Little Chef & Sweet Pea)."

Four of her five fish were originally going to be fed to larger fish, so she rescued them. Her fifth fish, a goldfish, has her own story.

"I found [Maya] at a Petsmart lying at the bottom of a heavily overcrowded tank," she said. "I walked up to the tank and thought she was dead. Her entire tail, half of her abdomen, dorsal fin, and pectoral fins had all been eaten off by her starving tank-mates. I ended up buying her. She would've been dead in just minutes at the store, but now she is coming up on being one year old. Everything but her tail has regenerated."

Gianni fosters several animals after finding them on Craigslist, until she finds them loving homes. If the animals are reasonably priced (or free), in a bad situation, or close in

proximity, she tries her best to take them in.



In the past, Gianni has also rescued nine chickens.

Their living conditions are safe and comfortable.

"The chickens always lived in a large

walk-in pen in our house with heat lamps, nesting boxes, and cat toys to play with."

The pens are cleaned one to two times a week, preventing any odor. Gianni's parents are very supportive of her, and her sister, Gina, 13, often helps.

Gianni has visited two slaughterhouses and witnessed the atrocious cruelties chickens are subjected to.

"Their beaks are painfully seared off, they are housed in cages the size of a sheet of printer paper for their entire lives, and are often scalded to death."

Gianni said that people have a responsibility to care for the planet and animals on it.

"That doesn't mean everyone has to go work at a shelter or donate their life savings, but simple things like eating meatless meals one day a week can really help."

Instead of feeling angry towards the popularity of Popeye's at Lane, Gianni said she rather put her energy into raising awareness: making phone calls, volunteering, and writing letters.

Having eaten meat for 12 years, Gianni is not critical of those who still do use animal products.

"When I found out what was going on behind closed doors, I decided I would make a change to help these animals.

If people discover the truth about these industries, they would almost all certainly make more humane choices.

Until you're educated, it's not your fault."

Therefore, she encourages all to become more involved and educated.

"I encourage people who want to get more involved to sign up to volunteer with Mercy for Animals, an awesome Chicago-based non-profit farm animal welfare organization. They can also visit [www.MercyForAnimals.org](http://www.MercyForAnimals.org) to request a free vegetarian starter kit."



# Multi-racial relationships inspire different reactions



Photo by Melanie Johnson

Tattiana Howard, Div. 069, and Dan Baroja, Div. 045, are a happy couple despite the negative reactions they sometimes receive from family and friends for dating someone outside their race.

By Melanie Johnson

Dan Baroja, Div. 045, is Filipino and is currently in a relationship with an African-American girl. Although he loves his girlfriend, he is often confronted by racist comments about his relationship from both his friends and parents.

"Personally, I don't care about race, but my parents do. My parents stereotype everyone based on color. For example, they think that anyone who is black is extremely violent. Even though I love my girlfriend, my mom hates her because she is just racist! Sometimes me and my parents get into arguments about it because I just get so fed up with their racist attitudes," said Baroja.

Baroja says that he is attracted to black girls the most. However, this preference is often mocked by his friends.

"My friends think I'm desperate for dating a black girl," he said.

Vanessa Rivera, Div. 368, says her father lives in a small town in Mexico and, because he was raised around only one race, would have a problem with her dating someone who was not Mexican.

"My mom would accept it because, even though she was born in Mexico, she lives in Chicago and understands diversity," said Rivera. "Because my dad has never seen diversity, he continues to struggle with interracial dating."

Jack Presa, Div. 031, is Mexican and said dating within his culture or ethnicity is not really mandatory in his family, but religion does matter.

"My family wouldn't even care if I brought a girl home from a different race. We have choices in America; if

we were in Mexico, we wouldn't have a choice," said Presa. "As long as the girl is Catholic, my family is cool. Race doesn't even play a factor."

Hira Rehman, Div. 023, a Pakistani-Muslim, is limited in her dating for reasons of both race and religion. She believes that dating outside her race is fine even though she is unable to do so.

"It's good to have differences in a relationship because that way you can grow and learn more with your significant other," she said. "[Islamic women] are not even allowed to date. There are just so many restrictions."

Rehman said that if she did like a guy, she could not approach him. She would have to tell her parents and then they would conduct an arranged marriage. However, the guy she likes must be of the Islamic faith.

"I can marry a Pakistani-Muslim and maybe even an Indian-Muslim, but I could never date or marry a Hindu. If I did, I don't even think my father would look at me," said Rehman.

Rehman has a friend, who is a Pak-

istani-Muslim and is dating a guy who is an Indian-Hindu. Because of this, she wants to remain anonymous.

"I hide my relationship from my parents because if my father were to ever find out he would kill me," said the anonymous source. "That's how big of a deal it is. Muslim people criticize my relationship mainly because of old, built-up feelings from the war between India and Pakistan almost 50 years ago. I can never marry an Indian guy, especially if he's Hindu."

"Many of our friends criticize her because Islamic women are not allowed to date... because it is against our religion," said Rehman. "But they are just hypocrites because they do it too."

It's just that dating a Hindu is considered way worse."

Joey Peculos, Div. 279, is Caucasian and is currently dating a Hispanic girl.

"My family raised me to be open-minded and to never make race an issue," said Peculos. "People who have a problem with interracial dating need to stop living in the past and accept it because it is all around us. Being more open-minded is key."

*"I can marry a Pakistani-Muslim and maybe even an Indian-Muslim, but I could never date or marry a Hindu. If I did, I don't even think my father would look at me."*

-- Hira Rehman

Stancuta Ivan, Div. 052, agrees with Peculos. However, Ivan's Romanian parents think differently.

"I don't think race matters as long as you don't allow customs and traditions to come between your relationship. You have to learn from each other's heritage and ignore people's negative comments. My parents are extremely conservative and would rather me date somebody that is the same race as me. I think they are just old fashioned and haven't gotten a chance to accommodate in the states," said Ivan.

Jewel Wakefield, Div. 047, is African-American and has never dated outside her race.

"I mean, there's nothing wrong with dating outside your race," she said. "But it's easier to relate to someone of the same race because both of you have similar views on things. It took a while for my conservative grandmother, who was raised traditionally in the South, to open up and accept my aunt's [decision to marry] a Caucasian man."

David Hurley, Div. 034, is African-American as well and has dated outside his race. He believes people's fear of dating outside of their race is not natural, but cultural.

"I just love females. I feel you can't control who you are attracted to, so why discriminate? The fact that America is still racist and segregated is the reason why people prefer to stay with their own kind," he said.

America has long been known as the melting pot of culture and race. Nevertheless, religious and traditional values held by immigrants and older generations still influence many teenagers' decisions about cross-racial dating.

# PE Leaders, Best Buddies teach life lessons

By Ashley Grant

*For the first couple weeks of school, Bernard - an autistic boy in my PE Leaders class known to all as "BJ" - refused to run. No one could even get him to walk fast. Everyday the class was full of voices yelling "Come on BJ, run, run," but he continued walking slowly.*

*One day as BJ and I walked hand in hand into the dance studio I smiled and asked, "Wanna run, BJ? Come on! Wanna run?"*

*Still holding his hand, I started into a slow jog. He looked at me with the biggest smile on his face and started running next to me. It was the first time I felt like I was truly reaching BJ and making a difference in his experience at school.*

Lane's PE Leaders is a class where regular education students pair up with special needs students to help them develop social skills. An after-school club called Best Buddies is a related program with the same agenda.

Autism causes people like BJ to experience the world differently from the way most others do. They often have difficulty talking with other people and expressing themselves through words. Children with autism usually keep to themselves and can change emotions within a very short period of time.

"I remember one day me and another student in the class were in the gym with one of the kids named Jeremy," said Ashley Homa, Div. 037. "He would not stop playing tag with us, while he laughed and ran around. But then when he finally got tired is when it was no more tag for Jeremy."

Lane students who work with the autistic and other special needs students in the PE Leaders class admit that not all their interactions were initially positive. As time has passed, however, they have come to appreciate the connections they have made.

"When I was first exposed to the class I was sad because I wished I could understand them and what is going through their heads," said Homa. "And most of them are my age or older, yet I feel like they are treated so much younger. But overall I think I am more proud than sad most of the time because everyday we try to teach them new games or ideas."

"When I finally got the kids to interact with me, the feeling I got was indescribable," said Samantha DeBondt, Div. 020. "I'm proud of myself for getting them up and

*"They have taught me a lot. They really taught me to appreciate my life... and the simple things we take for granted everyday."*

--Samantha DeBondt

me like that."

The students have noticed other instances of how their special needs buddies have given back to them and even changed their perspectives on life.

"They have taught me a lot. They really taught me to appreciate my life... and the simple things we take for granted everyday. They find joy in the simplest things and it really inspires me to do the same," said DeBondt.

"They have definitely made me more curious about life and how we all perceive things, they all have such amazing personalities, it was more than I expected," said Homa, "I look at them as people, nothing else, and I have fun with them."

"[They have taught me] to appreciate all that I have because some of these children struggle through a lot of issues that may never be a problem for me," said Jocelyn Gil, Div. 031.

Students who have taken the PE Leaders class or participated in the best Buddies club encourage others to get involved.

"It is a beautiful experience that is very important to the autistic kids," said Gil. "These children are very unique, and every moment I am able to spend with them seems to always be a fantastic time."

"It is important for people to get involved with PE Leaders or Best Buddies because you're giving each kid a new friend, someone new to have a good time with," said DeBondt, "It also opens your eyes to a whole new level of helping the society you live in."

*Walking into my 7th period PE Leaders class, I am greeted with the happiest smiles I get all day. Sometimes BJ even runs up to say hello.*



Ashley Grant, Div. 045, helps her buddy Bernard "BJ" ride the exercise bike in room 118.



Ashley Homa, Div. 037, and Christian "Kit" play Patty Cake during class.



Special needs students sold poinsettias and Christmas cactuses at their annual Holiday Plant Sale near the cafeteria hallway on Monday, Dec. 14. Proceeds from the sales go to support the Northside Learning Center.



Taylor Hogan, Div. 033, and Danny hang out together during their seventh period PE Leaders class.



# Students face the truth and open up to friends and family

By Caitlyn Kolakowski

"Starting freshman year, I began to come to terms with the idea that maybe I was different, maybe I wasn't straight, but gay. That was probably one of the hardest things for me, and I think [it is for] a lot of other people who are coming out. It really took its toll on me mentally for a while."

These were the thoughts of Michael Podgers, Div. 030, when he came to realize that he was gay. Many others have made this same startling realization about themselves.

Paola Lopez, Div. 021, discovered she was lesbian in middle school from her friend, Jorge.

"One day we were doing community service at [a] church and we were sitting in the back because mass was going on. We started talking and I was telling him about this infatuation I had with this one girl and he's like, 'Well, you are obviously a lesbian,'" said Lopez.

Podgers, who struggled with his sexual preference, also turned to a friend for support. He chose to first come out to his friend Kelly, who was going through the same process herself.

"In her, I saw that this wasn't something to be afraid of. She eventually became a great resource," said Podgers. "Kelly slowly made me feel more comfortable and accepting of my own homosexuality."

Brandon Pondexter, Div. 033, took two years before coming out. In his opinion, it was easier to tell a group first rather than an individual.

"No one seemed to care about it. They were surprised to hear it since it doesn't show," said Pondexter.

Jalessa Perez, Div. 090, thought it was difficult, at first, to come out to anyone.

"It wasn't that easy. Even if your parents are open-minded, there is always that question of 'Is it going to be okay with them?'" said Perez.

After coming out to their friends, the next step was to tell their parents. For many, this conversation was often abrupt and unplanned.

"It was a very informal way in which it came up. It was over an argument. They were yelling at me for not doing things around the house," said Lopez. "Then they were saying 'Oh we forgive you. You're just a teenager. It's okay.' Then I didn't even think about it. It just came out like word vomit. I said, 'Well, would you still like me if I was gay?' I don't even know where it came from."

"I had told some cousins by this time, but still feared the absolute worst from my parents. I knew my mom would be able to take it well though. I told her first. We were dropping

off my sister at a Notre Dame High School football game, and almost the second we pulled out of the parking lot, I blurted out I was gay," said Podgers.

Their cultural background also prevented many of these students to come out to their parents.

"It was hard to come out to my parents because my dad is a hardcore Italian," said Tom Capello, Div. 020, who chose not to come out for a few years.

"It was hard because my parents are pretty strict and pretty traditional in the sense of Hispanic culture. [They were] not hardcore Catholic, but Catholic nonetheless. So homosexuality was still wrong," said Lopez, who waited a few years from when she first told her friend and when she told her parents.

Some parents reacted better than others when they were told.

"[My parents] have been very supportive," said Podgers. "They treat me perfectly normal. That's the support I need and want. Nothing more."

*"Then I didn't even think about it. It just came out like word vomit. I said 'Well, would you still like me if I was gay?' I don't even know where it came from."*

-- Paola Lopez



# Members of Stage Krew reveal life behind curtain

By Shanae Joseph

Shortly after the second act began of Lane's production of the play All My Sons, the fire curtain hanging above the stage began to retract loudly for nearly half a minute. The actors tried yelling above the news while attempting to stay in character.

The fire curtain, which has a big picture of an Indian on it, is raised and lowered by a mechanical contraption that is old and faulty, so the curtain tends to slowly sink toward the stage below.

"Throughout shows we have to raise it, and sometimes it's really loud, and kind of disturbs the show," said sophomore Yaro Bandurovych, member of Lane's Stage Krew.

Problems backstage in the auditorium usually consist of things like sound and lighting equipment not working properly. Often they are the fault of old or lower quality equipment.

Still, anytime there are technical problems, members of the Stage Krew are the first to hear about it.

"I don't like when people blame us for mess ups because we do a lot of the work,

and it's on our own time," said Krystian Chowaniec, Div. 090. "I just wish people appreciated us more, because we're a vital part of the school community."

Stage Krew members say that just like everyone else involved in the production, they get upset when things don't go right.

"I'm anal about disturbances of sound and also when people are late or miss their cues," said Dario Madrigal.

Many insist that they work hard backstage and feel the pressure of the moment.

"Doing a play or musical sucks, because when they start singing we have to change everything on the sound board, and it's crazy," said Adam Kapustka, Div. 190.

"The work backstage sometimes becomes hectic if it's a big project, and that can get annoying," said Arissa St. Germaine.

Stage Krew consists entirely of Lane students who work together to assist performance groups with whatever they need for events held in the auditorium, the Civics room (113), and sometimes even events taking place outside of the school. In addition to working lighting, sound, and curtains, Stage Krew also gets stuck

with a lot of the grunt work, like setting up tables and chairs.

The hard work drives them together and Stage Krew members spend a lot of time together, even by choice. The group, which this year consists of 16 students, has its own division, sponsored by Mr. Bradish. There are 12 seniors, three sophomores, and one junior in the division so it has to have three numbers assigned to it: 090, 190, and 290. Fittingly, their division meets backstage.

There is also a group called the New Krew, which is made up of freshmen and other students who want to become a part of Stage Krew.

The head of the Stage Krew is Krew Chief Francesca Atian.

"Being chief can get pretty hard because there are points where you have to make big decisions, and [Stage Krew does] a lot of work," said Atian. "Besides that I enjoy doing my job, and being a part of my dysfunctional Stage Krew family."

Just like Atian, most students enjoy being in Stage Krew and joined because they wanted to experience working with light and sound.

"I wanted to join Stage Krew because the people were really cool, and I wanted

to learn about the sound chord and technical aspects," said sophomore, Michael McShan.

"I joined, because it looked like a lot of fun, and it had loud music and flashing lights," said senior, Amanda Schmidt.

"Freshman year I thought it was cool how stage krew was pinned on the back of their (members of stage krew) IDs," said Chowaniec. "So I wanted to join."

Most students like the privileges that they get for being a member of Stage Krew.

"Our Krew room (backstage) is like our sanctuary," said Atian. "We eat here, sit and talk, whatever. But it's cool because we have our own space."

"I like that we can get food and come back in, because the security guards and staff know us," said Schmidt.

The family-like atmosphere that surrounds the Stage Krew sometimes lends itself to goofing off, even during school productions where they will occasionally play pranks on the actors in the show.

"It's usually a tradition that we play pranks on each other on the last show," said Atian. "The funniest one I remember was in '07 during West Side story when Efrain Ortiz (EJ) safety pinned this veil

to a mannequin, and this girl had to take it off, and it wouldn't come off. It was so funny."

"We usually play pranks on the New Krew too," said Schmidt. "Freshman year they tried to lock us in the Krew room, but it didn't work."

Playing pranks on each other is the fun part of stage krew, but there is also a serious, even dangerous side to the job.

"I was adjusting lights on the balcony for International [Nights], and the ladder I was on started to tip over. When it completely fell, I did too and landed in a chair," said Madrigal. "It didn't hurt at the moment, but the next day it did." "Another time I was in the cage (the place where all the switches that we use to turn stuff on and off), and the lights failed so I got shocked."

Since students in Stage Krew may sometimes find themselves in hazardous situations, they and their parents are required to sign a waiver that exempts Lane from being responsible for any injuries they might incur on the job.

It takes a different breed of person to be attracted to the tough, dangerous work behind the scenes. And according to Bradish, they all fit the bill.

# Teachers recall previous bizarre job experiences

By Julie Dimas

Ever wondered what it would be like to work as a rat wrangler and train animals to be on television commercials? Or work at a mental asylum? Or travel to sell wine at a stranger's house? How about work at a horse barn?

As bizarre as many of these may seem, they are just some of the jobs that teachers at Lane have had before they started their careers in education.

"I was a rat wrangler and an animal trainer," said Biology teacher Mr. Hollowed. "I trained lots of rats for television commercials and movies and [my friend and I] also took many different species of animals to parties, shows, and lots of other places. It was a lot of fun getting to work with a lot of different exotic animals and I came to respect rats and have a lot of fun."

Mrs. Mead, a math teacher, also got to work with animals but in a less desirable way.

"I worked at a house barn. I had to clean stalls and the horses...Cleaning up stalls is not fun. It was dirty and disgusting. [I also] had to feed and take care of the horses. There was one time I had to go and I had the flu so that was not a good time. [However,] it was also a lot of fun because I love animals, so it was interesting," said Mead.

Other teachers also claimed to have had jobs that put them in uncomfortable situations.

"I used to sell wine," said Italian teacher, Mrs. Tacke-Pucylowski. "I saw an ad for telemarketing where you had to make appointments to give people a 'wine party.' The whole idea was to sell wine to the group of strangers. It was just really uncomfortable because you had to go to homes you don't know and people

weren't interested in drinking the wine and then buying it."

Other teachers described jobs where the people they had to work with was part of the problem.

"I was a groundskeeper at a trailer park. I had to cut the grass and fix people's homes. [One of the cons was that] my boss was shady and he would tell me things like, 'The pipe has a leak on it' and I would say, 'So you want me to cut the pipe?' and he would say, 'No, just put tape on it,'" said Math teacher, Mr. Elias.

Spanish teacher, Mrs. Alarcon, explained how she has had many bad jobs during the course of her career. One of those was shampooing people's hair at a salon. Another was working at a fabric store.

"[When I worked at the Fabric store], the cons to the job were that it wasn't interesting. It was boring and really hard to stay entertained and professional at the same time. [Also], putting all the little buttons and sequins away. I would never get done," said Alarcon.

French teacher Mr. Polley has also had many bizarre jobs.

"In high school I weighed 95 pounds and I was five foot four at the time and I got a job riding a forklift in a Del Monte factory full of immigrants from Mexico," he said.

"We cleaned and washed the food and then we canned it. It was a 120 degrees in there and we had to wear jeans, combat boots, and a hair net. [Since] my hair was halfway down my back I had to tie it into Princess Leia buns on both sides of my head and put a hard hat on top of that."

"My second most bizarre job was while I was in college becoming a psychiatrist. I got a job working at a mental asylum. All of these people were quite

mentally impaired... adults who couldn't care for themselves so we had to brush their teeth, we had to help them shower, and we had to help them get dressed."

Still, Polley insists that while challenging, the work he did at the asylum was very rewarding.

"Some of the best people I ever met were some of the people I helped," he said. "They were really, really lovable creatures and I miss them a lot. There were two patients. One of the patients name was Florian. He was fifty four years old and he had an I.Q. of seven. He couldn't really do much more than smile and draw. I loved Florian. He was a very loving person.

"The other [patient] was Eddy. He was a very low I.Q. person but he was also violent. [However], he had a good heart and nobody had ever really loved him. His family was still around and they just dumped him off and said goodbye and never visited him ever again. I felt really bad for Eddy. [Yet], he never hurt me and he never attacked me, [even though] he attacked a lot of other people because he was mentally ill. They both impacted me greatly and still to this day, I think about them both."

Sometimes however, it is not the job that is bizarre but rather the experiences that are involved or the job location.

"I had a job working at a crystal factory where I was an apprentice," said Mrs. Simanis. "Since I wasn't very high up in the ladder of who was important, I had to do things like go and get the milk for the tea break."

Mrs. Jennings, English teacher, explained how her job led to some bizarre, yet interesting experiences.

"I was doing event planning and fundraising in the political arena. We had a couple big fundraising

events, where one on them was in Milwaukee in the Bradley Center. The President of the United States [President Bush, at that time] was our special guest of honor," she said.

"There was a private event before the big dinner for the people who had been the big fundraisers and there was a photo opportunity. The younger people who were working on the staff got in and had a group photo. I stood next to the President and he put his hand around my shoulder. He said, 'You must be the crew who put this together and you did a fantastic job'. Being in a room with him and knowing that he's basically the leader of the free world and having him talking to you, that was probably one of the most bizarre experiences that I ever had."

Moving through several jobs is common for many people before they find a job where they are truly happy. Several Lane teachers advised using these negative experiences to help find what really brings satisfaction.

"Some people are gifted that they have one path and they just go right away, but for many of us life is a winding path where we are making our way towards things," said Mrs. Tacke-Pucylowski. "Have patience and remember to view [your job experience] as a stepping stone to where you want to go."

Simanis agrees. "Realize that life is long and that you'll probably go through a lot of careers or different kinds of jobs in your life time," she said. "[Also realize], that the jobs that you have for a short period of time are the ones that will make you remember how lucky you are when you finally find that job that's the right match for you."

# Students face difficulties of work

By Vanessa Landa

Crazy customers, flirty employees, and difficult bosses are just some of the horrors students encounter at their after-school jobs.

Angry customers often prove to be the most difficult.

"I worked at a store downtown and at the time, credit cards weren't accepted. This lady was outraged and freaked out, saying that it was impossible for a downtown establishment not to accept credit. We told her that she would be able to go to the ATM downstairs but she kept refusing. She was so upset and swore she wouldn't come back," said Lily Saucedo, Div. 030.

"I work at a Wendy's and there are always crazy people coming in," said Daniela Pastrana, Div. 037. "There was this lady that made a big scene, saying that I didn't give her correct change. I'm positive she gave me a 10 but she kept saying that she gave me a 20. My manager came and told me to give her what she wanted. At the end of the day, when it was time to count the money, it turned out that I was \$10 short."

Some unpleasant encounters at least

make for humorous stories afterward.

"I work at Jewel-Osco and one day, a lady came up to me and I heard her asking me where the razors are," said an anonymous student, Div.181. "I took her to where they were and she gave me a weird look. The lady said that she had said raisins, not razors. She then ended up getting mad at me and told me that I needed to clean my ears."

Customers are not the only problem people have to deal with at work. Sometimes co-workers can create even worse situations.

"I just got into work ready to clock in and one of my co-workers came up to me and kissed me," said an anonymous student, Div. 031. "When he kissed me I felt embarrassed, and other employees that saw [us] thought it was funny. He said he was on a mission to kiss me and now always comments that I have soft lips."

When a difficult situation comes up at work, staying calm is the key. But if one is constantly mistreated, it is time to move on.

"I used to work at a shoe store and the manager sometimes asked me if I would be able to stay for a while longer after my shift. I would say yes," said Veronica

Garcia, Div. 180. "She sometimes left me alone [for] hours and when she came back, she gave me excuses for why she did. I got aggravated and asked her if she would pay me overtime. She refused and then I quit."

For some people, quitting was not an option.

"My job was on the line and I couldn't flip out on the lady who didn't want to go to the ATM machine," said Saucedo.

"When people are being difficult with you, you just got to hang in there," said Charles Marschke, Div. 043. "Those giving you a hard time shouldn't be a reason for you to quit your job."

Some students have learned that in the business world, the customer's needs are what is most important.

"When I saw that I was \$10 short, I told my manager," said Pastrana. "He said that it was fine because if we don't please our customers, they can call the company headquarters and the whole restaurant will get in trouble."

"When you work, you need to set a good example for the other employees," said Saucedo. "Take things as lightly as you can and when a disagreement arises, come to a compromise."

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# glee club

## debuts at Lane

By Sadeta Causevic

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen. But do you recall the most famous reindeer of all? Sophie Swenson, Div. 252, does, as she sings out "Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer!" at a meeting of Lane's new Glee Club.

Based on FOX's new hit TV show *Glee*, Lane's Glee Club is basically a show choir that incorporates singing, dancing, and instrumentals.

"Once I saw *Glee* on TV, I knew I wanted to be in something like it," said club President Elyssa Ronda, Div. 356.

Ronda's love for the show and her own history in the performing arts inspired her to create the club. She has sung in choirs since she was nine, taken dance classes for two years, acted in three plays, played the piano for over three years, and is currently a member of the Lane Chorus.

Forty students auditioned for Glee Club and 28 were chosen for the club by judges, Ronda and the club's vice-president, Sana Rizvi, Div. 356. According to some students, the auditions were nerve-racking.

"I sang my little heart out to Miley Cyrus' *The Climb*, said Carmen Rivera, Div. 028. "What was tough was that they made me sing it in different pitches to see how good my voice technique is."

Rizvi said that the purpose behind asking auditioners to switch songs or pitches was to see if they could hit high notes and to hear their full potential as singers.

When the results were announced, students were overjoyed when they saw their names written on the poster of those who were accepted.

"I did make Glee Club and

I was beyond excited when I found out," said Mary Maroney, Div. 153. "I sang *I Will Survive* by Gloria Gaynor because it is a classic song that I know I sing well."

"I was pretty thrilled to make it in," said Swenson who says Glee club has helped her develop her confidence as a singer. "I'm a big singer in the shower, but I'm hoping to take my singing out of the bathroom. I thought Glee would be a good choice because it seems more laid back than choir. I sang for some time in the Chicago Children's Choir, but other than that it's been mainly summer camp musicals and Taylor Swift in the car. Honestly, I don't think of myself as much of a singer, but this is making me re-think my opinion of myself," Swenson said.

"I hope this can be a good way for me to become more outgoing and learn to perform in front of an audience," said Jeisson Apolo, Div. 177. "Most jobs involve talking to people and persuading them in some way, and that requires a lot of charisma, which I really think this club will help me acquire."

Members in the club also play instruments, such as clarinets, violins, ukuleles, pianos, and guitars.

Cynthia Perez, Div. 165, plays the clarinet in the Lane Concert and Marching Band. She auditioned for Glee in order to express her love for music.

"I'm hoping this club will bring something new to this school," Perez said.

Some auditions, however, did not go as well. Joseph Goldberg, Div. 048, is a current Chorus student. He thought that the Glee Club auditions would be similar to those for Chorus but found out otherwise.

"For chorus all we had to do was sing the scales a few times and he was able to tell if we could handle taking chorus. I sang *O Holy Night*, then they wanted me to sing more so I started looking through her iPod and

started singing *Love Story* by Taylor Swift, but I didn't know all the lyrics. Then I sang *How to Save a Life* by The Fray and I messed up a little because I was not very familiar with the song. I was kind of upset. I feel as if they didn't make it very clear what they wanted during tryouts. Had I known that they wanted me to sing as much as I did, I would have prepared," said Goldberg.

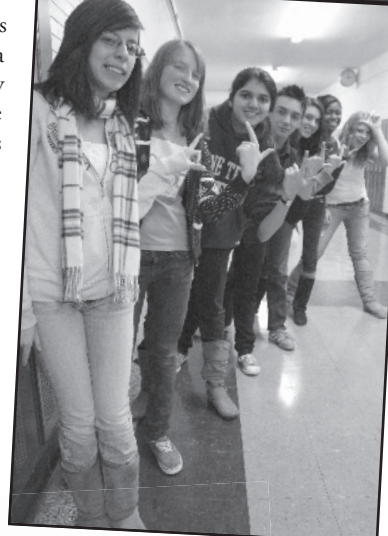
To many students, one attractive quality of Lane's Glee Club is its diversity. One such student is Lauren McClellan, Div. 049, an African-American student who made the Glee Club.

She compares herself to "the black girl" on the show, but believes she has more to offer than her.

"The black girl on the show only sings 'black songs' and I am glad that our club is not singing songs based only on culture, religion, or race," she said.

According to Ronda, one of the main goals of Glee Club is to perform for the holidays for orphans at the Lydia Home Association. They will sing songs from the Glee soundtrack, such as *Imagine*, *Lean On Me*, and *Somebody to Love*.

"We don't know the exact day but we just wanted to do something nice for the less fortunate. The spirited songs that we were thinking about are: *Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and *Let it Snow*," said Ronda.



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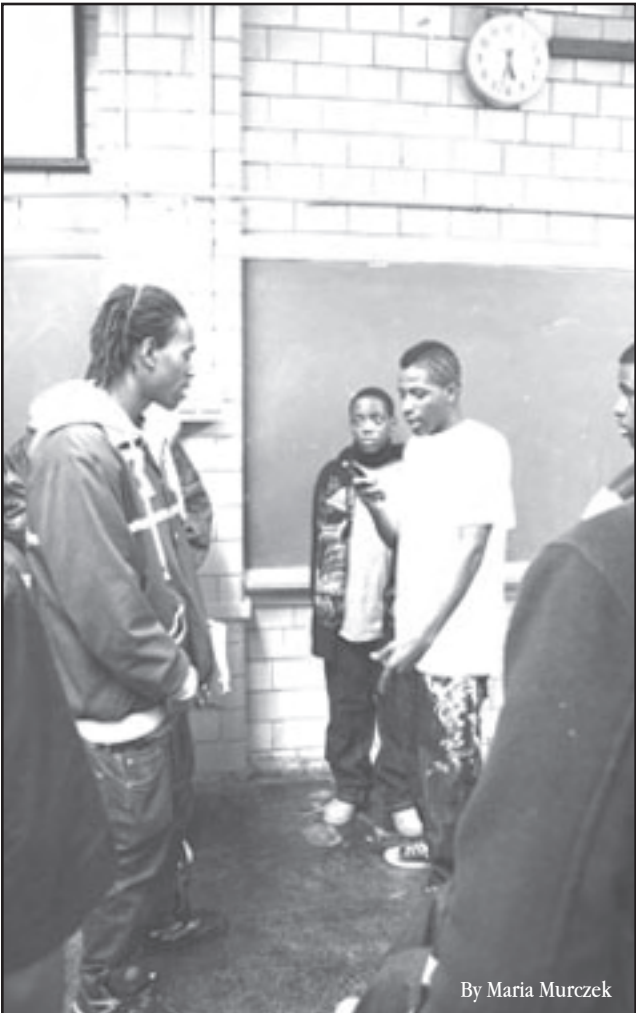


# Student rappers at home in Four Elements Club

By David Pohlad

Every Thursday, after school, Young Wellz, a.k.a. Dalai Lama, Ruga Wellz, Repoman, Boogie-Man, but known by his teachers and most peers as Curtis Brown, walks into room 140 to participate in the Four Elements Hip-Hop Club. Brown, as well as many other students, joined this club to pursue their interest in either breakdancing, graffiti, or other urban art-forms. However, the most common interest in the club is rap.

A typical afternoon for the Four Elements club usually begins at around 3:15 in room 140.



Curtis Brown (left) and other rappers take turns freestyling.

who works to maintain organization and balance in the club as its sponsor. The club divides into groups. A circle of rappers forms. On the other side of the class another group works on a choreographed dance and practices breakdancing moves.

“The club has been around for a while,” said Golden. “I’ve been a sponsor for it for 4 years now, and there was a math teacher named Mr. Ward who was in charge of it for about two years before I started.”

Although Golden doesn’t usually take part in the rap circle or the breakdancing practices, he does share an interest in the hip-hop world with the students.

“I am interested in a lot of music, and yes rap is one of them. My favorite artists are Talib Kweli and Common, but the students are slowly getting me more interested in rappers like Lil’ Wayne.

The second sponsor for the club is Ms. Twohill. “I’ve only been a sponsor of the club since the beginning of this year,” said Twohill. “Natalio asked me because he knew I taught music.”

Natalio Berrios is the president of the club. His main interest is dancing and breakdancing. He is often found sharing his dancing talents with other students interested in learning.

However the most prevalent group in the club is the rap group.

Brown, Div. 046, has been rapping the longest in the club and is in charge of its rap section.

“The pen to the page is my art. I’m a maestro to that. Me spittin’ is my instrument, and I’m a dog at it,” Brown said.

“I’ve been rapping since the sixth grade but I got serious in high school because of friends,” he added.

Brown raps in an eight-member group called GENOCIDE, which is an acronym for Good Entertainment Needs Our Contribution In Defining Excellence. Three of the group’s performers are still Lane students and can usually be found practicing outside of Lane after school when weather permits. The other five members were seniors who graduated last year.

Members of GENOCIDE are seriously dedicated to the group and its music. A few have even gotten tattoos of the name and symbol of the group. Brown sports a recently inked tattoo stretching down his forearm from his wrist to his elbow.

The other two group members still at Lane in addition to Young Wellz go by the names of Sha-k 47, and Swisha Pearl.

Swisha Pearl’s real name is David Hurley, and like Brown, speaks about rap as an extension of his personality.

“In my eyes, rap is a form of poetry. I sometimes write lyrics that are meaningful to me and don’t share them with anyone, and other lyrics I write I do share and they are an expression of me,” he said.

The group’s practice sessions consist mainly of the members trading



By Maria Murczek

Natalio Berrios, Div. 045, breakdances for club members at Four Elements Club.

verses of lyrics and showing off their poetry and spoken word skills.

According to both Hurley and Brown, the group tries to rap about things important to them.

Brown says he wants to pursue a rap career after high school.

Until then, the rap scene at Lane is alive and well in the Four Elements Club.

# Students paranoid over watchful “Helicopter Parents”

By Karen Baena

Egypt Walker, Div. 285, arrives to third period late. Before she is out of school her mom has already received a text message informing her of her daughter’s tardy. Walker’s mother is a “helicopter parent.”

A “helicopter parent” is overly involved in his child’s life, taking extreme measures of control. In a school as academically focused and technologically connected as Lane, it is easy for parents to drift into “helicopter mode.”

“Every Wednesday my mom checks Gradebook and emails all of my teachers to ask how I’m doing and what else I can do,” said Walker, Div. 285.

Apart from her weekly stop at Gradebook, Walker’s mother is signed up for text message alerts. Consequently, she knows every time that her daughter’s grade changes, and every time Walker is late to school or a class.

Walker’s grandfather assists in the hovering. He hired a private tutor who visits Walker every Tuesday and Thursday. Walker has mixed reactions about the hovering.

“I want to run track and I can’t until my grades are up, so it’s a good motivation,” she said. “At the same time, I don’t want to work hard because I want my mom to be as frustrated as I am.”

Gradebook has become an aid to numerous other “helicopter parents” as well.

“Gradebook is my mom’s best friend,” said Alessandra Rios, Div. 261.

Rios, whose worst grade is a

B, says her parents only want A’s. Unless it is a 100 percent then the grade is not good enough.

“I do better so that she [my mom] won’t bug me,” said Rios.

“Helicopter parents” go above and beyond to make sure their child excels. When they are dissatisfied with their child’s performance, they are quick to act.

A Lane student who chose to remain anonymous has a father who prints out a daily log to be filled by the student’s teachers. The log shows each day’s homework assignment and must be signed by all of the student’s teachers.

Amairani Ahedo, Div. 284, has mandatory tutoring. Her mom also has her bring home a signed paper that verifies that she attended tutoring. Ahedo’s mom does not stop there.

“Every single week my mom comes to school and checks my grades,” said Ahedo. “Depending on whether I did good or a percentage dropped, she decides if I can go out on the weekend and how much my allowance will be.”

She is not alone.

“My parents are crazy. They call my World Studies teacher everyday to ask if I paid attention in class, did my homework, or took notes,” said Dylan Smith, Div. 372.

Students who don’t please their “helicopter parents” usually suffer unhappy consequences.

“I got an F in algebra and my mom said I have till the end of the first semester or she’ll take away all of my electronic devices away,” said Nancy Valdez, Div. 355.

“My parents threaten to take away everything I have if I don’t get good grades,” said Kristen Kelly, Div. 362. “I have good grades because I’m motivated to do good by the threat.”

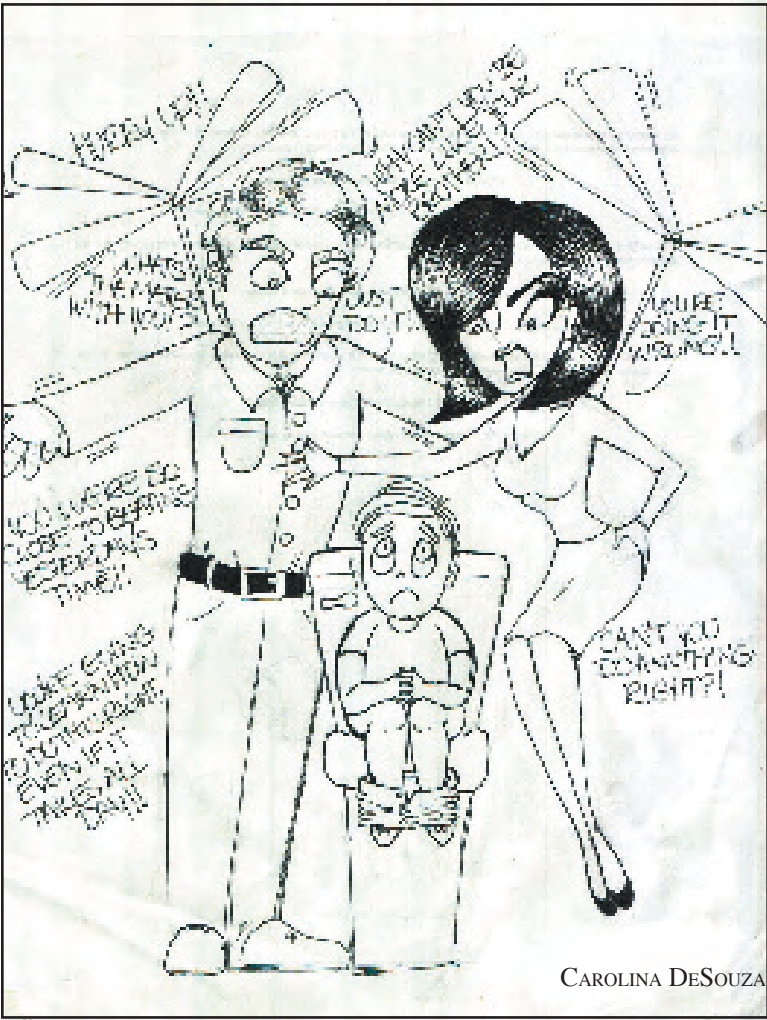
Other “helicopter parents” turn these tactics around and use positive reinforcement.

“They [my parents] praise grades. The better grades I get the more recognition I get,” said Amari Walker, Div. 277. “Obviously it makes me want to do good.”

Other parents use even more diabolical ploys to send a message to their children that they expect better from them.

“If me or my sister get anything lower than a B, our parents get mad and won’t talk to us,” said Michelle Ruan, Div. 156. “Usually the next day when they see us studying they’ll be happier.”

Many students find the “helicopter parents” annoying, while some see a different point of view.



CAROLINA DESOUSA

Homework/Assignment Checklist					
Class	Homework/Assignment	Due date	Missing work/comments	Teacher Signature	Parent Sign
US History	CHS GJR		MAKE-UP GUIDED READING (1/2, 3, 4)	Twohill	
Chemistry	Lab for Dalton Elements from redox	11/13		Salen	
PE II	Drive				
Studio Drawing	Sketch done			Spiller	
Art I	NONE			Quill	
Algebra/ Trig	661123 all			Caplan	
Amer. Lit.	Calendar			Kelvan	

The daily log of an anonymous students must be signed by every single teacher and turned into parents at home.



# Ask Ash: What to do when he ignores me?



Dear Ash,

I'm having a dilemma. So a few months ago I started talking to this guy. He was a friend of one of my friends, so it wasn't like he was a stranger or anything. We started to talk over Myspace then we really

got to know each other enough to exchange numbers.

After texting one another for like a month or two, we finally decided to hang out for a day. That day actually didn't go as planned; he started to ignore all my calls and texts a couple days before we were supposed to meet up, so when the day finally came we ended up NOT hanging out. But the Friday after that, I was at work for a party and HE WAS THERE! But for some reason he acted like he didn't know me! And when I tried saying hi he ignored me. So of course, being a girl, I acted the same way back to him. I got over it.

We stopped talking. But I think I'm going through the same thing again with yet ANOTHER guy. I just want to know if you think this is going to happen all over again, and if I should just stop while I'm ahead and quit talking to him? It

hurt when that happened with the first guy, and I don't feel like going through that whole ordeal over again with a different guy. So should I keep talking to him?

-Mislead and Confused.

Dear Mislead and Confused,

One thing you need to always remember is that not every guy is the same. Each person is different and every guy has different intentions. The first guy sounds like a jerk and I personally think you don't need him. But you can't let him hold you back from getting back out there.

Honestly, I don't think finding guys online is the best answer for you. Even if you may know people that know them, it is probably best to get out there and find someone yourself.

Online is an easy way out. Besides, it is rare that people act like themselves online, so you don't know if you're truly getting to know the real person. It's best to meet the person first and then get to know them. But, like I said, forget the first guy. He's only the first in a long list of jerks out there, so be prepared and stay strong. Don't let the first guy know you're sad or upset over it because he's only going to feed off of your pain. So go out there and have fun and let him see you're having fun without him.

As for the second guy, if you feel like it's right then take a shot and keep pursuing him. If you continue to sense a negative vibe from him then follow your heart somewhere else. It's all up to you to be proactive until you find the person who makes you feel best. Unfortunately, I can not tell you exactly who that is because everyone is different. Simply put: take chances and follow your heart.

# Ugh! Enough of the Uggs



By David Pohlada

"Ug" or "Ugh" is short for "ugly" in Aussie slang. The first actual Uggs were not worn as a fashion statement. They were actually worn by Australian surfers to keep their feet warm between surfing sessions, and they were sold for far less than they are now.

A standard pair of Uggs costs well over a hundred dollars, and I do not know how much money it costs to turn a sheep inside out, but that's all they are. A number of Ugg boots are made using real sheep skin. The pink or blue Uggs are a nice disguise, but it's still sheep skin.

It's not surprising that Uggs are in style right now since they go so well with huge sunglasses that cover your whole face or those miniskirts that cover nothing. It makes sense to have a ridiculous pair of shoes to top off the ensemble.

The styles that go along with Uggs keep the people who wear them indistinguishable from the next person. I do not understand why people tuck their pants into their Uggs. If I wore Uggs, I would pull my pant legs over them and try to hide them as much as I could. I would also get the shortest, most inconspicuous ones instead of the big, tall ones that go halfway up your calf.

I don't buy it when people say things like, "It's cold, what am I supposed to do?" There is more than one kind of boot out there, and almost all of them are far less ridiculous than Uggs. In the end, salt stained, clunky dead animals should have stayed in Australia.

# New love for New Moon



By Gabrielle Williams

Tiny teenage girls hold signs that read Team Jacob and Team Edward. Their screams echo in the jam-packed movie theater. The opening credits for the Twilight Saga sequel, New Moon, rolls across the screen and fans of all ages roar with giggles and high pitched banter.

On November 19, 2009 theaters across the country sold out millions of midnight show tickets for the premiere of New Moon. My friend Alexis and I ventured out to the Muvico theater in Rosemont, IL for the midnight show. We purchased our tickets a week in

advance. The Twilight Saga books are widely popular on their own, and when the Twilight movie came out last November, it became an instant box office hit. Since I have read all the books, I was greatly disappointed with the first film in the series. When New Moon came out, my hopes were high and surprisingly, they were fulfilled!

New Moon had everything it needed in order to be a perfect representation of the book. It was accurate, well-acted, and suspenseful. In the book, there is not much action until the very end. The movie was portrayed so well that it felt like something was happening in every scene. Another great plus to this sequel was the character Jacob Black, played by Taylor Lautner. In New Moon, he has grown up and transformed into his more confident werewolf self. Everytime he took his shirt off the audience would squeal with delight.

After Edward attempted to reveal himself to the public, Bella, Edward, and Alice were taken into the custody of the Volturi, the "vampire royalty".

Each vampire in the Volturi has a special ability in addition to super speed and strength. One of the top

minions, Jane, has the ability to cause terrible pain on people just by thinking about it. When she tried to attack Bella, the scene of violence and Edward's protection of Bella was so realistic and the drama so believable it had me clinging to my seat while the screen blared with action and amazing special effects.

The villain vampire, Victoria, returns in this sequel and she haunts Bella throughout the movie in a very "creepy stalker" way. When Bella jumps off the ledge into the water and is sinking down, Victoria swims towards her, red hair floating about. This scene created a super chill in the theater because it felt like she was really coming towards you.

The movie held true to pretty much every detail from the novel and ended with Edward's marriage proposal to Bella, leaving the viewers stunned (if they hadn't already read the books) and eager for the next movie in the saga.

The only scene in the movie that I didn't like was when Edward broke up with Bella. After wandering in the woods, she ended up just laying miserably on the damp ground. I

think this scene did not embody Bella's pain and heartache to its full extent. I also think that the actress Kristen Stewart is not worthy to play Bella. She doesn't portray Bella realistically, rarely pulls through with a believable action, and she forces her acting. Every other actor plays his or her role with complete authenticity.

The soundtrack also contributed to my satisfaction with the movie. The band, Muse, was featured in Twilight's soundtrack and returned in New Moon. I am a huge fan of Muse and Twilight and so for Muse to have their new single, "I Belong to You," in New Moon, it made something perfect even better. The singer Lykke Li also had a song, "Possibility" in New Moon. She is also one of my favorite artists and this song coupled well with the ambience of the movie.

Originally, each of the four movies was supposed to premiere on the same date, November 20, every year. However, since New Moon was such an enormous success, the release of the third movie, Eclipse, has been moved to this June. Be ready with your screams and posters, Twilight fans!

# Transcript deadline change inconvenient



By Natasha Byrd

Many seniors are already looking forward to what comes beyond graduation: college. This year's deadline for requesting transcripts

(that students would receive before winter break) from Lane's Registrar's Office was scheduled a week earlier than usual.

This created a rush for many seniors to turn in their money and transcript requests, especially for those of us who were trying to meet early application deadlines at the colleges we were applying to.

This rush was inconvenient for me because I did not have the \$16 to pay for transcripts. That meant no lunch for me that week since I have to save up extra cash in a hurry. I also wasn't able to put all the money I needed for the week on my CTA card. Without enough money to take all the transfers I need, I had to arrange rides to get home.

Because Lane's registrar, Mrs. Hanley, is away on maternity leave, the Registrar's Office was understaffed. But doesn't the school have someone else who can fill that role while she's away?

This is not to say the administration is entirely at fault if not all students were able to get their requests in on time. Procrastination and laziness on the part of students probably played a big role in why so many students were lined up out the door of the Registrar's Office on the day of the deadline.

On the other hand, maybe there were things that kept students from getting their requests submitted, and the fact that the deadline was so early didn't give them a chance to get all the things in order that they needed.

I know I was still deciding on which colleges I wanted to apply to early so I would receive early consideration. The earlier deadline made me hurry through some of those decisions.

I'm know there were announcements made about the earlier deadline this year, but it still rushed the process for many of us. It concerns me that the school didn't more seriously consider whether or not students needed that extra week.

The future of students should be taken more seriously, not only by the school but also by the students themselves. If we want something done, we have to take precautions and stay one step ahead, especially if we're the only ones looking out for ourselves.

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# Gay-lesbian athletes face additional opposition

By Stephanie Pineda

Michael Podgers, Div. 030, and the rest of the boys on the swim team get to school every weekday morning during swim season at 6:00; the locker room is very quiet because everyone is tired. After practice, however, despite the tough workouts, energy fills the locker room as well as typical “male” conversations—cars, school, food, girls, and in Michael’s case, boys.

According to a 1997 December issue of TIME Magazine, three to 10 percent of teens in America are gay or lesbian. However, Podgers is only one of few openly gay athletes at Lane. So where are these teens and why is it so difficult for them to come out?

“In an athletic situation, there is still going to be the same, ‘What will they think?’ ‘Are they going to look at me differently because we’re changing in the same locker room,’ like, ‘Is she checking me out?’” said Irene Okubo, Div. 037, a lesbian on the Girls’ Lacrosse Team.

“I think gay athletes are afraid that their team won’t accept them, even more so than in regular social circumstances because the relationship you have with your teammates is very personal,” said Kristie Magafas, Div. 175, Okubo’s teammate. “You change clothes together, if it’s a contact sport, you get physical with each other.”

“I think more gay athletes don’t come out because they don’t want their teammates to think of them differently or feel awkward,” said Hayley Vandenbranden, Div. 026, another of Okubo’s teammates. “Some people are so egotistical to think that their gay teammate is checking them out or whatever, and people love to start rumors about people on the team, and as immature as that stuff is, I think closeted gay athletes just don’t want to deal with it.”



Photo by Alejandra Jimenez

Michael Podgers, Div. 030, gets ready to do a block start.

“I would feel uncomfortable if there were a gay athlete on my team... because I’m not homosexual,” said Nicholas Virgilio, Div. 184, a baseball and football player. “When I’m in the locker room with my team I feel comfortable messing around with them. If [someone] is gay, I’d feel uncomfortable doing that stuff because I’d feel like he’s checking me out in a non-straight way.”

“The cliché athlete is the straight, white kid that comes from a super conservative family,” said Eryk Puczek, Div. 184, one of Podgers’s teammates. “A lot of athletes might be a little scared of finding out that their teammate is gay because they would spend a lot of time with them, change around them, etc. Coaches may also not allow someone to be on a team because they are gay and wouldn’t want other kids to feel uncomfortable.”

“Everyone fears being treated differently. No matter how big and scary a person may be, deep down they have some fear of being judged or hazed,” said Bobby Linse, Div. 266, another one of Podgers’s teammates. “So it’d make sense that gay athletes would have that same fear too.”

According to the 2003 National School Climate Survey from the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), 84% of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) students reported being verbally harassed (name calling, threats, etc.) because of their sexual orientation and 30% of GLBT students reported being physically harassed (being shoved, pushed, etc.) because of their sexual orientation.

Tatyana Johnson, a lesbian senior on the basketball team at Roosevelt high school, says that perhaps the biggest threat to a teen coming out is safety.

“With gay bashing [...] it’s like we have to constantly look over our shoulder,” said Johnson. “You hear stories about countless gays being brutally beaten or even killed because of their sexual orientation. News like that makes you not want to come out.”

“For me, [coming out] was a really rough process because I was scared of what other people might say, think, or do,” said Podgers. “Initially, I was afraid [to come out], but I was lucky, and it was totally accepted [by my friends and family].”

“I think the biggest struggle would be acceptance,” said Nicole McIntyre, Div. 033, a bisexual on the Girls’ Swim and Water Polo Teams. “[We] just want to be recognized as any other human being. We’re just like everyone else; we think, we feel. Deciding who we sleep with or who we fall in love with is [besides] the point of life.”

“I was worried at first [about coming out], but most of [my team was] like, ‘We know. It’s okay. You don’t have to play it off,’” said Okubo. “It’s scary coming out to your team [because] they can either be your best friends...or your worst enemies.”

According to the Massachusetts Department of Education, the average high school student hears anti-gay slurs 25 times per day. According to the 2003 National School Climate Survey from GLSEN, more than 90% of youth reported hearing homophobic remarks in their school frequently or often—remarks such as “fag” or “dyke” used in a derogatory manner. This can be a vital factor in keeping teens from coming out.

“Occasionally, you’ll hear someone [on the team] say, ‘You faggot,’ or something like that behind [Podgers’s] back if he makes them mad, but I think he’s learned to block it out by now, and it doesn’t seem to offend [him],” said Puczek.

“There [have] been situations where [Okubo] was treated differently than other people because of her sexuality,” said Isabelle Carr, Div. 037, another of Okubo’s teammates. “But that shouldn’t matter because she’s still our teammate, and it doesn’t affect how she performs as an athlete.”

“When I’m in the locker room with my team I feel comfortable messing around with them. If [someone] is gay, I’d feel uncomfortable doing that stuff because I’d feel like he’s checking me out in a non-straight way.”

-- Nicholas Virgilio

Similarly to homosexual athletic teens, professional athletes also face problems coming out to the public and their fans. Many professional athletes will not come out until after their athletic career is over for fear of discrimination or the constant insults from opposing teams.

Justin Fashanu was a professional English soccer player from 1978-1997 who came out while he was still playing professional soccer. After announcing he was gay in 1990 he was constantly teased by teammates, fans, and even coaches. In March of 1998, a seventeen-year-old accused Fashanu of sexually assaulting him. Due to all the controversy that arose after he came out, Fashanu hanged himself and was found on May 3, 1998. His suicide note said that he did not want to embarrass his friends and family any more.

Another example of how fans’ hatred toward gay athletes affects the athletes themselves is visible in offensive lineman, Ed Gallagher, who played at the University of Pittsburgh from 1977 to 1979. After years of fighting his homosexual urges, he finally gave in and slept with another athlete in 1985.

Unable to handle admitting to himself that he was gay, he attempted to, but failed, to commit suicide by jumping off Valhalla’s Kensico Dam two weeks after the incident. This unsuccessful attempt left him a paraplegic.

Gallagher later explained in an interview that he could not resolve his inner conflicts of what he’d always been taught an athlete was supposed to be versus his own sexual urges, and thus decided to end his life rather than live with his own self-loathing and face the judgment of his fans.

As in any situation, there are also professional athletes who are entirely anti-gay and have no problem displaying these emotions.

Former Atlanta Brave, John Rocker, said in a 1999 Sports Illustrated interview about a subway ride to Shea Stadium in New York, “Imagine having to take the [No.] 7 train to the ballpark, looking like you’re [riding] through Beirut...next to some queer with AIDS...”

Many groups, such as Atlanta’s AIDS Survival Project were insulted by Rocker’s commentary and asked for his termination. He was ordered by MLB (Major League Baseball) to undergo psychological tests before deciding whether to punish him or not. Rocker served a 14-day suspension to start the 2001 season and was fined \$500. The Braves later released him for his racist and anti-gay comments.

Like Rocker, New York Giants tight end Jeremy

Shockey openly stated his view on gay athletes in a Sept. 10 interview on the Howard Stern radio show.

“...If I knew there was a gay guy on my college football team, I probably wouldn’t, you know, stand for it,” said Shockey.

Due to the retaliation against this statement from the public, Shockey issued an apology. There is no evidence that he was or will be punished for his commentary.

Podgers has personally faced bashing of this sort once, when told by another male athlete that when guys are in the shower in men’s locker rooms they need to call “no-homo” in order to “protect” straight men from the advances of gay men.

“[I found that] more insulting than anything I’ve ever heard, especially as an athlete,” said Podgers. “[It’s as though] if somebody on a team is gay, everybody needs to be afraid of him, or [as if] all he is there for is to get sex. Even more, it makes it out to seem [that] gay men can’t function or control themselves in social settings or as members of society.”

Other athletes have also dealt with hate crime and gay bashing, respectively, since coming out.

“I’ve been jumped because of my [sexual] orientation and verbally abused,” said Johnson.

“[An] issue that has currently happened is adult figures in the building making [threatening] comments about me being gay and how I shouldn’t be seen with my girlfriend unless I want my senior year to be made a living hell,” said Okubo.

It is things like this that make it harder for athletes in a professional setting and even athletes in smaller settings, like high schools, to accept their sexuality and be open about it.

“When I was a freshman I thought it was awkward to change [with Podgers], or even shower, but now I could really care less...” said Puczek.

“[It’s] not big stuff like constant ridicule directed at the person, or really cruel and destructive stuff, but little things like using gay and fag as insults. [For instance], ‘Oh, he’s—as in anybody—a fag,’ or ‘That’s so gay,’” said Podgers. “It does bother me, even though I deal with it, but I don’t always think even friends realize the difference it would make if they stopped, less for me, but for guys who aren’t out.”

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# Baseball, softball rivalry to be settled on field

By Nader Ihmoud

As I walked into the final team meeting of the Varsity Boys 16' Softball Team's season, I could see that my teammates and coach were riled up. The newspaper lying on Coach Stavrakas's desk was turned to an article on the differences between softball and baseball.

In the article, which appeared in October's issue of the Warrior, varsity baseball player, Reynaldo Gonzalez, Div. 185, was quoted as saying, "Softball is for girls."

Gonzalez's statement fired up the Boys Softball Team, and Coach Stavrakas assured his players that something would be done.

In an interview with Lane Tech Local Broadcasting (LTLB) TV, softball players Brad Jursa, Div. 040, and Patrick O'Connell, Div. 182, challenged the baseball team to a 16' softball game. However, due to technical difficulties the interview never aired. Stavrakas sent the message more directly by interrupting eighth period Team Baseball while they were in the weight room and delivering the challenge in person.

"I'll take my guys against your top ten guys any day of the week! You won't stand a chance!" Stavrakas yelled.

Most members of the Baseball Team do not con-

sider the softball players serious competition.

"[The challenge is] pointless," said baseball player Kyle Huber, Div. 028. "The baseball team will roll over [the softball team]."

Still, a majority of players on both teams welcome the game.

"I like inter-school competition," said baseball player Jack Clancy, Div. 046.

"It would be like a Green vs. Gold game," said baseball player Jensen Rohlf, Div. 030.

"It should be held every year like the Turkey Bowl," said softball player Brad Jursa, Div. 040.

Though the game could potentially be played for fun, like Turkey Bowl or the Green vs. Gold game, both teams have taken the intensity up a notch.

"This is our sport," said Jursa. "No one can play softball better than us."

Members of the baseball team understand that softball is not their sport, but will not allow that to be an excuse on the day of the challenge.

"Anyone can play softball," said Huber.

Coach Telles believes that if his baseball players can adapt to softball's high arc pitching and the size of the infield, it will put them over the top.

"They will have the early advantage with the shorter bases," he said. "We will adjust quickly and beat them in the end."

Softball is different from baseball in many ways: the size of the ball used is much larger, the field of play is much smaller- which forces the defense to react faster, and no gloves are used. These differences also call for several offensive and defensive strategies different from those used in baseball.

"The ball is pitched at a high arc; it is tough to the biggest challenge is catching barehanded. [The Baseball Team] may be able to hit, but the difference maker is going to be defense. We are going to score a lot in the first [inning]; they will score none. We will score a lot in the second [inning]; they will score none. We will score more in the third [inning]; they will score none again. We won't score in the fourth [inning] because we will be tired from scoring so much, and they will score a few runs. Then we will score a lot more in the fifth [inning] and put them away."

Stavrakas's confidence in his players seems only trumped by the baseball players' confidence in themselves.

"We are better athletes, and that will be the difference in the game," said Rohlf.

Others baseball players gave me less specific

*"I'll take my guys against your top ten guys any day of the week! You won't stand a chance!"*  
--Coach Stavrakas



Baseball player Jensen Rohlf, Div. 030 is confident his team will win the game.

Photo By Alejandra Jimenez

reasons for why they think they will win, simply saying things like "We are the best team in the school," and "You guys are going to get tanked."

Most of the baseball players are certain their baseball skills will easily transition to the softball field. They may have reason to be confident based on their success this season in which they defeated Lake Forest, Maine South, Rolling Meadows, and Schaumburg - all teams they had never before beaten.

Even so, the softball players believe the baseball team's confidence is ill founded and think their experience in their own sport will help them win the game.

"We are a group of power hitters that can place the ball where it needs to be," said softball player Richie Wagner, Div. 024.

The softball Team has been plenty successful as well. Since softball was implemented as a CPS sport 11 years ago, Lane has won eight City championships.

"Who has been winning championships?" asked O'Connell. "What [has the baseball team] accomplished?"

Baseball player Jackson Perri, Div. 185, says comparing championships is not a valid measure of pure skill since the two teams face different levels of competition.

"We have to hit an 88 mph fastball," said Perri. "[For them] it's a 16-inch softball. How don't you destroy it?"

While the words between the teams continue to heat up, the weather just gets colder. The game will likely not be played until this spring.

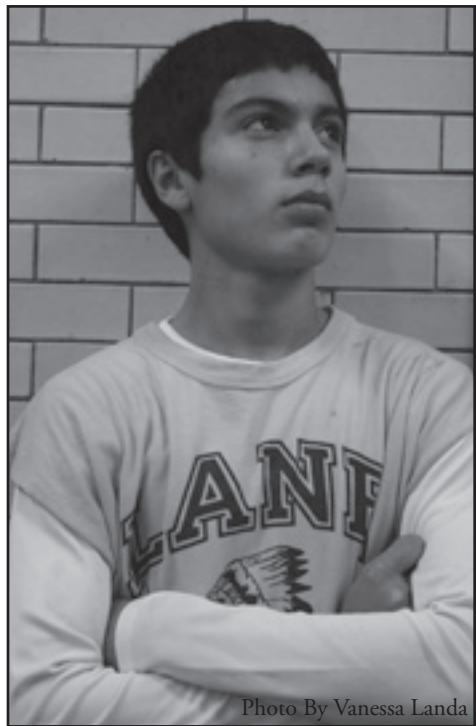


Photo By Vanessa Landa

Softball player Tommy Angsten, Div. 270, is ready to take on the baseball team.

# Mixed Martial Arts VS. Boxing: Who will be knocked out?

By Ricardo Guzman

All over the competitive fighting world, questions have been flaring up over whether mixed martial arts (MMA) has overtaken boxing as the top mainstream fighting sport.

"MMA has taken over boxing, because unlike boxing, MMA delivers the fights that the viewers want to see," said Josh Hahn, Div. 050. "And people love more violence."

MMA is a sport fought in an octagonal cage where the fighters use strikes of the hands, elbows, feet, and knees. There is also a lot of grappling, which can lead to painful submissions. In a boxing match, only punches are allowed. Some students tend to prefer MMA over boxing for the increased capacity for violence.

"I used to like boxing more, but now there's the UFC, [Ultimate Fighting Championship]... I like MMA more because there is more bloodshed," said Gabriel McDonagh, Div. 034.

MMA appeals more to the younger generation than boxing because of the intensity of the sport.

"I used to watch both, but now I only watch MMA. It's got way better KOs," said George Bustos, Div. 027. "There is a lot more action going on."

"I used to watch boxing when it was free, but once MMA started I watched that," said Michael Sbordone, Div. 033.

Other students lean more towards boxing because it is a part of their family or cultural traditions.

"UFC fights are too short," said Steven Merino, Div. 052. "Boxing is sort of a big deal in my family, especially when [Oscar] De La Hoya fought."

With boxing losing more and more fans to MMA, they have not submitted to defeat and continue to find fights that are enticing to fans.

Recently, a boxing "dream fight" was scheduled between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather, who are considered by many to be the top two fighters in the sport today.

After Pacquiao defeated Miguel Cotto, fans and coaches of both fighters demanded the matchup between the welterweights, which has been scheduled for March 13, 2010.

"I want Mayweather to win; I think he's a better fighter... I mean his nickname is 'Money'," said Merino.

"Pacquiao has got this," said Alex Vo, Div. 259. "He's way too powerful and talented for Mayweather."

The dream MMA matchup, however, seems less likely. Fedor Emelianenko, who fights for Strike

Force, and Brock Lesnar, who fights under a UFC contract, are regarded as the top two heavyweights in all of MMA according to sherdog.com's official rankings. A fight between the two has not been worked out because Emelianenko will not agree to the contractual demands of the UFC.

Additionally, Lesnar is currently recovering from mononucleosis and a perforation in his intestine, which led to his pulling out of UFC 108. He is not expected to return to the octagon until mid 2010.

"It's too bad, I was looking forward to watching [Lesnar] defend his Heavyweight title for, technically his first time," said Alex Vo, Div. 259.

The obstacles to the fight haven't stopped MMA fans from predicting who would win.

"Brock is too athletic and stronger than Fedor," said Sbordone. "Fedor also fights weak competition."

While MMA corporations UFC, WEC, and Strikeforce, continue to grow, HBO and boxing continue to be competitive and air pay-per-views that consistently pull in over a million buys.

The boxing pay-per-view event, featuring Oscar De La Hoya vs. Floyd Mayweather holds the top spot for most pay-per-view buys of all-time, at over two million.

UFC's top event to date is UFC 100, which pulled in over 1.7 million views. This event sits currently at fifth all-time on the

## Sports Quick Hits

### Boys Basketball

Dec 9: Lane 68-Kelly 52

!!!!!!Dec 15: Lane 63-Senn 50

Upcoming:

Dec 17 at Northside

Dec 26-30:Luther North Holiday Tournament

### Girls Basketball

Dec 11: Lane 50-Von Steuben 64

Dec 14: Lane 58-Gordon Tech 57

Upcoming:

Dec 26-30: Morton College

Christmas Tournament

### Wrestling

Dec 12: Wheeling Tournament

6th place finish

Individual Finishes:

Matt Finegan 130 weight class-first place

Max Schneider 145 weight class-first place

Dec15: Lane 69-Senn 12

Upcoming:

Dec 18-19: Glenbrook South Tournament

Dec 29-30: Lincoln invite

### Boys Swimming

Dec 11: Lane defeats Northside

Dec 12: 6th place team finish at Wild

Stallion Jamboree

Dec 15: Lane 86-Curie 84

Upcoming:

Jan 8 vs. Von Steuben

Jan 13 vs. Foreman & Lincoln Park

### Girls Bowling

Dec 7: Lane 3-Forman 0

Dec 14: Lane 3 -Phoenix 0

Upcoming:

Jan 1 vs. Schurz

Jan 11 vs. Mather

### Boys Bowling

Dec 7: Lane 1-Foreman 2

Dec 14: Lane 2 -Phoenix 1

Upcoming:

Jan 1 vs. Schurz

Jan 11 vs. Mather



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# Player of the Issue

## Jazmin Carranza, Div. 055

Carranza, a member of Lane's Varsity Basketball team has been selected as Player of the Issue. Her outstanding team play has earned her this award as well as her individual play. She is averaging 18 points and 10 assists per game. The Lady Indians are 4-6 as of press time.



Carranza poses at pre-game warmup.



Carranza takes a jumpshot.

Photo By Maria Murczek

### FAVORITES

Music: A little bit of everything  
Artists: Lil Wayne & Taylor Swift  
Color: Yellow  
Classes: AP Calculus & Ethnic Studies  
Food: Puerto Rican food  
Movie: Elf  
Store: Sports Authority  
NBA Team: LA Lakers  
NBA Player: Kobe Bryant  
Pregame Ritual: Listening to music

### FUTURE

College: "Robert Morris offered me a full ride, so most likely there."  
Major: "I want to major in Business."

### BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

"Having basketball pay for college."

### FAVORITE MOMENT

"Beating Hope in the City Playoffs. We were the underdogs."

# Rio steps down as Varsity Football Coach

By Erik Prado

Coach Rich Rio announced Dec. 14 that he will be stepping down as Lane Football coach, 13 years after taking the job. He will remain Lane's Athletic Director, a position he has held since 1995.

The decision to retire as coach was planned, according to Rio.

"I talked with my family before the '08 season and decided that ['08] and the '09 season would be my last," said Rio. "I thought of spending more time with my family."

Rio has been a coach for a total of 28 years. He first coached at Lane in 1976, starting as an assistant coach. After leaving an assistant position at Austin High School, Rio came back to Lane in 1990.

Rio then became the head coach in 1998 after his brother Ron Rio, who was head coach at the time, passed away.

During Rio's tenure as head coach, his teams have produced two Public League championship teams in 2004 and 2008. His teams have also won eight conference titles and have qualified for the state playoffs 12 times. The '09 team did not qualify for state.

When Rio first began his tenure as coach, he described the transition to the position from an assistant job as easy.

"I was very fortunate to have assistants that were former players," said Rio.

Rio credits his success to the talent and hard work of his players over the years.

"I've been blessed to have great football players. I couldn't be at a better school,"

said Rio.

One of the games Rio will remember best occurred in 2004 when the football team finished with a record of 12-2 and faced York High School in the first round of the state playoffs.

"We were big underdogs," said Rio. Lane won the game 39-20.

"That was a great year. [The] kids played very well," said Rio.

After losing to eventual state champion Downers Grove in the next round, Lane made it to the Prep Bowl. There, they faced Catholic League winner Brother Rice and were defeated 35-14. Even with the loss, Rio described the Prep Bowl appearance as an exciting moment.

Rio has only two regrets while being head coach.

"[You] always want to do better every year. I would have liked more success in state playoffs, and to win the Prep Bowl," he said.

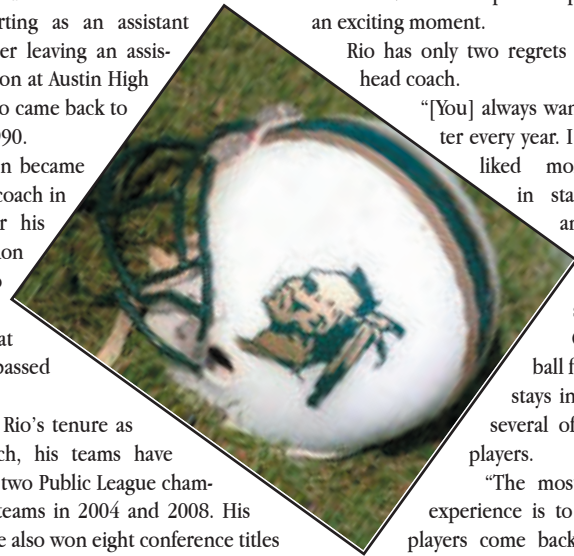
Off the football field, Rio still stays in touch with several of his former players.

"The most rewarding experience is to see former players come back with their families to say hello," said Rio. "It brings a smile to my face."

Rio wants to be remembered as a coach who was committed to the program, and one who wanted his players to always perform well.

The announcement of a new head coach will not be made until Rio and Dr. LoBosco review all resumes. According to Rio, a new coach could come from within Lane, or outside.

"We'll hire the best candidate," said Rio.



# Wrestling edges Evanston in tension-filled meet

By Baitul Javid & Julissa Hernandez

The day before Thanksgiving break, Lane's Wrestling Team had a lot to be thankful for when they won their final three matches of the day to pull out a 36-35 victory against Evanston.

The meet actually ended in a tie, but Lane was awarded an extra point for sportsmanship - the criteria that serves as the first tie-breaker.

"Our young lower weights came up huge for us at the end of the dual," Coach Lininger said.

As the match was coming to an end, Lane needed two pins (worth six team points each) and a technical fall (five team points) to tie the dual. It came down to Johnny McCarthy, Div. 356, Mitch Wilson, Div. 379, and Nick Jankowski, Div. 285, to make this possible. Both McCarthy and Wilson pinned their opponents

and Jankowski won with a technical fall, which is awarded when a wrestler outscored his opponent by 15 points or more.

"That was the most exciting [meet] so far out of this season," said Ryan Pozniak, varsity wrestler, Div. 253. "The fact that the win came down to the last three wrestlers made it even better."

"Everyone was cheering so loud, we couldn't even hear the referee," said Armin Maksumic, junior varsity wrestler, Div. 035.

The crowd had been rowdy for most of the day. One wrestler reported that the intensity between the teams was high because Evanston's coach used to coach at Lane.

According to varsity manager Ange Angarita, Div. 036, two wrestlers in the Evanston crowd got into a fight with each other, which caused such a distraction that the match going on had to be halted until order was restored. This incident accounted for the sportsmanship point awarded to Lane.

The wrestling coaches were reportedly unhappy that Lane did

not win the match more convincingly. Expectations are higher this year for the wrestlers as they hope to win the City Championship, do well in Regionals, and qualify a respectable number of their wrestlers for state.

"The state-ranked wrestlers to watch out for are Jankowski, Max Schneider, Div. 281, and Matt Finnegan, Div. 173," said Coach Lininger. "There are also returning varsity wrestlers, Pozniak, Hithem Hamdan, Div. 168, Chase Wilson, Div. 164, Jacob Putnam, Div. 032, Pawel Piotrowicz, Div. 032, and Nader Ihmoud, Div. 028."

Every day after school the team holds intense practices often lasting over two hours.

"Practices are tough; they [wrestlers] hear a lot of yelling. You need discipline to be in this," said Coach Colon. "But I think we have the best sport's program in the school."

# Girls' Basketball bounces back after tough loss

By Nader Ihmoud

Lane's Varsity Girls Basketball Team's strategy was simple. Slow down St. Benedictine's offense, control the tempo, limit the outside shooting, and dominate inside. They did just that in a 52-40 victory Saturday afternoon.

After losing a hard fought game to Von Steuben the previous night, Coach Feeney knew that if her team put forth the same effort and focused on improving in specific areas, they would not have much trouble against a lesser St. Bens team.

"We need to come out with the same intensity," said Feeney, "but we have to improve on defense and deny the pass."

Lane started the game with a 13-0 run, that set the tone for the game. Lane's defense caused six turnovers in a five minute span that led to seven points off of

turnovers. Jazmin Carranza, Div. 055, led the charge with seven points, three assists, and three steals.

"[Carranza] sees the court better than any other point guard I have ever coached," said Coach Feeney.

In Friday night's loss to Von Steuben, Carranza kept Lane in the game the entire night, scoring 27 of her team's 50 points.

The Lady Indians needed other players to step up Saturday. Jolynn Barry, Div. 024, and Heather Ksiazek, Div. 023, provided that spark on both sides of the court.

"Jolynn brings us offense off the bench and no one can compete with Heather's defensive intensity," said Feeney.

Lane's size also played a big role in Saturday's game. Lane's center, Olivia Fuentes, Div. 170, dominated in the post scoring 10 points while controlling

the boards.

"I was able to catch the ball [in the post] and block easily," said Fuentes. "It was hard for them to stop me."

"[Fuentes] played well, she boxed out, got key boards, and had nice finishes offensively," said Feeney.

After only scoring 11 points in the first half, St. Ben's struggles caused Lane to relax in the second half.

"The game is never over," said Carranza, "We did not play as aggressive [in the second half], and we gave up too many second chance shots."

Though St. Bens cut into Lane's lead, the Lady Indians were comfortably in control late, and sent their second unit onto the court for the majority of the fourth quarter.

"We came out strong and let them know it was our house," said Carranza.



Girls' Basketball team members huddle up during a timeout in their Dec. 12 game.