

Lane in talks to become Academic Center, admit younger students

By Airis Cervantes & Claudia Maj

A proposal to add an Academic Center at Lane for 7th and 8th graders may go into effect for the 2011-2012 school year.

About 90 to 120 junior high students could soon be walking through Lane's noisy and jam-packed halls. To avoid overcrowding the school, the Admissions Office would cut down on the number of incoming freshmen admitted into Lane. However, the plan is not guaranteed for adoption until CPS approves the proposal.

According to Illinois High School Ranking, Lane scored an 82.6 in math and an 86.2 in reading on the PSAT this year. Whitney Young, one of Lane's rivals, scored a 95.6 in math and a 94.7 in reading. The Academic Center at Lane should increase test scores, giving the school higher recognition. The advantage of providing students with AP classes at an earlier grade level will further prepare them for testing.

"Since Academic Center students start high school earlier than the traditional 8th grader, they could be ready to take [AP] classes sooner too," Dr. LoBosco said.

With around 10 percent of future classes being made up of students from the Academic Center, test scores would likely rise.

"[It would] bring back to Lane our glory days," LoBosco said. "Lane is ready for this."

The 7th and 8th graders would be limited to the fourth floor with a different bell schedule, and would be guaranteed admission as freshmen into Lane. Lane has petitioned the CPS office of Academic Enhancement to open an Academic Center for the past two years.

"Geographically it makes sense," said British Lit. teacher Mrs. Hanly.

Currently, the only selective enrollment schools with Academic Centers are Lindblom, located on the south side, and Whitney Young, located centrally. This leaves Lane the opportunity to add an Academic Center on the north side. Students would receive six years of high school experience compared to four, strengthening their friendships and improving their academic careers. Incoming 7th graders would have greater opportunities to take more chal-

lenging classes as well as choosing a language to take for up to six years.

"Whitney Young has had an Academic Center for many years and it is one of the reasons they are able to compete with the newer, smaller schools," LoBosco said.

Not all faculty, however, see only the benefits of an Academic Center.

"I don't think 7th and 8th graders are emotionally ready to take on a school like Lane," said AP Psychology teacher, Mr. Parsons.

If the plan is accepted, it has been suggested that the 7th and 8th graders be isolated from upperclassmen for the first few weeks to avoid overwhelming them.

"We have school spirit, great teachers, and students with open arms," Dr. LoBosco said. "Upper classmen would be like big brothers and sisters to the younger students."

The younger students will be encouraged to join clubs and sports. According to Mr. Roof, coach of the Cross Country Team, the addition of the Academic Center could benefit the school's athletic programs.

"Whitney Young uses it to their advantage," Roof said, referring to the fact that some of their athletes join teams a year or two earlier and gain valuable experience.

Some students like the idea of adding the Academic Center.

"I really hope they do it because it will allow kids to achieve more in life and challenge themselves," said Kamil Kupiec, Div. 378. "I would [have] definitely come here for 7th or 8th grade if I would've had the chance."

Some students disagree with the addition of 7th and 8th graders to Lane.

"This is a high school. It's not a zoo," said Veronica Chapman, Div. 266.

According to Chapman, in today's society, if students experience high school two years earlier they may be pressured into negative habits.

LoBosco posted a letter on Lane's website listing the many benefits of adding an Academic Center to the school. She also encouraged students and parents to send e-mails with their opinions on the proposal.

No specific date has been set as to when the program would be finalized, but currently a meeting is being scheduled with CPS to further plan the Academic Center.

Physics teacher, Green, hits nail on head; builds bed of nails for class demonstration



Green inspects his bed of nails before completing it to use in front of students.

By Bill Felton

"I need to test it out before I kill myself in front of 30 people," Mr. Green said about his newest classroom demonstration.

Physics teacher, Mr. Green, is using unique and interesting demonstrations to explain lessons to his students. Green built a bed of nails by hand to use in an experiment teaching a law of physics. Green also brought in animal body parts from a slaughter house to demonstrate the connection between physics, perception, and nature.

Green, in his bed of nails demonstration, starts by laying up to his shoulders in between two wooden boards, each with nails drilled through them. With the help of a coworker a cinderblock is placed on top of the upper bed and crushed with a sledgehammer. Green remains unharmed due to Newton's second law, which he illustrates and teaches through this demonstration. Green has been teaching at Lane for two years and completely trusts his coworkers in this demonstration.

During a weekend, Green built the nail beds himself using 100 pounds of nails. Despite the experiment's potential danger, he is confident in its construction and safety.

"I'm most nervous about taking off my suit [or] ruining my clothes," Green said. "If you do everything right, you won't get hurt," he continued.

To add to the safety of the demonstration, Green has foam padding on the edges of the bed along with metal handles to safely move it. Holes for the nails were also drilled evenly throughout the wooden boards to ensure safety.

"I [had] to pre-drill the holes to make them straight. If they're not straight it will be dangerous," he said.

Green is optimistic that his bed of nails will be an interesting and memorable way to teach Newton's law to his students.

"I hope [my students] leave thinking force equals mass times acceleration," he said. "It's crazy not to do this. Physics teachers have the opportunity to do so many cool and interesting things," Green said.

Along with education, Green is doing the demonstration to make his job of teaching Newton's second law more fun, for both the the students and himself. He plans to make the dem-

onstration especially memorable and captivating by acting as though he was injured.

"I'm going to scream really loud to add to the dramatic effect," Green said. "If my class is boring I have to do something boring five times that day," he continued.

In an earlier demonstration, Green used animal body parts to illustrate the connection between physics, perception, and nature.

"Physics is more than math and equations," Green said. "Physics is the study of nature."

For example, the human ear takes in different frequencies of sound waves from the environment and the brain interprets these signals, resulting in one's hearing.

"All five senses are fundamentally electric signals. Electricity has no color or sound, taste or smell. The brain receives [these signals]. I wanted cadavers of these incredible machines... I wanted to show what an eye is, what an ear is, what a brain is," Green said.

Green showed his classes eyes, ears, a tongue, a brain, and a snout to represent the human body parts that are responsible for our senses.

"I wanted to show the physical parts of the mammal. I of course couldn't use human parts," Green said. "I got them straight from the slaughter house."

Once in the classroom, he ensured that the demonstration was being conducted safely and that all students were comfortable.

"I did give a warning. Safety is important. I wore gloves and gave students permission to step outside if they were uncomfortable," he said.

These classroom demonstrations are to teach and capture the interest of his students.

Green wants to illustrate that physics, despite its reputation, can be a fun and interesting experience.

"I want to shatter misconceptions of science... It's not easy work, but it's fun and enjoyable," Green said.

Green plans other interesting demonstrations later in the year, including a white shadow demonstration, a lab showing how to measure the sun's diameter with a yard stick, and an electricity lab using a dehumidifier. Green is also planning a student workshop, where students can build high quality speakers for a small price.

Lane hosts Amnesty International event

By Kelly Sineni

Lane sponsored the Amnesty International Write-A-Thon Thursday, Dec. 9. Between 75-100 students gathered in the lunch room to write letters to world leaders asking them to respect the rights of those who have been oppressed in their country.

Amnesty International is a worldwide group that defends the rights of political prisoners, victims of war, and people who

speak out against their government.

Write-a-thons take place annually across the globe within days of Human Rights Day, Dec. 10. This year Lane was selected to host the Chicago chapter's event.

"We have a student group at Lane, and we wanted to do a city-wide event where we invited [groups] from high schools, colleges, and individuals in the city to participate. We wanted to do it at a central location and this group said that they would host it," said Mr. Ernest Coverson, the Field Organizer for

Midwest chapters of Amnesty International.

The goal of the Chicago event was to write 500 letters, a small chunk of the international goal for this year's write-a-thon.

"We have a goal of 350,000 letters, and we have roughly 280,000 pledges via our website," said Coverson.

Participants believe that their effort will impact the fight for human rights in the

receiving countries.

"One empowering sentence can make that much of a difference," said Samantha Lizak, Div. 168.

Students wrote in honor of 12 cases this year addressing issues such as "prisoner of conscience," political activism, death penalty, and violence against women, among other things.

"There is a case in Congo, which is the rape capital of the world. Rape is used as a weapon in war," said club secretary Amelia Augustine, Div. 183.

No matter their cause or nation of choice, those in attendance agreed Lane's Amnesty event was a success in speaking out against human-rights injustices around the world.

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Lane student's band to release first album

By Sophia Swenson & Cody Lee

Clay Frankel, Div. 270, and his band, Crash Hero were stooped over. Standing awkwardly in the corner of an empty beauty salon, the four teenage boys prepare for a "Battle of the Bands," but this was not the battle the band was planning to take on. As a newly formed group, gigs did not come easily, and this was one of the first that they acquired.

In the store, two women quietly browsed as the band attempted to set up. Since there was no room for drums, the three guitarists uncomfortably played until they ran out of songs. After they finished, they were thanked by the salons owners, and rewarded...with store credit.

Frankel started a small garage band in the 8th grade, collaborating with his neighbor, Spencer Ebach. Frankel then brought in a drummer from his grammar school, Jake O'Hagan, who then introduced the band to their current bassist Jack Simborg. Thus creating Nova3...then Black Nova...then The Whiplash Tones...finally sticking with their most recent and familiar name, Crash Hero!

At first, the band searched for gigs on the internet and booked a few open mics around town. Along the way, they met another Chicago band with connections to the manager of a bar where Crash Hero still performs today. Although they did have a few gigs here and there, Myspace music was what really boosted the band's popularity.

Nowadays, Crash Hero performs locally around the Chicago area, ranging from fundraisers such as Parkerpalooza, to 21+ bars. Since the boys are still in high school, scheduling shows for the band can prove to be pretty sporadic.

"[We'll have] no shows for like two months, then [have] four shows the next," said Frankel.

Despite their young age, the band has been heavily influenced by a 60s Modern Re-ival.

"It's real simple chords with no cheesy melody, and [it's] repetitive but interesting," said Frankel.

With a little help from a band called Brian's Jonestown Massacre, along with everyday life, Crash Hero receives a steady flow of inspiration for the band's vibe.

"Music-wise, we're all on the same page, even though we don't really know which page



Frankel (center) plays bass and performs vocals for his band Crash Hero.

that is," Frankel said.

With their upcoming first album, "Let's Ask the Hippy Kid," expected to be released on Dec.18, Crash Hero has come a long way from fooling around in their basements. And although they still have a long way to go in life, Crash Hero plans to keep on jamming for as long as possible.

"If you're not down for forever, just get out now," said Frankel.

From beauty salon shows to the release of an album, it is clear that Crash Hero already has plenty of experience. No matter the bumps in the road, no matter the outcome, Frankel and his band insist that they are here to stay.

CTA riders upset over students' poor etiquette

By Max Albekier & Sapna Rathod

The sounds of music playing and students speaking loudly over each other fills the 152 Addison bus on a daily basis. Students bump past each other in order to get a spot on the bus. Such behavior can be a nuisance to other regular riders.

Michael McShan, Div. 290, admits he is a member of one of the "loud" student groups on the bus.

"Yeah we know we're loud, but we don't think we're a disruption to others on the bus," McShan said.

The 49 Western and 152 Addison packed buses bring frustration. Aaron Kora-Navas, Div. 262, believes that there is a lack of respect between passengers on the bus.

"They never shut up, especially the freshmen. By all means talk on the bus, but don't scream or anything. You are sitting right next to each other," Kora-Navas said. "Sometimes there are real jerks who don't care for [anything] except their best interests. They will push and shove to make room where there is none. If a group of people is being obnoxious I feel like I have to stand up for everyone on the bus and

tell them to calm down."

Kora-Navas recalls a time at the beginning of the school year when three freshman took up seven seats.

"[With their backpacks, the freshmen took up two seats each]" Kora-Navas said. "It was a crowded bus and people were squished between each other and there they were, three students not aware of their surroundings at all. That's what really bothered me."

Tension between students rise as freshmen are picked on because they are the newest members of the Lane community. An anonymous freshman from Div. 479 feels that freshmen are always blamed for the inconveniences that happen on the bus.

"I hate it. I feel that because we are the newest group of students, all the older classes have to take their frustration out on us," she said.

For many people, public transportation is the most convenient mode of travel, despite the inconvenience of dealing with loud students.

"It's really not that bad," said regular 49 Western bus rider Kapil Jagatia. "Even if the bus situation was difficult, I'd still commute on the CTA, just to save money."

Loitering policy enforced at Addison McDonald's

By Vanessa Pena & Luis Rios

Sizzling hot fries, frigid cold smoothie, and a 30 minute loitering policy, please.

The McDonald's on Addison and Rockwell recently started enforcing an existing loitering policy to create a more orderly environment.

It is not just the loitering that the McDonald's staff is after, but also the mess Lane students leave behind.

A group of sophomore students were sitting at a table yelling and screaming. When they got up and walked away, they left their trash. The cleaning woman went to the table and threw away their cups.

"Lane kids always make a mess. Today someone left a pair of socks on a table," said a worker from McDonald's who did not want to give her name.

Although no signs indicating the 30 minute time limit hang in the restaurant, its manager claims that the loitering policy

has always been in effect. It just had not been strongly imposed.

"I have been working here for 15 years and we have always had that policy. I don't have problems with Lane students, but they sometimes disrupt our sales," said manager Francisco Herrera.

Some students claimed to have never heard of the policy.

"I have never seen any signs around. If I were to be kicked out for loitering, I would be shocked because I did not have any idea that such a policy existed," said Meilen Tecklemichael, Div. 168.

Herrera has found it necessary to tell students to leave when they have caused disorder inside McDonald's.

"I come here to hang out with my friends and for the cheap food. We got kicked out by the manager for being 'too loud'," said Walker Post, Div. 468.

The policy is in effect Monday through Friday from 11am to 4pm. Herrera says this is because weekend customers are

more respectful and spend more money than weekday students.

Luisito Correa, Div. 153 said, "If they are acting ignorant, the manager will kick them out, but he is usually very laid back."

Some Lane students think that enforcing the policy would create more problems than it would solve.

"What are we supposed to do? Swallow our food whole? Eating should be [enjoyable] rather than something you rush through," said Nyasia Ramos, Div. 168.

Other Lane students believe that the policy is appropriate.

"I usually do not come here because there is always constant swearing going on. The policy is appropriate considering that there are younger kids here," said Molly Winter, Div. 277.

McDonald's only has space for 164 people according to its capacity signs located around the restaurant. Some students see this as the root of the problem.

Jagatia said, "but at the end of the day, they're just kids."

"If everyone would just respect each other's personal space then issues like these would not occur," said a CTA worker riding the 152 Addison bus who wished to remain anonymous.

"[The Manager] has threatened to kick me and my friends out. There were a lot of people that day so it might have been because of over capacity," said Charley Ramirez, Div. 470.

Herrera says that the McDonald's owner inspects the restaurant from time to time, deciding on changes to make.

One of these changes was the placing of a security guard in the restaurant. Sightings of this leather-clad man have decreased as the year has progressed. He now only works Fridays, some students have reported.

McDonald's has gone through many changes since the 2010-11 school year kick-off. Some think that students will just need to learn how to cope with these changes.

"McDonald's is one of the few and cheapest places around Lane. Besides, we will still keep sneaking in to socialize," said Juwana Brown, Div. 182.

Lifesource calls on Lane students for blood donations; 400 answer

By Kelly Sineni

I was nauseous before the needle even came close. From the moment I signed up to donate at this year's Lifesource Blood Drive, I had been dreading Tuesday, Nov. 9. What motivated me to sign up, I still can't say. I was terrified and I knew it, which is why I didn't sign up in past years. It literally was one of those things where I woke up one morning and said, "Hey, I got this," and signed up, (of course five minutes after signing up I wasn't so sure if "I got this" was still true).

Every blood drive at Lane around 400 students muster up the courage to donate their blood, which is easier for some than others. Many students fear the blood drive for a variety of reasons: fear of needles, fear of blood, fear of passing out, or some, like myself, don't exactly know what they are afraid of.

"I don't like blood...and I don't like needles," said first time donor Julia Jagelowski, Div. 283.

"Things could go wrong. You never know what is gonna happen," said Alma Navarro, Div. 183.

Many students second guess themselves as they prepare to donate, but being nervous is common.

"Fear is okay. Ask a lot of questions. The answers may address their fears, but a donor should never feel uncomfortable donating," said Mr. Fabian Perez, who was in charge of this year's event. Perez is a Lane alum, class of '92. "I donated here at Lane in room 135 in 1992. I wanted to get out of class."

Getting out of class is a popular reason for participating, but it is not the only reason students sign up. Many feel good about their blood saving lives.

"The process seems scary, but the fear is pushed away by the thought that you could save someone's life by what you are doing," said Gaby Quinones, Div. 156.

"I don't want to be the type of person that could donate, but wouldn't," said Mylan Siscar, Div. 157, who has consistently donated since she was eligible during the spring of her sophomore year.

"My friends were pressuring me to do it," said Battle Moran, Div. 162, who started donating at the blood drive last spring.

Orlando Huertes, Div. 280, is a 10 year cancer survivor and was able to donate for this first time this year. His experiences motivated him to become a donor.

"When I was younger and had cancer, there were plenty of people who donated to me because I was in

need. I find it really nice to donate blood," said Huertes who, although he is used to needles, wasn't completely fear free. "I've had blood taken out before. I was a patient of leukemia. I have had many needles in me. It's just how much blood they are taking from me."

Senior David Morales, Div. 157, has been donating since sophomore year.

"My little brother has a disease where he needs blood. I felt like if the people who donated to him weren't scared, why should I be?" said Morales.

"It convinced me with the fact that it saves babies," said Mitchell Moreno, Div. 167, who instead of participating in the typical blood donation, donated his red blood cells.

Red blood cell donation is a longer process by about 25-30 minutes that fewer students decide to do. With the help of a machine connected to the needle, this process takes only the red blood cells, and it can take more than the typical donation.

When the blood is drawn, the machine separates it into three parts: red blood cells, platelets, and plasma. It takes the red blood cells and returns the other parts back into the body. Because the blood is replaced, some people may not feel the fatigued symptoms as severely as other students.

What Happens?

Many students like me go to the blood drive completely unsure of what has to happen before they can donate.

First, the donater has to sign in outside of the auditorium the day of the appointment. Plan on being a few minutes early because there will be paperwork.

After signing in you will be sent into the auditorium and first time donors will need to register with Lifesource.

Registration is a simple process. The nurses will be seated at a computer and they will ask a few basic questions: name, address, phone number, etc. A photo ID and the last four digits of your Social Security Number will be needed to register.

Then they will give a questionnaire of about 35-40

Yes or No questions asking about your sexual activity, your past and present medical conditions, your recent travels, and other things than can affect the donation.

Lastly, you play the waiting game. (I was listening to some good ol' Sir Elton John on the radio while I waited. *Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Me* did not help me feel better). After a few minutes a nurse will call you up to the stage.

This is where the finger prick comes in. After a few more questions, a double check of the questionnaire, a pulse check, and blood pressure check, the nurse will test your blood for iron (and if any of these are too high or too low, you will not be allowed to donate).

If you pass the health examination you are sent to the snack tables to wait for an available nurse. Even if you have eaten earlier you are encouraged to take advantage of the snacks there.

Before long a nurse will call you and ask if you will be donating from your right or left arm. They will then give you a stress ball to squeeze, and place an adjustable band on your arm about two inches above your elbow. The nurse will massage the area for a few seconds and then try to find the best vein to use for drawing blood.

The nurse will then sterilize the area and insert the needle. The actual donation takes about 10 minutes, and a pint of blood is taken. After the donation

you will be sent to sit in the resting area and encouraged to eat again. You have to sit there for a 15 minute period to make sure everything is okay, and then you can carry on with your day as usual, although many people feel tired after the donation.

Your blood is put on the Lifesource truck and taken to a center where it will be tested and okayed to be used for a transfusion to a patient in need.

Deferred Donations

Although 400 students sign up for the blood drive, about 10% are turned away for a variety of reasons. Recent travel experiences account for many deferred donations.



"I was going to donate, but they didn't let me," said Jocelyn Iman, Div. 171. "I drove to Mexico and they needed to know what states we drove through. They said there are some where you can be infected with malaria."

Some students are turned away for health issues. In my case, I was okayed in the questioning process, but my veins were really deep in my arm. The nurse tried to get the needle in, but had trouble finding my vein. So after a few minutes of searching she had to take the needle out and in the end my blood was not taken.

Students born in certain countries are not allowed to donate blood due to certain vaccinations they receive.

"When we get our vaccines, we get the live bacteria. Here they give the dead version so I can't donate," said an anonymous senior. "My blood tests positive for TB, even though I don't have it."

Sick students are not allowed to donate. Even a slight fever disables a student from donating.

"They wouldn't let me do it. They took my vitals and apparently I had a fever. They said when I get better I can go to [another donation] place, or wait until they come back," said Blair Weidig, Div. 267.

Although my donation was unsuccessful and I was petrified beforehand, I learned that donating blood isn't as bad as I thought it would be. I will definitely be there when Lifesource comes back in the spring.

How NOT to freak out

- Be positive.
- Eat and drink plenty starting the day before your appointment.
- Get a good night's sleep.
- Ask a lot of questions.
- Don't look at the needle.
- Get plenty of rest afterwards.
- Remember that your blood can save up to three lives!

Class of '09 graduate comes back to direct Gospel Choir

By Dirce Toca & Jasmine Mayberry

Two years after graduating, 20 year old Joshua James has returned to Lane this year as the new director of Gospel Choir. Although he is only two to three years older than most of his students, the choir still shows respect to their new leader.

James, now a sophomore at Columbia College in Chicago, was a member of Gospel Choir since his freshman year in high school. He came back to continue his passion and dedication for the spirit of unrestricted worship.

"I believe God gave me the gift of singing," James said.

From freshman to seniors, the members of Gospel Choir quickly appreciated James' leadership. However, a few students who were used to Ms. Gholston, who directed Gospel Choir before leaving the position to become an assistant principal, found it harder to adapt than others.

"It's different with Josh as director," said Larry Murdock, Div. 181. "When someone new comes along, it's hard at first, but we've had the chance to adapt."

As a first year member in Gospel Choir, Wendy Franklin, Div. 451, looked forward

to working with James.

"I didn't know him, but he is very nice," Franklin said. "He always expects the most from us; always pushing us to go further."

James does not apologize for being tough on his students.

"I need these students to be serious and willing to be bold and true about what they do," said James. "A good choir is energetic and made up of people who love to sing."

Before leaving the position, Gholston started looking for someone who could be at the rehearsals every day, and James volunteered to take on the job.

"Josh studies his craft so that it will be perfect," said Gholston. "He is dedicated and enthusiastic. His love for singing helps build up the choir."

As each year passes by, Gospel Choir continues to grow.

"The choir with Josh will prosper because they have a strong passion and when people see that, they will want to join in," Gholston said.

Even though he goes to college and works another job, James still finds time to direct Gospel Choir.

"Once a member, always a member," said James.

Limewire shut down by government

By Bria Perry & Monica Hernandez

Want to download your favorite artist's new album for free? Not from Limewire you do not. The popular music file-sharing site was recently shut down by a federal court in New York for multiple counts of copyright infringement.

After much speculation about the fate of Limewire, it is safe to say that its shutdown is legitimate. Those who think it is not are greeted with a government "WARNING" upon entering the site. This is due to the Recording Industry Association of America's (RIAA) suit against Limewire.

The RIAA represented eight major music publishing companies in court to prevent people from participating in piracy. Collectively they accused Limewire for allowing and encouraging users to participate in music piracy by illegally sharing copyrighted material and then downloading it for personal use. According to the RIAA, over 93 percent of the website's software was copyrighted.

Jackie Martinez, Div. 369, was not pleased when she heard about the shutdown.

"What! I'm mad as [heck]," Martinez said. "That's my life right there!"

Martinez had been using Limewire for four years and had about 500 songs from the site. She also believes that CDs will have a rise in sales due to the site's closing.

Despite the controversy surrounding file-sharing websites, Martinez does not feel bad about getting her music "illegally," and is prepared to use backup sites, like Frostwire. When it comes to her favorite artists, Lil Wayne and Drake, she is determined to "still get their music."

Not everyone is upset about Limewire's run-in with the law. Amadou Balde, Div. 351, had been using Limewire since the age of 10 and has about 1000 songs from the site. Since his initial use, Balde has had his hang-ups about getting music that way.

"I had no better way of getting it," Balde said. "For now I want to stick to what people are usually doing."

But the recent charges against this website have prompted him to find other alternatives, like actually buying CDs. Although, he will probably be using his backup, Vuze.com, just in case CD buying does not work out.

CDs can seem like ancient history to some, but to Christopher Othello, a junior at Lincoln Park High School, they are the most legal way for the music industry to earn their revenue.

Othello is an aspiring artist and believes that CDs are the product of an artist's hard work.

"I've never liked or used Limewire," Othello said. "I am a huge fan of [CDs] and I feel that they are slowly going away which is a terrible thing. The internet is a big reason why [CD sales] are decreasing."

For Othello, downloading artists' music illegally is disrespectful and does not give credit to the talent that each artist possesses. He does not like the idea of websites like Limewire, and he can appreciate the website's closing.

"Digital downloads take away from a musical artist's true accomplishments. If I like an artist, I buy their album," Othello said.

Michal Misiaszek, Div. 259, does not care much for CDs or for Limewire. He does not believe that the shutdown will have much of an effect at all, and does not think it is likely that people will begin to search for alternatives to get their music.

"People are just going to download music. Everyone does," Misiaszek said. "It's free."

But it does not stop with music for the ambitious junior. Although music sites get a lot of publicity, Misiaszek invests his time in downloading several other types of digital files, going beyond just sharing music.

Video games and blu-ray movies are among some of the things that are shared and downloaded, much like music. These less popular trends of downloading are also forms of piracy, that in the future could find themselves in the same position as Limewire.

A downloader of music videos, Briana Lemon, Div. 163, is confident that she and many other teenagers will continue to find more things that they can download, especially for free.

Parents have taken the hint too.

"Even my mom wants to download," Lemon said.

Although there is a rise in other media that can be downloaded, music is still dominant in the number of files that are stolen.

Other file sharing sites have also been sued by the RIAA in the past. The RIAA's suit against Napster was another high profile case.

Napster was filed against because of its sharing of copyrighted material in Dec. of 1999. Like Limewire, users could go to Napster for free music and download it hassle-free. These large-scale acts of piracy resulted in the RIAA's case against Napster, which garnered much of the public's attention to the possibilities of getting music for free. To secure its position as a music distribution company, Napster later agreed to pay music creators and copyright owners. They now allow users to use the website in a pay-to-use subscription system.

Not all of the music download sites are disliked by the RIAA. iTunes and Amazon.com both offer their music legally to users. iTunes is known for having cards that can give buyers a certain number of files depending on how much the card was worth and Amazon allows an internet access for people wanting to buy their music legally.

Although the case against Limewire is a precedent for similar cases in the future, the long process and financial burden will more than likely keep any other file-sharing businesses from tanking anytime soon.

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STANDOUT OF THE ISSUE:

Gayle Ramsey: Driver's Ed. teacher, superstar

By Benjamin Palmer

"I am not a sane person," Ms. Ramsey tells her new students. "I am insane. I am a supermodel!" She continues talking as she spins her arms and rocks her hips. "If I ever walk into the room doing this, just clap for me, people. Just clap for me."

This is the world of Gayle Ramsey, Driver's Ed. teacher.

Ramsey is a book-addict, a part-time plus-sized model, and even a recording artist. But in the classroom she is known by her students for her "no crap" approach to teaching.

"If you give her crap, she'll throw it back at you," said Taylor Williams, Div. 350.

Williams is a student in both Ramsey's division and her Driver's Ed. Class, as is Clarissa Frayn.

Frayn says that Ramsey "can seem like a less pleasant person when she yells at you for asking stupid questions..." but insists that "if you actually talk to [her] she's a super sweet lady."

Ramsey has been known to don wigs on occasion, ranging from a short blonde pixy-cut to long luscious curls.

"She wore a new blonde fun wig just for me," said Frayn, who recalls Ramsey's excitement about the new wig during report-card pickup.

If students are lucky, they may get to see a rare sight. Once a year, Ramsey comes into school wearing a special wig, claiming to be her own twin sister.

When not modeling a wig, Ramsey may be seen modeling the latest plus-sized fashions around Chicago suburbs. While her "supermodel" status is pending, Ramsey models at benefits from time to time.

"I've always liked fashion," Ramsey said. "So one day I saw an ad for plus sized models, and I tried out and made it."

She has even been honored for her efforts on the runway.

"I'm the reigning queen of 'Fifty and Fabulous,'" said Ramsey.

"Fifty and Fabulous" is a modeling competition that Ramsey has won for the past few years. She says she plans to keep the crown "until they dethrone me."

Even before her days on the catwalk, Ramsey performed in high school.

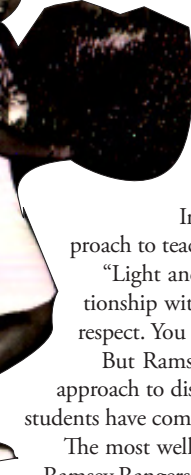
She attended Hirsch High School on the south side of Chicago where she was a cheerleader and a member of the dance team. She laughed off her attempt at running track, saying "dance was always my thing."

She would often perform for her senior division in Friday talent shows, which led Ramsey and a couple friends to form a singing group called "The Belles." Together they began performing outside of Hirsch.

"I loved it," said Ramsey, "but my dad told me I had no career in music after high school."

Of her parents, Ramsey said "they were very very... well, they were strict" implying that they too had a "no crap" policy. She said that they encouraged her education, taking her to libraries weekly and playing vocabulary games with her.

Her father insisted she go to college.



After a year of benefit gigs, and releasing a demo, Ramsey left The Belles behind to pursue her lifelong dream of being a teacher.

"Ever since I was three, I wanted to be a teacher," Ramsey said. "Some kids went from farmer to doctor to lawyer. Not me. I was a teacher."

In the classroom, Ramsey says she takes an approach to teaching based on mutual respect.

"Light and breezy, nice and easy," says Ramsey of her relationship with her students. "It's all about common sense and respect. You respect me, you get respect in return."

But Ramsey is known for more than her "action/reaction" approach to discipline. She has a series of "Ramseyisms" that her students have come to recognize.

The most well-known Ramseyism is the title her students gain: Ramsey Rangers. Also, students associate themselves with Ramsey's class codes, such as "RAM-7" (pronounced ram-dash-seven) for her seventh period class.

A student's identity can sometimes be changed, as Ramsey has generic names for each gender. Each boy is "Mr. Man" and each girl is "Miss Thang" or the all-inclusive title of "happy people!"

Those who have earned the title for completing her class often own it with pride.

"Ms. Ramsey, I may be getting my license tomorrow!" said a student who approached her in the lunch room. "Ramsey Ranger for life!" he added as he bumped fists with her, and walked away.

"I was at an alumni event," Ramsey recalled, "and I saw some of my old students who had graduated years ago. When they saw me they just said 'RAMSEY RANGERS!'"

It is relationships like this that Ramsey enjoys building while teaching. This relationship is built, she says, by teaching more than just Driver's Ed.

"On Fridays we discuss life lessons," said Ramsey. "Dating, bullying, grades, service learning. Just using your lives and benefiting from that."

Ramsey also discusses hygiene with her students.

"She always talked about how she hated bad hygiene," said Dominique Dior, a Ramsey Ranger of Div. 162. "She had a drawer full of gum, lotion, soap, hand sanitizer, tissues, etc."

Another way she interacts with her students is by passing out cou-

pons.

"At least once a week, she hands out random coupons to us in division, yelling 'We're in a recession peoples! Come get your coupons!'" said Frayn.

Frayn said that despite her antics, Ramsey maintains the importance of being a good and happy person.

Ramsey says "everybody wants peace, love, and respect."

Beyond the classroom, Ramsey says that she hopes her students take more away with them than driving techniques.

"Driving isn't about just driving a car. It's about attitude," she said.

She says that Driver's Ed. is "one of the most important classes of Sophomore year...you keep this with you forever."

Ramsey added that "your permit isn't the end of the road. No pun intended."

Regardless of whether a student is named "Miss Thang" or "Mr. Man" they're all assured by Ms. Gayle Ramsey (or her twin sister) to be "happy people" and "Ramsey Rangers" for life!



Above: Ms. Ramsey poses while modeling.
Left: Ramsey cheerleads for Hirsch High School.

From drab to fab in less than five minutes

By Alexandra Alexandru

Bridgette Gomez, Div. 257, waves good-bye to mom as she leaves her house dressed in a jean skirt with leggings under and a cute pink sweater. Ten minutes before the morning bell rings, she leaves the bathroom completely transformed, with makeup on and dressed in a mini-skirt and a hot pink tank top.

Gomez is one of a few students at Lane who changes her appearance after she leaves the house.

"If my parents knew what I was doing, they would ask why I'm wearing these clothes and get mad," said Gomez. "They usually say I'm wearing something that is not cold appropriate or it's not parent appropriate."

Another student from Div. 290 who wishes to remain anonymous changes clothes at school regularly because her mother does not approve of her wardrobe choices.

"My mother doesn't think I look proper or good or 'thin' in what I would wish to wear. A part of the reason I wear what I change into at school is to prove to her that I can look good or relatively human in whatever I wear. There has probably been three times this school year that I haven't had to change my outfit or put on makeup at school or rip a shirt or a pair of tights or, even one time, cut the hood off of a sweater. I leave the house very prim and proper, but I end up at school in a men's dress jacket and a shorter dress or ripped tights."

Other students change their clothes for simpler reasons such as comfort.

"I wear sweats to school with my shorts underneath because shorts are much more comfortable for me

to wear around school than sweats and shorts," said Hai Pham, Div. 150.

There are many different strategies for hiding clothes from parents that students use. The most popular one seems to be hiding clothes in a backpack or layering clothes under jeans.

"Throughout my sophomore year, I would try everything," said the anonymous student from Div. 290. "I wore leggings or tights or something else under my jeans or clothes and left the house or stuffed them in a folder and put them at the bottom of my backpack. A couple times my mother caught on to what I was doing when she would check my backpack in the morning. When she caught me, I always borrowed something from my friend to make myself look different than how I

left the house. Always."

"My mom saw that I was going to change into shorts once and she got mad, but I usually layer stuff under my jeans," said Gomez.

The experience of hiding and changing clothes every day also comes with some amusing stories.

"One time I was by my locker changing for the second time because I didn't know what to wear. I had a skirt on and pants under and I was trying to change, but just then the bell rang and people started coming in the halls. Some people passed me and gave me weird looks," said Gomez.

"One time I was wearing the ugliest cover outfit to school. That morning, my mom checked my backpack and took my leggings out so

I literally had nothing else to change into. I asked my friend to bring with her a change of clothes, but I didn't see her until third period. Being stupid and not really thinking where I was, I asked to go to the bathroom in the middle of my lit class, changed in the bathroom, and came back in completely different clothes. The room was dead silent. I was so embarrassed. So I guess you could say I was caught," said the anonymous student from Div. 290.

"People just look at me funny when I start to pull my sweats down because they don't think I have shorts underneath," said Pham.

Some students who change at school even find it to be fun, or see it almost as an adventure.

"It's fun to think that I'm dressing differently than how my family sees me or how my mom thinks I like to dress," said the student from Div. 290.

Whatever the personal reason, some students continue dressing in cover outfits and changing at Lane to express their individuality and exercise their freedom of dress.



Left: Gomez in her home-appropriate attire. Right: Gomez after her outfit change.



By Katarzyna Barnak

Achoo! ... An apple a day may not keep the doctor away, but some other home remedies just may do the trick.

Many people look to natural cures for illnesses before calling the doctor. Students share some secret home treatments for staying healthy, especially during the cold and flu season.

“My grandma heats milk and mixes it with grinded, fresh garlic and honey all into a cup, while hot. She always made me this when I got sick when I was little back in Poland,” said Katarzyna Chyc-Magdzin, Div. 159.

Garlic has been proven, in some studies, to fight viruses since it contains allicin, which basically works as an antibiotic and antiviral drug. It also thins blood and is used as a blood pressure reducer, according to webmd.com. However, some do not like its strong aroma and specific taste.

“It was very nasty, but it did help in the long run,” said Chyc-Magdzin.

Herbal remedies are sometimes the primary step in preventing and treating health problems.

“Drinking tea has worked for me on countless occasions,” said Sonia Kosmala, Div. 175. According to Kosmala, drinking tea is helpful for getting over a cold, flu, or almost anything else. “You can break a leg and I’ll tell you to drink some tea,” she said

Then there is tea from uncommon herbs. “Well my mom would always boil oregano and make us drink it, saying that it would help our headache or get rid of all the phlegm in our body when we were sick,” said Alejandra Avina, Div. 151. “I never really would mind, since it would just make me feel sleepy and warm.”

Other students just use water to expel an illness. “We boil a pot or teapot of water and we wait for the steam to come out and then you begin to breathe

in the steam. By your side you should have a towel to wipe your face or blow your nose,” said Asma Maghribi, Div. 390. “It helps because it can open up your nose, when you are congested, to breathe.”

“When I was sick my mom used to pour nearly boiling water into a bowl with salt and make me dip my feet in it,” said Egle Sideikyte, Div. 177. “She’d tell me to keep my feet in there until it got too hot. It was weird but it made my fever go away and I usually felt a lot better.”

When ailments target the throat, a kitchen seasoning is often used to relieve the pain.

“Whenever my throat hurt or I had strep throat I would gargle salt water. It helped for a couple of hours. It tasted very salty and itched my throat, but at least it helped for a while,” said Kinga Postolowicz, Div. 470.

“A thing for a sore throat was to bake salt on a pan until it got hot and put it in a scarf. Then, tie [the scarf] around your neck to soothe the soreness. It was toasty and it worked too,” said Sideikyte.

A number of students learned these natural remedies from their grand-

mothers. “My grandmother would always encourage us to swallow [Vick’s] vapor-rub when we had a cold, saying that we would feel more refreshed and that it had a bigger impact that just rubbing it on your chest,” said Avina. “She made me swallow like a good chunk. Surprisingly I never got sick. It just tastes fresh. I might just do it again to remember how it feels.”

“My grandma makes you drink a tablespoon of canola oil when you are constipated,” said Nishly Lopez, Div. 378. “It’s just one of those grandma things. Only she knows why it works, and it works every time.”

But when it is not flu season, most teenagers worry about things like blemishes. “I have used hydrogen peroxide to get rid of acne. It worked pretty well for me... with one problem: I used it on my hairline and it turned my hair blonde,” said Adam Kapustka, Div. 190.

Others have witnessed more original approaches. “My sister would try applying toothpaste on her face to make her acne go away,” said Edwin Cho, Div. 165.

According to medicinenet.com, toothpaste may actually help, but only when it is white and not the gel kind. It may work on normal skin types, but it irritates sensitive skin and can make it worse.

But what if you have irritated skin already? There is a treatment for that too.

“Put mustard on [it]. It makes it cold and soothes the pain,” said Magdalena Jajte, Div. 163.

Some girls suffer from menstrual pains every month, but painkillers are not the only relief possible.

“Bananas are good for cramps,” said Diana Reyes, Div. 385. “They have a lot of potassium which stops the contractions.”

And if it’s not that time of the month, there is also a remedy for an upset stomach.

“You cut a lime in half. You squeeze all of the lime onto a spoon of baking soda until it fizzes and then you swallow it,” said Lopez. “I think it neutralizes your stomach because baking soda is a base and your stomach is acidic.”

While some of these remedies are strange, they have been passed on for generations and many people prefer to avoid drugs to fix every problem.

“Medication has a lot of side effects that I don’t welcome,” said Maghribi.

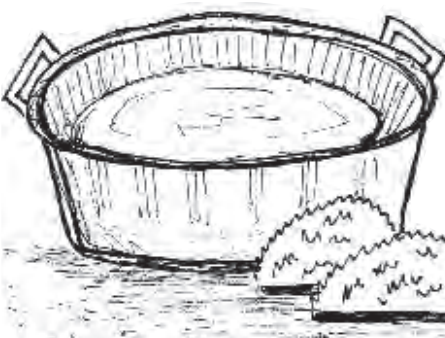
“I know that some medications can make you drowsy during the day and I don’t want that,” said Postolowicz.

“I take natural remedies first, like steaming, getting a lot of rest, drinking fluids, and just keeping relaxed, [and then turn] to medication,” said Maghribi.

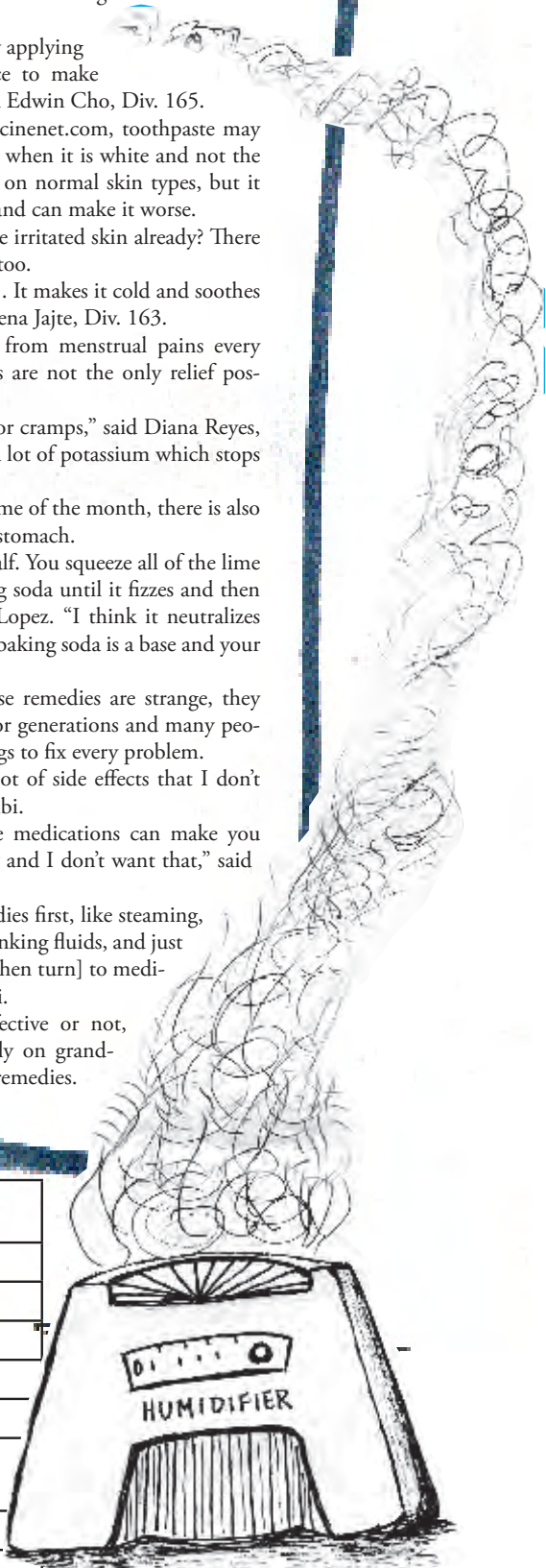
Whether truly effective or not, many students still rely on grandma’s good old natural remedies.

“My grandmother would always encourage us to swallow vapor-rub [Vick’s] when we had a cold,” said Alejandra Avina, Div. 151.

The common cold and flu are two illnesses caused by viruses. A cold is the milder of the two and has no vaccination. The flu (or influenza) is more serious because some of its complications can be deadly. However, shots and antiviral drugs are available for treatment. It is important to know which of these illnesses you have so that they do not spread. Both are contagious during the first few days of symptoms. Left are some facts about how to tell the sicknesses apart.



	COLD	FLU
Causes	200 different viruses	RNA viruses
Symptoms	Develop slowly	Appear quickly
Fever	Up to 102°F	Over 102°F
Headache	Sometimes	Common
Aches & Pains	Sometimes - (muscle)	Common - (muscle, back, arms)
Nose	Runny, may get a bit stuffy; reduced sense of taste	Usually stuffy, nasal congestions
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Sore Throat	Common - (scratchy)	Sometimes
Cough	Mild and usually hacking cough (dry)	Dry, but can develop to severe, wet cough (mucus)
Other Symptoms	Watery eyes	Loss of appetite, chills, sweats, nausea
Complications	Sinus congestion, ear infection	Bronchitis, pneumonia, sinusitis
Treatment	Decongestants, over-the-counter medicines; pain relievers and fever reducers	Decongestants, over-the-counter medicine; painkillers and fever reducers; if they do not help you need a doctor visit; perscription antiviral drugs



For more information go to:

- 1) <http://familydoctor.org/online/famdocen/home/common/infections/cold-flu/073.html>
- 2) <http://www.everydayhealth.com/cold-flu/understanding/index.aspx>
- 3) <http://www.webmd.com/cold-and-flu/cold-guide/flu-cold-symptoms?page=2>
- 4) <http://www.medicinenet.com/influenza/article.htm>



Blondes vs. Brunettes: Age-old debate revisited

By Sofi Kerpan

Allison Hobaugh, Div. 181, had been a blonde her entire life. Her coiffure was compromised when she went to the dark side this November: she dyed her hair darker in want of change. As the chemicals steeped in her hair for approximately half an hour, she anxiously awaited the results of the treason she had just committed against her formerly fair locks: chestnut brown. Her boyfriend liked her better blonde, but she has been basking in her transformation in the meantime.

"I like brunette more. I'm going to stay like this for a while," Hobaugh said. "I still get the dumb blonde jokes, regardless."

In the opposite position, Chelsea Lombardo, Div. 170, is a natural brunette that has been blonde for a year. She prefers her "powerful" lighter look, but has picked up on the attitude many seemingly have towards blondes.

"Teachers are more surprised when I give an intelligent answer in class. They're like, 'Oh, wow,'" she said.

Indeed, each hair color comes with its fair share of stereotypes. Blondes are thought to be dumb, easy, and superficial, but at the same time friendly, fun-loving, and attractive. Brunettes carry a reputation for being average, quiet, and boring, but also mysterious, intelligent, and classy. British hairdresser Andrew Collinge conducted a poll recently that surveyed 3,000 men. It concluded that men would prefer to date blondes, but find brunettes to be wife-material.

The history of this debate is long-running. In the early period of the Roman Empire, blonde hair was associated with prostitutes, who would wear blonde wigs or dye their hair, while the elite were typically brunette. According to a study conducted at three Japanese universities, the creation of blonde hair can be traced to a genetic mutation originating in an isolated area of Europe 11,000 years ago, during the last Ice Age. The Encyclopedia of Hair points out that 14th century depictions of Eve are usually blonde, while the Virgin Mary is usually brunette. In 1907, a French chemist began to manufacture hair dye in his Paris flat. It was a dangerous process that caused headaches and scalp burns. It was

hardly unusual for the hair to break off during the process.

In modern times, the debate was intensified with the 1925 novel *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, by Anita Loos. The poster child for blonde hair and sex appeal, Marilyn Monroe, would later star in a film of the same name. Filmmakers appreciated the vibrancy of blonde hair in black-and-white films. Loos later wrote a sequel entitled *Gentlemen Marry Brunettes*. The Betty and Veronica comics have fueled a battle of light versus dark tresses since 1942. Wonder Woman typified the raven-haired bombshell image, a precursor to Tomb Raider's Lara Croft. Seventy-six percent of American women believe that the first female president will have brown hair, according to a survey taken by Allure magazine.

Certainly, there are exceptions to the stereotypes. Media has presented brunettes that many consider to be sophisticated, such as Audrey Hepburn, Jackie Kennedy-Onassis, Angelina Jolie, and Sophia Loren. But the public has not reserved their feelings about Sarah Palin or Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi. In the same way, Paris Hilton, Jessica Simpson, and Heidi Montag are not often likened to Grace Kelly, Hilary Clinton, or Princess Diana.

The young men of Lane Tech have varied preferences.

Cameron Diaz or Penelope Cruz? Scarlett Johansson or Kim Kardashian? Jessica Alba or Blake Lively?

"Cameron. Scarlett. Blake. I'm sorry Kim, I still love you! I'm going with the blondes," said Preston Oshita, Div. 178. "I don't know if it's just a phase [I'm going through]. The hair brings out the skin and the eyes are always on point," Oshita said.

"I have a track record with more blonde girls than brunettes," said Henry Daugherty, Div. 459.

There are others who like a chocolate mane.

"Kim K. all day," said Christophe Francois, Div. 183.

"Kim! Pretty. Rich family. I

think she might have a mind of her own," said Olu Agunloye, Div. 285.

Others find no correlation here.

"One who determines who they prefer based on the complexion of their hair is, quite frankly, ignorant. Judging a person upon their physical beauty is one thing," said Luis Cruz, Div. 167. "It is what captivates most at first glance."

"I don't have a preference. I love women. I love hair. As a matter of fact, curly, straight, wavy... as long as it looks good," said Dylan Allingham, Div. 170.

Allingham has no hue bias, but admits he fancies a natural look.

"It's not a turn off [when a girl's hair color is not natural], but its like, 'Aw, really?' I think natural is way sexier," said Allingham.

Wyatt Sugrue, Div. 185, has a certain hue in mind, neither blonde nor brunette.

"My dream girl entails Erykah Badu with big, Irish, red hair," said Sugrue.

Sugrue has also experienced both hair colors, having formerly bleached his hair as part of a tradition of the Boys' Swim Team. He has since returned to his dark roots.

"I would rather be brunette. I would never go back to blonde. I looked crazy. If I had blonde hair and blue eyes people would think I was German, and then my Irish

swag would be thrown off," Sugrue said.

Interestingly enough, these stereotypes seem to adhere more to women than to men. Why?

"Girls tend to be a lot more concerned about their hair than guys. I would guess that these stereotypes were made up by, and for, girls," said Daugherty.

The embodiment of these stereotypes at Lane is questionable, though many find some truth in it.

"I see that there are girls that act stupid and give in to the expectations of a blonde for a guy's attention," said Lombardo.

Lane's population has uneven distribution of the hues, but Charlie Habert, Div. 374, finds a half-truth despite this.

"There are not a whole lot of blonde girls because of our Hispanic population. It is an even split when it comes to the stereotype. I know some smart blondes, and some really dumb brunettes. But I know dumb blondes just as well," Habert said.

The stereotype does not sit well with blondie Hannah Viti, Div. 266, who sees little truth in it at Lane.

"I would like to see the stereotype of the dumb blonde vanish, but Rome wasn't built in a day," Viti said.

Though their stereotypical personas differ, blondes and brunettes share an equivalence of difficulties. While dark-haired girls may have to go the extra mile to stand out amongst a luminescent Goldilocks, roots and hair damage are a visible priority for the fair-haired.

"I have to get my roots done every four to five weeks, and it takes three hours," Lombardo said.

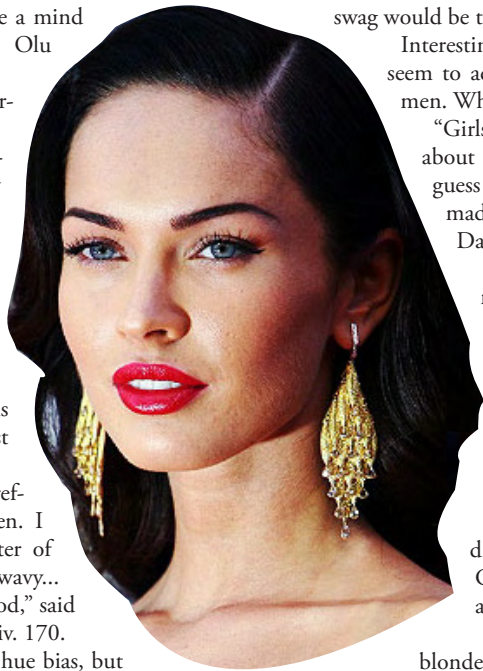
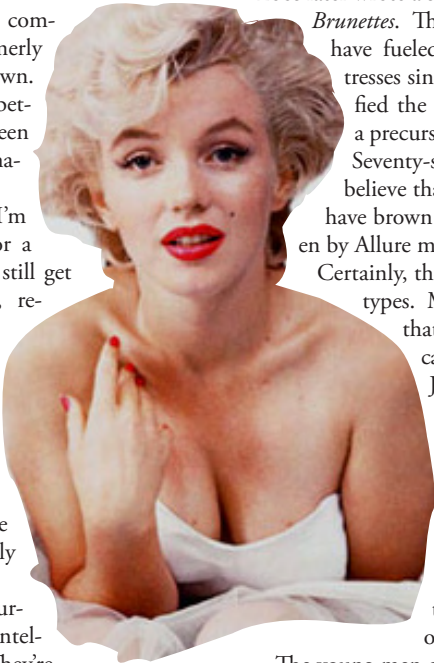
"I knew a girl who bleached her hair so much that she said it started to feel like rubber. She had to cut it all off," said Hobaugh.

In the end, each tint presents a good argument.

"As a blonde, I feel accomplished. They get noticed more. They're fun. And I'm a natural blonde, so I have more fun anyways," said Kerry Skrobo, Div. 185.

"Being brunette is sultry and provocative," said Gena Wojtal, Div. 282.

Whether hot cocoa or champagne, consensus shows that hair color can prompt expectations. Not very thirsty? Go bald!



Rebirth of the '90s brings back simple pleasures of childhood



By Ben Palmer

I may be alone in saying so, but I am so excited for round two of the '90s!

Some person once said that every 20 years, things come back in style.

Twenty years ago, the '90s began their beautiful reign over American culture. Seventeen years ago, I was born into this decade of weird hair, colorful clothes, and boy bands. And I was a master of its way of life.

20 years later, I can be cool again!

But what happened to my coolness after the age of seven? I would like to think of it as having been cryogenically frozen, like my favorite entertainment tycoon. Speaking of the passed (or frozen) monger of animation, his television channel, Disney Channel, kept me endlessly entertained back in the day.

Today, I may be the only teenager to have a majority of the pre-2004 Disney Channel Original Movies (DCOMs) on VHS.

"My god, did he say...VHS!?" says the typical teenager.

Yes, VHS. I still watch VHS tapes. In fact, I love VHS tapes! I have shelves upon shelves of VHS tapes, and a countless number of these are recorded off of Disney Channel. But my unhealthy addiction to Disney is another story for another time.

How about that 90s music, eh? Some of the bountiful non-conformist teens today would argue that the center of 90s music was Nirvana or Pearl Jam. They are entitled to this opinion.

I, however, listened to S-Club-7, jammed to "Aaron's Party," and listened to the "NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC" albums when their numbers were still in the single digits. Well, perhaps "listened" is a poor word choice, because I still listen to these bands.

In fact, the first ever concert I attended was a Backstreet Boys concert!

In 3rd grade? No. I saw the Backstreet Boys, my first concert, during the summer before 9th grade.

But long before then, I had been listening to them with my big sister. Even after they left the spotlight, I still loved them. Same with the Spice Girls. And most Disney Channel Original Movies.

And let me say something on the topic of obscure '90s Filipino/Californian band Moonpools & Caterpillars,

who provided the music for the 1996 DCOM "Wish upon a Star" starring a teenaged Katherine Heigl. I am probably the only person to have bought their album *Lucky Dumpling* in the last 10 years.

Maybe it was because I was young and naive, but the '90s provided a perfect environment for my childhood. We were in a time of relatively little political strain, the economy was doing just fine, the internet was beginning to grow to global domination, and television for children was abundant.

On an average day, I would come home from my tiny private school, run up my stairs in my light-up shoes, watch some Fairly-Odd Parents or CatDog, listen to N*SYNC, and have a Kid Cuisine for dinner.

Ah, yes, the food of a '90s childhood. Spaghetti's, Kid Cuisine, and Chef Boyardee.

Before it was "cool" to be health-conscious and avoid McDonald's like the plague, it was actually a popular spot for birthday parties! A kid's meal came with a gender specific toy! The box was red with a smile on it! The fries were ACTUALLY good! Who could ask for anything more?

How about the Playplaces at those Palaces of Plaque? The ball-pits were banned nation-wide for the discovery that they held a delicious mix of disease, grease, sweat, and vomit. Mmm... smells like the '90s to me!

You know what else smells like the '90s? Burning Ferbies. These demon-

fluff balls simply wouldn't stop crying at night, and so they had to be dealt with.

Burning, kicking, and exorcisms were common practice to destroy these creatures of the night. But nothing worked.

Long story short, I hate Ferbies more than Sarah Connor hates Terminators. Although she had an easier time eliminating the Governor than I had eliminating my furry foe.

They are one thing that I'm beyond glad are staying in the '90s. Them and politically correct text books. What does math have to do with racial diversity? Nothing!

But people may be thinking "the '90s aren't repeating. I have more self-respect than to do that!"

Uh, really? You are cuffing your jeans, good sir. And wearing skinny clothes and shoes that are brightly colored. Reminds me of the decade of my birth.

And while we're on the topic, shall we discuss fashion? I was under the impression that after the '90s were over, there were at least two rules of fashion that one must never break. Doing so was punishable by death or social os-

tracism, whichever came first (pray for death).

1. NEVER CUFF YOUR JEANS.

Otherwise the little boy from "School of Rock" will let you know that "You're tacky and I hate you!"

2. NEVER WEAR SOCKS WITH SANDALS.

This one irks me, severely. I thought socks with sandals were reserved for the old guys who forgot that we were in the 21st century? Not young people?

Now, the ultimate confusion comes when the two are paired together. These two staples of 90s fashion that were so feared for the last 10 years have come back to acceptance, along with Pokemon and the movie *Spice World*. If this doesn't prove that we're blessed with repeating the '90s, I don't know what is.

I face this new decade with hopes of a better tomorrow, and hopes of a chance to relive yesterday! In fact, I've been living the '90s for the first time (again), finally watching *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* in its entirety. I'm learning new great things about my favorite decade, and I hope I've given the world a pleasant glimpse into the soon-to-be-repeated '90s.



Ice Ice Baby: A Holiday Questionnaire



LAUREN ADAMS
DIV. 168

FAV HOLIDAY SONG: *Christmas in Hollis* by RUN-DMC

TRADITION: Every year my family and I go to the Magnificent Mile Lights Festival.

BEST GIFT EVER: My first cell phone

BEST HOLIDAY MOVIE: *This Christmas*
IF I COULD KISS A CELEB UNDER THE MISTLETOE I'D KISS: Daddy Yankee
LEAST FAV PART OF THE HOLIDAYS: The horrible smell of chitterlings "Chit'lins."



SHAWN SHANER
DIV. 480

FAV HOLIDAY SONG: *Last Christmas*

BEST GIFT EVER: An iPod Touch

BEST HOLIDAY MOVIE: *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS: You

IF I COULD BE A REINDEER I'D BE: Blitzen

IF I COULD KISS A CELEB UNDER THE MISTLETOE I'D KISS: Kim Kardashian



KEVIN DAO
DIV. 170

FAV HOLIDAY SONG: *Santa Baby*

TRADITION: Karaoke

BEST HOLIDAY GIFT: Giant chocolate penguin

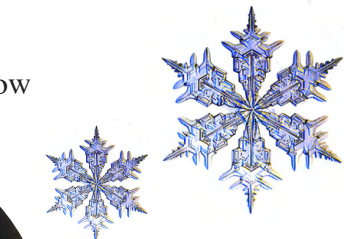
BEST HOLIDAY MOVIE: *Home Alone*

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS: Half gloves with mitten pullovers

IF I COULD BE A REINDEER I'D BE: Dasher because I'm dashing

IF I COULD KISS A CELEB UNDER THE MISTLETOE I'D KISS: Jennifer Love Hewitt

LEAST FAV PART OF THE HOLIDAYS: Yellow snow



DIANA SCHWARTZ
DIV. 269

FAVORITE HOLIDAY SONG: *Carol of the Bells*

BEST GIFT EVER: A Razor scooter in the 1st grade

BEST HOLIDAY MOVIE: *A Christmas Story*

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS: A solid pair of winter boots.

IF I COULD BE A REINDEER I'D BE: Rudolph

IF I COULD KISS A CELEB UNDER THE MISTLETOE I'D KISS: Asher Roth

LEAST FAVORITE PART OF THE HOLIDAYS: The cold!



MILOS ZARIC
DIV. 177

FAV HOLIDAY SONG: *Mr. Grinch*

TRADITION: Invite friends over and listen to Serbian Zabavna Muzika.

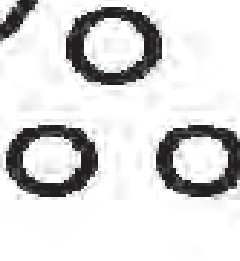
BEST GIFT EVER: Gameboy Color

BEST HOLIDAY MOVIE: Any Harry Potter film

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS: I just want someone to teach me how to dance to dubstep.

IF I COULD BE A REINDEER I'D BE: Comet

IF I COULD KISS A CELEB UNDER THE MISTLETOE I'D KISS: Lady Gaga



Dreams leave students grappling with meaning of subconscious adventures

By Nicole Jacobs

It was a regular school day for Ana Meza, Div. 360, as she left her house. It did not occur to her until fourth period that she had no clothes on.

"Someone pointed out that I wasn't wearing any clothes, [I was] just in my underwear," Meza said.

Dreams. We all experience what it is like to drift off into another world we create while we sleep. But what exactly are dreams?

During ancient times, the Greeks and Romans believed that the purpose of dreams were to reveal information dealing with past, present, and future events. Sigmund Freud, a psychologist during the 18th century who has been called the father of psychoanalysis, published one of his most important works, *The Interpretation of Dreams*. Freud explained dreams as, "the royal pathway to unconscious understanding." He coined the term, "psychoanalysis" and many of his theories on the human mind are used by most schools of psychology.

The true meaning of dreams still remains a mystery, but researchers have developed explanations for different types of dreams.

Nancy Miguel, Div. 271, dreamed about dying while being part of an exemplary group in a fascist society designated to die in order to keep other people under control.

"One by one they shot the group [members] making a ring of carcasses," said Miguel. "As I had that firm premonition that I was about to die, I thought to myself, 'I don't want to, I'm not ready.'"

Miguel had another dream that also dealt with death; however, she was not the one dying.

"My brother was blind and deaf," said Miguel. "I remember that he was drowning in a river and I desperately grasped for him."

Dreams concerning death rarely refer to an actual death. Instead, they can either mean changes in one's life, attitudes towards certain people, or fears of dying. Dreaming of death where somebody other than the dreamer dies is an outward expression of an inner struggle.

Besides death, other types of common dreams include lucid dreams, precognitive dreams, day dreams, and nightmares.

Lucid dreaming, the ability to realize that you are dreaming while sleeping, contains no restrictions to where you can go, what you can see, or what you can achieve. Flying, another type of dream, is common among dreamers who achieve lucid dreaming.

Anthony Occhipinti, Div. 150, once experienced a lucid dream that incorporated flying. He kept going in circles in a revolving door until he questioned why he was doing it. He realized it was a dream and thought about flying.

"So I start flapping my wings and I begin to fly. It felt amazing," said Occhipinti. "Then I'm like 'if this is a dream, I can try and shoot a fireball.' I failed and went crashing to the ground and woke up."

According to Dr. Greene, a pediatrician and graduate of Princeton University and the University of California at San Francisco, dreams are a parallel process in which we integrate our experiences, making new connections in our brain. On his website, DrGreene.com, he writes that when we sleep, we only dream about 20% of the time and that we dream more in the first two weeks of life than at any other time. Also, it is during REM (rapid eye movement) that we do most of our dreaming.

Crisfer Fernandez, Div. 251, once had a dream where he wished something would happen and all of a sudden it came true.

"I had this friend that was going out with this one girl," said Fernandez. "I dreamed that they broke up and, to my surprise, they did the next day."

In precognitive dreams, the dreamer has an ability to already know and experience a future event before it actually occurs. Déjà vu shadows the idea of precognitive dreaming in human consciousness. These types of dreams are like a broken record, where the dreamer skips certain memories, but constantly replays the same scenario. Many people have these types of dreams whether they want to or not.

Anthony Scott, Div. 154, experienced a precognitive dream on a cold, rainy day after school last year. He and some of his friends were waiting at the Western and

Addison bus stop, while Scott seemed to be staring at a green pole near the shuttle. One of his friends noticed and said, "You know, you look like a ghost when you stare off like that."

"It was weird because it hadn't occurred to me beforehand how familiar the situation was," said Scott. "While I heard those words, it seemed as if a bunch of locked away memories came rushing back, as if I could remember the cold air and heavy rain falling around me."

Jonas Lardie, Div. 159, experienced a déjà vu moment while he was outdoors.

"I saw an SUV parked on the street pull out and turn into a street ahead," said Lardie. "A second after that, another SUV of the same color drove by, but went in a different direction."

Whether we have lucid dreaming, precognitive dreaming, day dreaming, or nightmares, we are certain that they connect to how we live our lives each day.

"Dreams are cool, they are a reflection of how you really feel," said Battle Moran, Div. 162. "[Dreams are] like who or what you're really thinking about, sometimes they really help you when you're trying to make a decision."

"Dreams can be our emotions and how we're feeling because when I'm upset or sad, my dreams usually have to do with how I was feeling or what I was thinking about before I went to sleep," said Stephanie Ayvar, Div. 460.

Although we are unsure why dreams occur, we are certain that they can either be exciting adventures, frightening occasions, or boring occurrences.



Students see teachers outside of school; report awkward, humorous encounters

By Isamar Garcia, Nathalia Mercado & Mady Savoie

Yes, it is true, teachers have lives outside of school; and students encounter these teachers driving down the block, in grocery stores, and even at the hairdresser. Teachers have reacted to these unexpected, out of school encounters with students in surprising ways.

Jojo Holzman, Div. 375, was surprised by her old World Studies teacher when he drove past her house while she was out front.

"He saw me...pulled over, rolled down the window, waved, and then drove away," said Holzman.

Damisola Akinyemi, Div. 250, saw one of Lane's science teachers, Mr. Kopack, by her house in the Uptown neighborhood with a friend.

"I just said hello and he introduced me to his friend," said Akinyemi. "He asked me how my grades were and we had a normal conversation."

Kleirizza Geronimo, Div. 250, saw Mr. Yadao, one of Lane's English teachers, when visiting her aunt who lives in the same building as he. Mr. Yadao acts friendly and says, "hello," when [her aunt and he] see each other. She said her aunt talks to him and they seem to be good friends.

"He seems more relaxed, like he wears jeans and a t-shirt. He is just cool," said Geronimo.

Janet Ross, Div. 384, had an interesting encounter with a teacher after leaving school one day. Ross was walking home when she realized a man was following her on a bicycle. The man stopped, got off his bike and approached her.

"I got my keys out and was about to strike him with [the keys]," Ross said. "I thought he was a pedophile since he was wearing bummed clothes and had a goatee."

Ross did not recognize the man at first, but it turned out to be one of her old teachers from grammar school. They had

a short conversation about school and her family, before the teacher rode off.

Grace Kerpan, Div. 385 experiences casual encounters with an old teacher of hers when she goes to the hairdresser.

"She has the same hairdresser as me, so I see her there," Kerpan said.

Kerpan says she talks with the teacher, but it does get awkward occasionally.

Although many teachers who see students outside of school act polite and casual, some students find themselves in awkward situations.

Aimee Ali, Div. 257, saw a teacher walking down the block while on her way to a friend's birthday party. Ali was with three friends when she spotted her teacher.

"She introduced us to her friend and then it became awkwardly quiet," Ali said.

After a short conversation with the teacher, Ali and her friends walked away quickly.

Another student of Div. 269, had a similar encounter when she saw her coach while out at dinner.

"He came in right while I was ordering my food," the student said. "He just looked at me and then sat down."

Juniors Daniela Rodriguez, Div. 278, and Tanya Cepeda, Div. 265, had an interesting encounter with their track coach when they spotted him at the Jewel near Lane one day.

"He was looking at fruit with a random girl," said Rodriguez and Cepeda.

Trying to work coyly, Rodriguez and Cepeda, casually walked around to try to see the woman's face. Their plan to go unnoticed failed when Rodriguez dropped her phone, which attracted the coach's attention.

"It got kind of awkward so we just said, 'hi,' and walked away as fast as we could," said Cepeda.

While seeing teachers outside of school does get awkward, it is an inevitable occurrence. Many students avoid them; some do not mind talking to them, while others end up with funny stories to share on Monday.

"Lane Family" rings truer for some

By Nicole Jacobs

Yes, some of us have experienced what it is like to go to work with our parents. We get a tour of their building, see their office, and meet their coworkers. But what if your parents went to work with you? Every day, that is. Many Lane students have parents and/or other relatives that work full time at Lane.

Lizzy Dongas, Div. 350, and Aristotle (Ari) Dongas, Div. 285, are used to having their father, Mr. Dongas, an English teacher, roam the same hallways as they do every day.

"It was never really awkward because I'm used to having a parent around all the time," said Lizzy. "My mom was my math teacher at my old school."

"If you're out of money you can just pop in his room, [or if you] forget your bus card, he can drive you home," said Ari. "He's gotten me in hundreds of times when I forgot my ID."

One of the benefits of having their parents work at Lane is receiving a ride to and from school every day.

"I do give them a ride to and from school, but I've left Lizzy stranded in the past [when she's running late]," said Mr. Dongas. "It's just a lesson she has to learn."

"I had to walk home before and sometimes have to take the bus home," said Lizzy.

Jasmine O'Donnell, Div. 203, also gets a ride to school from her father, Mr. O'Donnell, a Special Ed teacher.

"I actually like it a lot because I get a ride to school and I can also go into his classroom for food or use the printers whenever I need to," she said.

Miguel Olivo, Div. 170, has a father that is a security guard at Lane. He does not consider it a big deal that his father works at the same place he attends school.

"He does his own thing and I do mine," said Olivo. "I felt like he was going to be all over me, but I rarely see him, so it's fine."

Last year, Olivo had a little confrontation with a teacher who threatened to call his father if it was necessary.

"Junior year, this one teacher said, 'I



Jasmine O'Donnell and her father, Special Ed teacher Mr. O'Donnell.

wouldn't want to have to go and get someone now would I? It really ticked me off because I was worried that was going to come out of a teacher's mouth sooner or later," said Olivo.

Besides that one little dispute with a teacher last year, Miguel's father made it clear to him that he should be on time for school.

"I was late for school and he started yelling at me in front of my friends freshmen year," said Olivo. "It was pretty bad."

One of Lane's librarians, Mrs. Starr, has a son, David Starr, Div. 462, who attends Lane. Mrs. Starr thinks her son has adjusted well to having her work at Lane.

"I think it embarrassed him sometimes, but I'm a librarian and not a teacher," said Mrs. Starr. His friends wouldn't have to complain about a teacher and it makes it easier for him."

Not only do students have parents that work at Lane, many students also have other family members that they share Lane's hallways with.

Dora Callahan, Div. 259, is cousins with twins Paul and Mark Carrera, Lane's choir teachers.

"I haven't received any threats [from teachers] but the teachers that do know say that they feel sorry for me," said Callahan. "I took chorus last year and had them as teachers. It was great."

Mr. Schmidt, one of Lane's security guards, has a granddaughter, Elizabeth

Japczyk, who graduated from Lane last year. Her sister, Mary Japczyk, Div. 166, enjoys seeing her grandfather during the school day.

"I actually love him working [at Lane] because he's always there for me," said Japczyk. "I just make sure I'm on my best behavior because I don't want to get in trouble and I don't want to make him look bad."

Mr. Rummelhoff, math teacher and swim coach, has a younger brother, Steven Rummelhoff, Div. 375, who attends Lane. Mr. Rummelhoff says Steven enjoys having him work at Lane.

"It's not awkward for him at all," said Mr. Rummelhoff. "He continues to follow the tradition of having a Rummelhoff attend Lane."

Not only is Mr. Rummelhoff Steven's older brother, he is also his swim coach.

"I told him he should be better," said Mr. Rummelhoff. "As for academics, I don't push him as hard. I leave that for the parents, but I'm there for support."

"He's a lot more demanding of me because he wants me to be a good swimmer," said Steven. "He's an awesome coach."

For these Lane students, having their parents or other family members roam the same hallways as they do each day is an experience they will continue to share with family and friends and never forget.

Lane's "odd couples" find love in unlikely partners

By Mary Presley & Aleksandra Bursac

For most couples it is love at first sight, but for Emily Dones, Div. 276, and Joseph Peculis, Div. 274, it was love at first height.

"The first thing I said to him was 'you're so tall', and he said 'yeah, and you're short'," Dones said.

It is the odd couples that draw the eye. They leave a person wondering what makes two such different people fall in love, and gives hope to the ones still feeling like they are alone.

Dones stands at exactly 5 feet while Peculis is 6'1".

"The tallness is what I like about him. If he was short I probably wouldn't have talked to him," said Dones.

In the beginning of their relationship, Peculis' height posed as a major problem.

"People were kind of shocked, or surprised. They gave us awkward stares, and were like, 'whoa, they're going out?'," said Dones.

Not only did the couple have to deal with the reactions of others, there were also technical issues between the two.

"It was awkward to kiss him because he was all the way up there and it hurt my neck too. We also did not know how to hug because he is so tall," said Dones.

Dating for almost two years, Dones and Peculis have overcome their height differences.

Height is not the only thing that can make a couple unique.

"We skip down the hallways holding hands and singing *The Wizard of Oz* at the top of our lungs," said Dado.

Amir Allam, Div. 263, and Sara Guttman, Div. 364, just celebrated their 11 month anniversary.

Guttman is South African and white, while Allam is Filipino and Egyptian. Their religious beliefs are also very different. Allam is Muslim while Guttman is agnostic.

Allam admits that it was not love at first sight, but he did like her right away.

"I thought she was sexy," said Allam.

Allam is not bothered by the religious difference.

"My dad just doesn't want me to have a girlfriend, but my mom likes Sara. She would rather me date a Filipino girl because she's Filipino," said Allam.

Guttman's religious beliefs are not an issue for Allam.

"It's her beliefs and I don't question them. I prefer her to be herself. If she found a religion it would not change my feelings towards her," said Allam.

Junior Shem Dado, Div. 283 and her boyfriend Justin Hadden, Div. 167, have been dating since Oct. 20.

Dado and Hadden are not afraid to be themselves and they are not bothered by other people's opinions.

"I generally hate having some similar trait as someone else...it's just plain disturbing...not cool...," said Dado.

They met in German class and started talking to each other after a couple of weeks.



Hadden and Dado sit together before division.

They like to do things that other people do not do very often.

"We skip down the hallways holding hands and singing *The Wizard of Oz* at the top of our lungs," said Dado.

A unique couple consists of people who know each other's flaws and share in each other's differences. Height, religion, beauty, intelligence, and style are all differences that can be overcome, making an odd couple a perfect couple.

Lovers lock lips on Lane lawn

By Anexy Diaz & Alexandria Martinez

Kissing, hugging, smooching, touching, grabbing, groping, and face sucking. This kind of activity is nothing new for Lane students. From the hallways to the lawn, seeing people engage in public displays of affection, or PDA, is pretty typical. The Lane lawn is a particularly controversial hot spot while the weather is nice.

Take Diana Chaidez, Div. 382, and Abraham Tapia, Div. 380, for example. They have been dating a month, admit to being in love, and call the big tree in front of door A their "make out spot." They meet there almost every day after school, until Chaidez's mom comes to pick her up.

"Yeah, we wish it was more private, but it's not going to happen. We need to be close to where Diana's mom comes to pick her up, so this is our time together," said Tapia.

Chaidez and Tapia agree that it does not bother them when other people display acts of affection, so it should not bother anyone when they do.

"As long as they're not all over each other it doesn't matter what they do. It's actually kind of cute," said Chaidez.

Mia Franklin, Div. 192, agrees.

"I think that PDA on the lawn is cute! It shows that the couple care for each other," said Franklin.

Franklin even went as far as walking up to a couple to tell them how adorable they looked together.

"I think that the way they were being affectionate with each other shows a strong, stable relationship. People are judged a lot for PDA on the lawn, but really, it's kind of sweet," said Franklin.

Unlike Chaidez and Tapia, Alexandra Pizarro, Div. 273, and Max Guerra, Div. 259, who will be celebrating their nine month anniversary in December, do not display their affection for each other publicly.

"PDA on the lawn is not classy. I can understand pecks here and there, but making out should be an intimate thing. I see this one couple on the lawn almost every day after school, and I really wish I didn't have to. They give a new definition to PDA," said Guerra.

Pizarro concurs.

"When couples just stop to make out on the lawn it's awkward for the people around them and it's not even remotely romantic. I hate having to walk around them, feeling like I'm disturbing something! This is a public place," said Pizarro.

Many Lane students agree with Guerra and Pizarro's perspective.

"It's really awkward and at times disturbing when couples make out on the lawn. They get re-



Tasior and Palacios embrace in the hallway.

ally into it," said Allison Cuyun, Div. 352.

Brenda Gonzalez, Div. 263, has some very strong feelings about PDA on the lawn. She was walking with her friends one day when she came upon a couple making out.

"I literally gagged at the sight. It looked like he was going to eat her face!" said Gonzalez.

Gonzalez does not think this kind of behavior is appropriate for school. However, others at Lane are okay with make out sessions on the lawn, to an extent.

"I don't mind it. They're not bothering anyone," said Damian Jordan, Div. 455.

Other couples on the lawn may be in a similar situation to that of Chris Tasior, Div. 157, and Candace Palacios, Div. 181. The couple of two months rarely see each other outside of school, so they take advantage of the fact that they have about an hour after school together.

"It's nice outside, and we don't get any complaints, so why not?" said Palacios.

Chaidez and Tapia have heard complaints. Mr. Jarka, Dean of Discipline, gave the two a warning and forced them to leave the Lane campus one afternoon during a make out session.

"He told us we had to go home, and not to do it again," said Chaidez.

Lane does not have a specific code that says that you cannot display affection publicly, but it is frowned upon.

Security guard, Nick Anagnopoulos broke down Lanes' policies regarding PDA on the lawn.

"If a couple is on Lane campus engaging in this sort of activity, I will give the students a warning, and if it becomes a persistent thing, I will turn the problem over to the Discipline Office. It's never gotten to this point though. A warning is usually enough," Anagnopoulos said.

Assistant principal, Mrs. Rice, put the school policy in even simpler terms.

"If you wouldn't do it on your mother's front lawn, don't do it here," she said.

If you do have make out sessions on your mother's front lawn, however, be prepared to face the consequences of doing it on Lane's.

Lane bad boys... not so bad?

By Aleks Pavlovic

Bad boys, bad boys, wachu gonna do? Wachu gonna do when they come for you? While some maturing gentlemen at Lane work hard to maintain a clean slate for the ladies, there will always be a number of guys who make mistakes; they might have said the wrong thing to the wrong girl, or perhaps allowed their confidence to wander into realms of arrogance. Within a population of over 4,000 students at Lane, it is not difficult to locate a misunderstood male.

Dylan Allingham, Div. 170, allows his inner-geek do the talking in the classroom while his inner-hoodlum speaks out over Facebook. Allingham appreciates the best of both worlds.

"I'm quiet in class and people think I'm a nerd, but then they see my Facebook and think differently because I post rap songs," said Allingham. "I like bad girls, but that doesn't mean I'm bad. I'm the opposite."

Jordan Sultanian, Div. 275, has been misunderstood by his peers because he prefers being blunt to beating around the bush.

"A lot of people think I'm rude because I say what's on my mind," said Sultanian. "I don't think I'm rude; I think I'm a caring individual, but only for the people I care about."

Sultanian does not mind softening up his presumed reputation for the special ladies in his life.

"I'm not afraid to shell out money on the women I love," said Sultanian. "I just bought my mom a new phone for her birthday."

Nick Leyba, Div. 285, has consistently been misinterpreted by his fellow schoolmates.

"A lot of girls talk about me and think I'm an egotistic dude," said Leyba. "The ones that don't know me are usually the ones that talk about me. I just don't get it."

Leyba's guilty pleasures reveal a side of him that most of Lane's gossiping gals have yet to be exposed to.

"I have a soft side," said Leyba. "I love movies like *Fired Up!* and *Mean Girls*, and I like to bake."

Some guys, such as Patrick O'Connell, Div. 182, have developed rocky reputations after ending relationships with multiple girls from Lane.

"A lot of girls don't trust me; they don't think I'm loyal," said O'Connell. "I know I've done some bad things, but nothing that would make me deserve

such a bad rep."

Similar to Leyba, O'Connell enjoys taking time to indulge in "chick flicks."

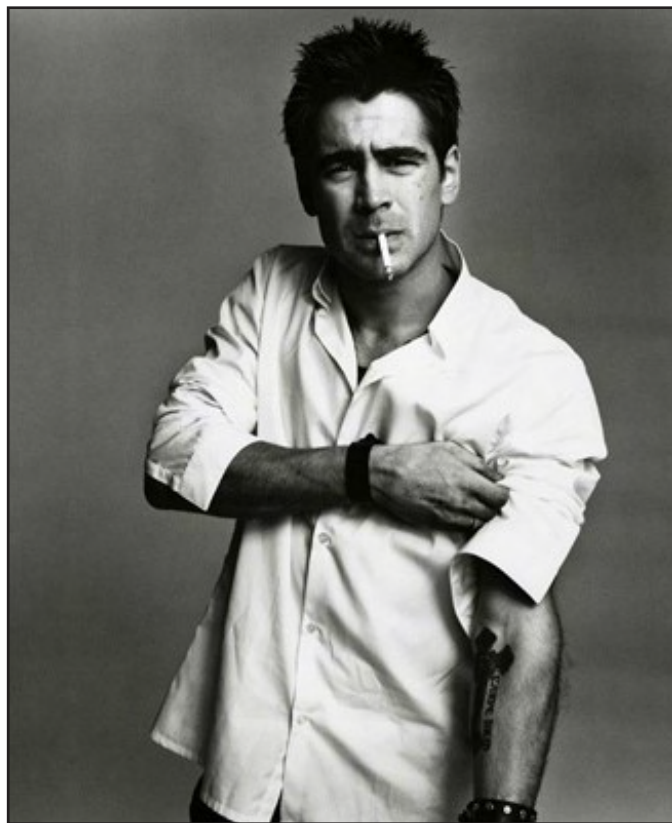
"I love *PS I Love You* and *500 Days of Summer*," said O'Connell. "I have no shame."

Christophe Francois, Div. 183, has been judged by a former Lane student because of his choice of clothing.

"[One student] thought I was a [bad guy] because I was wearing a Hollister shirt and wasn't answering questions in class."

Francois believes himself to be a gentle soul that is not afraid to get emotional when the mood fits.

"I've seen every episode of *One Tree Hill*, and



Hollywood "bad boy," Colin Farrell, embodies what many consider to be the classic bad boy image.

I almost cried when Keith died," said Francois. "I can quote most of *Mean Girls*, and I love *The Notebook*."

Movies and television shows are not the only things that stir up Francois's emotions.

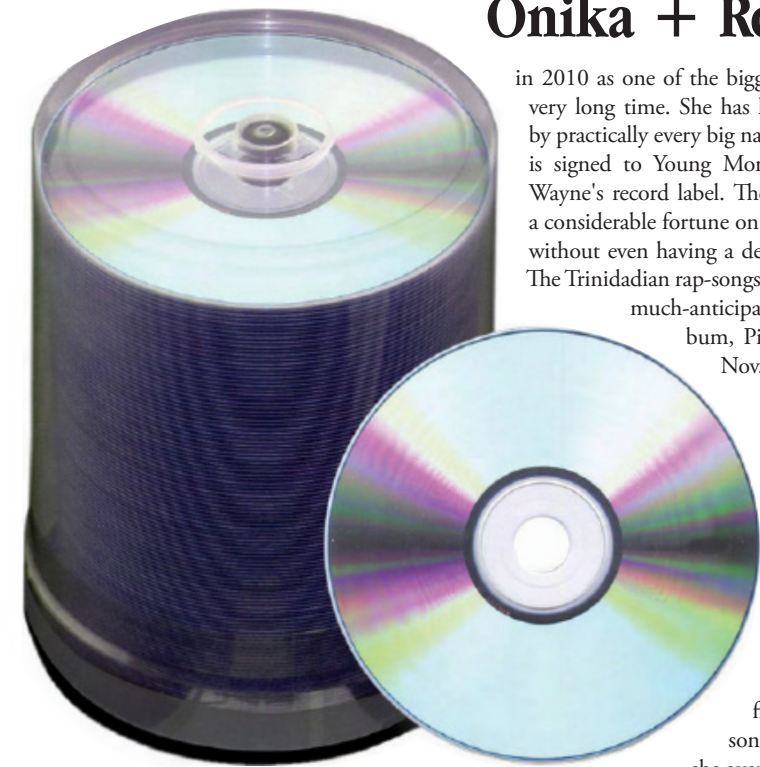
"I definitely cried when Edwin Vega got hurt during our last football game," said Francois. "I also get really emotional when I see a woman cry."

Chase Wilson, Div. 164, understands the misleading reputation that can be earned simply from being a member of a sports team.

"People think I'm a jerk because of the jock stereotype," said Wilson. "I actually think I'm one of the nicest guys at Lane. And I love to cuddle. It's my thing."

So when these misunderstood individuals come for you, wachu gonna do? Pop in *Mean Girls*, get out your Burn Book, and get ready to cuddle.

Onika + Roman + Nicki Minaj = Pink Friday on a Tuesday



By Sofi Kerpan

Onika Miraj doesn't have a taste for humble pie. That's because Onika Miraj is Nicki Minaj, and Nicki Minaj makes it very clear how she feels about herself: she feels pretty good. Egocentric may be an understatement, but it's hard to blame her. The facts add up. Minaj has risen to monumental fame

in 2010 as one of the biggest female rappers in a very long time. She has lent her voice to tracks by practically every big name in rap/hip-hop, and is signed to Young Money Entertainment, Lil Wayne's record label. The Trinidad native made a considerable fortune on her feature work alone, without even having a debut album of her own. The Trinidadian rap-songstress finally released her much-anticipated full-length debut album, Pink Friday, on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

The album begins with an ego-trip called "I'm the Best". It's refreshing to see someone so convinced in their superiority. It could certainly be a turn-off for many, but I appreciated the risk she took on a debut album, and the very first track, at that. The song also touches on how she overcomes the difficulties in her life (her father's crack addiction, poverty), so it is actually quite inspirational.

The second track garnered a lot of hype. "Roman's Revenge" features Eminem and is rumored to be directed at Lil' Kim, although Minaj denies it. (The two have had very public beef for some time, and Lil' Kim even released a Nicki diss on Nov. 28 entitled "Black Friday"). In the song, Minaj takes on the persona of her alter-ego, Roman, a "little boy that

lives inside of her" and "says the things she doesn't want to say." With Roman playing the role of scapegoat, the song testifies to Minaj's hard-hitting style, and probably features some of her best bars on the album. This song also best showcases her trademark use of funny voices. In this case, a British accent. The album is unexpectedly melodic. Surprisingly, Minaj does a lot more singing than would be expected from a rapper. I still can't decide if I like it. It certainly shows range, but it's hard to identify her persona when she switches from mean rapping to sweet refrains so many times in the album. "Right Thru Me", "Save Me", "Check it Out", "Dear old nicki" and "Moment 4 Life" all particularly highlight her vocal ability outside of rapping.

The subject matter of this record is simple: it scolds haters, appreciates "the good life," and intimidates. But there is also a touch of vulnerability, something we've seen little of in Barbie. Minaj talks about being easily read in "Right

Thru Me," while "Save Me" admits weakness and loneliness. I was expecting more rap features on the album, especially from someone who made a living off of it for so long. The guest appearances are made by Eminem, Will.i.am, Kanye West, and Drake. (Rihanna and Natasha Bedingfield lend their voices to 2 other tracks). Although I can't blame her for wanting to shine on her first solo album, as she lived in the shadows of the verses of others for so long.

In its entirety, Pink Friday lives up to most of my expectations: it is girly, self-assured, and daring in all respects. Unfortunately, her featuring choices were underwhelming. My favorite songs are "Blazin" feat. Kanye West and "Check it out," which both happen to sample 80s pop songs ("Video Killed the Radio Star" by the Buggles and "Dont You Forget About Me" by Simple Minds). Overall, there is something indulgent that all will be able to find in Pink Friday. Minaj's pop culture prowess is secured with this album, and she has made female rap history. She said it best herself: "I'm a woman, hear me roar."



Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows finally hits theaters

By Aleks Pavlovic

Dumbledore is dead. Voldemort is more powerful than ever. Hogwarts is no longer the safe haven that it was once. In short, Harry Potter is screwed.

In this part of the series, Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) is fulfilling the postmortem wish of his mentor and guardian, Professor Albus Dumbledore (Michael Gambon). Exposed to the dangers of the world and its evils, Harry must combat You Know Who and his horcruxes, ultimately saving the wizarding world. As a quick summary, Harry is on a mission, and we're taken on a journey of exposure to the real world along with our three adolescent heroes.

Stepping into Pickwick's midnight premiere of Harry Potter, I expected nothing but the very best, and I would be lying if I said that I got anything short of exactly that. Fans proudly donned robes and Gryffindor scarves while an aged man played the film's original score eerily on an organ.

The eerie music was a perfect intro to the eerie film. The movie is dark and ominous, filled with witty jokes for brief comic relief. I'm not sure if it was seeing the movie so late in the night that made me so emotional when Dobby died, but after growing up side by side with the characters, I became attached. I've basically formed a decade-long relationship with these stars, and I'm not ashamed to say that I mourned after my favorite martyr.

Throughout the Deathly Hallows, the core of Harry's power, the love of his friends, is closer than ever to being a victim of the Cruciatus Curse. The Chosen One happens to be in love with his best friend's sister, Ginny Weasley (Bonnie Wright).

The friendship of the three BFFs, as well as Harry's mental stability that has been protecting him from Voldemort, has been skating on thin ice. However, the world isn't over yet. The three friends thankfully manage to talk out their problems and stick together. It's safe to say, regardless of being wizard or muggle-born, love just ain't easy.

Of course, there are numerous other parts of the story that I'm not thoroughly explaining. Why does Draco Malfoy (Tom Felton) look so mysterious and agonized? If Dumbledore could see some good in him, when will this side be re-



vealed? Why can't Snape (Alan Rickman) take a chill pill? And what was up with the vision of Hermione's exposed body?

I always thought that the Harry Potter films targeted a young audience. The image of her body isn't necessarily R-rated, but the fact that it was revealed in such a way is up for debate.

And why was the ending so ambiguous?

Advertising campaigns show images of Harry's home, Hogwarts, burning down. Having grown up with Hogwarts as an escape from reality, how can it all just suddenly end? I'm antsy for part two, and I don't even think I'll be able to handle it.

Our generation has grown up watching Harry Potter; at age eleven we all impatiently checked our mailboxes for our stamped and sealed Hogwarts acceptance letter. We secretly hoped that an old man with a snow white beard would send an owl to our window with a letter explaining that we were different and had to "get chosen" by a wand.

Now both the old man and the owl are dead. All we can do is sit back and follow Harry through a forbidden forest as Voldemort's employees occupy the grounds we once considered so pleasant and secure. It's as painful as a Dementor's kiss. This reflection of our childhood is being burnt down, and there is nothing we can do to stop it.

Tainted chocolates. Love potions. Butterbeer. Horcruxes. Hormones. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows has it all. This billion dollar series spits on movies like Transformers and Twilight, and takes a big ol' dump on Nar-

Cher, Aguilera bring starpower to Burlesque

By Kelly Sineni

As a lifelong Cher fan, when I found out she was going to be starring in a new movie-musical, I absolutely had to see it. Honestly, I might not have seen it if she wasn't in it. She was the major hook for me (considering there were mainly middle-aged women in the theater I was in, I think she was the hook for a lot of people). For those who don't know, a Burlesque club is not a strip club. This was not a movie about strippers as it may be perceived. Burlesque is seen as more classy and theatrical seeing as it has dances, singers, and comedy sketches, and, of course, no nudity.

The movie opens with Christina Aguilera as a waitress (Ali) in a small town and she is being ripped off by her boss. So she opens the cash register after he leaves, takes only the money he owes her and heads for a bus to bright and sunny Los Angeles. Long story short she ends up as a waitress at a Burlesque theater when her apartment is robbed and she ends up living at the oh so adorable bartender's apartment while his fiancé is temporarily in New York. We of course know where that is headed...

In the mean time there's CHER! (<3). She is the former Burlesque dancer and now owner by the name of Tess with the typical attitude we see in Cher. The club is in finan-



cial trouble which the dancers don't know. After lies, betrayal, and great dance numbers and showcasing of the two talented singers Ali not only becomes the star of the Burlesque, but saves the club.

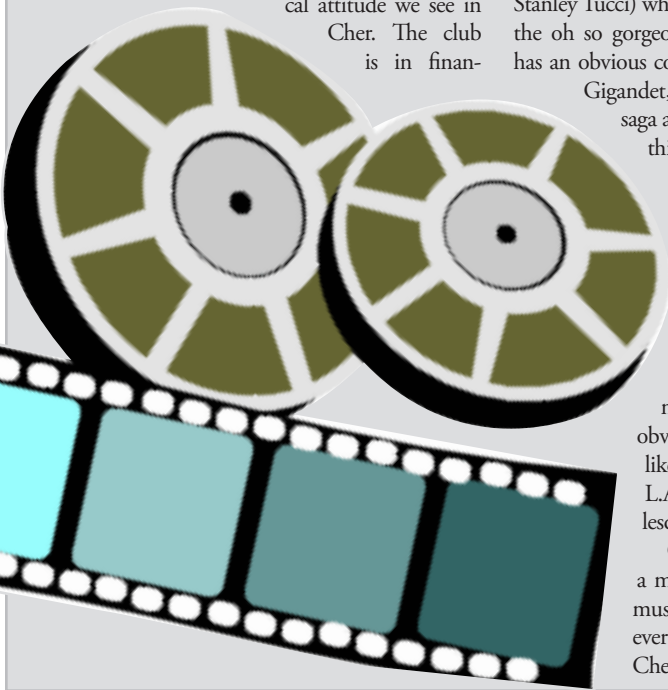
Something does have to be said for the soundtrack. Cher sang one of my new all time favorite songs done by her (aside from Believe and Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves of course), called You Haven't Seen the Last of Me. It gave me chills. Christina did some very good covers of old classics like Tough Lover and Something's Got a Hold on Me, originally done by Etta James. I wouldn't say it was better than the Etta version, but it was done very well, major kudos to Christina.

This was not only a great note for Cher to come back on, but a great place for Christina Aguilera to start. She had the opportunity to do what she does best, sing, and to try her hand at acting. Christina and Cher made a good combination in this movie, because it seemed realistic. Meaning that off screen they both seem to have the traits they showed on screen. Cher the "doesn't take crap", experienced and motherly old bird, and then Christina as the naive girl just trying to find herself.

As in most musicals there was the comic relief who was Cher's character's sassy gay friend Sean (played by Stanley Tucci) who was very well cast I think. As was the oh so gorgeous bartender Christina's character has an obvious connection with, named Jack (Cam Gigandet, most well known for the Twilight saga and Easy A). Although I really liked this movie, there were a few things I did not care for. First, the ending was definitely rushed. It was a long movie, and so much time was spent on setting up the plot and explaining every little detail, that the conflicts are resolved in about 10 minutes.

It was also cliché. In the first 10 minutes of the movie it is already obvious how the movie will end. Its like Cinderella except everyone is in L.A., half naked and singing old Burlesque songs.

Overall I would say this movie is a movie for someone who is into the musicals. Definitely not a movie for everyone, only fans of the genre (and Cher.)



Boys' Basketball Team tries to focus on family as season kicks off

By Emina Cirkic & Jocely Pacheco

Hundreds of Lane students gathered in Gym One for the Green and Gold Game, the kickoff to the new basketball season, on Nov. 19th. Lane's Marching Warriors started off the game with the school song, getting fans riled up for their basketball team. Unlike previous years, the stands were filled with students coming together to support their team.

Family is a simple word Coach LoGalbo and members of the Basketball Team take seriously. As the Varsity players prepare for their first game of the season, freshmen and sophomore players are on the sidelines anxiously waiting in the crowd for their turn.

"I look up to the coaches and the varsity team players because they care for us and make me feel welcome, and that makes me want to work harder," said freshmen basketball player, Caleb Guerrero, Div. 468.

LoGalbo was pleased with the team's performance at the Green & Gold game.

"Today was a good sign for the team. I always stress to my team to be a good teammate because you attract what you are. Just how a family has good times, there will be tough times, and we're all ready for that," said Coach LoGalbo.

The managers of the team also play a role in helping the players become better as a team and a family.

"LoGalbo is working hard this year to perfect our game plans and our strategies," said Head Manager Emily O'Callahan, Div. 166. "The biggest screw up someone can make is being a ball hog, and that's why we try to make everyone a team player."

Coach LoGalbo's plans are to improve Lane's Basketball record this season. He has made efforts to bring more students to the game, start recruitment early, and create a family relationship among players.

"Mr. LoGalbo makes the Lettermen Club come to school games

to get credit," said Kevin Perez, Div. 268. "We all enjoy coming because it's a way to bring the school together, and it's fun."

Although the stands were filled with Lane students, a home schooled seventh grader, Rodney Herenton, attended the game with his parents. He attended Lane's basketball camp over the summer and went to the Green & Gold game.

"I love the atmosphere [at the game]. I can't wait to join the team," said Herenton.

Many of the Varsity players have already built strong relationships with their teammates.

"[The basketball team] is about being something bigger than ourselves. We are a family and will love each other," said Julian Bil, Div. 280, a varsity player.

Going back, the basketball team has had issues sticking together. Three varsity players were kicked off the team for being unable to work well with the coach and other players, as well as not showing commitment to the team. One player, Eric Butler, Div. 170, (See pg. 12) was able to get reinstated to the team and has done well since returning.

"There have been some problems that I've had with the coaches in the past, but I was able to look past it and work on something that I am very passionate about, on and off the court," said Butler.

Anton Adkins, Div. 160, is another of the players who were kicked off. During parent teacher conferences earlier this year, Adkins and his mother went to Coach Logalbo for further explanation. According to Adkins, "Logalbo said, 'The team and Anton do not mesh well. We don't mesh well.'"

At the Green & Gold game, some noticed a sign held by Eddie Duckworth, Div. 280 that said "Free Teezy," which referred to Adkins' exclusion from the team.

Adkins further explained the message behind the protest signs. "Just like Lil Wayne, I just wanna be free. Let me free and let me play," Adkins said.

LoGalbo chose not to comment on the situation. Instead, he reiterated the importance of keeping a family atmosphere within the team.

"The main goal this season is [to] improve our record. We have to take baby steps," he said.

Whether or not the basketball team can stay together as a family this year will have a lot to do with their ultimate success in this endeavor.



The 2010-11 Varsity Boys' Basketball team.

Ping Pong Club rallies back on to club scene at Lane

By Erik Brito & Julia Kulon

Back and forth, back and forth the little white ball goes. The hitting is quick and intense.

A small crowd watches in anticipation to see which of the two players will get the point. Migs Durante, Div. 253, hits the ball towards Kyle Olvera, Div. 261. Olvera prepares to counter, but misses tragically.

Ping Pong Club has many opportunities for students to serve or to get served. However, that does not stop it from being enjoyable for its members.

"I felt good that I even got that far with Migs," said Olvera, a close friend of Durante.

Durante, who is considered by some fellow members to be one of the best players, looks forward to getting to play every week.

"My dad had gotten a ping-pong table in 7th or 8th grade. I've been playing with my dad and brother ever since," said Durante.

He loves the club for the different variety of people who attend the meeting.

For others it is the fairness of the club that attracts them: each member gets a chance to play, the relaxing and friendly environment, or simply, the chance to make some new friends. These qualities are what members William Concepcion,

Div. 481 and Bear Madjeslt, Div. 367, said makes the club fun for them.

"It's something else to do than go home," said Charles Kucharzak, Div. 350. "It's fun and I look forward to it."

"I've never played ping-pong ball in my life. I wanted to try it," said Pedro Munoz, Div. 358. "I come every week."

On Tuesdays the club meets in room 143 where they begin the meeting by setting up their three ping-pong tables. Right away the games begin. Members stand around the table joking with one another and watching the games. The room is filled with laughs and cheers with the occasional grunts from players who are not having a good match.

The club also meets on Thursdays, but in a different part of the school. Though the games were usually held by staircase J, that area is now being used for Track conditioning. Ping-Pong Club is in the process of finding a new location.

Although some students may believe that Ping-Pong Club is new to Lane, it has actually existed for the last three years. The club was started by three seniors from the graduating class of 2008: Diego Loza, Paul Shultz, and Jimmy Scray. The club, however, did not return the following year. This year the club started again and it is now lead by three juniors: Ale Garcia, Div. 279, Dieu Do, Div. 260 and Durante – all original members of the 2008 club.

"I had so much fun freshman year,"

said Garcia. "I made it my mission to bring it back this year."

During Club Days in Sept., Ping-Pong Club had 262 students sign up, a lot more people than Garcia and Do had anticipated. Students that did show up were asked to pay a \$5 club fee that would allow for the purchase of a new ping-pong table and 10 new paddles.

"One of our main goals was to get new equipment," said Do.

The club is sponsored by three teachers: Mrs. Trine, Mr. Liatos, and Mr. Racic. Mrs. Trine was the first to be approached about the club by Dieu and it was by pure accident that they both realized they had something in common: ping-pong balls. It was a lecture about molecular models and Trine had decided to use ping-pong balls to recreate some of the different elements.

"Dieu got very excited the moment he saw the balls," said Mrs. Trine.

Mrs. Trine is a ping-pong ball player herself and is very enthusiastic to see the club blossom. Before coming to Lane, she spent two years aboard in China where she was surprised to discover that ping-pong was an extremely popular sport among the Chinese.

The club plans to have in school tournaments throughout the year while members look forward to improving their ping-pong skills.

Puma Speed Search Challenge reveals Lane's fastest runners

By Nicole Jacobs

On Oct. 13th, 2010, PUMA visited Lane in the hopes of finding the fastest girl and boy in the country. Matthew Rowe, Div. 278, and Meghan Ward, Div. 163, hold the title as the fastest boy and girl at Lane.

They participated in the Puma Speed Search Challenge, an event that took place throughout the nation. The Puma Speed Trap is composed of

two cameras that start and stop the participants exact sprint speed in mph within 23 meters. Puma set up the cameras in the Lane Stadium on the track field.

Rowe had a time of 18.44mph and Ward had a time of 14.86mph.

This year, Puma was searching for the fastest boy and girl in 60 high schools throughout the U.S. Some of the other major cities they visited besides Chicago include Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York City, Miami, and Austin.

"I was really shocked because there were a lot of good competitors," said Ward. "It gave me a big burst of confidence and made me look forward to try and beat Whitney Young at city."

"I thought the puma speed challenge was a fun experience," said Rowe. "It was cool to get back out on the track and see my speed in mph."

Every student who participated in the Puma Speed Search Challenge received a prize. T-shirts were awarded to the fastest students at Lane. The other prize consisted of Usain Bolt's, a Jamaican sprinter and a three-time World and Olym-



Rowe and Ward, fastest male and female at Lane.

pic gold medalist, new "Bolt Arms." This is a pair of inflatable arms that mimics Bolt's famous lightning bolt victory pose from the Beijing Olympic Games.

Most of the competitors were on Lane's Track and Field or Cross Country teams.

"It was nerve-racking because you didn't know [how fast of a time] they were looking for," said Imari Walker, Div. 277.

All the participants entered the stadium looking forward to being the fastest kid in Lane. However, in the end, Rowe and Ward were chosen as winners.

"Coming into this season as one of the top three in the city is definitely another positive outlook for this year," said Rowe. "If I keep up the good work, I could come out on top."

Girls' Swim Team out of pool, into City championship

By Jasmine Grullon & Jasmine O'Donnell

The alarm of a member of the Girls' Swim Team goes off at 5:15am. She grabs her bag that she prepared the night before and heads out to Lane for a 6am practice. The whole team works out by running, weightlifting, and doing core building exercises. Once the 7:40 bell rings, the team takes quick showers and gets ready for the day. After school, the Varsity Team meets up at St. Patrick's High School to use their pool for two hours. After practice, they hurry to finish their homework to get enough sleep for the next day.

The team met many challenges this year without a pool, but it did not stop them from winning the City Championship.

The pool closed at the end of July and has been ever since. CPS set aside money to update all CPS pools. At Lane, this money was used to replace the filtration system. The contract was not finalized in time, so the construction was delayed.

"I learned the true meaning of 'you don't know what you got 'til it's gone'," said Sam Geschrey, Div. 150.

Throughout the season, the team was split into three groups and each went to California Park, Uplift, Lakeview, Amundsen, Lincoln Park, Northside, or St. Pat's.

"Having our team split up took away the closeness," said Hannah Viti, Div. 252.

"I found it challenging to handle," said Geschrey, a swimmer who drove a carpool of swimmers to the different locations for practice. "The main challenges were getting to

other locations and not fitting in the new location."

The swimmers tried their best to stay united, even with the different practice locations. Like the Boys' team, the Girls' team have some unlikely traditions. One tradition they hold is not shaving their legs the whole season, until the night before City.

"Really, [it's] a mental thing, grow a lot of hair to make weight and drag, shave off the weight to go faster," said Viti.

"It's a tradition," said Cassidy O'Connell, Div. 263. "It helps the team bond."

The team continued to train hard and do their annual rituals before City, even without the pool. The girls did miss out on home meets, but adjustments were made as Senior Night was held in Northside's pool.

Viti lives far from St. Pat's and going to practice after school would sometimes be a family sacrifice. She had to go home and borrow the car to drive an hour to St. Pat's. This meant that her mom would sometimes have to take the bus to work. The distance turned a two hour practice into four. Getting home at 10pm or 10:30pm, she had to rush to finish her homework.

"I feel like every year there's always that one week," said Viti. "I don't think I would ever quit, but it would be much easier."

"I'm very proud of them," said Mr. Rummelhoff, coach of the Girls' and Boys' Swim Team. "It shows how hard they worked."

"It was a lot of stress, really different," said O'Connell. "But in the end, it couldn't have ended better."

Kris Dus named to All-State Soccer Team

By Johnny Stacewicz

He was usually the smallest on the field, he takes on defenders twice his size, and he is a known jokester by most at school, but when it comes to soccer he buckles down, and this year, Kris Dus, Div. 184, was selected as an All-State Soccer player.

The award was not something he saw coming. Dus missed a couple of games at the beginning of the season due to a minor knee injury, which made the award a complete surprise.

"At the beginning of the season I was feeling good about standing out," said Dus. "I knew it would be hard to get any

award, but I felt I was good enough to make all-City, but I didn't expect an All-State award."

Even after winning the prestigious award, Dus remained humble, which is the next thing his teammates will talk about, after attempting to explain how he breaks down defenders.

"He is so small and so tough," said teammate Omar Orellana, Div. 182. "He was the best forward we had, but he never bragged or got cocky about it, even when he had every right to be."

This past season was Dus' third and final year on Lane's varsity team. After playing limited minutes during his sophomore and junior seasons, Dus knew he would have to put in the work to stand out as a senior. He credited an intense summer of training to helping him prepare for this season, and ultimately this award.

"My first two years on the varsity level were not so great. I did not play as much as I thought I would, and I only scored five goals in both years," Dus said. "I used summer vacation to my advantage, playing scrimmage games with my friends almost everyday. This year was my best ever, scoring 14 goals with plenty of playing time. This award showed me that all the time I put into practicing was well worth it."

Although his college plans are undecided as of now, Dus says that he would like to play at the collegiate level, either at Depaul or UIC if he could; anything that will help him take steps toward his dream.

"My ultimate dream would be to play professional soccer in England with my favorite team, Liverpool FC."



Dus playing on Chicago Academy's field this summer with friends.

Athlete of the Issue

Eric Butler, Div. 170

After rejoining the Varsity Basketball Team the day before the Green and Gold game, Butler has not only earned his way back onto the team but also back into the rotation. Butler has averaged 12.9 points per game so far this season, pouring in his season high 21 in an overtime win over Kelly.

Favorites

Movie: Aladdin

Food: Spaghetti and Meatballs

Clothing Store: True Religion

One thing you cannot live

without: Swag

NBA Team: Lakers

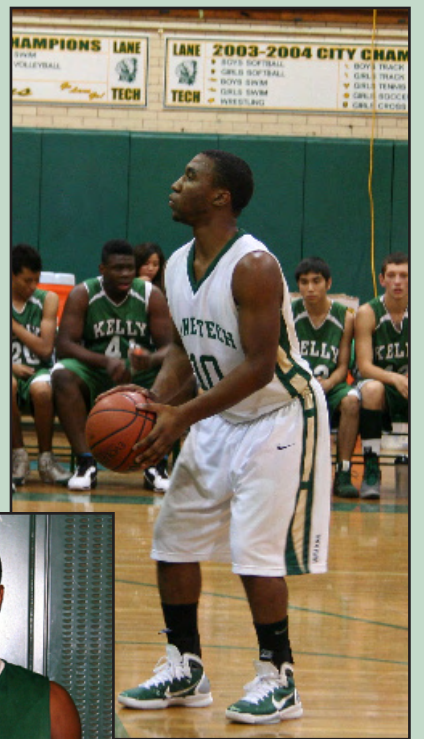
Player: Kobe

Color: Purple

Artist: Weezy

Class: Lunch

Teacher: Mr. Golden



Warrior: What was it like when you weren't on the team?

EB: It really felt like I didn't have a home. I did not have a purpose; it really motivated me to work my way back on.

Warrior: What is one aspect of your game that you want to improve?

EB: My 3-point percentage; I can hit threes, but I want to be able to knock down more shots consistently.

Warrior: Has it been hard adjusting and getting chemistry with the team after joining the day before the Green and Gold game?

EB: At first it was a little difficult because I haven't played with most of the juniors but it has gotten better. I know my role on the team and I am just trying to play it.

Warrior: What are your goals this season for both the team and yourself?

EB: As a team, I want to win the Red North Division. As an individual, I want to try to be the ultimate utility man. I want to be able to be used at any position whenever my team needs me. And I want to be picked to the All-Conference team.

Warrior: Future goals?

EB: I would love to be able to play basketball in college. But if not, I want to go into business.

Warrior: What does basketball really mean to you?

EB: I live and breath basketball. It's my everything.

Grueling workouts prove rewarding for Swim Team

By Johnny Stacewicz

Some have shaved heads, some have bleached, spiked hair, and practically all of them show up to first period looking like they just hopped out of a shower right before walking into division, because they usually have. What most people do not know is that they are probably the best athletes in the school. They are the members of the Boys' Swim Team.

"The hair stuff has been a tradition at Lane and is meant to really just bring attention to our sport because we really don't get that much," said Coach Rummelhoff.

Most of the guys on the team view the bleaching of their hair as just something that has to be done when the city competition comes around.

"[Bleaching hair] is a tradition, if all the guys are doing it then why shouldn't I?" said first year swimmer, Petko Yankov, Div. 364.

"It definitely helps with team bonding," added Patrick Proctor, Div. 274.

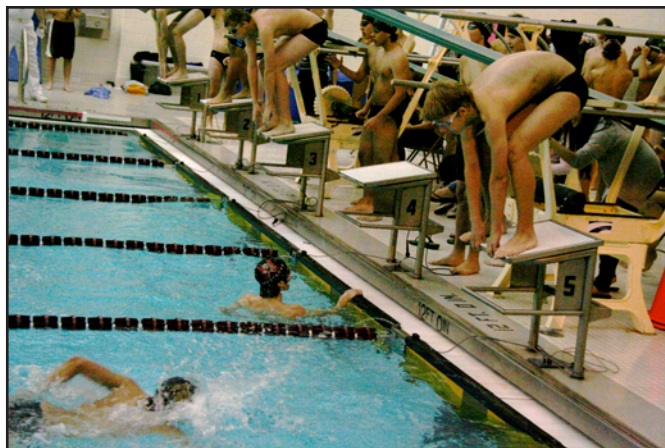
Mr. Rummelhoff, who is also a math teacher, logs hundreds of hours coaching both before and after school during the three-month season. And for the most part he is right, swimmers go unnoticed in hallways even though their sport requires one of the most grueling of schedules.

I had the privilege of spending a day with the Swim Team. And to be honest, I have no idea how I would make it through three weeks, let alone three months of the season. I thought getting up at 6:30am everyday at Lane and is what Rummelhoff calls "dry-land work." Dry land consists of distance running, sprints, push-ups, sit-ups, and other various kinds of core exercises.

The team participates in two practices a day, five days a week. The morning practice begins at 6:15am everyday at Lane and is what Rummelhoff calls "dry-land work." Dry land consists of distance running, sprints, push-ups, sit-ups, and other various kinds of core exercises.

"Swimming is a very physically demanding sport," said Rummelhoff. "Dry-land work is a necessity, you [swimmers] need to put in the work before hand if you want [to swim] good times."

As I walked down the empty hallways at 6:20am,



A Lane swimmer prepares to dive in during a relay at Northside

the pounding of feet echoed from the opposite side of the school. I was hit with wave of heat when I finally turned the corner, the Boys Swim Team was already half way through their first mile run of the day. As I watched them I had to remind myself that I was watching the swim team rather than the cross country team. Practically all members of the team run under a six and half minute mile.

While it may sound insane to put oneself through this every morning, most swimmers actually enjoy the morning practices.

"My favorite part of swimming is the fact that I can come into the season a little over weight, and in three weeks be in the best shape of my life," said four year swimmer, Giovanni Ospina, Div. 172.

Even those, like Yankov, who do not find a thrill in running laps and doing push-ups every morning know that it will pay off down the line.

"I wouldn't say that I love [dry-land workouts.] It's hard work, but I know that it will pay off during the season," said Yankov.

After the grueling dry land practice every morning, a swimmer's academic day is just beginning. While most students outside the world of swimming have a tough time rolling out of bed in the morning and just getting to school by eight, some swimmers admit that the busy schedule catches up with them.

"I think it [the schedule] affects everyone," said Ospina. "I only get five to six hours of sleep a night during the season. When I compare how I feel when I am in season, to when I am out of season, I can definitely feel the difference."

The after school practices usually go from anywhere between 6:30pm to 7:30pm, which means on an average day a swimmer will leave their house and not get home for at least 12 hours. It may sound crazy, but many of the swimmers say days like this actually help them plan and manage their time.

"On a normal day I am up at 5am and at school until about 7:30pm, then go home, do homework, go to sleep and start all over the next day," said Proctor, "[If not for swimming] I wouldn't be able to get any work done. [Because of swimming] I definitely learned how to schedule my time."

"I actually think that my grades are better during the swim season because I am on such a strict schedule," said Ospina.

The swim team faced a new obstacle this year. Lane's pool has been undergoing a one million dollar makeover to install a new filtration system and lights. The construction has made the busy lives of both swimmers and coaches, busier. The team has not been able to find a consistent location to practice yet so the afternoon practices have bounced around from place to place.

According to coach Rummelhoff the pool should be ready as soon as December 14th so the boys will not have to travel away from Lane for much longer. The girl's team (who still managed to win City) traveled to seven different locations over their 12-week season.

"[Not having a pool has] been tough. Just getting everyone to practice takes a lot of time and communication," said Rum-

melhof.

Not only are the swimmers some of the most organized and focused teenagers I have met; they are also one of the closest-knit groups I have ever seen. The hallway echoed with laughter and inside jokes while the 36 swimmers and four managers did planks (a core exercise). Obviously the long hours spent together do not only pay off in the pool, but also in swimmer's social and personal lives. Cassidy O'Connell, Div. 263, a member of the girl's city championship team and one of the managers of the boy's team, attests to the fact that the chemistry on the team paid off in the pool at city after a hectic season.

"[Chemistry] and practice were the only things that really made our team as good as it was. If it wasn't for [chemistry] the team would have fallen apart."

Although it still remains in the shadows of some of the bigger sports, swimming's popularity has grown at Lane. This was the first year coach Rummelhoff had to make cuts to the swim team. 50 boys showed up at try-outs and after the final cuts 36 remained.

"I would have kept all 50 if I had the pool space," said Rummelhoff.

This year's team is very underclassmen heavy with only five seniors on the team. Swimming is a sport where raw talent and athleticism is important, but putting in work and developing over time is crucial.

"Anyone can be a swimmer, some are just more talented and can adapt to the sport faster than others. Swimming is a sport that you can really develop in over four years," said Rummelhoff.

Come Feb, start checking the hallways for bleached hair, check the locker room for shaved heads, the best athletes in the school will be getting ready to defend their City title.

