

**IN THE HEART
OF THE
WARRIOR**

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THE WARRIOR *Love*

February 2011

Lane Technical College Prep High School

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SNOWPOCALYPSE '11



The snow around Lane piled up before the snow days, reaching heights of 20 inches by Wednesday afternoon.

By Ben Palmer

Shovel those parking spaces and leave a lawn chair in their place to reserve your spot when you leave. It's a snowpocalypse!

With the heaps of snow came an utterance from CPS unheard in 12 years: Snow day.

When the February 1 storm was predicted, a moan could be heard throughout Lane, along the lines of "of course we'll still have school." But a snowball effect of text messages and Facebook updates informed CPS students of closure after CPS Interim CEO Terry Mazany announced that school would be cancelled on Wednesday, February 2.

The groans quickly melted into cheers.

And snow day antics ensued. Many students had not had a snow day since 1999, when the fluffy stuff reached heights of almost 22 inches, just a bit more than this storm's 20 inches.

The snow was so prolific that it stormed into third on the rank of Chicago's largest snowstorms in recorded history. The most snow Chicago has ever seen was 23 inches in 1967, according to the National Weather Service website.

The snow made conditions perfect for fun. Ana Lovric, Div. 267, saw the perfect opportunity for a snowball fight. When the fight started Wednesday afternoon, Lane student Liam Hoy, Div. 261, joined the battle.

Before Hoy could engage in snowy warfare, his phone rang and he received news that he immediately shouted across the entire park:

"WE'RE HAVING ANOTHER SNOW DAY! WE'RE HAVING ANOTHER SNOW DAY!"

The screams from the snow-covered,

ruddy faced students were even louder than the initial announcement.

CPS students were faced with more than they thought possible: two snow days in a row! But how to occupy the time?

Lucia Lopez, Div. 266, went out in the cold with her brother as they always do during big snows. Together they built an igloo, complete with a brick pattern and a functioning door.

It seems snow has a way of bringing out everyone's inner-child, though it wasn't only teenagers who went a little crazy.

Adam Rebor, Div. 372, joined forces with his father and bore the cold bare -- quite bare.

"Me and my dad ran outside in our bathing suits and played in the snow," Rebor said. "I ran into the neighbors' yard and really slowly made a body imprint [in the snow]."

Rebor then proceeded to fill a spray bottle with blue water, and spray paint his own imprint blue.

While this neighborly gesture was playful, other students had less pleasant run-ins with neighbors, irritated by the snow.

"My neighbors are cruel," said Caitlin Walerowicz, Div. 272. "They shoveled their snow in front of our garage, but they'd have a heart attack if we, God forbid, got any snow in front of their precious garbage cans!"

Megan Irving, Div. 278, had a much more cooperative shoveling experience.

"I shoveled for two hours with the collaborative effort of my neighbors," Irving said. "We all helped out."

"What else are teenage children for?" joked math teacher Mr. Minor to his class upon their return to school on Friday, Feb. 3.

Many parents share Minor's opinion

of the proper role of teenagers in the winter, although some take no prisoners when it comes to their shoveling policy.

"I got sick but I still had to go over to my Grandma's apartment building and help her shovel for four hours," said Clarice Benett, Div. 378.

Benett received no pay for her work, but almost-neighbors Graham Zolkowski, Div. 450, and JP Walsh, Div. 456, were paid \$100 between the two of them for shoveling.

Some students, however, never left the house at all.

Nicky Cameron, Div. 475, stayed inside and said he video chatted with "some German" he didn't know for an hour.

Cameron chose to stay inside most of the time, but some other students had no choice. Richard Torkelson, Div. 380, was one of these.

"I was a little sick, so [the snow days were] a great stress reliever," Torkelson said. "I just played Call of Duty."

Some that were stuck inside said they felt irritated, tired of their homes, and ached to leave.

"I was frustrated," said Giselle Gonzalez, Div. 463. "I had cabin fever. My parents wouldn't even let me go out!"

To pass the time, Gonzalez watched a Glee marathon all day.

Those stuck indoors were not the only people irritated during the snow day. Due to the intense snows, PSAE testing had to be rescheduled, many

club meetings were shortened or cancelled on Tuesday, and on Wednesday and Thursday they were cancelled entirely.

Lane's production of *Gypsy* was set back. The show was slowed to a halt at a crucial time: "tech week."

"We had to cancel three tech rehearsals," said the director, Mrs. Hanson. "We had to schedule an extra two on Friday and Saturday this week just to make up for lost time."

Other teachers were relieved to have a day off, finally.

"It wasn't even the day off [that was good], just the rarity of a CPS snow day," said physics teacher Ms. Machaj.

Machaj said she and other teachers agree that it is a safety issue for students to take buses and trains to get to school in such bad weather, and CPS ought to recognize this with more snow days.

Machaj had been experiencing "technical difficulties" in her classroom leading up to the snow days, the worst of which being the death of her radiator.

"I wear layers, so I was used to the cold. But if it's ridiculously cold in here it's like 'what am I supposed to do with [my students]?"

Some Lane students had similar problems of ill-timed malfunctions during the snow days.

Jonathan Luna, Div. 375, lost power of a very useful device.

"We have a snow machine [at home], but on the snow day it stopped working," said Luna. "Tragic. Had to be Amish and do it manually."

Asia Pupa, Div. 383, experienced a few power surges due to the storm.

"My TV went off and I got mad," said Pupa, lamenting the interruption of her *Criminal Minds* episode.

The snowball fight that Hoy attended was the victim of a growing trend in online event planning. The event, created a couple hours after news of the first snow day broke, had over 500 RSVPs.

The actual event, however, had about 30 attendees, including both high school and grade school students, and a CPS alumnus.

Lovric, who created the group, was still pleased with the snowball fight.

The fun continued for many students on Thursday, but many were disconcerted about school being back in session on Friday.

Teachers were assaulted by absent notes when the weekend was over, many of which were laughed off by teachers for the unneeded explanations.

Mr. Wasielewski received an absent note from one of his AP US Government & Politics students, Jakub Ogara, Div. 264, and proceeded to read the note aloud in a mocking tone.

"Jakub could not make it to school today because," he took a dramatic pause and smiled as he continued, "it was unsafe for him to travel."

Other students were actually trapped at home and could not make it to school Friday.

Arisbeth Sanchez, Div. 455, thought she was going to school on Friday until her parents told her otherwise.

"Are you crazy?" they said when she was ready to go to school.

"I didn't do my homework," said Sanchez, "so I didn't really want to come anyway."

While the snow buried the school, the snow also buried a few other things. Nicole Kerrigan, Div. 259, lost her cell phone in the snow while sledding, something that many teenagers would "totally freak" about.

"I searched [for it] and panicked for about a half hour then just gave up," said a still phoneless Kerrigan.

She says she blames herself, but still finds it hard to manage without her cell phone.

Still, Kerrigan and many other students had their fill of fun. After all, two CPS snow days -- must be a miracle!



Lane students Ana Lovric and Harry Koris lay in a snow-filled underpass at Legion Park.

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Chicago mayoral election set for next week

By Kelly Sineni

After many months of long campaigning, candidate drama, and uncertainty, the city's mayoral election will finally take place Tuesday, Feb. 22. The race began with over 20 candidates in November when the petitions to get on the ballot were due. Now only six candidates remain, with about a week left before Chicagoans cast their votes.

For months it was questionable whether Rahm Emanuel would appear on the ballot due to controversies over his residency status. In order to run for mayor, a person has to hold residency in the city for at least a year before the election. It was debated whether Emanuel still held residency status in Chicago because he had been serving in Washington as President Obama's Chief of Staff for the past two years. Emanuel still paid taxes to the city and owned his house, though he rented it out while in Washington.

His residency was challenged to the Board of Elections, which determined he was eligible to be on the ballot. The case was appealed to the Appellate court where it was decided he could not run. The case was finally appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court, which ruled Emanuel be put back on the ballot.

Emanuel was recently endorsed for the

mayorship by former President Clinton, and he holds a commanding lead in recent polls. Some of Emanuel's opponents criticized him for seeking Clinton's support.

Another controversy occurred between candidates Carol Moseley-Braun and Patricia Van Pelt Watkins. During a recent debate Moseley-Braun accused Watkins of being a crack addict after Watkins made a comment about Braun's leaving the public eye for a few years.

Watkins has admitted to doing drugs at the age of 19 and becoming an addict, but she claims to have never done crack. She took offense to Braun's comment, and a loud exchange ensued.

The polls will open on Feb. 22 at 6am and close at 7pm. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the votes a run off election will be held in April between the top two candidates.

The Candidates according to their order on the ballot are...

Rahm Emanuel - Emanuel is Chicago-born and Wilmette-raised (New Trier West High School). He is the front runner by a landslide, and former Chief of Staff for President Obama. Before serving President Obama, he was a Senior Advisor to President Clinton and Congressman for the 5th US Congressional district. He was elected in 2002 to the positions of Chairman of the Demo-

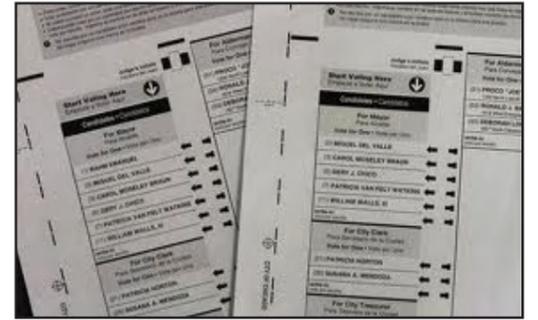
cratic Congressional Campaign Committee and Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus. He also worked for political campaigns in the 80's (Paul Simon and Mayor Daley).

Miguel Del Valle - Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Chicago,

Del Valle was an Illinois State Senator (the first Hispanic Senator) in the General Assembly from the 2nd district until 2006 when he became City Clerk.

Carol Moseley-Braun - Braun was born in Chicago and worked as an attorney before serving the 24th and later 25th Illinois districts in the US House of Representatives. She was also the first and only woman to represent Illinois in the US Senate. After losing reelection in 1999, she was appointed the US Ambassador to New Zealand until 2001. In 2004, she made a short run for the presidency, but dropped out before the Iowa Caucuses.

Gery Chico - Chico is a life-long South-sider, and after serving as an attorney he became Mayor Daley's Chief of Staff from 1992-1995, until Daley appointed him President of the Board of Trustees of CPS. After a failed run for US



The 2011 mayoral ballot includes six candidates.

Senator in 2004, Chico led the Chicago Park Districts, and more recently, the City Colleges of Chicago. Recent polls project Chico as runner up in the election.

Patricia Van Pelt Watkins - Born in Cabrini Green, Watkins is a former union stewardess at a South side steel factory and co-founder of the Ambassadors of Christ Church as well as the Target Area Development Corp.

William Walls - Walls is an alumni of the South side's Chicago Vocational High School. During Harold Washington's time as mayor, Walls helped with the Lawyers Committee and served as President of Law Students, Assistant Scheduler, and Confidential Assistant to the mayor. Recently, he was the National Political Director to one of Rev. Jesse Jackson's campaigns.

Students looking to pop culture for Black History Month heroes

By Alexandria Martinez

February marks the beginning of Black History Month, a nationwide celebration that provides the opportunity to reflect on the roles African Americans have played in shaping our country. During this time, it is common to hear about people like Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King Jr., but, among some Lane students, it is even more common to hear about people like Beyonce and Oprah Winfrey.

Carnesha Smith, Div. 275, is not proud to say that she thinks the history in Black History Month is slowly disappearing.

"When you sit down and talk to someone about their Black heritage, they only care about the current Black celebrities, and not about the people in history who actually made a difference so we as African Americans can live a better life," said Smith.

Smith wants people to realize that without the African Americans that are overlooked in today's society, this generation of African Americans would still be suffering.

"A lot of the time, we are only grateful to Martin Luther King Jr. because we get a day off of school in his honor," said Smith.

Richard Green, Div.150, is a Michael Jordan fan and admires him for his dedication and success to his sport.

"He dominated basketball, and through that he became world renowned," said Green.

Although MJ is one of Green's favorite African Americans, he looks at Martin Luther King Jr. as an African American hero, and like Smith, thinks that African Americans in history are under-appreciated.

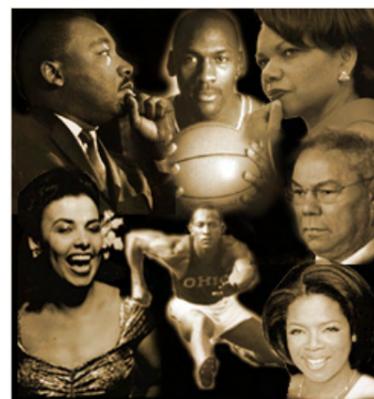
"Martin Luther King Jr. held so many protests and stood up for civil rights. He even has his own holiday, and some people don't understand what people like him went through," said Green.

Senait Gebregiorgis, Div. 269, considers Beyonce, Will Smith, Oprah, and President Obama her role models.

"They are the definition of what I want to become," Gebregiorgis said.

Gebregiorgis admires current African American leaders more than the historical ones.

"They are more current and I can relate to them more, but that doesn't mean that I don't appreciate what my an-



cestors did for me," Gebregiorgis said. Amery Federicks, Div. 376, also admires African American leaders in our society, but does not believe they are overshadowing their forefathers.

"Oprah Winfrey is my idol!" Federicks exclaimed. "But no one has made an impact like that of Martin Luther King or Harriet Tubman."

Brianna Lemon, Div. 163, is the president of the Black Student Association at Lane.

Lemon agrees that African Americans of pop culture are more celebrated than African Americans in history.

"African Americans of pop culture are more current and relatable," she said.

This month, Lemon is celebrating rapper, singer, and actor, Aubrey Graham, otherwise known as Drake.

"I've been a fan of Drake since my freshman year. He's very relatable and humble," said Lemon.

Whether it is Drake or Martin Luther King Jr. being celebrated this month, many Lane students certainly appreciate them for their contributions to society and consider them role models.

Letters to the Editor:

Italian television stereotypes offensive

Dear Lane Tech Community:

Basta with Jersey Shore! Spic. Wetback. Polack. The "N" word. Redneck. Terrorist. Chink. Guido. Guidette.

Yes, "guido" and "guidette" are just as bad as those other words. So "basta" with Jersey Shore skits, quotes, dress-up days and any other emulation of the show and the negative cultural representation that it presents.

I am Italian-American and I refuse to be represented by a bunch of unambitious and overly materialistic young people, some of whom are not even Italian American. On a daily basis, the Jersey Shore cast are concerned about how long they can tan and/or be in the gym and what bar they are partying in that evening. The stigma of the mafia has been a misrepresentation we've had to fight for many years, but now this?

I grew up on the East Coast in a small town that had lots of first, second and third generation Italians. If someone called us a "wop" or a "dago," those were fighting words. A "wop," for instance, stands for "without passport/papers" and was meant to be offensive. The words "guido" and "guidette" were in the same category long before Jersey Shore came to be.

The majority of Italians that immigrated to this country in the early 1900s were poor and came here to get jobs and offer a better life to their children. That is also what many of your parents have done. A better life is not qualified by how tan you are, how much you can drink, how many people you can have

sex with and how high you can fist pump. A better life is a good public education, the chance to go on to higher education, possibly with scholarships. A better life is a better job at better pay, a nice house and being able to have a family and offer them more than your parents could offer you. It is also taking care of the parents who worked hard and sacrificed to give you all of that. In a better life, everyone involved can stand with their heads held high, proud to stand for their ethnic group, and their ethnic group can be proud to have them as representatives.

As an Italian-American I want to be represented and identified with the great Italians in history such as Dante Alighieri, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, the Medici's, Giuseppe Verdi, Enrico Fermi and Federico Fellini just to barely skim the surface. I also want to be represented by accomplished Italian-Americans ranging from A. P. Giannini (founder of Bank of America), Fiorello LaGuardia (former mayor of New York), Justice Antonin Scalia (Supreme Court Justice), Martin Scorsese and our own principal, Dr. LoBosco. Throw in your favorite Italian soccer player, Enzo Ferrari, Rachel Ray and Dean Martin, just for entertainment purposes. That's who I want you to think of when you think "Italian" or "Italian American," not a bunch of unimpressive, self-interested drunks from the Jersey shore.

--Patricia Paganelli, Italian instructor

Defacing class posters is classless

Dear Editor,

As a large, public, city high school, saying we have a diverse student body is truly an understatement. This diversity is not only about the color of our skin, but the various cultures, religions, beliefs and interests. However, I, along with many fellow students, find no peculiarity in sharing a classroom where I am unique. While racism is still apparent everywhere, I feel at Lane Tech with festivities such as International Days and The T.A.S.T.E different races are celebrated, creating little hate or racism for others. But why then is sexism present?

As course selection week nears, posters line the halls promoting one class or another. Perhaps some of the most populous posters are the Women in Literature posters with questions asking, "Who are the women in black?" or "What is the problem that has no name?" My classmates and I in our Women in Literature class decorated the school with posters on Friday when everyone "had too much snow in their neighborhoods to get to school." On Tuesday morning I arrived at school to see a poster reading, "Who was the first female presidential candidate?" had been crossed out and replaced with, "Who cares!" and "women belong in the kitchen!" I was immediately outraged, disappointed, angry to say the least. I talked to friends and classmates about my quandary. A few students,

such as my Women in Lit class, urged me to write this letter; while the vast majority just laughed and told me to calm down. I argue, if this poster had been for an African American Literature class or a Latin American Literature class no one would be laughing. A teacher or the administration would have enacted discipline. Instead I watched as teachers and students just walked right by. I ask the students and teachers of Lane Tech, why is this allowed? How is this any more acceptable than a racial slur? Why is being sexist more socially acceptable than being racist?

I am offended by the thought that my fellow students would find humor in bringing someone down by being racist or by being sexist. Women's Rights are not only a women's issue but an equality issue.

Included below are the names of my classmates who share my concerns about this issue.

Sincerely,
Hannah Viti, Tania Galicia, Marianne Espino, Eric Buder, Yartiza Bueno, Yesenia Venegas, Molly Dunbar, Nadia Egnareuba, Jwanna Brown, Alexis Diaz, Gabriela Brizuela, Jocelyn Jaimes, Samantha Bulat, Bittany Barth, Rachel Audisho, Kimberly Randall, Magaly Ralon, Michelle Soto, Patricia Mota, Cherniece Pope, Ms. Courtney Feuer and the Honors Women in Literature Class.

Students express faith through clothing, sacred items

By Luis Rios

Despite the separation of Church and State, some Lane students support the idea of expressing their faith at school. Through the use of burkas, salwar kameezes, crucifixes, and other religious items, some Lane students display their beliefs with pride.

On September 2, 2004, France enacted a law that prevented students from displaying their faith in any public school. The French government's defense for the law was that they wanted to remain secular and follow the guidelines imposed by the separation of Church and State. This law specifically targeted the wearing of the burka, a loose garment (usually with veiled holes for the eyes) worn by Muslim women, or any other headdress.

Muslim student Khizra Younis, Div. 382, believes that a ban on burkas will not empower Muslim women in France. If anything, it will shatter Muslim traditions.

"The burka is worn by Muslim women to let unknown men know that they are married. Most Muslim women see the burka as a good thing because it allows them to gain respect from strangers," said Younis.

On June 22, 2009, French President Nicolas Sarkozy argued in a major policy speech that burkas were "not welcomed" in France, not just French schools.

"In our country, we cannot accept that women be prisoners behind a screen, cut off from all social life, deprived of all identity. The burka is not a sign of religion; it is a sign of subservience. It

will not be welcome on the territory of the French republic," said Sarkozy.

On September 14, 2010, the French Senate approved a ban on headdresses in public. This law will go into effect on the beginning of spring 2011.

As a result, France has been facing high anti-Muslim tensions. Fortunately, anti-Muslim tensions in the U.S. have not reached this height. Women here still have the right to make any religious displays they choose, within reason.

Muslim sophomore, Aaisha Ali Div. 355, disagrees with this law.

"I have been wearing my hijab since I was 10 and to keep me from wearing it would be like losing my freedom," she said.

A hijab is a headscarf worn by women which conceals the hair and neck and usually has a face veil. Ali claims that she wears her hijab because it helps her identify herself in a school as diverse as Lane.

"My family is Muslim, but they do not force me to wear the hijab. I do so from my own self-devotion," she said.

Ali also believes that students have become more accepting of others who look different.

"Everyone learns about different religions in school. Therefore that helps us create tolerance of others no matter what they believe in," said Ali.

Younis believes that expressing faith goes far beyond the clothes or items a person wears, although she sometimes wears the Kameez.

"I do not have to wear the entire Salwar Kameez (a tunic and pant ensemble, usually consisting of loose, draped, pleated or gathered trousers that are fitted at the ankle) because in order to

truly follow your faith, you must carry your devotion in your heart," said Younis.

Younis also claims that not being able to express her faith would have negative implications on her education.

"Not being able to express my beliefs will impact me because my parents would make me attend a private school that permits the display of religious items," said Younis.

Some Christian students at Lane also identify themselves with the religious items they wear. Christian freshman Marissa Higgs, Div. 471, displays her faith by wearing a gold crucifix around her neck.

"I've worn it everyday since the second grade," she said.

Higgs finds much more value in her crucifix beyond the fact that it is made out of gold.

"I got my crucifix from my grandma on my First Communion so it means a lot to me," said Higgs.

Although other Christian items might not be as costly as a golden crucifix, their sentimental value is what appeals to these students.

Alexandra Espinosa Div. 479, a Christian, wears several bracelets with saints printed on them.

"I feel much safer and protected when I wear them," said Espinosa.

Cecilia Villalobos, Div. 274, also a Christian, wears a green escapulario around her neck. An escapulario is a necklace made out of simple colored thread that has two images of a saint, one on the front and one on the back of your neck.

"Wearing my escapulario is very important to me because it symbolizes

what I believe in," said Villalobos.

Other Lane students prefer religious items that are much more practical.

Diana Reyes Div. 385, keeps several religious items on her for constant protection.

"I carry images of the Virgin of Guadalupe in my wallet. In case I ever forget to put my Virgin of Guadalupe necklace on, I have the images in my wallet to keep me from harm," said Reyes.

Since the beginning of freshman year, Parminder Jhaj, Div. 282, has been walking down the halls of Lane with long hair. Although he does not tie his hair in a bun anymore, he has kept his hair long. According to Sikhism, long hair is seen as purity and willingness to ignore bodily vanities.

"I choose to keep my hair long. My mom made me get rid of the bun but I still wear my hair in a ponytail," said Jhaj.

Although some religions encourage the use of wearing religious items, other religions prohibit the wearing of such objects.

Sophomore Nishly Lopez Div. 378 is a Jehovah's Witness and is not allowed to display her faith in any form.

"According to Jehovah's Witnesses, the Bible prohibits the making and wearing of idols. This includes crucifixes and rosaries," said Lopez.

Despite her religious beliefs, Lopez is tolerant of others who wear sacred items.

"Everyone has the right to display their religion. Just because I believe in something does not mean that I will impose it on others," said Lopez.



Hijab with face veil



A burka



Healthier cafeteria food replaces foods below nutritional standards

By Jasmine Grullon

Chicken jambalaya. Cucumber salad. No, we are not in Louisiana. We are in the lunchroom.

Since the beginning of this school year, the cafeteria has changed their lunch options to meet new nutritional standards set by CPS and the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of the Healthy Schools Campaign. After students attended last month's Board of Education meeting complaining of unappetizing and unhealthy choices, the change in cafeteria food was put into action. These new standards include low sodium and low calorie foods, reduced-fat salad dressings and mayonnaise, more fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain variations. Some CPS schools have replaced fried and starch-based dishes with hearty jambalaya. Lane is on board with the nutritional effort, which has come with mixed reviews from students.

At Lane, some students have noticed the change of food selections and are not enjoying the new healthier food choices.

"It's not the same as last year," said

Fernando Navarro, Div. 374. "Last year's [food] was better. The pizza tasted a lot better."

"The quality of the food was bad two years ago," said Mark Carter, Div. 255. "Now it just got worse. The way the food looks and smells is just awful."

Some miss how some food dishes were prepared, which have now been deemed unhealthy.

"I miss the nachos," said Briana Lemon, Div. 163. "Now they give us shredded cheese [on the nachos] instead of the real nacho cheese."

Instead of finding the usual melted processed cheese that is "fatty and unhealthy" on the tortilla chips, students are now served a healthier alternative to the popular lunch dish.

Another popular dish, pizza, has also been revamped to meet the new nutritional standards. The crust is now made with whole wheat crust, and instead of choosing fries, students can serve themselves salad as a side.

"It's a lot tastier," said Christine Javonillo, Div. 155. "Last year the salad tasted bland. Now, since it looks better, it tastes better."

The colorful salads have had a promising effect on some students.

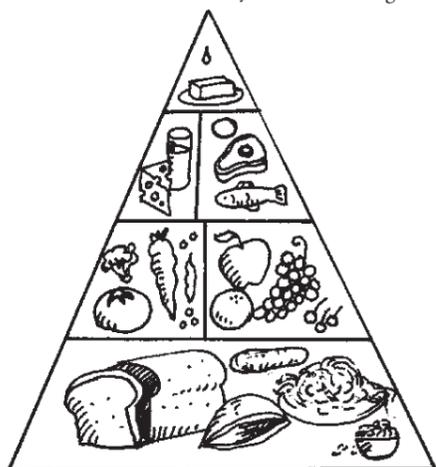
"I think it does help us make healthier choices," said Lemon. "It makes us consider what we're actually eating or put on their tray, also when we go out to eat."

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 15 percent of high school students in Chicago are obese due to unhealthy dietary behaviors and physical inactivity.

"You look at society and there's a lot of young adults who are likely to have adult weight problems in the future," said Mr. Pikes, Lane's Food Services Manager.

"Something has to change," Pikes said. "Everyone is responsible for what they eat. That is the most important thing in life; for everyone to learn about what to eat. The only thing missing is educating students of what to eat and when. Students need to learn what to be eating and asking themselves, 'Why I should eat this instead of that?' and 'Is this healthy for me?'"

After asking themselves those questions, maybe students will also ask, "What's really in that nacho cheese?" Well, it isn't cheese.



Class chips in to replace teacher's stolen laptop

By Aleks Pavlovic

As the eighth period bell rang to dismiss students for winter break, Ms. Sebestyen's law class stayed put and did not show signs of leaving the room. A student in the class explained, "We're waiting."

Then, according to Sebestyen, the door opened and a sea of students poured in.

"Lauren Adams held up a camera," Sebestyen said. "The students formed a circle around my desk and Deja Spikes handed me a box of Kleenex. I started crying before I even knew what was going on."

Sebestyen's students witnessed their teacher's mood worsening daily as the holidays approached. Her laptop had been stolen from her room earlier in the month. Armed with this knowledge, her students joined forces to give her a holiday gift she'd never forget.

"I knew something was up," Sebestyen said. "I saw students talking to students from other classes and their devilish smiles made me realize they were cooking up something. I thought they were planning an unscheduled Christmas party; I never thought it would be money for another laptop."

The Friday before break came and there were no surprise parties. Scheduled parties, however, took place, and Sebestyen lost track of her suspicions. Shortly after the bell rang at 2:12, students from her other periods entered her room.

Some students stood on desks and cheered to see her reaction as a shoebox with three piggybanks - purple, silver, and gold - was placed on her desk. Included in the box was a card with Ghandi on it filled with touching

quotes about teachers and a paragraph about the experience of learning in her class, signed by the majority of her students. Inside the piggybanks was a sum of money that Sebestyen chose not to disclose.

"To see the look on her face, I knew she appreciated it," said law student Lauren Adams, Div. 168. "When students come up with plans, they usually don't go through with them. We did."

Alejandra Avian, Div. 151, was also involved in the surprise for Sebestyen.

"I feel so accomplished, and we only did it in three days!" Avina said. "We sat down and planned what to do. Then the next day, a student brought in the piggybanks and collected money. Everybody did their part and it was a huge success. She does so much for her students and it was absolutely worth it."

Sebestyen was in awe of her students' gesture.

"The money for a laptop, that was phenomenal. It was sweet. It was considerate. But the ability of five classes to formulate and execute a plan, that's what we try to get you to do. That was really love."

To thank her students, Sebestyen bought a goat from Oxfam, a confederation of 14 organizations that work together in 99 countries to find solutions to poverty. The goat will be sent to a family in an underdeveloped country and the family will be taught how to use it in order to develop a profit.

"Instead of a thank-you note, I bought a thank-you goat," said Sebestyen. "It's the gift that keeps giving."

Sebestyen has recently matched the money her students gave her to purchase a sleek new laptop.

"This experience was so humbling," Sebestyen said. "It was amazing. It was...pretty darn sweet."

Biliary atresia does not slow Lane's Mitchell

By Julia Kulon

It is 5:50am. It is still dark, and Emily's mother shakes her to wake her up for school. She takes a bath, then gets dressed, and goes downstairs to eat breakfast. After eating, she lines up about ten tiny cups with various medications and drinks them like 'mini shots.' There's one for her liver, one for blood pressure, one for iron, and so many more that she does not remember what they all are.

At 6:50am, she is waiting for a yellow school bus. It comes for her at 7:00. By the time she gets to Lane, it's 7:30. She walks to her locker, chooses the books she needs, and sits down in a wheelchair, ready to start her day. The morning has just begun and she feels a bit tired already.

This is a typical morning for Lane student Emily Mitchell, Div. 164, who has a condition called biliary atresia.

Biliary atresia (BA for short) is present from birth and is the result of the absence of ducts (tubes that help remove waste from the liver and carry salts that help the liver break down fat, which drain a liquid called bile from the liver to the gallbladder). This condition occurs when the bile tubes inside or outside the liver do not develop normally.

BA's tendency to stunt growth and slow down weight gain causes Mitchell to look like a freshly turned 16 year old, not the 19 year old that she really is. Her skin matches her blonde hair, another symptom of BA where the newborn will appear to look normal at birth but at two-three weeks develop jaundice, a yellow pigmentation of the skin because of the increased levels of bilirubin (red blood cells) in the blood.

Despite this, Mitchell's face seems to reveal her true age. There is a certain wiseness to it, but even that proves to be a certain contradiction as she still enjoys the same types of things she did as a young child. Her favorite color is a bright pink, she loves dogs, finds *Little Fockers* to be very funny, loves singing to Taylor Swift, and adores Disney above all.

"My favorite has to be Micky Mouse," said Mitchell. "Then Eeroye, and Cinderella. I

liked dressing up as her when I was little."

For the Empty Bowls for Charity in Nov., Mitchell created two bowls, etching a Micky Mouse head on the side of the bowls.

This is Mitchell's last year at Lane. Although she was supposed to graduate with her class last year, she still has to meet the credit requirements. Despite this, Emily has no hard feelings and is grateful for the extra year.

"It gives me more time to think about what I'm going to go into," she said.

Mitchell plans on studying Child Care at Wright College based on her experiences at her god mother's child center, a place that is filled with three to four-year olds. She is not sure what would come after that, but she is not worried. She is hopeful, a bit nervous, but hopeful.

"I worry sometimes that I'll get lost at Wright, that I won't be able to find my classes," said Mitchell. "Hopefully in five years, I'll have a diploma and a job."

In Mitchell's future, there is also an inevitable liver transplant awaiting her. She has had four liver transplants, all when she was a baby and she barely remembers them. Until recently, Mitchell was on the waiting list for a fifth transplant. She was taken off the waiting list because her condition has been marked as stable.

"I'm waiting for a fifth liver, but they [the doctors] aren't doing anything until something goes wrong," said Mitchell. "I'm used to it. I barely think about it."

But some days she does, and feels incredibly scared. It all depends on the day.

A surgical repair of the liver that can restore 80% of bile drainage called the Kasai Procedure is the only known treatment for BA and has to be done before a baby is eight weeks old. The baby will be able to live years with a bad liver, and lead a normal life. It is still, however, likely that eventually the child will need a liver transplant.

For now, Mitchell just wants to graduate and embark on a new adventure.

"I'd like to live my life to the best of my ability," she said. "I like to think I have so far."

Childhood cancer drives Huertas to help others fight disease

By Vanessa Pena

On a warm summer day 14 years ago, Orlando Huertas, Div. 280, was in Puerto Rico walking around his backyard playing and laughing. His parents Milagros and Orlando Sr. were standing by the door cheerfully when they noticed an unusual limp in Huertas' right leg.

Curious to what this limp was all about, the Huertas family made a trip to the doctor to examine three year old Orlando's odd limping.

Huertas had to undergo a blood test to discover the cause of his unsteady leg.

After several days, the doctor called and informed the Huertas family that based off the test results, they believed he had a leg infection.

Besides the possible infection, the test showed a lack of white cells. More tests were done to reassure it was just an infection, and later it resulted in a bone marrow test.

"I was only three years old. Needles were not my friend!" said Huertas.

On April 16, 1997 the final diagnosis was Leukemia, a cancer in the blood.

"I was only three so I didn't know what cancer was, but my parents hurt that I was in the hospital and my mom was pregnant with my younger brother," said Huertas.

"One of the hardest parts of Orlando having Leukemia was his being away from me in the hospital. It was like he lived more in the Hospital than he lived at home," said Mrs. Huertas.

The doctors in Puerto Rico advised the Huertas family to move to Chicago so he could get a better treatment at Children's Memorial hospital.

He had mixed feelings about moving since he was leaving family behind, but he was on his way for a better treatment.

"Children's Memorial is the best! There was always activities for me to do. They hired entertainers and would keep us busy," said Huertas.

In Chicago, Huertas began his treatment by receiving a shot in his spine every month that stung him, while being hooked up to IV's, and a heart monitor at all times.

"During my treatment, at first I didn't like all the IV's, but since I was connected to them all the time, I got used to them and the needles were so big, and I repeat big!" said Huertas.

Huertas was on remission 15 days after he was on treatment. However, this did not mean that he was cured.

Huertas was forced to stay at the hospital for more than a month to closely monitor the progress of the cancer. His mom would stay with him, and his father visited often since he would be working.

"The machine had wheels but even with that I couldn't



Huertas, age 3, in his bed at Children's Memorial.

go many places. I felt restricted," said Huertas.

The thing that kept his family strong was their prayers and blood donations to Huertas. Huertas' local church, Saint Mark's, was very friendly and helpful during Huertas' cancer years. Many family and friends donated and prayed for Huerta.

Due to the generous donations to the Huertas family, Huertas has been inspired to donate blood, in the same way people donated to him when he was younger. Huerta participated in last months Blood Drive held at Lane but was denied.

"There's no point in telling people I had cancer because I'm not the only one in the world with cancer, so why sympathize with me when there's people with worse cancer," Huertas said.

Back in 2004, Lane held a national event called Relay For Life. The event raised money towards cancer research. During the event people would sleep in tents at the stadium and acknowledge the cancer survivors such as Huertas. Huertas' sisters who attended Lane at the time took part in the event, bringing spirit and triumph to their family.

"I plan on trying to have another event like Relay for Life to raise money for cancer research. I remember this event helped me a lot and it was a lot of fun!" said Huertas.

The cancer really has no permanent affect on him. He can do about anything any other 16 year old can do. He was on the baseball team freshman year, and runs track. He also participates on a physical training team for ROTC. The only issue that Huertas has due to his remission is not being able to join the military. He was really looking forward to joining the Marines since his two older sisters are in the Marines.

Huertas is planning to bring back the Relay for Life event and wants as many people as possible to participate. His battle with cancer made him more aware of others with the condition, and he hopes to continue to take steps to raise awareness in others.

Liggins fights off cancer; now in remission

By Brianna Toney

At age 18, life usually feels like it is just beginning and your biggest worry is what college you will attend or who you will take to prom. This is not the case for former Lane student Dominique Liggins. At 18, her biggest worry is how the chemo treatment is going to work out, or if something else will go wrong.

Liggins was diagnosed with T-Cell Lymphoma in August of 2010. Also known as Mycosis Fungoides, the disease is a rare type of lymphocytic cancer in which certain cells of the lymphatic system, called T-lymphocytes or T-cells, become malignant and affect the skin. This discovery was an unexpected one for Liggins. She knew something was wrong, but cancer was the last thing she could have imagined.

During the summer of 2010, she began having pains in her chest and had trouble breathing. She thought it was due to weight she had gained earlier in the year. But when the pains and breathing problems worsened, she went to see a doctor.

"I was originally diagnosed with asthma and I was given prescriptions to control my breathing," said Liggins. "But as we were leaving, the pulmonologist suggested that I also get an x-ray before I go home just to be sure. Within a few hours, I found out there was a mass of tissue, the size of a grapefruit, sitting right over my lungs and trachea, which explained the difficulty

I had breathing properly."

Because of her condition, Liggins is unable to do things that she used to do. She cannot stand for long periods of time, or do any strenuous activity. But she tries to make her life as normal as possible by pushing through these activities, such as walking the mall for exercise.

"This is only a temporary part of my life and I feel I shouldn't get used to not doing anything productive because that slows down the healing process," Liggins said.

Liggins has had to undergo five different types of chemotherapy and take blood thinners after one chemo treatment caused blood clots to form in her left arm.

"In all honesty, treatment usually makes me feel like I'm in a living hell," she said. "But I have a high tolerance for pain, which is why I've made it as far as I have through this ordeal."

The intense pain Liggins goes through is not from the cancer itself, but mostly from the chemotherapy and the other medications she takes. There are days when her entire body is in pain. These are the days when she takes MITX (Methotrexate) Chemo, which causes her joints to become sore, as if she had broken bones. The treatments also cause hair loss, sleeplessness, and lower counts of her blood cells.

"When I first started treatment, the pain in my legs would be so severe that I couldn't even walk," Liggins said. "I have also experienced extreme abdominal pain.

If you could imagine being stabbed in your stomach with a samurai sword over and over again in the same spot, then that's probably what it would feel like."

There was nothing she could do to stop the pain except wait for it to pass. The worst pain she has ever experienced was when she had to have surgery in her arm to remove a blood clot. It had to be removed so that it would not travel to any other part of her body, which could have been fatal. The blood clot had hardened and doctors had to use a catheter to go inside her arm three straight days. Her arm blistered and swelled to twice its normal size.

"The pain was so bad that not even high doses of Morphine or Dilaudid (a stronger medication than morphine) would help," Liggins said.

Her survival chances are high because they caught the cancer early on. The pain will be over soon, she hopes. Now, she declines pain medication because she thinks the side effects from them are much worse than the pain.

Liggins has been in remission for over a month now. However, she still has to

undergo treatment during this process because cancer cells may still be active, even if not visible.

"I was told that the only way to know for sure that someone is completely cured is if the cancer does not return in that person's life time," Liggins said.

Throughout all the difficulties of the recovery process, Liggins' mother has helped her get through all the pain.

"There have been times when I wanted to give up, but I know I have to survive because she needs me," Liggins said.

In addition to her mother, Liggins' curiosity for what the future holds motivates her to continue her fight.

"I've also decided to continue to fight because I'm only 18 and I haven't had the chance to really experience life for myself," she said. "I want to find out what kind of person I'll become... if I'm going to get married and have children and watch them grow up. Most of the reason why I'm still here is out of curiosity for [what] life will bring."

Liggins has a very strong support system, with friends and family that are always by her side. There are many times that she doesn't feel so positive about her situation, but she continues to stay strong and believes everything will turn out fine.

"I wouldn't be human if I didn't feel [negative] every once in a while," Liggins said. "But I always come out of it though because I know in my heart and with my

faith in God, that I will be fine. It's just a test of my endurance."

Her fight has also changed her relationship with others. Since being diagnosed with cancer, she has become closer with her dad. This process has helped her realize how much he cares for her.

"Something that made me proud of the relationship we have is when he expressed to me that he feels at peace only when he is with me. That meant a lot," Liggins said.

Liggins' recovery process has really helped change her mindset. She sees many things differently from others her age.

"I've learned that you can't take the little things in life for granted because at any moment it can be taken away," Liggins said. "I sit and think about how many of my peers complain about just about everything and it's like 'do you know what I'd give right now to trade places with you?' I can't even walk around the mall without feeling like I'm going to pass out after a few minutes, and kids complain about not being able to buy the newest pair of Jordans. Things can be so much worse."

Liggins struggle with cancer has helped her find positive things to dedicate her time to and ways that she can help others.

"I plan to go on the walk for the cure this summer with my family," she said. "I also intend to go to school for nursing next year so I can work with kids just like me, and I'll be living proof to them that they can conquer cancer and anything else that comes his or her way."

STANDOUT OF THE ISSUE: Victor Kedzierzawski

By Sofia Kerpan

Those that are acquainted with him are aware that he is foreign. He says "bloody" as if he's the frontman of a Britpop band. Others assume he hails from Mother Russia, possibly due to his learned disposition and dark, slavic features. But Victor Kedzierzawski, Div. 183, is not British, and he is not Russian.

"Most people think I'm Russian. I must say that I enjoy it," said Kedzierzawski.

Having emigrated from his hometown of Warsaw, Poland at the age of 10, Kedzierzawski is recognized at Lane for his British accent and persona, despite having never visited the country. The accent is a godsend to English teachers who can, and have, put it to good use when reading Shakespeare in class. Kedzierzawski was not a stranger to the soliloquies of Macbeth, Claudius and Hamlet in his AP Literature class this year.

His first language being Polish, he was taught basic English in school in Poland. However, he didn't always have his distinguished British accent.

"At first I had a Polish accent [when I spoke English]. The morph occurred as I was notified of my Polish accent when I first came to America, which I set out to change into a less-ridiculed one," said Kedzierzawski, "So I listened to BBC and classical radio on a UK station...and as I learned how to pronounce words correctly [with a British accent], the manner of speech just stuck. It just comes naturally now."

In accordance with his Anglican image, he finds himself in love with tea. He carries two thermoses of Earl Grey tea to school each day: one for lunch, and one to drink throughout the day.

Beverages play a big part in Kedzierzawski's identity. One of his

trademarks is his handy canteen that is often seen strapped to his belt.

"I just like military things. I thought, instead of a water bottle, why not a canteen? People make fun of me for it," Kedzierzawski said.

This admiration for the military is due in part to his participation in ROTC. He is the current Cadet Captain and Chief Logistics Officer in the Battalion S-4. He admires the values that the military embraces, although he says he would never join.

"I love uniformity. I love order."

This translates to his political ideals as well.

"I associate myself with Communism. I do not agree with it 100%...but I like their ideas," he said.

Insisting that this is not a teenage phase or attempt at being radical, Kedzierzawski first became interested in Communism after seeing *Enemy at the Gates* as a child. He had also heard much about it in Poland, a formerly Communist state.

"Am I zealous about it? No. It is the only successful ideal that includes altruism.

Surprisingly, Kedzierzawski's favorite book is not nearly as militaristic as he seems to be. He has a soft side, too: It's Fitzgerald's *The Great*

Gatsby, which follows the story of a love lost in the roaring twenties.

"I'm old-fashioned. I like the lingo. I like the fashion of the 20s, trench coats, and suits. In the future, I want to wear a suit every single day."

But Kedzierzawski's desired profession might be more suited to a lab coat. He wants to be a neurological researcher, and hopes to study at The University of Chicago.

"Someone said something once that I will never forget. They said, 'The human brain is the only living thing that has set out to understand itself,'" he said.

Few have set out to understand Kedzierzawski. He is unlike most students at Lane, from his canteen to his rolling briefcase with wheels that functions as a

backpack. But he seems to enjoy being a conundrum, and even finds the people in America to be much more welcoming of him. Characterizing himself as an outcast, he faced ridicule from his peers as a young child in Poland.

"After years of humiliation, I left Poland with a sour taste in my mouth. America? I like the people better."

He even likes Americans enough to tell them his honest opinions about their clothing.

"Today I told the girl that sits in front of me in class that her scarf looked like a pixelated rainbow. It was awful."

He means well.

In terms of his public image, the Cadet Captain's ethnicity is often mistaken, but one thing generally holds true: Kedzierzawski is bloody different.



Lane's baby boom brings name ideas, excitement, questions

By Katarzyna Barnak



As Natalie Portman struts her stuff with a rounded belly at the Golden Globes, a few Lane teachers have a similar stride as they show-off their baby bumps.

Some of Lane's Natalie Portmans are: Mrs. Langford, Mrs. Isaacson, Mrs. Robins and Mrs. DeBord who are all due in the spring.

Teachers tend not to share their personal lives with students, but in the case of their having a baby, it is somewhat hard to hide. Teachers take the privilege to announce the big news to their students. The reactions from students might be mixed but are generally supportive.

"They actually applauded and were very excited," said English teacher, Mrs. DeBord, about her students response when she told them she was pregnant.

"I began to figure things out after a while. Either she was gaining a lot of weight, or she was pregnant," said Alyssa Muriel, Div. 176, a student of DeBord.

"I have very supportive people around me...and the staff is very understanding," said Special Education teacher, Mrs. Robins.

The announcements are a little bit of a shock to others.

"I never would have guessed! But in all, I'm happy for her," said Karolina Stepek, Div. 255, one of Mrs. Langford's students.

"They were shocked which was hurtful. Did they think I was too old to have a baby?" said Mrs. Langford, AP Psychology teacher.

Knowing that a teacher is pregnant can change the classroom environment and students' treatment of their teachers.

"There is more of a family atmosphere. I think they behave better," said Mrs. Isaacson, a French teacher.

Some students fear that the pregnancy will cause their teacher to act differently since they can be very strained and exhausted, especially during the last trimester.

"Considering that pregnant women can be very hormonal or crazy, I guess the only thing I'd be worried about is getting on her bad side," said Stepek.

"I don't think it'll be too bad, but I will prepare for oral quizzes just in case they go more hardcore," said Caitlin Walerowicz, Div. 272 a student of Langford's.

While some may fear their teacher chang-

ing attitudes others agree that it is a big deal to witness the miracle of life and they are excited to be there for their teachers along the way.

"It's fun to sort of share that experience with them," said Muriel who has both DeBord and Langford as her teachers.

Others even give their teachers diet advice.

"They try to sell me candy more, 'You might not want it but the baby might want it' [they say]," said Isaacson.

"On finals, we asked [Mrs. Langford] how she was going to make it all the way to 1:30 to have lunch since the schedules switched. But she had a couple of oranges with her luckily," said Muriel.

Another important aspect that the students want to be a part of is choosing names. But as difficult as it is to choose a baby name, it is even more challenging to choose a name that is original. But students are more than glad to help.

"They really want to pick out the names and be involved with the big decisions," said Isaacson.

Lane might be gold mine of names due to the variety of cultures and number of students. It can also be a challenge to think of a name that no one else in the school has.

"My name is Jennifer so when I went to school there was like 80 Jennifers. Keeping that in mind, I don't want my son to have such a common name. But I wouldn't name him something crazy that he would be made fun of for like 'Moongazer' or 'Sparrow' as some of the rock artists name their kids," said Mrs. Robins who is due March 14.

Mrs. Robins's first born son goes to preschool where there are three boys with the same name. The teachers call them: Nathan, Nate, and Nate E (Natie) which gets some of the mothers upset. Luckily, her son's name is Benji. She chose that name because in the future, when he gets older she can call him Benjamin.

"Naming a child is really hard, it defines who you are," said Robins.

Teachers say that their job requires them to deal with so many different names and people, it makes choosing the baby's name even harder.

"There are names that you might have considered but then a student comes into your classroom and ruins that name forever," said Langford.

For Langford, who is expecting a baby girl, some of those "ruined" names are: Miriam,

Emily, Diana, Catherine, Rumana and Baily.

"I have actually taken names off my baby list [too] because of students," said Isaacson.

It is not necessarily because teachers do not like these students, but that those students stand out more and it will be hard not to associate that name with the student rather than the baby.

"I currently have two Henrys in my classes and it's hard not to address them without thinking about my son. Neither of them are super annoying, thank goodness or I would have to change Henry's name," joked Langford.

While finding a name that is original and no other student has, Mrs. DeBord has a girl's name prepared that, she says, none of her current students have. She and her husband decided to have the gender of the baby remain a mystery until the delivery date. That is why she is still thinking about a boy's name.

"The kids find it very funny that we didn't want to find out the sex of the baby," she said.

Some educators are very passionate about the subjects that they teach and can see their children doing well in that subject in the future.

"My husband is a social studies teacher so the poor kid will have to love both English and History," said DeBord.

Being a teacher not only prepares the educators to lead a classroom but it also helps them gain experience to deal with their kids as they get older.

"Now that I have one child, and am about to have another one, teaching teenagers is different than before I had children. I can deal with 150 a day, but will I be able to deal with teens in my own house? Will I be able to use the same tactics as in my classroom?" said Langford.

"I think being a teacher is a perfect job when you want to be a mother and work at the same time," said Isaacson.

One thing is for sure, these expecting ladies will miss Lane when they go away for their maternity leave.

"I'm very excited for the arrival of my son, but it's bittersweet because I'm sad to leave my students and my classroom and I hope to come back soon," said Robins.

While Natalie Portman might call her child "Moongazer" and take a year off from work, Lane expectant mothers will be back soon to their beloved pupils.

Lane "Gingers" have others seeing red

By Kelly Mrofca

Ginger has become something more than a household kitchen spice. It has become a noun, or a title, for the red-haired and freckled people of the world.

Red hair is rare. According to *The Washington Post*, approximately two to five percent of people in the United States are born with red hair. That means that between 80 and 200 red heads walk the hallways of Lane.

"When there is a ginger in the room, they're the first thing that I notice. I just see red. It's pretty hard to avoid a redhead," said Phillip Truong, Div. 279.

According to the psychology of color from *About.com*, red is the strongest of all colors. It attracts the most attention. Red heads have this advantage, though sometimes the attention is not desirable.

"The first thing I notice about a red head is their eyebrows. They are just so weird. They're orange," said Brandon Givens, Div. 269.

Though fellow teenagers do not have many positive compliments on this unique color of hair, redheads admit to getting a lot of positive attention from adults, hair dressers, and the elderly.

"I always have older people coming up to me and asking me how much money I had to pay for my hair color. I have the pleasure of saying it is all natural," said Hope Basil, Div. 354.

Besides their hair, redheads also get attention for their skin. It is typically rather pale and doesn't tan easily, which makes them especially sensitive to the sun. Georgia Tankard, Div. 354, said that her family has an "intense sun protecting paste" called zinc oxide.

Her family takes occasional vacations to exotic countries. On one particular trip to New Zealand, Tankard reports that the strength of the sun was "really intense." The zinc oxide came in handy.

Like many characteristics that

are considered different, redheads face plenty of stereotypes.

"When I meet a new person, the first thing they say to me is 'You must be Irish,'" said Catherine Walsh, Div. 265.

Generally, people think red hair is linked with Irish ancestry.

"I go to Ireland twice a year, and never see anyone with red hair. It's a huge stereotype that is actually more a part of the Scottish culture. It doesn't bother me that people think of Ireland or someone being Irish when they see someone with red hair. It's just a misconception," said Kayla Ryan, Div. 161.

Irish and Scottish cultures are fairly similar. But redhead, Tomasz Chmurd, Div. 445, is neither. Chmurd is 100 percent Polish.

"I have always thought of faking an Irish accent just for fun," Chmurd said.

Popular culture has recently developed a joke that redheads are "soul-less." This joking impression began after a 2005 episode of *South Park* entitled "Ginger Kids," where redheaded children were regarded as "tools of the devil, marked with the color of their master." This is completely fictitious, and for comedic effect. Nevertheless, according to *Redheads: Myths, Legends, and Famous Red Hair*, Russian traditions posit that red heads have a fiery disposition, and a temper as hot as their hair. The book also tells of a Russian proverb that reads, "there was never a saint with red hair."

"I don't usually get many mean comments. Occasionally I get the whole 'no soul' thing, which I don't think is completely right," said Chmurd.

The jokes are endless.

"I feel like whenever I get a ginger angry, their hair will combust into flames," joked Artur Glowinski, Div. 356.

Hair combustion is biologically unlikely, but a ginger will leave a definite impression. Being different has always garnered attention, and "gingers" are no exception.

JUNIORS

To all of Ms. Jennings' students! Happy Valentine's Day! Remember Shakespeare may have spoken the truth in 116 & 130, but you may not want to use them as love letters!

Sister's for life! I will name her Francis and she will be mine. :) and she will be my Francis.

Thank you for being there when i needed you all the most! I'll also be there! You know who u r!
Love, Ari HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

Thanks for the dance, Moody! :)

Liam, Happy Valentine's Day! We've been together for a long time, but it keeps getting better! I love you! - Jasmine

CM + AJ2 + JASS AND THE STITCH = <3

Megan, Caitlin and Tess, Four for you, Glen Coco! You go, Glen Coco, You go, Glen Coco!
Love you guys -Rachel

I'll be your Dr. Spock and you'll be my special Klingon friend. - Tom Lets play soccer, you can be the ref and punish me when I'm too rough. - Alan, Richie+Alan+Tom FOREVER!!!

Happy Valentine's Day to my best friends! I love you guys and dont know what I would do without you, and happy birthday Kasia!

Dear Bestfriend, I love you. End of story. -Veronica

Chiquito, eres mi media naranja y eres to do para mi. Happy Valentines Day bbe! Our time together has brought me the best memories. I love you. From your Nani :)

Demi...you got what you wanted! I hope you are happy! I don't do this just for anyone. You know who this is! Love always! (Div.261)

Happy Valentine's Day Ale!! -Kim

Dear Bria, so even though I know that I should wait til Valentine's Day to tell you how much you mean to me, I'm a guy, so I do. In simple words, you mean the world to me babe. Stick around. :)

Happy Valentine's Day to my favorite Division year!! -Ms. Tracy

To Veronica and Jocabed, my dearest best friends who each day brighten and bring joy to my miserable life. To that one friend who doesn't talk to me but I still love and consider a friend. Happy Valentine's Day! -Gladys

Karen is the best person, ever. And so is Danielle! Hey Kapera you jealous!!

Dear Div. 265 Just wanted to tell you YOU ARE THE BEST! Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Ms. Machaj

Daniela, Diana, Willa, Sophie, I love you girls so much. Keep being amazing! <3

Butter: Happy Valentine's Day! Keep up the good work! -Dad

Happy Ana Howard Shaw Day! To: Ben, Juj, Caitlin and Nicole. I'm lizting to tell you about the rural juror. Love, Megan

Sandra Reno, you are the funniest girl alive. I love you. -From Dora

40 days and counting <3

Happy Valentine's Day Marilyn!! I'll always love you, I hope my real valentine is as special as you. -Love Manny

Happy Birthday to the one and only Madeline Savoie! Have a FABULOUS 17th birthday! Get crazyyyy... but not really! K. Much luvvvv, Chofee, Dor\$, GLags & Suppy

Happy Birthday to that wild blonde girl who brightens up everyone's day. Happy Valentine's Day as well, Madeline Savoie, I hope you find crazy love in this wild,wild world, because it's hard to get by just upon a smile, girl.

Please never change. You have changed my life in so many ways. You have been one of the people that knows my highs and my lows. You always look out for me and I promise I will too. I adore you. <3 P.S. Girl you're soo pretty. =)

You're beautiful and I always think about you. Be my valentine. Happy Valentine's Day Monica.

Dear Sandra Reno, You light up my life...Just PLAYIN' i hate you~with love. - GRACE

My Junior!!! Happy Valentine's Day! Can't wait to see you on International Nights. Hugs and kisses. Love ya! :)

I want to love someone.

Julia, you're an amazing friend. It's funny because we've only met this year and yet we are so close. You're SO pretty and really inspire me. You're very artsy and have a great eye for beauty (from your photography to your writing). I really do love you and I'm glad to call you my friend. Love, Veronica

To my cuzo Matt hopein' you get lucky on this holiday of love. Much love, tu prima.

3D's and SSB. I LOVE YOU GUYS <3 Charades, Six Flags, Car Rides & we have a summer's worth full of more memories to come. -Dirce (:

Karen is the best person, ever. And so is Danielle! Hey Kapera you jealous?!

A special note to Div. 285 and all my English students. Ms. Lawrence loves you all and I want you to love READING! Happy Valentine's Day. XOXO to BSA.

Happy Valentine's Day Jorge!!

I love you Alyssa Tso. :)

Happy V-Day! WOOOO! I like sloppy joes from Emily

Sharasta, you're NOT awesome. Jk. You are awesome. <3 to the ∞

Glow, Holy, Perfect,Capricorn,Feminine Short, Slow, Awesome, Red, Manly P.S. I hope you get accepted into St. Charles

I <3 PORCELAIN S.T. a.k.a Mrs. Kim

To: Linda Andy & Me <3 YOU, even though you're loud, obnoxious, annoying, & sucky at math.

"Have you ever wondered which hurts most: saying something and wishing you had not, or saying nothing and wishing you had?"Hm think bout it. Happy Valentines Day, everyone :)

Kid Beto: Thank you for this amazing lovely & happy time that I've had with you. Happy Anniversary & Happy Vday. You are truly one amazing boyfriend & very adorable :3 Maybe one day we can go to hooters together...MAYBE :D Just for you ofcourse. MargaritaRuz&KATMIMMAYLA: ILOVEYOU/MYBFFFWIFE

Roses are red, violets are blue, I'm too cheap to get you a gift, but not cheap enough to send you a loving message!

To my 8th period- you guys are the best! <3 Ms. C.

Jacque + Karina <3 Happy Valentine's Day! Even though I hate this day I thought I would do this for you guys cause I love you so much :) -Lily

Where my dawgs at?! Oh that's right. In 6th period Guitar. Snoop + Gator + Pup :)

With all my love to my girls: Bria, Aldijana, Maggie, Klaudia, Gena, Ashley, Chris Karczewski, Joey Peculis, Clementine, Winnie, Ann Lynn, Edgar, Richie, Marilyn, Shara, Max,Chloe, Ana Lovric, and special love for Bria.

To my divison family: you guys are the best anyone can ever ask for. I love each and everyone of you with all of my heart. <3

To my wife, Bianca Rodriguez. Happy Valentine's Day!! We made one month, now we can get a divorce :) - Love, your wife

I love my division girls! Natalie Frazier.

Dear Alex, I love you. I love everything about you. Like I always tell you, you're perfect. You're gorgeous. You're so smart. You're very sweet. You're hilarious. You're just... Perfection at its finest. Thank you for an amazing year together (almost). I love you with all of my heart.

SEAN DIMAGIBA IS A SEXY BEAST! <3 <3 <3 <3 <3 Everytime I see him walking down the hallway, my heart skips a beat. He's the Romeo to my Juliet. Let's make like a fabric softener and SNUGGLE! - Anonymous

I love you, Mehneez. Hame-sha aur Hamesha ke liye. :)

My beloved Edgar Corona, I like the way you look at me in class

I love you wifey 6.15.10

Liz, Mary P + L, Julia, Melli, Jaqui, Mayra, Claudia, LT Japanese club dancers, and of course piotr. I love you all, thanks for feeling my life with joy. - Zorgie

Dear Lupe, So this message in writing to you is to show you how valuable and precious you are to me. You're the most amazing girl I've ever met. Thank you for always being there for me and giving me the love I need to stay on my feet. "When my life needed color your love added a rainbow." Te amo princessa con todo el alma. Thank you for showing me what true love feels like "your my favorite". 2-3-11.

I love Anexy Diaz & Carla Martinez. End of story. <3

I LOVE YOU TO WHOEVER IS READING THIS :) -Anon

:) If I had to choose between breathing and loving you, I would use my last breaths to tell you "I love you" <3

Dylan is Awesome

Tanya your the love of my life lowkey! Love ya!

Audrey will you be my Valentine? One love! -secret admirer

Happy Valentines day Kody Day! I Love you so much! Happy one day early 8 months as well. <3 <3. Can't wait to go out with you this weekend. ILY.

Dirce, class won't be the same without you!! I miss you! <3

To my 6th period homies! Izzy, Diaz, Daisy, Cathy, and Erika-zzy! We are lovers for life! IDK how my life would be without you girls. Big shoutout to Shanayna! (Ms. Jennings) PS Getting it in 2010 -Jazzy

To the people who never let me down Caitlin Liubin, Monica Juarez, Michael Morin, Jesus "Chewy" Alvarado, Amariys Juarez, Airis Cervantes, Madeline Martinez, Michelle Martinez, Stephanie Berryhill, and Imaris Soc. I love you all. - Mona aka Monica Garcia

Hey babe, I miss you like crazy and I wish things could have turned out better... But none of this will matter in June...

I love my gorgeous KK dolls. Anexy and Jasmine <3 -Ivelisse

Friends know exactly how to make you smile no matter how down you are. Friends are completely comfortable around each other. Friends are there when you need them. They are great listeners, but also gives you advice when it's needed. They tell each other everything. Friends make you feel special even when you doubt yourself. Friends support you through the things you do. Friends don't care about your imperfections because you perfect the way you are. That is why you more than just my friend. You're my best friend, my girlfriend, and my valentine. Thank you for being this amazing person and letting me be your special someone these las two months. HAPPY VALENTINES DAY DIANA JAIMES -Bill Phan P.S. You're a cutie. Sorry, I just had to throw it out there so everyone could see this.

"I love you more than being seventeen." :)

Dear Cody Lee, I had a nice time at sixflags. It was really nice mackin with you. Love Gabby Hernandez

Dearest Jasmine, lol, YOU ARE THE BEST! Wow! I'm having tons of fun w/ you, all the time, and we have sooo many awesome memories. I'm looking forward to many more. I love you <3 Liam

To my dearest PapaBear. If you'll be my bodyguard I can be you long lost pal I can call you Betty And Betty when you call me You can call me Al. Happy Valentines Day. I love you. Love yours truly, Goldilocks

To my "beloved" besties-Jessica, Alex, Dana, Maggie, Emma, Steph, Dora, Bobby, Jen, Ania, Aleks; as well as Chelsea & Julie; Physics Buddies-Kody, Nelly, Bennie; Ilove you alland thank you for being there for me Love crippled Aimee

2 years in one more month baby! =) I can't wait. -Jakub Ogara

Kelly M, you are the apple of my eye. The red apple.

I want you Sapna Rathod, I'm a large muscular boy and I love you! Marry me?

Sandra Reno, you are the love of my life. The End.

Can I holla at you Gena Wojtal? You are so beautiful to me, can't you see? You're everything I hope for! YOU'RE EVERYTHING I NEED

Thank you Mr. Jeon & Mrs. Pierce for being such awesome coaches. We love you to the infinity. Math Team <3

Becky Anton I. LOVE. YOU. Katherson + Sanderson Fo eva...

MR. POLLEY You're a babe.

Letty, this year you've grow on me so much I love our little boy talks & your notes make me smile. Thanks for being such an amazing friend i'll a ton <3

For my bestest friends in the whole world who always been there for me on anything. Mana, Ivonne, Denisse, Monica Merian, and Maddie Love Rigo Mano or whatever you call me.

Who needs a valentine when I have my dolls I love you guys <3

Happy Valentine's Day to Carolina Perez, Allison Magsombol, and Nancy Martinez. Also to my LTXC Sisters. Thanks for always being there, you guys mean the world to me (: -Babycakes :) (Jocelyn)

Love, true love never alters. Through the seasons of the year, or the raising of a fear true love stays clear. Through the miles between and cupid's fiend, true love is in the lead. Never doubt or leave with out the knowledge that love, real love, true love is as obvious as a shout.

Lilah! Hey

To my special someone. The past month and a half has been special to me. The memories we have created have been few but memorable. Although we don't spend as much time as I like together, the time we do get to be together I wouldn't change it fo the world. Sometimes, I sit in class thinking of you wondering if you're also thinking of me. It kills me that I can't text you. There are times that I just wanna talk to you, see how you're doing, or when you're feeling down I wanna be there for you. Not being able to talk to you makes me feel as though I am a bad boyfriend. In the end, I believe this is all worth it because I have you. That one gorgeous girl, that one loud girl, that one girl with a big personality, that one girl who knows how to move her hips (which I love and drives me crazy), that one sexy girl. Yeah, I can truly say that is my girl. I'm crazy about you and I hope that one day I can say that I love you. - Happy Valentine's Day babe

Domo, we have been friends for a long time, and I love you soo much. You are my sister, and thanks 4 everything. Also, Sarah we have just began to get close, and I already feel like we are family!!!

Coccolino, you are the most AMAZING person I have ever met! You make me happy when no one else can, we have been together for almost 6 months now and you still give me the butterflies. I don't know where I would be without you. You make living life worth it. You mean the world to me. You are my prince charming, my best friend, the love of my life. I love you sooooo much Happy Valentines' Day babe :D 8.20.10 <3 -Stephybear

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone at Lane Have a great Valentine's Day watch out for the snow!!!

Babe, Its been 32 weeks since you FINALLY said yes. We've been through alot, but guess what? We're still here, together! We fight, but in the end we get through it and our relationship gets stronger. Why? Cuz we are GangsterSauce! I love you Mrs. Weird, Mrs. GangsterSauce, mi Corazon, NCL! Never forget that! I hope you like my division present too :) -JAM

Kristian Sanchez Be my Valentine? Pweeease :) From Ju'Fro

Hey Sandy, this is official proof I love you more than I love Brian, K cool. Always & Forever right? Awesome Possum ~9.11.09

DEAR DIVISION 281, you are the best! Your academic and social prowess are only outmatched by The RIGOR with you conduct yourselves on a daily basis! Rigor on 281! Mr. P

KATE + MURPHY =

<3

We know what's on the table. JAYSWIFT LOVES DSCHWARTZ psLWJ = <3

JUNIORS

Mari is an awesome division buddy.

I love you Liah and Emily

Happy Valentine's Day Lane Tech

Rene, I love you dude! -Jaime

Because when everybody else has failed me, you've always been there. I wouldn't trade you for the world. I love you. (WFNB)

KENNY I LOVE YOU

and tommy

Happy Valentine's Day to the SOG's lunch crew, my bro Erik Dohner, my division buddy MADDY GIESEL, and everyone else!
I love you, Chloe.

Babe, I love you in every single way. Just to see your smile brightens my day. You have my heart so all I want to say is that I wish you a happy Valentines day. ILY snuckums a.k.a Imari

To mi Corazon; I am happy to say i have you. I heart you so much, I am in like with you 7.1.10, no cheesy stuff but what we have is just enough. - mrs. GS

Surgaa, Big head. From our first dance freshmen year, to a first kiss by room 253, with every look into your eyes, and every moment in your arms I fall more in love. Baby, your all I could ask for. Te amo muchisimo. Love, smallz <3

Happy Valentine's Day to MG, AKN, KF, PB, KH, DM, XR, EA, MH, NP, CHG, SS, SM, BI, RU, JW, and even GU who won't care. I love you guys! - Blair

J.D.L.T., we've iceskated, frequently injured me, nearly crashed, matched for an entire week, and eaten TOO many quesadillas. But it's been the best three months of my life. Happy Valentine's Day! Love you! - Saucy Pan aka Sassafras

MAN PURSE! You know who you are. -Meggiepoo

Jack. I opened my heart to you and you made my life enchanted. I am glad to have you, an amazing boyfriend who loves me and cares for me so much. I'm taking this moment to tell you, I love you. Thank you for being my best friend. Happy Valentine's Day. - Your Everlasting Rose

Happy Valentine's Day Model UN team. I love you guys so much & you did an amazing job at the conference. Go Juniors! Love, Melvish Maghribi

I wanna let you know that you are the most important part of my life, mi fresita :). I LOVE YOU Michelle.

To my Horse Click and my Lunch Crew, I love you guys! =)

I love you, Franciso <3

Jorge, I lauf you, my russian queen. Shpoopel! - Brosteph Stalin

Div 275 I LOVE YOU GUYS! I still don't know why... But I DO! -Mrs. I

Thanks for being the wonderful person you are! I know I've told you this a million times but you're the sweetest guy & cutest I've known. I love you Cano =)

You are the definition of comfort, warmth, compassion, and friendship. You bring me the happiness I've been looking for. Thank you for understanding my past, believing in my future, and accepting me for who I am. Happy Valentine's Day, Babe. 10911014052

To my best friend Mary. Thanks for always being there for me I really appreciate all you do for me, even though it seems like I'm always helping you out. I love you, Happy V Day.

Nick, I still love you today Mr. Rager -deisi Renee

Ay, woof woof where my dogs at? Yo, rrrrbit where my Frogs at? Da Frog, tell Jo Dog that our pup wrote something in the newspaper. :) Pup

First of all.. I would like to tell you that I love you!!<3 You turn me on when you wear your northface and vans. You are so amazing.

Where my frogs at? I know. They're right here <3 in my heart :) I just met my dawg and my Pup this year and you's are THEE best. Love, froglet.

You're the one that I want, the one that I need, the one that I gotta have just to succeed. When I first saw you I knew it was real. I remember when I first looked into your eyes, it was like God was there, heaven in the skies. I love you with all my heart, really and truly. Happy Valentines Day Katie!

And if it all falls apart, I will know deep in my heart, the only dream that mattered had come true! In this life, I was loved by you.

Dear George Martinez Thanks for these amazing 11 Months. Sincerely, Daisy Salgado P.S. I love you :) 3510 <3

Dear Jeet, Words can't explain how much you mean to me. You made me the happiest person I've ever been. You're an amazing person and there is no one else like you. Thanks for everything. I love you. -Mehnez

Happy Valentine's Day to my loves as well as to my Flag Corp. xoxoxo God Bless <3 -Shenica

Shenica, my love, stay beautiful inside and out.

My dear homies, I am so glad I have you guys as my friends (Jazzy, Ana, Kathy, Datsy, and Erika a.k.a DORA). You'll always be there for me and I'll always be there for you guys! -Izzy

My life wouldn't be the same w/ out you guys! I love you all for everything you've done for me. I don't ever wanna lose none of you! mnaahh Happy Valentines to everyone! <3 Ivonne, Danny, Jose, Crystal, Rigo, & Chris

Zumiya! I love you so much since 1999! <3 Happy Valentine's Day, love! -Jennifer Guillen

Emina rocks and is the coolest person ever. I love you, Emina C!!

Shauna, Our seven month is coming up and I could never be happier. All of the time we spent together has produced some of the deepest memories in my heart. I look forward to spending the rest of my life with you. I love you more than everything.

To my lunch crew & my lover: Audrey, you are simply extraordinary. Jackie, my best friend and my sister. Carolina, you too cray cray, nice bod. And to Vanessa, you are the best thing in this world and sooo beautiful. I loves yall and imma meet yall for lunch later, deuces <3 -Marvin <3

I remember last year I only wrote something really short for you on Valentines Day. It was a sweet reminder that September 9, 2009 ment something to me. And I want to let you know now, almost a year and a half later, it means so much more. You have made the time spent together so worth it. All the jokes, smiles, hugs, kisses, laughs, everything. I can not imagine it any other way. We have grown so much as a couple and I can not wait to grow even stronger and learn more about each other as the years go by. You mean the world to me and I love you so much, Max. So, uhh...will you be my Valentine? XOXO, Annie.

P.S. Let's make this Valentine's Day a 2.0! You and your sixth sense <3

Dear Dobby-Pidaman-Bigbutt-Brat, Happy Valentine's Day baby! I love you. I am so happy you are mine. We've come so far in just the six months I've known you. Red lights. Moving house. All the unfinished movies. CD's. Oovoo. New Years. Alleys. Tomas' Car. Agnes' house. Brownies. So much more => Can't wait til March babe. From Roid Monkey

Dear Victoria P. You are sooo pretty. I have had a crush on you since Freshman year. I secretly love you and want to spend my life with you. One day we will run off to Mexico together. -anonymous

Langford, you know you love me. Love, your annoying student.

Maddie you're the prettiest thing on this planet. I love seeing you everyday because it makes my day. Thanks for being beautiful.

M- Stop wearing new clothes everyday.

Happy Valentine's Day to the 3 amigos- Nicole, Miriam, and Kristina, table of "Super Nick".

Eesle Koh you bring me high when I am low and you know me more than I know. I would like to say 143 and wo ai ni since 1.29.10 you've been mine so lets keep working it out, and we'll be fine Love, Troy

I love you with all my heart and nothing can ever change that Samantha!!! Forever yours, Peter ^ _ ^

To my beloved Miriam, Though I fight with you it is to just show my love for you.

Amish is my hero

I love Madalina

I love J1!!!!

Marvin baby, I love you! You're one of my best friends ever and you have been there for me so much! I'm always here for you boo and I hope we're besties forever. Happy Valentine's Day! Love you! <3 Jackie

For Marina Munoz. Hey just wanted to tell you that you're pretty cute. I know you're still hurting from your last but if you give me a chance I can change that. Marina, all I'm asking for is a chance.

This is to my bestfriends Mufasa, Pumba (Jasmine), Jessica, and Melissa. I love you guys with all my heart and you will be my bestfriends til the end; forever & always => You guys are the bestest friends anybody can ask for Brandy, "go get the mail before I turn Blue purple!"

Ivelisse Negron and Marina Munoz I love you guys soooooo much!!!! You guys are the best dance partners ever haha and make my class extrordinarily great and fun. It wouldn't be the same without you two in it I love ya to much cuties :) :) Alex Escobedo

Happy Valentine's Day to Jasmine, Bria, Jasmine, Patrick, and Eddie. You guys are the best friends ever. Miss you when you're gone and don't know what to do with you when you're not. Love you guys!!!!

Hey, Shраста, darling. It's been 11 months already! I'm so glad we are still together. Yay! Happy Valentine's Day sweetie.

Guera, Who needs a Valentine when you have a best friend? (: Quality time is the best. Crusin' down the freeway just me and my bestfriend, just me and my girl. I love you tons <3 WFNB

Anexy. Hopefully this doesn't get too cakey, but you're kinda my favorite (: our boy talks in eighth and passing notes when we're super close. Dropped one, now you have ten waiting to be with you. Happy Valentine's Day <3

Lizbeth, you are the love of my life. My love for you will never end. I'm going to love you til my last breathe. Its always going to be me and you til the end shorly.

I love Jasmine Hernandez, Ioana Cornea, Nylsa Mejia, Alexandra Alexandru, Jerry Buckley and Veronica Chapman! Oh and somebody else too :) Love, Lilah Mia Alkaiissi <3 AKA Hippie Chick

I want to thank all of my friends who have helped me out over the years. I'm not sure where I'd be without you guys. Love you all to pieces, Presh

Dear Adam Vogeshtler, You are an amazing interpretation of mankind. You are definitely a beautiful creature. I want to explore the depths of your mind. Everything about you captivates me. I truly believe you are my musical soul mate ever since you performed in Harmony. I somewhat feel like I've known you in another life. I know that's weird but oh well. I subconsciously love you. And I think we should marry each other mentally. Though I am attracted to you, it can never be, for obvious reasons! However, that will never make you less inspiring. - Not a horse, of course.

My bologna has a 1st name it's E-R-I-K-A :) Love ya!

3-6-9 Forever and ever Emily Love, Joey

Happy Valentine's Day Shree, Arifa, Mehnez, Jeet, Kru, Niggi, Amish, Tampon, Sania, Adisha, and Rumana! You guys are awesome! Love, Amna =>

Happy Valentine's Day! I love you Stefi. Thanks for being the best friend ever! - Your bffl Maddie!

ILY E.Z, J.M, B.K, T.T, Y.J, D.R, M.M, and especially J.C you all complete my life. XOXO, Lupe

These 16 months with you have been amazing. You have made me so happy. We have had incredible moments that I will never forget. You are the best baby. I love you :) P.S. William Levy LOL :) To Adan From: Elizabeth

Max, I just wanted to let you know that you're super awesome and cute! It's great being with you truly. Happy Valentine's Day, Baby -Angella <3

Hey Bree, let's make some sweet music together. Love Jola :)

Because I love you. Gena Ruiz, Lupe Delgado, Leslie Padilla, my main main babies! You too, A.M, M.G, J.G, J.C, J.C, E.R, T.G, CS, E.M. I can count on you. Happy Valentine's Day. -M.M <3

"Many people have different faces.... love them." -Y Happy Valentine's Day Juan, Melissa, and Diana!

I LOVE YOU, KELLY!

from your secret admirer.

Eli W, you make my heart melt. -Secret Admirer

Kelly, you make me sing in the shower! -Secret Admirer

Ania, Maggie, Dana, Aimee and Emma. You guys are so sweet and I love you all! I won't ever forget our crazy ice skating adventures, next time don't break your leg. Emma! Can't wait to laugh over Anna's B-day party! -<3 Alex B.

When I call a girl cute I'm looking at her face. When I call a girl gorgeous I'm looking at her body, but when I can a girl beautiful I'm looking at what she is inside. This is for Ivonne Amaya who is all of the above.

Kimberly Ramirez is the best! <3 -Anon

I LOVE YOU MUCHO Francis Baca, Gena Ruiz, Dennise Clavijo, Crystal Saladana, Monica Juarez, and my valentine Kevin Azurdia. Happy Valentine's Day mis Amores.

I love Brenda, Diana, Dirce & Jocely. You girls make my day, everyday <3

You're the best hamster ever because your butt-fluff is extra puffy. I'm going to fry you in five kinds of oil and eat you!!

LOL. PÜBBY! Happy birthday! ;D Love, Bubby <3

Dear Sweet Pea, I do not know how to explain how amazing you make me feel. I love you so much and I am excited to spend the rest of my life with you. Pinky Promise. 09. 09. 09. Love, Big Muscle

Div 367.... the best sophomores in all of Lane. Best, Mr. Golden

Angel, we love you.

Ababanana, Ur da apple of my i, and da summer to my tom. I would ask yew out right now, but idk wut ur reaction mite b. So c ya, Luv. Oh Happie Anniverserie. Lawlz. <3 -Codzilla gorilla

Love you Amber and Manu!

Kathy, Sure it's not in my awesome handwriting, but be my Valentine anyways? Hugs and Kisses - Shane

My Raven, I love you with all my heart. And I hope you have a great Valentine's Day. Mi Amor. Te amo.

SOPHOMORES

ABM KRAZii or look like Edeey ABM BOii Chrissy, ABM BOii Mjay, ABM BOii Jay Mel, ABM BOii Vaunte, Hot Boy, Faizon.

Happy belated b-day Abraham Tapia, thanx 4 being a good friend (:

MY DEAR, MY DEAR, YOU DO NOT KNOW ME WELL BUT I KNOW YOU VERY WELL. <3 JENNY SINCERELY, SWAG SWAG

To my girls Sasa & Abz, Happy Valentine's Day! Love you guys! Your girl, Gabz <3

Coraima :) March 27th. I still remember. But I bet you don't remember mine, slowtard :P Smile.

JAY PEE thinks his is so cool! B) Love Linda & Shree

To the people who helped me grow up this year- I want you to know I love you guys more than you will ever know. You guys know who you are! Love Jocelyn Ramirez P.S Happy Valentines's Day!

To Tyrek, I enjoy all the times and memories we have, I have had my happiest moments with you, I know that we have had our problems, but we have always managed to make it through. I love you, Happy Valentines Day!

Cecilia Solis, When I first met you, I thought you were very pretty and smart. "If I had a penny for everytime I thought of you, I would be a MILLIONAIRE!"

Justin Case Loves you, but I love you more! - Jacob Jahraus

THE GAME

- Lorenzo

Kailah! Why haven't you been talking to me lately? We must talk like we did back in the old days. I miss you. - Guess Who? =D

Forever Alone - Jesus M

Dearest Zee Sought (Chippum). You know sometimes you annoy me so much that I want to rip all those InuYasha posters in your locker in half. But everytime I see you at the Science Olympiad, I break into a smile. Happy Valentine's Day! - Mogili

I'll never let you go, Rose. I promise. - Jack

Hey! I just want to say I'm glad I met you this year. You're funny, smart, beautiful and amazing. But you're still short and a loser.

Jess Bautista: You're my best friend, always there for me no matter what, you mean so much to me and I'm so happy to have you in my life. You're pretty much the best thing to ever happen to me, and I love you! So will you be my Valentine?

To Erin, Kristen, & Angie, You are all the nicest, and greatest lunch buddies in the world! I love you all! - From Alex Keller

Dear Pepe, Gretchen, Purple D, Pablo, Jello Bean, Purry Whiskers, Confused Owl- (Sgt. Boy), + Emina you guys are amazing, we love you! Happy Valentines Day- You're all sexy! :) (Plus Claire) Claire+ Emina are the sexiest + Aaisha

OMG guys I love you's worth my \$2 T-Shirt Time Avi :) To: Mandies, Kendria, Alberto, Pila, Monica, Marisol, Celia.

I love you so much. Thank you for being there. You're amazing. I'm speechless. I love you. To: Jacob Jahraus From: Kelly

To all of our friends (the crew that meets at Renaldo and Terika's locker), we love you all so much. You all are our Valentines from Edith, Drizzy and Terika.

I love you, Ubomba! As well as all my other best friends Aleks, Juliette (You sir are a madame), Jocelyn, Panini, Cristian, Stephanie and whoever else feels like their name should be included (: Happy Valentines Day <3

Junior High played them. High school played them. College well, you know... played them Me and Mercedes used to laugh about it, how we played them. Fat best fwiend love. Love my dolly.

- Jocelyn <3

FRESHMEN

Yordanos,
You caught me staring but i caught you staring back.
Lowkey I kind of love you.
-Anonymous

Andra well, we've known each other for a while now, and I can't deny how I feel. We joke around and talk and play, but you never seem to see me that way. So I hope, with this note you will see the real me, and possibly go out with me.
-M.E.

Happy Valentines Day to all of the lonely souls out there. To that one person in my heart, I truly love you. Selina Santiago

I love the way you talk to me. Your voice is the most beautifulst thing I've ever heard. You light up my day every time I see you. I love you Alxy!!

You know I hate attention and this isn't easy. This is how special you are to me. I love our eight hour phone conversations and six hour dates. I love your smile and the way you hold my hand. I love how the safest place in the world to me is in your arms. I love how my heart races before I see you and now you're my best friend. I love how we complete each other. I love what we have and everything about you. I love who I am because of you. I would never do something like this if I had never met you. You've taught me that sometimes you have to jump then fall. Do you have any bandaids? I scraped my knees falling for you. <3

Meet me in the basement I have delicious candy mmm. I love you and was going to send this to you as anonymous and say mean stuff but then eh... haha for: Krystyna Bobel. -Petro Partyka

Hey Natasha! I wanted to elt you know that I am real happy that we are together. I know you will be my valentine. Love you. XOXO P.S. Happy 3rd Anniversary

I love you,
from
BILAL

Alandra,
Well you're my valentine so YAY! XD Your so pretty and very funny. 1st period with you is awesome! I'm lucky to have you as my valentine. I know a certain guy whose jealous. :)

Jonathan Luviano division 480. We are getting married before 2012. J+K=L was meant to be. I'm serious.

Grisel,
You rock my socks off. Your gorgeous and you will marry Bruno Mars some day. And by the way I love you!!

Grisel I know you since forever! You need to make a sandwich without mayo. You are not cochinadas like Itzel. (: You need no guy. Did you watch Jersey Shore last night?

DIV 468 - Great job finishing strong with your first semester of high school! Keep up that effort till the end of the school year! Your Division Teacher - Mr. Ruckauf

This is to the coolest, blondest chick ever, you are soooooo freakin awesome. I <3 U! Happy Valentine's Day
- To: Reilly Veloria

Division 461 -
The United Nations division- and especially to Jenninfer,

Jesica, Anthony and Kenny (which ones are you anyway?)

Peace and love from Prof Paganelli

You're so crazy and no matter what anybody says your the only girl for me. I love you. - Richard

Pueblo is extremely sexy

Div. 453:
Congratulations on a successful First Semester!
DOD

I love you Peter Vazquez!
By: Shacora Hawkins

Its Xaviel, and I'm single and ready ready to mingle. (Rock the boat)

COOKIE

I Love You! Amarilys Juarez, Sabrina Mendoza and Becky Lio!

Dear Mariana
Happy Valentines day! Thanks for being a great friend, and always being there for me, (which you will in the future). And about that chinese guy, say yes so he could make us chinese food lol!

To: Jonathon Luviano
Hey there. Its your best bud. Jorge says that I should say that I love you. Well, I guess I'll see you later. Love, Felipe

Giggity gooooooooooo!!!

OTHER

Periods 1, 3, 6 & 7- Honors U.S. History
Awesome effort this 1st Semester! Let's carry this through the blizzard of 2011 and beyond to finish the school year strong!
Mr. Ruckauf

Italiano 3!
Che classi fighissime!
Siete delle bestie superbravi!
Ma soprattutto avete tanto stile.
Buon San Valentino da Prof Paga

A special thanks to All my AP Biology students. Your hard work and dedication will result in so many of your future successes. It is an honor being your teacher and I appreciate all of your support and devotion to our class. ya'll are the greatest!!!!

DID YOU KNOW!
that only real men have beards and mustaches?
The more you know, the more you grow!

Happy Valentine's Day to the cast, crew, and orchestra of GYPSY!

Woot-Woot.

Love, Megan

Yearbook Staff! You have all put so much time into the book that I thought you guys deserved a shout out in the paper. Keep up the good work.

Oh, Hi Ms. Jennings!

Javier G. <3's Monica J. :) Cause she is the best and a BEAST at bowling... ah, Good Times. On a scale of 1-10 you're a 9 and I'm the one you're missing. I'm going to miss you next year.
-From Javier to Monica

Dear Annie and Max,
You are the best mommy and daddy ever! I'm so grateful to have friends like you that look out for me!
Happy Valentine's Day ! PS. I want my sweater back
Love, Your Daughter Christina

This is do all the people who came into my life. You guys wouldn't make mw whole and I love you all :)
- Cristian Lopez <3

Good Luck on the AP Chemistry Exam my awesome students! I appreciate all the hard work you put into to make our class a wonderful learning environment. I do love my 2nd period class more than my 1st period!
Ms. Abbas

Dear Lithium Clubs members, Thank you for being so wonderful! I am going to really miss you guys when you graduate. Study HARD for AP Chem I believe in you! :)
Sincerely, Mr. Reid

T. Mead-
You are the wind Beneath my wings
Olive You <3
-Anon

Ms. House loves her topics in literature class.

Dear Karolina, Artur, and Pat:
You guys have been the best lunch friends I ever had. Have a Happy Valentines Day Karolina w/ Jakub, Artur w/ Dominika, and Pat w/ your old girlfriend, Jill.
Love, Kelly Mrofeza

KHB!
I love you guys so much! Even though all of the sweat, blood, broken ankles, and upright windshield wipers we remain close friends. My senior year has been AMAZING thanks to you all! Keep up the good work and we'll all KHBEAST at the Battle and I-Days
-With love to my "family for life"
Ay Kamay (aka The Steamroller aka Joan =>)

I love 7th period Photo, Group 1 <33
mmm.....Spicy Wongs ;]

Love, Megan

To all my wrestling managers:
This year has meant the world to me and you guys are the reason for my hapiness. The random moments at practice are what make my day so great. I'm going to miss All the seniors especially Yesi, Tania, Maritza, and Vanessa. You girls have become not just my friends but my family as well. I don't know what I'll do next year without you. Just know that I love you all so much and I will never forget you or our times together.

Dear Mr. Yost, you are the best teacher ever and I love you. Happy Valentine's Day!- Love Gabby Hernandez

Dear MS. TwoSwag,
Eye mizz yew. And maybz we could go out for coffee and grade papers together sometime soon.
<3 Cody Lee

Dear Decathletes,
Hope you're hungry for some Dolphin meat!
- Love,
The Veterans

2nd Period APUSH- Kingdom of THEM
Keep up the extraordinary effort this 2nd Semester... the APUSH Exam is right around the corner!
The B.O. - Mr. Ruckauf

Happy Valentine's Day! TO:
Ana, Allison, Leroy, Kate, Mary, Rachel, Kiara, Jerusha, Ricardo, Rebecca, Charles, Tessie and anybody else I forgot.

Love, Megan

Happy Valentine's Day

Paul Rummelboff

Roses are red
Violets are blue
I lost the game
- EFG

C-T- What? CTC! Shoutout to Thai-bodian club! Special shoutout to the dancers! I love you girls KHMERLOVE!
Your VP,
Rebecca Khorn

Hola! Sra. Esguerra we love you so much and we're going to miss you too. You have been a great teacher and sponsor and I hope you come back next year!
TEAMO! - Elyssa Sana, and the Glee Club!

Happy Valentine's to all the math tutors volunteers in Room 232
-Anonymous

Honors Genetics classes:
Q: What did the genetist wear on his Valentines day date? A: Designer genes (of course :)
Thanks for all your hard work. -Ms. Gaynor

Dear coach, I think you're so cute. Your're cuter when you're mad :)
-Love #17

Your small hairs quiver in the wind. You look so beautiful where are you my sweet?
Mr. Rybicki's mustache (1987-2009)

Thank you for all your hard work, AP Biology! 84 more days until the "SUPERBOWL" Good Luck :) Ms. Gaynor

Te Juro que te amo Yesenia. Te amore hasta que muera. Te amo hoy, manana y para siempre. I LOVE YOU.
-Daniel Caneda

Happy Valentine's Day to the cast, orchestra, and krew of Gypsy. Break-A-Leg!
You are my stars:
Mrs. Hansen

I LOVE MY WONDERFUL CAST OF "GYPSY"!
- Ana (Mama Rose)
"Moo, moo! Moo, moo!"

Alle mie classi d'Italiano I: Siete forti! Siete bravi! E avete molto stile. Buon San Valentino da Prof Paga.

I want to wish my angel a very Happy Birthday <3 and a Happy Valentine's Day to all my wrestling managers. I love each and everyone of you dearly :)

I Love You! Happy Valentine's day. Lane Tech GIRLS Track & Field. Lets Take State Awayyyy!!! And also Happy V-Day to Diamond P., Nikki D., Kimberly R. and all of the people I hang with. And Royel H. (Cuz she's made me) (haha)-I Love Yall
Jazz!

Random, Chewy, Mona, Jorgee, Sarah thanx 4 always being there for me even when I'm snippy ily guys <3 your the best!
Ninis and Chiquita : HI

<3 Indian Club

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Harry vs. Sally: Can guys and girls be "just friends"?

By Kelly Sineni

You are walking down the hall with your best friend who happens to be of the opposite sex, laughing and smiling, and a friend catches a certain twinkle in your eye. They ask you about it, "Oh we are just friends," you answer quickly...but are you really?

As Harry Burns (Played by Billy Crystal in the 1989 chick flick *When Harry Met Sally*) said, "This is not a come-on in any way, shape or form. It's that men and women can't be friends because the sex part always gets in the way."

And so the age old question comes into play, can men and women be just friends? Being in a co-ed high school with 2000 members of the opposite sex



leaves many opportunities to bond with them, but to some like Harry Burns, a true friendship is just not possible. Chitavia Murph, Div. 271, has had a guy as a best friend since grammar school. They hang out a lot, tell each other everything and even have sleepovers (nothing happens), but she can't deny that there is that want to be more than just friends deep down.

"I guess there is something there with my best friend. We still hang out, its not really romantic, but there is something there. I wouldn't date him because I don't want to lose the friendship," said Murph. "They [guys and girls] can be friends, but not close friends."

Joan Njei, Div. 270, learned in her psychology class that sometimes how you act changes with out even noticing.

"There will be an attraction. We might act different around the guy without realizing it," said Njei.

"The green monster can get in the way of the friendship," said Brittany Hughs, Div. 258.

"Usually it [the friendship] doesn't work out. You find yourself getting jealous," said Hughes.

Then there is the Sally side of this story, "That's not true. I have a number of men friends and there is no sex involved," says Sally Albright (Played by Meg Ryan in *When Harry Met Sally*). Attraction isn't always a factor between guys and girls when it comes to becoming friends (close friends in particular).

"I absolutely think guys and girls can be close friends. There can be chemistry that's not roman-

tic, I talk about guys, and he talks about girls and we give each other advice. We are close friends and nothing is going to change that," said Selina Santiago Div.454.

"I think guys and girls can be friends, it works the same way with guys and guys. Friendship and affection are two different things, there is a line between it. I have a girl best friend, she tells me everything. I have a girlfriend and she has a boyfriend, we tell each other everything. I treat her like my girlfriend, but there is no affection," said Bill Phan, Div. 258. Joselyn Badillo, Div. 271, feels that guys are more trustworthy than girls.

"There are things that girls can't talk about with other girls. They know more about that stuff and are more likely to backstab you. Girls are always gossiping. 90% of the time it won't go anywhere else if you tell a guy," said Badillo.

According to an article Dr. Jane Greer (marriage and family therapist) wrote for Marie Claire it is possible to be friends with a person of the opposite gender, because sometimes circumstances stand in the way of their romance, or sometimes its just too familiar of a relationship. "Whatever the circumstances, the familiarity and certain common denominators make them feel like brother and sister. They can be themselves with each other. They don't feel any pressure to put on airs, impress, or to look their best all the time," said Greer.

"My best friend is a girl, we have the same interests and play music together. When your friendship moves away from sexual interest you can treat

them like family. I yell at her like a sister," said Josh Rivera, Div. 179.

"With my best guy friend neither of us are attracted to the other. His girlfriend happens to be my best friend. He considers me one of the guys, one of the bros," says Kirstin Jacobsen, Div. 279.

Attraction being the root of a romance, Amy Clinard Div. 275 feels being attracted in the first place makes it impossible.

"If you walk into the friendship being attracted, you will always just see him as attractive. If you see him as just another guy, a friendship is possible," said Clinard. As Dr. Greer said in her article in Marie Claire, "So, the bottom line is that men and women can be friends, but the bridge to romance - and the possibility of crossing it - almost always exists."



VALENTINE GIFT GUIDE

By Mary Nguyen

A giant 'I love you' teddy bear \$10. A box of chocolate \$15. A dozen roses \$20. A sweet gesture ... priceless.

Valentines Day is a holiday that is commonly labeled as Hallmark-invented, and in some ways it is. Everything in stores during Valentine's is over-priced. In all honesty guys, coming from a girl, there is no other way to melt a girl's heart than by doing something that will make her go "awwww." Girls would much rather guys gave a gift that they put some thought into. Something that we can't go out and buy anywhere. Don't get me wrong, there's nothing bad about a guy buying girls flowers. Girls love receiving flowers from boys, but what I'm saying is if you really want to 'WOW' a girl, do something sincere, and sweet. Something that you put some effort and time into. With this, the possibilities are endless, and this way guys, you save your wallet about \$50.

For boys who are looking to get something for your girlfriend, there is nothing as adorable as love coupons. Even though pre-made ones are sold in stores, make it more special by personalizing it by making them yourself. You can give her a coupon for just about anything. It could be a home cooked meal, a massage, a bear hug. A romantic date and anything else your imagination can come up with.

However, there are other things you can do for your girlfriend that will always keep her remembering you. A sweet way to say 'I love you' that keeps her smiling every night is glow in the dark stars. A pack of glow in the dark stars is about \$10. Stick the glow in the dark stars on her ceiling to spell out 'I love you' or anything else you'd like. I guarantee that she will love it so much more than any teddy bear or chocolate that you buy her.

For you boys who are trying to win over that amazing girl, there is no better way than singing your heart out. As cliché as it may be, there is no way to melt a girl's heart like serenading the girl with her favorite love song.

The bottom line is guys, you don't always have to buy her something for Valentine's Day. There are so

many other options out there. Girls value the thought and effort you put into a gift more than the amount your wallet puts into her gift.

Even so, boys are psychologically similar to girls in this aspect of wanting a gift that is more close to the heart. However, while girls enjoy gifts that are cute, and sweet, guys enjoy receiving heart-felt gifts that makes them feel admired.

One obvious way to show your guy that you admire him is to simply write a list of 100 things you love about him. To add the frosting on the cake, you can buy him a wallet, and put a picture of of you guys in the wallet. Then you can hide the list somewhere in the wallet, and have him find it one day and think of you with a smile on his face while he reads 100 reasons why you love him.

Another option that you could take, is just spending a quiet evening together. You can start off the evening with romantic candlelit dinner for two. You can either order-in or make it more special by cooking him his favorite meal yourself. Afterwards, instead of spending the rest of the evening cuddling under the blanket on the couch having a movie marathon, you can personalize it by making a movie or powerpoint with pictures, conversations or other special moments of your relationship. Instead of watching a movie, you can sit, laugh and talk about all those memorable moments of your relationship.

If you're willing to take it a step further, you can make a scrapbook of your memories. Nowadays, a great number of relationships are long distance, and with the advance of technology, long distance relationships survive through instant messaging, e-mails, and webcamming. For those long distance relationships, this option would be perfect. You can design the cover with pictures, and on the side you can fill the books with all our conversations via e-mail or instant message. Then you can go to Kinkos and have them bind it into a book for \$5.

In the end, who you're buying for doesn't really matter. You can't go wrong with a sweet, thoughtful, home-made gift made with time and effort.



Disaster dates: romantic meetings turn embarrassing

By Diana Barragan & Alexandra Alexandru

Mrs. Isaacson was planted to the floor looking out her window, waiting. That anxious feeling increased with every passing second. Finally a Jeep Wrangler pulled up her driveway, out from which clambered a nerd with greasy hair, parted down the middle.

When she was a sophomore in high school, the Lane French teacher's mother had set her up on a blind date, ignoring her pleas of, "but I already have a boyfriend!"

Her initial optimism faded as the evening wore on and her date, dwarfed next to her heel-aided height, awkwardly groped at her rear end throughout the entire dance. On the bright side, after the dance Isaacson received a "Thank You" card from her date with their 10x13 picture. A Kodak moment indeed.

But moments like this did not only happen in the high school days of yore. Many Lane students have found themselves in the throws of a Disaster Date.

Ivan Arroyo, Div. 478, tried to be a gentleman as he offered to carry his date's food to their table. His hopes to impress the girl of his dreams were shattered with a shove from behind which caused Arroyo to fall and spill a full meal all over his date.

"I just left and never talked to her again!" Arroyo said. Some dates are less messy, at least openly. Micaela Sabbi, Div. 258, was picked up by her date who informed her that he was not feeling well, but decided not to cancel on her. They went to see Inception and Sabbi noticed that her date would not stay still during the movie.

"He kept moving and squirming around in his chair like he was uncomfortable and I didn't know why," said Sabbi. As it turns out, Sabbi's date ended up running to and from the bathroom throughout the entire movie.

"Once it ended he ran out again and I ended up having to wait outside for him with his friends. After that he just drove me home and he barely even said bye to me as I walked out the car," she said.

While Sabbi's date advice might be along the lines of, "don't date with diarrhea," a student from Div. 257 says, "slow down, buddy!"

"He picked me up from the bus stop and the first thing he did when he saw me was kiss me," said the anonymous student. Upon arriving at her date's house she expected privacy, but instead found his dad, brother, and brother's friends were all home. "He introduced me to almost his whole family on the first date, which was awkward," she said. "Also, after the date was almost over he told me that he has a long term girlfriend!"

Sarah Hanses, Div. 266, advises boys against cheapness and over salting the popcorn. "Guys, pay for the girl," Hanses advised after her date made her pay for her own movie ticket, then proceeded to put too much salt on the cinema treat. He had crisp, salty hands...it was really awkward."

Brandi Lee, Div. 261, says a date that is easy on the wallet is fine, as long as you dress for the occasion. After being asked out by a boy at her work, Lee prettied herself up for the

date, only to find their date was a little off the beaten path -- literally.

"I dressed in a really cute, short skirt and wedges and then he told me that we're going bike riding for our date," said Lee. "The park was really far away and I almost passed out because it was so hot."

Had Lee spoken up about her discomfort, perhaps the date could have gone better. Bernadette Dewalle, Div. 390, says talking honestly on a date is always a good idea.

"I think you should tell your date the truth if you don't like the date," said Dewalle.

But truth was not on the menu for Ivan Leon, Div. 457. Little did he know that the girl he took on a normal date to McDonald's was not allowed to date. He found out when the girl's father entered the restaurant.

"Who's this guy?" asked the angry father. "Oh...my gay friend," lied Leon's date.

After the dad left, Leon was in shock that the first thing his date would say was that he



ACCESS DENIED

By Harina Dzebic

As stated by Keshia the words, "Your love is my drug" have never been truer than for people breaking up. For some people the longer the relationship is, the harder the break up becomes. For others, even a one month relationship that ends can be painful.

Getting over someone can last between a day, several months and for some, even years. The amount of time it takes to get over someone has been linked to the attachment. In the process of falling in love people grow dependent due to the chemical oxytocin and during the process of breaking up the brain has the same withdrawals as with cocaine or alcohol.

Good things, bad things, or illegal things; people do different things to get over break-ups. Some of these things are scandalous, common or overall beneficial to the person. The break up can prove to be a good experience to some, while a chance for revenge for others.

"The experience has made me stronger despite it being so painful at first and we're better friends than ever," Belen Sandoval Div. 180.

Sandoval who broke up after an eight month relationship tried ignoring her ex in order to get over the breakup. She tried to cope by hanging out with friends and talking to her ex boyfriend like a friend.

Ways to deal with breakups range from trying to get back together, to getting back at the person, or to cutting all ties with them to staying friends with them.

"First I tried to change myself for her. Then I tried to stay friends with her. Now I regret all of it because it just made it harder to move on," said Justin Rodriguez Div.172.

When Rodriguez's relationship of three months ended he tried to initially stay friends with her and then regretted back together with her all at the same time. There were still feelings for a long period of time. Listening to his ex-girlfriend talk about her new love interest just made it harder to move

on even though to him this was a normal part of being friends with anyone.

Sometimes instead of moving on people take more drastic measures.

"To get over this one girl I hooked up with one of her friends. That ruined our friendship and if I could I would take it back, but I can't," said David Melendez Div. 161.

"I didn't really talk to anyone about it but kept it inside. I ended up doing some really self-destructive things to get over him," said one anonymous senior.

Talking about your break up with a non biased individual has been shown to help with the healing process according to WebMD. In addition to this taking up a new hobby, or making new friends has also been shown to help.

"Baking! It's so calming and it just takes my mind off of it," Alexis Perez Div.184.

Perez had a hard time getting over a ten month relationship with a guy who was a friend as well. Talking to friends and dating other people helped and immersing herself in cake batter and cupcakes was what really helped her get over her ex-boyfriend.

"I try staying friends but there's always an awkwardness with it," said Nick Suzinski Div. 274.

The sophomore, who has never been the dumpee, has tried staying friends with all of his ex-girlfriends but they never felt the same way. Instead they would be the ones to cut all ties. "Once I began treating my ex like a friend it made the whole process easier," said Sanjay Sharma Div.165. After getting back together with his ex-girlfriend and having the relationship end in a breakup, Sharma wanted to get back together for a week. Once he realized that it was not going to happen and that making her a friend again made the process of breaking up easier.

One thing seems to be sure, breakups are a growing experience for people, sometimes good and sometimes bad.

"I've realized that I'm young and life goes on. Love is just out there waiting," said Kayla Martinez Div. 184.



Top 5 Turn-offs

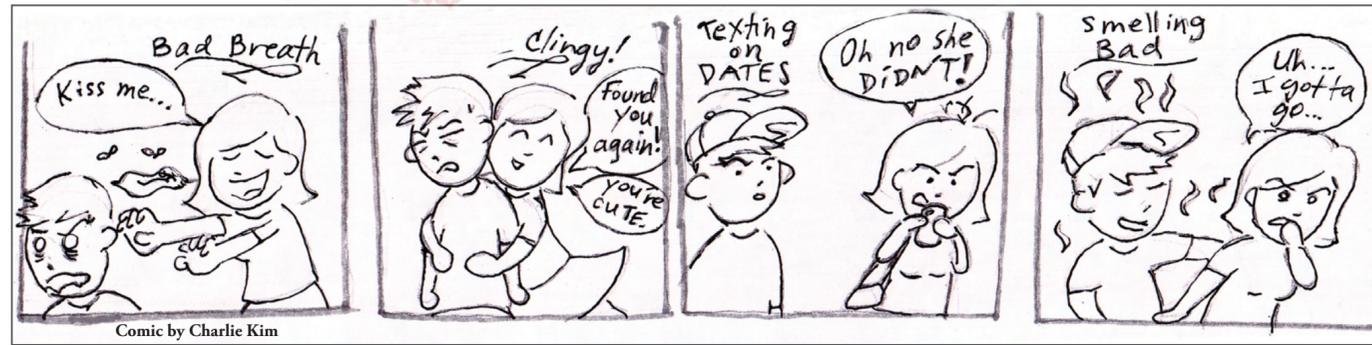
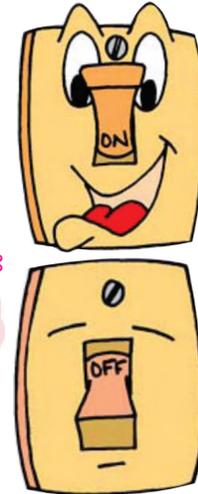
The Warrior's very own Bianca Rodriguez and Jessica Barajas polled 47 guys and 35 gals from Lane. They asked, "What is your biggest turn-off?" Here are the top 5 deal breakers. If you are looking for a relationship make sure to avoid this:

Girls are turned off by boys who:

1. Smell bad
2. Are cocky
3. Lack a sense of style
4. Use cheesy nicknames (ma,boo)
5. Have bad breath

Boys are turned off by girls who:

1. Have bad breath
2. Are stuck up
3. Wear too much make-up
4. Text on dates
5. Are clingy



Comic by Charlie Kim

AP US History rivalry adds motivation for students

By Emina Cirkic

Lane is well known for the competitive attitude it brings when playing sports, but many do not realize the type of competitiveness that occurs in AP classrooms, especially AP U.S. History (APUSH).

Students in APUSH work hard to keep up with the fast paced class. Mr. Allegrezza and Mr. Ruckauf both teach APUSH and try to make the class enjoyable for their students by competing with each other.

“Mr. Allegrezza says our class is the best. We have secret ideas we can't share with the others,” said Rudy Orozco, Div. 354.

When it comes to teaching U.S. History, Allegrezza has a wide variety of different techniques he uses to improve test scores. Allegrezza makes special handouts with AP tricks and hints to help pass the AP exam. He also makes a CD full of history songs with catchy tunes to help students remember dates and events in history. In addition, Allegrezza has a collection of old history cartoons he uses to lighten the mood every once in a while.

To inspire and motivate his students, Allegrezza has started the tradition of making t-shirts. Starting in 1974, he made t-shirts for his division. In 2006 he started making them for his APUSH classes. The following year other teachers followed in his footsteps.

“[The t-shirts] made [students] feel they were part of a team. A team can't compete if they are not in uniform,” Allegrezza said.

His t-shirt themes have included AP Survivors, A-Team, and Star Wars. One year both teachers had a Star Wars themed shirt: Mr. Allegrezza's shirts with Darth Vader and Mr. Ruckauf's shirts with the Jedi. The Star-Wars t-shirt ignited the rivalry between Ruckauf's and Allegrezza's classes.

Since then, Allegrezza's classes are known as the “Evil Empire” and Mr. Ruckauf's classes are known as “THEM.”

“Evil Empire stands for the Ever Vigilant In Learning Empire,” said Allegrezza.

“THEM” stands for The Historical Elite Monarchy,” Ruckauf explained.

The t-shirts add to the rivalry between classes who always compete for the best test scores on the AP exam.

“The students created the ‘US’ versus ‘THEM’... as long as it helps [the students],” Ruckauf said.

“Mr. Ruckauf says, ‘Mr. Allegrezza is the benevolent one. His class is the other kingdom,’” said Deisi Williamson, Div. 359.

Students who had Allegrezza or Ruckauf previous years still reminisce on the fun, competitive spirit in the classroom.

“It was fun to see the teachers battle for superiority,” said Patrick Pilch, Div. 252.

“The two teachers compete all year over who's class is going to get better scores on the AP test and who has a better t-shirt design,” said Fatima Sabanovic, Div. 278.

“Mr. Ruckauf likes to mock Mr. Allegrezza, but that is perfectly normal since Mr. Allegrezza does the same to him. He likes to make fun of his teaching style and the way he scares his students,” said Anna Rojek, Div. 283.

Aside from the competition being entertaining



Mr. Allegrezza is the head of the Ever Vigilant in Learning (EVIL) Empire

for both classes, it pushes students to do better on the AP exam.

“Mr. Ruckauf used to scare us [by threatening] that one day he would bring in Mr. Allegrezza in as a substitute. [After that] we all started studying,” said Rojek.

“There's a type of motivating competition. We're always trying to do better to beat Mr. Allegrezza's class!” said Vanessa Roman, Div. 283.



Mr. Ruckauf reigns over The Historical Elite Monarchy (THEM).

Undocumented immigrants left wondering about college

By Airis Cervantes

Anahi Tilapa, Div. 281, crossed the U.S.-Mexican border alone at the age of eleven. The guides that took her across were not very hospitable. She spent a day without eating, locked in a room. She was alone because she did not want to leave her home in Mexico when the rest of her family immigrated to the States. Upon her decision to join her family in America, she had hopes for a brighter future.

“My family and I got separated and I basically had to cross by myself,” said Tilapa.

Originally from Querétaro, Mexico, Tilapa's parents decided to come to the United States for a better life for their family.

“Since everything was getting really expensive over there, it was really hard to afford anything at all,” Tilapa said. “No, I didn't want to come. I had a lot of friends over there and I knew that moving would change my life completely.”

She has been in the U.S. for about five years.

With a stable GPA of 4.2, Tilapa never imagined college admission would be such an arduous challenge. Undocumented students are not eligible for financial aid because they are not legal residents of the U.S.

An anonymous student with the last name Garcia plans to take a year off after high school to earn the money she needs to pay for her higher education. Born in Mexico City, she and her mother immigrated to the U.S. when she was only six years old.

As an undocumented student that plans to attend college, she is limited in payment options. However, she and Tilapa are not the only ones.

“I'm [going to] start working for a little and take a year off,” said an anonymous junior Div. 257, also undocumented.

Senior students at Lane are encouraged to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. It requires the applicants to give a social security number, but undocumented students do not have one. Loans and most scholarships also require a social security number, making government aid inaccessible.

As the oldest of three girls, Garcia is the only one who was not born in the U.S. She admits that she gets jealous of her sisters. As naturalized citizens, her sisters have benefits and opportunities she does not.

Sandy Paniagua, Div. 282, immigrated from Michoacán, Mexico at the age of two with her family for “a better life.” On a college tour to the University of Illinois in Urbana Champagne, Paniagua decided that it was her dream school. Like Garcia, her younger siblings are naturalized citizens while her parents and she are not.

“The cost is too much and I don't know if I can go because I'm an immigrant,” said Paniagua.

Due to the recession, there is even less money available for college aid. The number of scholarships for undocumented students has consequently dropped.

“Students are reluctant to come forward,” said Ms. Coorlas of the counseling department. “It's something within their family they don't

want to publicize. They should attempt to talk to us. Let us help them find the best opportunities. If they can tell somebody, it would be a start.”

If students do not come forward, they are potentially missing out on information that could help them. The administration has made discreet attempts to meet with undocumented immigrants over the years, but they have not been successful.

“Being undocumented won't keep you out of college. You just have to be creative in finding resources,” said counselor Cindy Sanders.

Most undocumented students struggling to find financial aid have lived in the U.S. most of their lives. They were completely unaware as kids that they were being brought to another country, and now they are suffering the consequences.

Although undocumented students seem to be more worried about being able to pay for college, they have the same hopes and expectations as any other student. About five to six percent of seniors in the 2009-2010 school year were undocumented.

Illinois is one of the few states in the nation in which undocumented students are eligible to pay in-state tuition. Although they are not legal residents in the U.S., they are viewed as residents of Illinois.

When the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) was proposed in Congress, immigrants grew hopeful, but not many of them believed it would pass.

“If the Dream Act had passed, I wouldn't be feeling unsure about a successful future,” said Garcia.

Perhaps one day, this dream will come true.

Unique teaching styles work to keep students attentive

By Mary Nguyen & Jasmine Mayberry

The teachers that leave the most lasting impressions upon their students must work for it. Teenagers are typically unimpressed and bored, but the right teaching methods can bring out the eager Einstein in each student.

Mr. Bertenshaw is one of those that works for it.

Bertenshaw is an English teacher who calls his teaching method “the reciprocal.” He is known for offering unique extra credit opportunities. He will give extra credit points for a nice haircut, cool shoes, painted nails, interesting t-shirts, or simply answering a question correctly.

“Sometimes, a student sits quietly, but that doesn't mean that they aren't there. It doesn't mean that they shouldn't be recognized. Some teenagers go through a day thinking no one sees them. I'm going to see you,” said Bertenshaw.

His method is well liked.

“He gives you extra credit for little things that he likes. It makes you feel good about yourself,” said Jackie Bannon Div. 167.

However, this extra credit is not given with the intention to make a big impact on grades. It is worth only one percent of a student's grade, a sort of a participation grade. The intention of this extra credit is just about giving.

Even though Bertenshaw is an English teacher, he displays a painting on the tv everyday for the class to analyze and discuss. He wants to point

out the unnoticed similarities between art and literature.

“The way we talk about art is the way we talk about literature. Writers write in pictures,” said Bertenshaw.

Another reason why Bertenshaw does this is because it provides a different way to teach literature.

“Teaching is about finding as many different ways of explaining the same thing,” said Bertenshaw.

Mr. Parsons, an AP Psychology teacher, is also known for explaining things in a new way: in real life. Parsons is known to conduct in-class experiments. One day, he was lecturing about obedience to authority, and how people will do just about anything without questioning why. When many students objected, Parsons told them to stand up. Many stood up right away, proving his point.

“It's a very effective way to make the information stick, by connecting it to real life. He showed us what we were doing subconsciously,” said Abiola.

Mr. Valderrama demands the attentions of his students through the element of shock.

Valderrama is an English teacher known for his ability to teach Shakespeare, but in particular *Macbeth*, which he considers to be the greatest work of mankind. There is a monologue from the play that he considers so great, that everytime he teaches it, he reads the passage in Spanish, and then again in English.

“That passage is particularly great because immediately we are introduced to how psycho she

[Lady Macbeth] is, with imagery and the power of her language,” Valderrama said.

“It surprised me. At first I was like WOW. He likes *Macbeth* enough to learn it in Spanish?” said Laura Cuevas, Div. 177.

There was no doubt that Valderrama took his students by surprise

“I was halfway between ‘this man is amazing’ and ‘show off.’ To learn *Macbeth* in Spanish... that's passion,” said Abiola.

Valderrama hopes to reach his students with his enthusiasm.

“I want to get the same dramatic reaction. I want it to be a startling effect. I know that if I read it in English, it wouldn't startle them. I read it in Spanish, hoping that it will make the same dramatic effect as it did to me when I read it in English,” said Valderrama.

Valderrama is also known for his unbiased way of grading essays. Instead of writing names on essays, students are told to write their ID numbers. He then grades the essay, gives them a grade, then searches for their ID numbers to find out who they are, to give them a grade. This process usually takes an additional hour.

“Just like any teacher, I have favorites. But the AP grader doesn't know who they are. So I try to mimic the AP graders,” said Valderrama.

Students agree that this method guarantees that there is no favoritism during the grading process.

“He can't play favorites 'cause he doesn't know who you are. I know that, ‘Yes! This is what I deserve,’” said Abiola.

While some teachers speak another language to get the attention of students, physics teacher Mr. Vessalo uses a British accent to keep the attention of students while teaching a difficult chapter.

Like other teachers, Vessalo also has an out of the ordinary bathroom pass, which is a 5 kg weight made of metal.

Students in Mr. LoGalbo's class are also prompted to get into the academic mood, and LoGalbo makes them show that they are interested in learning.

“At the start of class, he [asks] ‘how is everyone doing today?’ and everyone has to say ‘tremendous!’ If one person doesn't say it, we all had to say it again,” said Carmin Casales, Div. 178.

Nearly everyone is awake and active in this class.

“One day he made a rule that if someone yawns twice, then everyone does twenty-five jumping jacks. And we really had to do them,” said Casales.

Mr. Ara takes the free-spirited approach to art. “He's really out there. It's an everyday thing,” said Evelina Rosado, Div. 166. “We are always listening to music and he'll sing the lyrics really loud to get us focused. I find him somewhat intimidating because he's so cool.”

Ara has no problem with getting the reaction he wants from his students.

“I only teach the way I wish I could have been taught when I was in high school,” he said.

Many Lane teachers know that there does not have to be a thin line between cool and effective.

Cross it off your bucket list before you kick the bucket

By Annie Chrzanowska

A man looks down and sees the world before him. Literally. Clenching his fists and trembling with nervous anticipation, he braces himself for the fall. After one final look into his palm to make sure he has a tight grasp on the parachute toggle, he jumps. He has just crossed an item off of his bucket list. Skydiving.

Many people have a "bucket list," which is a list of all the things that one wants to accomplish before they "kick the bucket." It can be either written down or just kept in memory, but it is a reminder of what people want to do with their lives.

"It's a way to keep your goals in mind," Miss Misrac, an English teacher, said. "It's a way to motivate you to move outside of your comfort zone for something bigger."

"[A bucket list] is something you

always want to add on to," Mr. Palmer, an English teacher, said. "If you finish it, what is there left to do?"

In 2007, a movie called *The Bucket List* was released. It is about two men who escape from a cancer ward and go on a road trip to do all the things they always dreamed of doing before they die. On their list they had things like kiss the most beautiful girl in the world, drive a Shelby Mustang, and see the Pyramids.

Similar to the men from *The Bucket List*, Mr. Palmer also wants to see the Great Pyramids of Giza. He enjoys "nature in its purest element" and because of that, he has a long list of things he wants to do involving the outdoors.

"I want to hike in the Himalayas and see the snow leopards, go to Antarctica, see the Great Wall of China, dive with whale sharks in Belize. I definitely want to see wolves in Yellowstone [National Park] and go orka whale kayaking," Palmer said.

He believes that if you have a chance to go out and experience the things not many people can say they have, you should do it.

"You have to challenge yourself to a point where you don't know whether to laugh or cry," he said.

Dora Callahan, Div. 259, also has a drive to experience nature.

"I really would love to go in a submarine and also [travel] by boat to at least one of the continents."

Even though Callahan wants to do these things, she admits to being scared of both deep water and traveling by boat. She said a bucket list can be used as a way to eliminate and get over fears in order to become a stronger person.

Marie Christophell, Div. 364, also agrees that a bucket list can help a person understand what they are capable of and strive to become

stronger once they realize it.

"As a human, I'm built with flaws, but I want to be able to break out of this kind of generic view that I feel about myself," Christophell said. "[I want to] become multidimensional."

In other words, Christophell wants to do things that will help her grow out of her fears and become more easy going in life.

According to Alejandro Serrano, Div. 269, a bucket list must have items that could end up being the reason they actually kick the bucket. He said that some adventures need to be troublesome so that you can learn how to deal with similar issues later in life. It is a learning process in addition to doing "something crazy."

Serrano wants to go skydiving one day and also plans on taking a road trip with friends from the East to West coast.

Many people think of life as a trip. At the end there are things some people want to do right before they have to 'give up the driver's seat'."

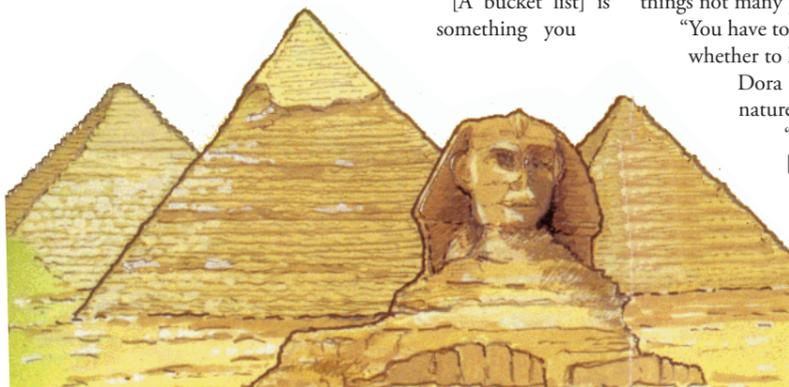
"I want to give away my memory box to someone special, like my kids or a friend, and say 'Here's my story, remember it,'" Serrano said.

He has everything that is sentimental to him in the box. This includes things he saved from places he visited, like rocks, hospital bracelets, postcards, and receipts. He saves letters from people and also has photos of past experiences. He said he also has sad memories in his box, to remind him about the bittersweet side of life.

Mr. Polley, a French teacher, said he wants people to look at him before he dies and say, "Wow, what a ride!" He believes in living life to the fullest. He loves being outdoors and "getting his hands dirty," with all the things that nature has to offer. He wants to learn to make all types of cheeses, to own a farm, and to cross Africa on a camel.

"I want to live before I die," Polley said.

His best advice? Turn off the TV.



Importance of adolescent confidence starts at home

By Sapna Rathod

A firm handshake, eye contact, and a natural pace of speech are ways to evoke confidence through body language. This is sometimes hard to fake in highschool.

Mr. Bertenshaw, a teacher in the English department, feels strongly that every student has a reason to be confident.

"Kids these days are easily misled," Bertenshaw said, "They lose a sense of independence and allow themselves to become dependent."

Dora Callahan, Div. 259, believes that the high school experience can allow a person to become nervous.

"It was the beginning of freshman year when things were shaky," said Callahan, "Only because I was new to how high school worked and it was

really intimidating."

A lack of confidence in adolescents is a recurring discussion. Counselors often believe that a lack of confidence can sometimes start straight from the home. If a child is criticized frequently by family members and friends, they eventually will begin to doubt themselves in everything they strive to achieve.

An anonymous junior has always felt that talking to her counselor is something that she would refrain from telling her friends.

"Sometimes I want to vent about things that I don't want my friend's knowing" said the anonymous student. "And I know the counselors are there so I can talk to them, but there's just some things I would rather keep to myself."

Mrs. Lori Dulberg, one of the 12 counselors at Lane, equates confidence with self-esteem.

"A lack of confidence can effect students motiva-

tion," Dulberg said, "They can fear rejection, or even a lack of success. Eventually, it can turn into something self-destructive."

Stephen Yoshida, Div. 250, feels a lack of confidence in his own talents.

"Other than being terrified of talking to girls, I lose a lot of confidence when I play guitar," Yoshida said. "I know I'm good, but I know that at any moment, I can make an ugly mistake."

Alejandro Serrano, Div. 269, has problems with his self-esteem on a weekly basis.

"When I sing every Sunday at church," Serrano said, "I'm surrounded by many that sing very well, and I personally don't think I'm really that good."

Genamarie Wojtal, Div. 282, felt a strong lack in her confidence when she took a fashion design class in New York last summer.

"On the last day of class we had a final exhi-

bition of the work we did over a month's time," Wojtal said. "I really did not want to put any of my work up because I felt it was not as good as some of the people in the class and I was embarrassed to have it displayed next to theirs."

Ms. Langford, a psychology teacher, believes that no matter how confident a teenager can present themselves to their peers, every child has insecurities.

"Being popular doesn't make you a secure kid," Langford said, "Insecurities are powerful, no matter what."

In a high school setting, some teachers hope they have a massive influence on the lives of their students.

Confidence can sometimes be an emotional roller coaster ride; everyone will have their ups and downs.

"If you got it, flaunt it," Wojtal said.

Classroom posters make for good distraction

By Aleksandra Bursac

Why is that poster even up there? Students may come to question the odd posters or sculptures they see in their classrooms, but

teachers like to put posters and other decorations all over their rooms in order to make the classroom environment more personal. Mostly the posters are about math problems or important events in history.

They might show you what the inside of a cell looks like, or tell you how to properly use an interjection. But the more personal posters or objects show students a fun side of their teachers.

Quite a few math department classrooms at Lane have styrofoam heads with wigs and hats placed around the rooms. They are fun to look at and can be seen sitting inside the windows or over doors. They have become somewhat of a private joke between teachers.

"There are cameras in them. We math teachers record you guys and look over the footage in the math lab," jokes Ms. Jencius, an Algebra II teacher.

"But no, really they just started out as a joke. My first one was given to me by a student who made it for an art project and gave it to me. It has been up in my room ever since," said Ms. Jencius.

Ms. Mead also has a head in her classroom, along with a few others.

The walls of room 253 are plastered in movie posters. The bright colors and funny catch phrases can really be a relief to a bored student's mind. Film classes are held in the room, but AP English and Composition is also taught there by Ms. Ewers.

"At the beginning of the year my students were very interested in the posters, but I think that with time, decorations fade into the background," said Ms. Ewers.

Personal taste can be reflected in the decorations of a classroom and sometimes teachers can be surprised that their art is acknowledged in an unexpected way. Mr. Maslanka's room has had a Pink Floyd poster up on the wall for eleven years now.

"I have had it up there since I began teaching, the original one fell down at some point and a student of mine bought me a new one," said Mr. Maslanka, who teaches AP English and Philosophy.

The poster was originally put up because Maslanka likes the band, but he never expected his students to use it as inspiration for their AP t-shirt last year. They used a flamingo from the flamingo Prompt -which is an AP English essay prompt by Jennifer Price examining the popularity of the plastic

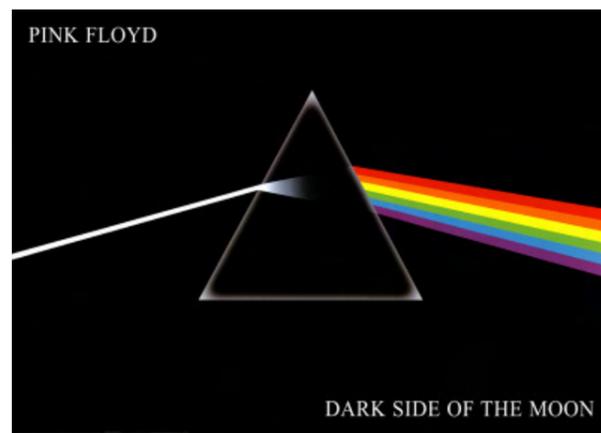
pink flamingo in the 1950s- and drew it with the classic Pink Floyd rainbow spilling out of its mouth

"It was my favorite AP class shirt," said Maslanka.

"I also remember in my second year of teaching, two of my students were pointing at the poster and they seem to have liked it, one of



Andy Warhol's Marilyn Monroe that hangs in room 244. Above right: A Pink Floyd poster similar to Maslanka's.



them was Liam O'Donnell who is now a Special Ed teacher here at Lane," said Maslanka.

Mr. Valderrama, an English teacher, has two Marilyn Monroe pop art paintings up on his classroom wall.

"I see the two paintings every day but I don't know why he has them up there since this is a British literature class," said Rachel Brustein Div. 251.

"They are cool, but sometimes I do stare off at the wall instead of paying attention to some of the lectures," said Brustein.

But Valderrama had personal reasons to put the Marilyn paintings up.

"A friend of mine did an Andy Warhol rendering of Marilyn with stencils. He had them lying around in his house and I asked him if I can take them to school with me," said Valderrama.

Andy Warhol pioneered the technique of taking a photograph and turning it into a painting very popular in the 60s.

Sitting in class for 46 minutes and listening to a lecture can sometimes drag. Some students space out or even doze off. But the fun works of art and other decorations in classrooms can take away some of the boredom when a student finds himself scrutinizing an unfamiliar painting or odd sculpture.

Going away to college not all it's cracked up to be?

By Aleksandra Pavlovic

"I sat on my bed the second day I was at U of I," said Lane alumni Izabela Bierz. "I thought, 'Man, I need to get out of here.'"

The idea of claiming independence and going out of state for college was nothing short of thrilling for many, including Bierz, but numerous students have found themselves unsatisfied and are either transferring or have already transferred back to schools in Chicago.

"The initial excitement was great, but it wasn't what I imagined," said Bierz. "I felt like I was secluded in a bubble."

One of Bierz's main concerns was the lack of a fast-paced lifestyle.

"Everything was so slow. Champagne is tiny, and the city goes to sleep early. There's not really anything to do except get involved with school. It's in the middle of nowhere; you can't leave."

Bierz transferred to Depaul University on January third and is grateful for the decision.

"I fell in love with Depaul. It was how I envisioned college to be. Either way it's a hit or miss- you either love your school or you don't."

Whitney Young alumni Max Fitzpatrick felt that a college town was not right for him, but Santa Monica Community College in Santa Monica, California did not seem to be the right fit either.

"It was high school all over again," said Fitzpatrick.

"But nobody wanted to chill or make friends. The school was filled with rich kids that didn't seem to care much for their education as long as their parents were paying for it. I wanted to learn, and I knew that I wasn't accomplishing there what I could've been accomplishing here."

Fitzpatrick plans on transferring to Columbia College as soon as possible.

"I thought that California would be awesome, and it was, but community college was just not the way to go."

Lane graduate Izzy Carr chose to attend Grand Valley State University in order to move away from home.

"I wanted a new place, new people, a new environment," said Carr. "The campus was pretty and the school was affordable, but it wasn't my first choice."

Carr wishes to be in a city and hopes to transfer to Depaul and or the University of Pittsburgh by her sophomore year.

"I can't deal with farmville USA. At least I know that I gave it a shot."

Wilfredo Torres, also a Lane alumni, does not feel a sense of accomplishment

in his decision to stay in-state. Torres attends Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois.

"I feel like I didn't have to do much to get accepted so I'm not necessarily proud or glad that I go there," said Torres. "I don't belong there."

I'm applying to schools all over the country so I can transfer. Even though it's more expensive, I think I'm happier to pay for an education that I want rather than a cheap one I'm simply settling for."

Lake View graduate Jon Parker is having a difficult time adjusting to the University of Missouri.

"Mizzou is heavily Greek oriented," said Parker. It's the only form of entertainment, and coming from Chicago, that's a huge let-down. And I'm sick of the hills; I miss looking out

of my window and seeing the lake."

Parker, however, does not wish to transfer and wants to give the university another chance to impress him.

"It has a good sports team, good academics, and a big campus. I might transfer my Junior year, but I may not. Who knows?"

Amongst the disappointed students are satisfied ones that are enjoying their time away from home.

"I don't miss Chicago," said Whitney Young graduate Casey Ferrantella who attended Santa Monica Community College with Fitzpatrick. "[Chicago] is waiting for me. I knew what I signed up for when I left. Moving away seems to be the most logical step to take after college."

I get homesick at times, but I don't think it hits me as hard as it does others."

Ferrantella wishes he moved to a different part of California, but is mostly satisfied with his decision.

"You need a car in LA, and so many people are fake. It's like one big suburb. I wish I moved to San Francisco because of its public transportation."

Lane alumni Donovan Tolledo is also satisfied with his decision to move away to the University of Madison, Wisconsin.

"College is over-rated, anyone can tell you that," said Tolledo. "It's hard, and it's up to you to manage your time there. I love Madison, even though it's a small town and I'd much rather be in Chicago at times, but I like the school and the

people."

Tolledo mentally prepared for being away from his family and friends and knew that going away to college would be challenging.

"People don't like being by themselves, but that's part of being an adult."

You won't just stay with your family your entire life. I think about home all the time but I like being where I am."

Although many students are struggling with being far from home, many are deciding to tough it out and embrace the independence. Either way, reality does not come handed on a silver platter, and after being released from high school's safe graces, life becomes a survival of the fittest.



Behind the lens with Lane models

By Mary Presley

People may say that a picture is worth a thousand words, but Lane models know that the behind the scene, moments are worth even more. There is more to a photo than just a perfect shot. Most people on the outside looking in have no idea about the tricks and secrets behind getting a great photo.

Vallarie Perez, Div.266, has been modeling since she was 14. "I started modeling when I entered this pageant and won, and the prize was the cover of the 2009 edition of the Quinceañeras magazine, and from there I got signed to a talent agency," said Perez.

Perez is not afraid to reveal that things are not always what they seem to appear to be. The process of getting a spectacular photo is nothing compare to the finish product.

"I did a photo shoot with my cousin and we had to have really big humongous hair, so they put empty water bottles in our hair to make it huge and big, and then I had on a lot of make up and my eye shadow was super vibrant," said Perez.

"I had so much fun and the photos came out really nice," said Perez.

Perez is around 5'1, but looking at her photos it is sometimes hard to believe.

"During an AJ Wright photo shoot, I had to stand on a white platform that blended in with my dress, because I'm short," said Perez

During another photo shoot Perez had to run outside in the streets, and jump up and down to try to get a perfect shot.

"The extreme photo shoots are the best! Simple is boring; I like to be outlandish," said Perez.

Model Chitavia Murph, Div. 271, started taking photos to put in her portfolio when she was 16. During a photo shoot in High

Grass Murph noticed that a spider was crawling on her. She was really scared, but had to maintain her emotions to get a good shot.

"I did what I had to do, and had to worry about the spider later," said Murph.

On most photo shoots, models are placed in strange environments and may feel uncomfortable, but this is one of the things that people can not tell by just looking at a picture.

"I did a photo shoot by train tracks, and there were a lot of construction workers around and I had on this dress. I was sort of uncomfortable, it was like pretty princess in the ghetto," said Murph.

Murph revealed that most of her good photos were of herself just thinking.

"The photographer will tell me to think about different emotions, and that was a shot," said Murph.

Models sometimes have to work with whatever they find just laying around.

"One time we had to look on the ground for cigarette butts, and I had the cigarette so close to my mouth that it seem like I was actually smoking, besides that I had to smear my makeup to the point where it was not neat. They wanted me to look depressed," said Murph.

Cecilia Soberanios, Div.272, is another aspiring model at Lane that understands that the photos she takes never tell the real story.

"I think what the pictures show is so different from what's going on in the moment. The picture looks so different and it does



Cecilia Soberanios, Div. 272.

not look like me," said Soberanios.

A good photo never reveals the things that are really going on. One time during a photo shoot Soberanios had to lay in freezing water, but she had to stick out her face. Through all of that, she still had to convey a peaceful face.

"It was a really hard thing to do, but the picture came out looking really nice. It looked really exotic. At the moment if you were there, you would see me just cracking up laughing," said Soberanios.

One time Soberanios also had to climb a tree for a photo shoot, even though she is afraid of heights.

"At first me being scared showed in my pictures, but the photographer told me to relax, and then she got a good shot. The photographer always makes sure all your insecurities do not show in the picture," said Soberanios.

Model Agnes Kulesza, Div. 279, started modeling when she was 15 years old. Even though she has only been modeling for two years, Kulesza experienced one photo shoot that really tested her limits. How far would she go to get that perfect shot?

"I had a photo shoot downtown on a roof top, and I had to climb up a fire escape to get to this really high ladder. The photographer wanted us to hang from the ladder to take the pictures. I had on six inch heels, and when we climbed up the ladder, our heels would get stuck in the ladder, and fall off," said Kulesza.

"It was scary because the ladder was pretty high, but the pictures turn out great," said Kulesza. Besides making the background of a photo look amazing, photographers also add little details to the models appearance to make them look extra special.

"They put fake eyelashes on you to make your eyes pop, and they use bronzer to make your legs look shinier," Kulesza said.

Unlike most of the models at Lane, Mercedes Loza, Div.374, has been modeling since she was three years old. She knows what she has to do to get a good shot.

"Modeling is like acting, you have to portray a certain emotion and pose right," Loza said.

Models always appear to be perfect, but some models like Loza get down and dirty.

"I had this one photo shoot, where they made me wear this outfit made up of nothing but leaves. Then, I had to put mud all over my body, and the mud got really hard, so it was hard for me to move, but it was really fun," said Loza.

Loza knows that during photo shoots sometimes what she is doing may seem dumb, but in the end, she knows it is worth it because the picture comes out really beautiful.

Photographers have to bring out the hidden side of some models while hiding the blemishes of others. Either way, modeling is the art of creating a flawless image that looks real.



Vallarie Perez, Div. 266.



Chitavia Murph, Div. 271.

Dr. Dignam releases new album, *Electric Magick and Acoustic Alchemie*

By Ben Palmer

I found myself sitting and staring at the macabre and dark cover art of Assistant Principal Dr. Dignam's new album "Electric Magick & Acoustic Alchemie" and a thought popped into my head.

"My god!" I said to myself, "I guess it is possible to be in public education administration and have hardcore music interests!"

All sarcasm aside: whoa! I'm not one for heavy metal, and I'm sure there's a more specific name for this genre of music, so call me ignorant. But I can appreciate musical talent when I hear it and I can say with certainty that were CPS ever to shut down (but how could that happen when it is run so well?) Dr. Dignam would have no problem making it on the hardcore concert scene.

Dignam is an educator, yet somehow manages to capture the essence of young rock in his songs. Maybe spending all this time around teen hormones has kept his musical flame fertile. And my, is he fertile! His music, that is.

Take the first track on the album, "Shaman's Tree." You've got an ambiguously hardcore (or ethnic) title, an intro including whispering and electricity, and some intense electric guitar playing throughout. Kiss? Def Leopard? No. Assistant Principal Dr. Christopher Dignam,

of course!

I keep poking fun at his career and how it almost completely conflicts with his hobby of music-making. Let it be noted that this is because his skills on both ends are phenomenal, contrasting one-another perfectly.

In short, this man is cool.

Continuing down the track list, listeners eventually reach "Never Enough" which is the first vocal track on the CD. Erik Martinez provides smooth, if not somewhat violent, vocals to contrast the sharpness of the track's rock core.

The song is almost "teen angst" in its use of multi-track recording of one voice, but being an angst teen, I hardly mind.

The next track "Element Earth" immediately stuck out to me as comfortably familiar. I realized the echo of the guitar's sweet chords were almost identical to the tune of some background music in a video game. Again, being a teenager, I found this to be more a plus than a minus.

"Jimmy Page" is no doubt a shout out to the guitar legend, of Led Zeppelin fame. The track is oddly entrancing, starting with just any old acoustic guitar (my instrument of choice in listening). It's about time Dignam got to the "Acoustic" in his title!

In regards to the title, I'm never in favor of spelling anything in old-English, be it "Sweet Shoppe" or "Electric Magick and Acoustic Alchemie." Unless you are a witch, an elf in a tree, or Shakespeare, my advice is shy away from adding silent letters where they're not necessary.

But the music, man! It's all about the music. And this old-world, witchcraft sort of vileness was a theme throughout the album.

Speaking of music, "Il Silenzio Elettrico" and "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" are prime pieces of rock. They are to Dignam's guitar abilities as a Dave & Busters Guitar Hero machine is to an 8th grader's mastery of the plastic axe. Full Combo for Dr. Dignam!

My favorite songs on the album are any in which Martinez serenades listeners. His singing in "Call Out Your Name" combined with the soft-core guitar made the track almost sound country! Which is, in my opinion, not a bad thing.

Martinez and Dignam have a sound to which I can't quite find the correct comparison. Maybe if Thelma & Louise were to pick up guitars, and be men, and actually exist, and not be accomplices in murder in a movie, their partnership would be the



Dr. Dignam's new album is now available on iTunes.



Dignam's website features photos and information about his other albums.

Noticeable names may influence job, college applications

By Bria Perry

Clean hair and ironed clothes? Check. Over-priced body spray? Check. Breath mint? Check. Application? Check. Name on that application that is easy to recognize and pronounce... not so much. Unique and ethnic names may make finding workplace success harder for students.

Whether it is for necessity, the experience, or some extra spending money, high school seems to be the perfect time for students looking for their first job, but for some the situation is not always perfect.

Estefania Corpus, Div. 165, believes that her name has been the cause of some of her more stressful times at work.

"When I first applied to my job [my co-workers] asked me if I was going to work in the kitchen or as a busboy," said Corpus.

Corpus, who worked as a hostess at a downtown restaurant, would initially laugh at these comments until the same biased mentality became apparent in her customers.

"People would try to talk to me like a child in their version of 'Spanish,'" said Corpus. "I wouldn't say anything because if I was a little bit rude I would get in trouble with my managers."

According to the senior, events like these have been common and all stem from the different stereotypes that surround having an ethnic name. She felt that these stereotypes opened the door for people to judge her, not only on her name, but on her skill and work ethic.

"They thought that they knew me," said Corpus. "I quit. I couldn't take it...It was too much drama for me."

Rabees Rafiq, Div. 250, understands the effects of discrimination but isn't exactly sold on the idea of someone's name affecting their jobs and work environment.

"I had a job over the summer as a camp counselor," said Rafiq. "I submitted an application, got called for an interview, and got the job."

Rafiq, whose name means "brave friend" in Urdu, is still no stranger to the negativity a person's name can have. He's been mocked with titles like, "terrorist," "long beard," and "turban."

Despite the titles, Rafiq insists that his name does not affect his chances as a student worker, and says

he even feels closer with the kids in his camp.

"Most children in my camp I could relate to. They should feel unique," said Rafiq. "There are people that discriminate but majority of the world is fine with diversity."

Diversity in names is not always ethnically related. Sometimes pop culture can be a factor.

Jafar Green, Div. 364, knows this well.

"[My mom] named me because of the Disney Aladdin movie," said Green.

This naming trend did not carry over to his three younger siblings, Louis, Angie, and Joseph, which sometimes makes him feel more unique than he would hope.

When applying for his first job with the Chicago Tribune, his unique name also brought up some new concerns for the sophomore.

"They'd see all these regular names and then they'd see 'Jafar,'" said Green.

Green succeeded in getting the job as a paper boy, and his name was a great conversation starter with his recipients, but some conversations proved exhausting.

"They asked me about my religion and about my parents and where they came from," said Green. "I had never even thought about it like that."

Trentarius Mitchell, Div. 263, has always liked his original name and other names like it.

"My mom created my name. It was a combination of her name, Katrina, and my zodiac sign, Sagittarius," said Mitchell.

Mitchell admits that it takes awhile for people to get used to his name, but that ultimately it does not affect his social life or his ability to find a suitable job environment.

"No, I don't have a job and I don't think people will prejudice, but may get attracted to me faster because of the difference in my name," said Mitchell.

Tyshawn Locke, Div. 385, does not think there is much in a name, whether it is original or not.

Although currently unemployed, Locke has no worries about his first shot at a job.

"Everybody has an equal chance. [Employers] go based on skill for the job," he said.

Locke believes that names do not play much of a role for the "commoner", but he feels there are different standards that apply to people in the public eye.

"You see more 'common' names on TV," said

Locke.

Still, he is not concerned with how his future employers will one day look at him.

Whether they are on TV or not, for some there is no getting around the fact that names can actually influence workplace environment for students.

Mr. Ara, a graphic design teacher at Lane, is no longer a student, but has had his own experiences with name discrimination as an adult.

His full name, Damir Ara, was once a common name in what was former Yugoslavia. It was given to children of mixed religious heritage. As a child, Mr. Ara did not realize the indications of his name, or that it would later be considered "un-common".

Once in the American workplace, he began to see that his name could be a source of potential negative distinction.

He recalls being employed in a job at an insurance property management company where the staff knew his name, but decided to call him David instead because they were more comfortable with it.

People also appeared to be more accepting of him using a different name for his email on Craig's List.

"I have a fake email account. I used Daniel instead of Damir," said Mr. Ara.

Once he started using a different name he had many more responses than when he used his real name. He felt that people were not very comfortable with his actual name because it was foreign.

"People a lot of time don't even reply," Mr. Ara said. "I've tested this. I've emailed from both accounts."

Considering all of this, Mr. Ara has named his son Oliver with the reality of the workplace in mind.

"I made sure that he's got an international name," he said.

Zoe Caruthers, Div. 260, has also considered this and sees both sides of the issue.

Caruthers, who is a black student at Lane, feels that her name is more common outside of the black community and is reminded of it often.

"When I'm on the phone with someone I just met for a job they probably think that I am white," said Caruthers. "And when I meet new friends at school I'll hear the comment that [my name] is 'white.'"

She also hears comments about her middle name, Tanesha, which some people feel is "black".

"They say, 'Why do you have a white name and then a black middle name?'" said Caruthers. "I don't

think people think it's too common.

She also thinks that employers will consider her name when considering her for a job.

"I don't have a job, but when I do go looking for one I hope that they're not choosing me for my name but for what I can bring. I do think that they might hire me for my name because of what race it is thought to be," said Caruthers.

Still, she finds that unique and ethnic names have positive connections as well.

When the time comes, Caruthers is prepared to give her children names that will be unique and she has no worries about it.

"I don't think that their name would hinder them, because instead of having the same name as everyone else, they're their own person," said Caruthers.

Mr. Cockrell teaches his classes about real world examples of prejudice and discrimination similar to some of the Lane students in his ethnic studies course.

One of the stand-out examples dealt with how names affected the outcomes of different applications for employment.

"They tracked a couple hundred names," said Cockrell. "There were fewer callbacks for names that were considered ethnic."

This topic sparked conversation in his students and even brought up new issues regarding names and ethnicities, such as the issue of affirmative action when applying for college.

His students are worried that colleges will accept certain groups over other groups because of lack of diversity, and that they will use the applicant's name as a starting point.

Applying for colleges has appeared to be the main interest of students concerned with names, and Cockrell agrees that it might have a greater effect on students than getting jobs because students are still young.

"Overall, they may not see as much racism and discrimination due to the fact that they're younger," said Cockrell.

Whether employed or unemployed, whether a name is "common" or unique, and whether this leads to good experiences or not so good experiences, names have affected students negatively, but they have also had positive effects on student success as well.

and the Oscar goes to...



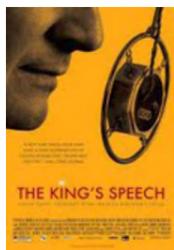
By Sofi Kerpan

The Academy Awards will air on February 27th this year. I have seen all ten of the nominees for Best Picture, and these are my predictions and personal opinions on how it will all play out.

The King's Speech ★★★★★

King George VI (Colin Firth) became my new favorite hero after seeing *The King's Speech*. It retells the story of a monarch confined to near silence because of a hopeless stammer. Having seen the best doctors in the field, the Prince of York and soon to be king of England has given up hope for a cure, but visits eccentric speech therapist, Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush), upon his wife's (Helena Bonham Carter) urging. The pressures of the throne, duty, and courage to rule a quarter of the world during WWII with a strong voice (the British Empire had many territories at the time) make this movie a m-m-m-masterpiece.

Prediction: Recently, the Academy has seemed to steer clear of awarding Best Picture to historical dramas. Take, for example, the snubbed *Milk*, *Frost/Nixon*, *The Queen*, *Capote*, *The Aviator*, and *Ray*. This may be the film that breaks the trend. I say so because the film's triumph is impossibly ironic: this man can hardly articulate how he feels, and yet with great supporting performances and plot dynamics, the King's innermost fears are nearly screaming in your face by the middle of the film. The movie is favored by grandmas everywhere, and I agree with grandma. It is not as raunchy as the other films, but it is beautifully executed and understated. I particularly like the art and set direction. If it doesn't win Best Picture, I'm almost positive Firth will snag Best Actor for his pitiful and persistent word-choking.



The Social Network ★★★★★

Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg) is at a bar in Boston and he just lost his lady love. All she said was, "You're going to go through life thinking that girls don't like you because you're a tech geek. And I want you to know, from the bottom of my heart, that that won't be true. It'll be because you're an [expletive]." That's all it took for this Harvard undergrad sophomore to create the brainchild of what became Facebook. I can sum up this film's brilliance quite easily. It's well-written and it's well-made. That sounds simple because it really is that simple. The writing is ridiculously compelling and you will be surprised at how smoothly the script incorporates computer programming jargon into a story of friendship lost and über-wealth.



Prediction: I love this film, and it is probably one of the more formidable opponents in the category. The script is cutting and the actors are fresh, but I can't say for sure whether these guys have it in the bag. They certainly have it very, very near the bag. It won the Golden Globe for Best Picture, which can often be a precursor to the outcome of the Oscars, but you never can tell. Last year, *Avatar* won the Globe and *The Hurt Locker* (ew) won the Oscar. I hope *The Social Network* will at least win for Best Original Score, by Trent Reznor.

The Kids Are Alright ★★★★★

You have two lesbian moms and you just want to know who you came from, on the daddy end of things. That's the premise of *The Kids Are Alright*. Nick and Jules (Annette Benning and Julianne Moore) both used a sperm donor, Paul (Mark Ruffalo), when they decided they wanted a family. Eighteen years later, the kids seek out their biological father out of curiosity. Tension builds the longer Paul sticks around to hang out with the kids. The "happy lesbian family" nearly crumbles when "the moms" undergo a marital test.



Prediction: This is another type of movie that is often snubbed, but in this case, I think the trend will continue. Indie, controversial, and quirky, we saw this happen with *Juno*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, and *Sideways*. I liked this movie but I don't think it cuts deep enough, in terms of human feeling. Benning, as the overbearing and more critical of "the moms," has a good shot at Best Actress if Natalie Portman is overlooked. It is also one of the simpler movies out of the nominees, if you consider *Inception*, *Black Swan* and *The Social Network* more complex, as I do. But maybe I'm wrong. Maybe simplicity will luck out.

The Fighter ★★★★★

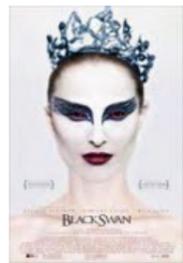
Crack is a dangerous thing. Dicky (Christian Bale, who basically stopped eating to for the role) is being filmed by an HBO camera crew that he thinks is documenting his promising boxing comeback, when really, they are chronicling the life of a crack addict. It is his younger half brother, Micky (Mark Wahlberg, very adequately using his native Boston accent) who shines in the ring, or... tries to shine. He could be great, but there is no one who could keep him from success better than his own family. His mother, Alice, and his six clone-like sisters insist on being a part of his boxing career. Micky falls for a bartender, Charlene (Amy Adams), who is the first to try to break his habit of letting his tacky mother control him, and letting his brother embarrass him with addiction.



Prediction: The Fighter won't prevail in this ring. Well, maybe it will. If it does win, it won't be because of Marky Mark. This film might have a shot based solely on the supporting roles that make Mark look boring in comparison. But maybe that was the intention? Maybe Mark was the anchor. Either way, it will take home awards for these strong supporting acting roles.

Black Swan ★★★★★

Being a ballerina is like being a dog because you have to be obedient. Nina (Natalie Portman) is an obedient and technically brilliant ballerina. She is the white swan. When cast as the lead in *Swan Lake*, her company director (Vincent Cassel) doubts she can grasp the allure and seduction required to play the Black Swan. Her art doesn't just take up her time, it takes her sanity. Amidst this, she copes with the romantic advances of her director, and senses competition with the sensual, free-spirited newcomer, Lily (Mila Kunis), a living black swan. It's hard not to notice that in nearly every scene, Lily wears black and Nina wears white.



Prediction: Maybe it's because I danced ballet throughout my entire childhood, because I'm a girl, or because I love *That 70s Show*, but I would really like to see this movie win. I'm almost positive it won't. The level of artistry and dedication (a year of intensive ballet training in Portman/Kunis' case) used to create this film is admirable. But this art, just like Nina's, borders on insanity. I have never seen a movie like this before. Even if you didn't like the movie, you can't say you've seen this before; something that chips so much at this girl's psyche. But psychological thrillers have never been a favorite with the Academy, with the exception of *The Silence of the Lambs*. And if Portman doesn't win Best Actress I will probably cry. She deserves it.

Inception ★★★★★

Yeah, I was confused too. Cobb (Leonardo DiCaprio), a dream extractor, attempts inception, the risky method of planting an idea in a man's head. He does so upon the persistence of a mogul's competitor, who wishes to overtake him. Cobb's incentive is redemption: being freed of legal suspicions concerning his wife's untimely death, and allowed to return to the U.S. to see his motherless children. His ensemble of dream hijackers and architects (including Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Ellen Page) help him perform inception, but they worry that Cobb is insane. Cobb doesn't want money or pride or rewards. He wants the dreams, and what used to be.



Prediction: This film could have a shot based solely on its complexity. I got so lost at one point, it was like 5th period chemistry all over again. And rather than lacking the emotion and feeling that many science fiction thrillers of this kind seem to, this film embraces marital tragedy and denial. But the winding plot is almost laborious to keep up with at one point, making it less of a cinematic enjoyment and more of a game. Editing awards will be practically handed to those who worked on this.

True Grit ★★★★★

True Grit is really very cute. A bloodthirsty, vengeful fourteen-year-old girl played by Hailee Steinfeld steals the show in this remake of the 1969 adaptation. Headstrong Mattie (Hailee Steinfeld) hires the severe and one-eye Rooster Cogburn (Jeff Bridges) to hunt down her father's killer so that he can be returned to Arkansas to hang. She insists on coming along. The film follows their pursuit of the outlaw in the wilderness, and Mattie's discovery of an unlikely new father

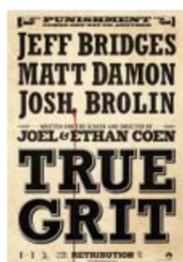


figure. This is not your typical Coen brothers film. Based on their previous works, I was convinced that the Coen brothers have a genuine contempt for humanity. However, this one is rather heartfelt in the end. And I'm not into Westerns, but the siblings helped me come around. A little bit.

Prediction: *True Grit* has a really good shot at this. I'm turned off by the idea of it winning, since it's a remake. I think something original and fresh deserves the title. Regardless, I enjoyed wasting two hours in Arkansas, and I enjoyed the female empowerment of it all. Girl Power. If anything, I hope the cinematographers get recognition for this. It was classy.

Winter's Bone ★★

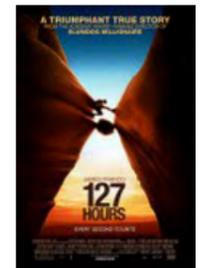
Ree Dolly (Jennifer Lawrence) is 17. Her dad is a missing convict, her mom is brain dead, and her little brother and sister are dependent on her for food and parenting. She has a lot on her plate. The sheriff comes with news that her family's house will be taken as collateral for her father's bail if he doesn't turn up soon, and this doesn't help her situation. Needless to say, Ree is desperate. Amidst running out of welfare, she must find her father and feed the family. She seeks out her father's shady associates and her addict uncle (John Hawkes) for word of her dad, but no one wants to help her. The movie follows her fight for information and security in her dirt poor, rural town.



Prediction: I think this movie is too dark to win Best Picture. It's such a downer. Halfway through watching it, I got really turned off by the society being portrayed. It is commendable to have such an effect on your audience. That's what movies are supposed to do. I wanted to wash my hands of it. I wanted to run outside and do something wholesome and happy, like hopscotch. *Winter's Bone* takes you to something corrupt. It's not corrupt like a good gangster movie, though. It's real. Too real.

127 Hours ★

Hi. My name is Aaron Ralston, and I cut off my arm. That's about all that *127 Hours* comes down to. I hate to sound so curt, but that's really all it is. It's based on a true story. In no way do I mean to undermine the sheer audacity that this man exhibited by cutting off his arm (it got wedged between a large boulder when he fell into an isolated canyon) to survive starvation. It just didn't translate so well into this medium. How long am I supposed to sit and watch James Franco stand by a rock? There's no dialogue, because it's just him. And there's hardly any back story to help you connect with him, just a few hallucinogenic shots of a blonde girl that one has to assume is the girl he lost, the girl of his dreams. Oh, and the actual self-amputation scene is super appetizing. Not.



Prediction: This won't win. I agree that it is a feat for Franco to be the sole character of a movie, but I don't want to see it again. I don't think I'm alone in that. Best Picture should be a movie you want to watch again. I'm alright with never seeing *127 Hours* ever again. And that's saying a lot for me, because James Franco is my ultimate crush. The director (Danny Boyle) also directed 2009's Best Picture, *Slumdog Millionaire*, so he shouldn't be too disappointed. He's already got one.

Toy Story 3 ★★★★★

Toy Story is the first movie I can remember seeing in theatres, in 1995. So there's a special bond here. The third installment was as adorable and nostalgic as I had hoped. Woody (Tom Hanks) and the whole toy box face the facts: Andy is going to college soon, and their fate is uncertain. When the toys end up in a day care center by complete accident, they think they have it made. Unfortunately, the day care toy society is run by a cruel, totalitarian teddy bear that smells of strawberries. They need a way back to safety. The film follows the toys as they fight to get home, despite fears that Andy doesn't want them. They find it all in the end.



Prediction: I can't bring myself to believe a movie will win Best Animated Picture and Best Picture, because it definitely has the former in the bag. It seems unlikely, but that doesn't mean that the Toy Story films haven't contributed to the film industry in a monumental way. *Toy Story* was the very first film to be made entirely with CGI, and *Toy Story 3* was the first to be released with 7.1 surround sound. In addition, it is the highest grossing film of 2010 worldwide. Pixar doesn't have much to complain about if they lose this one.

Food Network noted Molly's Cupcakes gives tasty treats for sweet tooth

By Nicole Jacobs

If you have a sweet tooth and love munching on desserts, Molly's Cupcakes is the place for you. It is located in Lincoln Park at 2536 N. Clark (intersection of N. Clark St. and W. Deming), which is a short commute by car or CTA from Lane. It is a cute, little cupcake restaurant that attracts all age groups from the moment it opens for business to the moment it closes.

I first heard of Molly's Cupcakes on the Food Network Channel a couple of months ago. It was featured on the show *Cupcake Wars* and at the end of the episode, they won the challenge. Realizing that the restaurant was located here in Chicago inspired me to visit and have a taste of their delicious cupcakes. Being a runner, I am almost always hungry, and food is something that I am passionate about. I have never had professionally made cupcakes before, but I was enthusiastic about trying something new.

As I entered Molly's Cupcakes with a friend, I immediately noticed the décor of the restaurant. At first glance, it was vibrant and welcoming. I sensed a very chill and relaxed atmosphere that was small, but spacious at the same time. The hip, upbeat music was inviting and the vibe was very energetic. The patterns on the walls were contemporary with a vintage touch. The seating arrangement in the restaurant was comfortable. There are benches accompanied by seat cushions and pillows on one side of the circular tables with simple wooden chairs on the other side. In one section of the restaurant is multiple swing set chairs supported by chains. I thought

this was a unique aspect that pulled the whole theme of Molly's Cupcakes together.

After my friend and I placed our belongings on our seats, we headed over to the display case to choose our cupcakes. There are a wide variety of flavors that are pre-made, so there really is no wait. Another great aspect is that the cupcakes come in different sizes and prices, which make them more affordable. Customers are able to choose from a mini molly, which is a smaller \$1 cupcake about the size of a golf ball, or a molly, which is a \$2 regular sized cupcake.

The first cupcake I tried was a red velvet cupcake with French buttercream frosting topped with heart sprinkles. This was my first time trying a red velvet cupcake and I am glad to say that it was absolutely delicious. It was perfectly baked and very moist. The French buttercream frosting is by far the best frosting I have ever tasted. It was light, not too sweet, and just melted in my mouth. I also thought the small, heart shaped sprinkles added a cute touch, perfect for Valentine's Day.



Another cupcake that I thought was simply decadent was the chocolate raspberry cupcake filled with a raspberry puree center. The chocolate cake base was moist, the raspberries were fresh, and I liked the crunchiness from the seeds in the puree. The frosting was a chocolate ganache flavor that was not overpowering or too sweet, but delightful and mouth-watering. The great taste of raspberries and chocolate is apparent in this cupcake. This is a perfect cupcake that chocolate lovers will enjoy.

The next cupcake I tasted was a basic chocolate cupcake with cream cheese frosting and sprinkles. Once again, the chocolate cake base was yummy, but I did not really enjoy the frosting. It was not nearly as good as the French buttercream. Still, if you are fond of cream cheese frosting, the one at Molly's is perfect for you.

The last cupcake my friend and I tasted was a simple vanilla cupcake with brown butter frosting and sprinkles. As soon as I took my first bite from

the cupcake, I immediately tasted the sweetness of the brown butter frosting. I thought it was a bit on the sweet side, but still indulgent at the same time. I liked how all the cupcakes I tried did not taste store bought or homemade, but were fancy and appetizing.

Molly's Cupcakes is a great place to visit for anyone who enjoys desserts and loves to try new restaurants. The employees were friendly and the atmosphere was inviting. I liked their idea of having a sprinkle station where customers can add sprinkles to their cupcakes. Also, they have board games that are available for anyone to use while they enjoy their desserts.

A portion of Molly's Cupcakes profits are donated to schools throughout Chicago. They also donate cupcakes to school functions and hold fundraisers that help schools raise money. I think this is a fantastic way that Molly's Cupcakes gives back to the community.

Overall, our experience at Molly's Cupcakes was a positive one. My friend and I adored it so much we returned the same weekend for another taste of their savory cupcakes. We were happy with the cupcakes they had to offer and the fact that there were no rude customers yelling across tables while we visited.

Another great feature about Molly's Cupcakes is that besides selling cupcakes, they offer other desserts such as brownies, pies, cheesecake, and more. If you want a complete menu of the restaurant, go to mollyscupcakes.com. I highly recommend trying Molly's Cupcakes for Valentine's Day or any other day.

Ethiopian Diamond original, ethnic idea for Valentines date

By Harina Dzebic

Valentine's day is usually filled with gifts of flowers, chocolate and a reservation at a French or Italian restaurant. This has been done over and over again, so what better way to spend Valentine's day with your sweetheart than by experiencing something



not usually on the repertoire. The Ethiopian Diamond has two locations: 6120 N. Broadway and 7537 N. Clark.

Upon arriving you are instantly greeted by a friendly staff who help you experience the Ethiopian cuisine to the fullest extent. The restaurant offers a variety of vegetarian and vegan food for those that are herbivores. In addition, there is a real feel of Ethiopian culture. All the paintings on the wall are Ethiopian and cultural music plays in the background. On the day I visited the heat was broken, but after five minutes it didn't even matter because everything from the staff, to the food, to the ambiance made up for it.

Utensils are optional, but rarely used. Instead, a sort of spongy bread called injera is used. Injera is made out of self-raising wheat flour and teff flour. The friendly wait staff helps even the most inexperienced in Ethiopian cuisine navigate through the menu. Ethiopian dishes provide a variety of spices. One of the most popular dishes is watt, which is a stew that comes in the form

of beef, lamb, fish, chicken and vegetables. Most of the dishes are spicy, but there are plenty of mild dishes as well. Once it is time for dessert there are a variety of foods to choose from such as the destaye which literally translates to "my happiness," and the scrumptious chocolate diamond, a chocolate fudge-filled cake served on fried pastry triangles with chocolate sauce.

The prices are modest with a dinner for two costing anywhere between \$30 to \$50. Getting a combo with two people instead of one usually costs \$5 to \$10 less. No reservations are necessary, but are recommended especially on Valentine's Day. They can easily be made on the restaurant's convenient website. With awards like "Zagat Reviewed Excellent from 2003-2009" and "Metro Mix Reviewed Best 4-Star," it's really hard to find something wrong with The Ethiopian Diamond. This is a dining experience unlike any other, so what better way to spice up a date, or any day, than by heading to The Ethiopian Diamond?

Oscar Nominated *The King's Speech* historical, m-m-moving p-p-picture!

By Katarzyna Barnak

Th th the Kings Sp sp eech tells the st sto story of a k k king who c c cannot sp sp eak in public due to h his stammer. Based on actual events and the life of King George VI, *The King's Speech* grabs you by the collar and pulls you into the shoes of the frantic king, provoking you to feel a mix of emotion as though you were the one at the podium. Not many movies are this genuine, which is what makes it so special.

The movie starts off with interesting camera shots of empty, narrow rooms and a microphone. The mic is the dominant object in the focused shot and everything behind it becomes blurry. It threatens the viewer with its overpowering position. This is followed by the Duke of York (Colin Firth) walking to a stadium to give a royal proclamation on behalf of his father, King George V. Upon his arrival, the people in the stands rise and thousands of attentive eyes and ears turn to the duke. This is yet another splendid camera angle followed by another focus on the metal microphone and foggy image of the crowd, emphasizing the duke's lightheadedness as a response to the enormous pressure. And then the best part, the duke opens his mouth... "...egh, ghe, ghe... ghe, gha..." is all that comes out. The Duke of York, or Bertie (as his family likes to call him), is so terrified that he can barely force himself to make a sound – let alone a word. The public grumbles and shakes their heads in dismay at the political figure who cannot speak for them, and might eventually become the king. One cannot help but feel sorry for Bertie.

It is Bertie's wife, Elizabeth (Helena Bonham Carter), who finds physicians that attempt to help him stop his stammer. And just as Bertie is about to give up hope, Elizabeth finds Mr.

Lionel Logue, a poor, lower-class speech therapist. When she persuades her husband to see Logue, Bertie is in for a surprise by Logue's methods. First off, Logue insists that the two treat each other as equals and refuses to call him "your majesty." He instead uses "Bertie," a more personal option.

The dialogues the two characters share are the most entertaining and most sincere. There are many memorable, ingenious lines. My favorites were the ones that provided a bit of comic relief in the otherwise overwrought tone of the movie. One in particular that I liked was when the duke takes out a cigarette and Logue tells him to put it away adding, "My house, my rules." The duke argues that his physicians say it "relaxes the throat." Lionel says that they are a bunch of idiots. The duke counters him, "They've all been knighted," and Lionel responds, "Makes it official then."

What I liked best about *The King's Speech* is that it kept me on edge. I found myself rooting for Bertie on every occasion he had to speak in public. While this was only a historical drama, Bertie transferred his tension onto the viewer, creating a suspenseful mood throughout the entire movie. With a stupendous performance from Colin Firth, the film is magnificent in every aspect. Geoffrey Rush is also fantastic in his portrayal of Lionel Logue, the man who is helping the King overcome his speaking trouble. Geoffrey Rush is known

for playing the mischievous Barbossa in *Pirates of the Caribbean*, but his versatility as an actor makes that hard to catch. Both actors received Oscar nominations for this film, which I think they both earned. Firth, however, outdid himself and I think that this may very well be the best performance of his career. He embodied King George VI with such conviction and raw sincerity that it made the dead monarch seem contemporary. I applauded the casting directors and anyone who has ever had to speak in public.



The Roommate makes dorm life less appealing with violence, murder, kitten mutilation

By Brianna Toney

If you're planning on attending college in the fall, you might be considering who you'll be rooming with. What if your roommate is a psycho that becomes obsessed with you? If your roommate becomes anything like Rebecca in *The Roommate*, you might want to find new housing, ASAP!

The Roommate, said to be a remake of the movie *Single White Female*, is the newest of the suspense/thriller films and came to theaters Friday, Feb. 4. Directed by Christian E. Christiansen, it stars Leighton Meester (*Gossip Girl*), and Minka Kelly (*Friday Night Lights* and *Parenthood*), along with roles from Cam Gigandet of *Twilight*, and Billy Zane of *Titanic*. (Wait, was I watching the CW? Naah...) Meester played a convincing role as Rebecca, the obsessed roommate who wants nothing more than the friendship of her roommate, Sarah (Kelly), an aspiring fashion student at UCLA.

From the beginning of the movie, you can tell something is wrong with Rebecca. When it comes time to share, like all roomies do, Rebecca keeps her secret

journal close while trying to "borrow" everything from Sarah. She also becomes very protective of Sarah by the second day of their rooming together. Perhaps someone is getting a little obsessed?

A locket Sarah has from her deceased sister? Gone. A tattoo of Sarah's dead sister's name? Duplicated. All that's needed is a defenseless animal. Oh, found: a kitten named Cuddles. Within the first 15 minutes, it is confirmed that Sarah's roommate is bonkers...

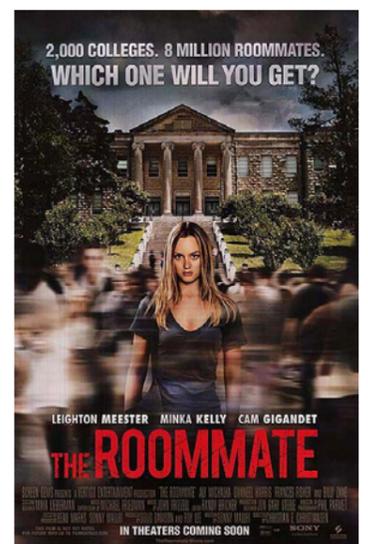
Now the action... you have to wait for. The beginning of the movie is not really filled with action, more like long weird stares by Rebecca, and creepy, overprotective behavior. Rebecca wants to know where Sarah is at all times of the day and night. (She's supposed to be her roommate, not her mother!) That seriously cramps Sarah's style with her frat-boy drummer boyfriend Steven (Can Gigandet).

As Sarah's social life thrives, Rebecca's jealousy and infatuation deepen, and her behavior becomes increasingly disturbed. What begins as simple passive aggressiveness eventually escalates to include self-mutilation, threats of violence, actual violence, spontaneous lesbianism (but not with Sarah), implied kitten torture,

and, finally, murder. Everything is really predictable as the movie goes on. Although it is categorized as a "thriller," there are not many scares or thrills... just a lot of creepiness from Sarah. It's not really scream-worthy (I think this is because of the movie's PG-13 rating, maybe if it was Rated-R, it would have been a little scarier, with more suspense... Maybe).

Throughout the movie, you will hope you never have a roommate like Rebecca. That's the only thing you'll be able to do while waiting for the action to build up, (with a few "EWWs" and "OMGs" here and there... Literally a few. Maybe 4 or 5) and then leave you with a predictable ending. Although the movie isn't the scariest movie ever, it's not all that bad. It just isn't the best. It will give you something to talk about when you leave the theater though. Good or bad things? Well, that depends on what you were expecting from the movie.

The movie is more of a psychological film than a thriller. I was expecting something much more frightening while watching this movie. That didn't really happen though. I did get creeped out a bit. It was an okay film. Enjoyable for some, bland for others. 2.5/5



Losing dog like losing family



By Johnny Stacewicz

The vet did not have to say a word; her face told us that Lucky, our eight year-old yellow Lab, did not just have a case of food poisoning. Something was very wrong. Cancer of the spleen had caused Lucky's stomach to fill with blood. We said our goodbyes as the vet injected an overdose of jet-blue adrenaline to stop his heart.

As a society we have taken a step away from our 1940s baby-booming ways. People are having fewer children and now filling that void with pets. Dogs, who were once used for hunting and herding cattle and sheep, are now being dressed up for walks and being fed dog food that would put McDonalds to shame. The pet care industry has recently surpassed even the entire U.S toy industry, grossing around \$43 billion annually. The fact that we put so much into our pets only makes it so much harder to say good-bye.

With the average dog's life span only lasting roughly until the age of 12, most pet owners have had to say good-bye to a furry friend at some point or another. Mr. Ara had to put down his Doberman, Maya, at the almost pre-teen age of one and half.

"She was my first dog ever. We got her as a puppy. She had just started to learn all the tricks, and then she got sick," said Ara.

Pets are not like people, they cannot describe to us how they feel. Learning that your pet is fatally sick comes as a shock to your system. We treat them as humans, talk to them as if they were humans, but

do not expect them to get sick in the same ways that humans do.

"I spent around \$9,000 trying to find out what was wrong with her, she went through a bunch of tests, but nothing ever came from it," said Ara.

The initial shock of losing a pet is incredibly sad, but the days following are when the true heartbreak sets in. All of a sudden the house is empty. Lucky's echoing snores no longer rang out down the hallway; his slow waddle down the stairs no longer woke me in my room beneath.

Bailey Bryan, Div. 265, lost her eight-year old boxer, Cooper, two weeks before Christmas. She claimed the days following were by far the worst.

"It was just heartbreaking; almost everyone in my house was crying, sad, or not talking. It was almost as if Cooper made us whole as a family," said Bryan. "Just coming downstairs and not seeing him run around the kitchen or sleeping in his bed in the living room, it just didn't seem normal."

Because we spend so much time with our pets, memories begin to be pushed to our sub-conscious, the little cute, annoying things begin to go overlooked. We don't think about just how close we are with our pets until they are gone.

"The first couple days after I didn't feel the same. I didn't do anything and it was in the middle of summer, I chilled on my floor watching TV for a good week," said Kallie Stevens, Div. 181. "She slept with me every night, right by my head. I spoiled her so much; she ate human food all of the time, to the point where she wouldn't eat dog food unless human food was mixed in."

It is the little things like these that we miss the most.

With Lucky, his sickness emerged overnight. I went to sleep Friday night and he was fine, when I woke up he couldn't move, five hours later I had to say good-

bye. Dogs wait until the last possible minute to show their weakness. In the blink of an eye they can be gone.

"I knew we were going to put her down within this school year because my mom kept bringing it up, but I didn't think it would happen in the middle of summer," said Kailie Stevens, who had to put her 16 year-old dog Shandy down over the summer.

On top of losing a dog, it seems as if the timing is always terrible. Lucky died 24 hours before we got on a plane headed to Jamaica. Ms. Smith, a history teacher, had to turn down her future husband to say good-bye to her dog, Todo.

"I had to turn down a first date with my future husband to fly home to put Todo down," said Smith. "I turned down my first Blackhawks game."

Manny Guzman, Div. 182, had his Rottweiler, Boozer, for only a week. Boozer came down with something the Veterinarian called the Parvo Virus. Like Lucky, Boozer was brought into the vet and almost out of no where Guzman was informed his puppy had a potentially fatal disease. The shock of hearing this can rattle a person because it does not seem true, it does not make sense that a dog can be fine one day and die the next.

"It was depressing for the most part. I had this playful dog who didn't bark and was just so chill. He was my best friend," said Guzman. "We got attached really quickly. When I took him in[to the vet] they would not let me see him. I was told he had a 50/50 chance of survival."

Putting a dog down is different than having a dog run away or get hit or pass in their sleep. Carrying a dog in, knowing you are bringing them to the end of their line is no easy task. And no matter how thick skulled a dog might have been, they can all sense when something is about to go wrong.

"I couldn't even look her in the eye, I



Lucky the dog passed away in January.

felt too guilty. She knew what was happening," said Ara.

There are often steps that can be taken to elongate the life of a pet. In Lucky's case, he needed an emergency surgery and then chemotherapy, and we were told he would make it another six months. As a family we considered this for about five minutes before we came to a realization: Lucky was a dog. He was not a human, we may have loved him like he was but in the end he was an animal.

If you have ever lost a pet, there is a conversation that happens almost immediately after, and that is the conversation on whether or not to get another. Jessica Anetsberger, Div. 176, had to put down her Golden Retriever, Lucky (no relation), after his bout with liver cancer. She recalls the difficulty and guilt of this conversation.

"It was a really sad time, all the happy memories began to come back when we talked about it. I do want another dog, but Lucky could never be replaced," said Anetsberger. "I almost felt guilty talking about it, it seemed like we were just moving on too quickly."

The unique thing about dogs is they can sense death coming. No matter how

pampered they were by their "parents," their primal instincts come out when the end is near. Dogs want to die alone. A dying dog will go off to a quiet comfortable place to die, a behavior that even the most domesticated of dogs carry on from their wolf ancestors. A dying animal is more likely to be attacked by a predator or put their pack at risk. We found Lucky curled up in a corner.

For those who knew Lucky, it was quite apparent that bravery was not his strong suit. He was afraid of plastic bags, he was afraid of cats, he was pretty much afraid of everything that was not human. What Lucky was known for was his unconditional love. Good day or bad, rain or shine Lucky would waddle up to me wagging his tail when I walked in. It was one of the things I never really appreciated.

"People who don't have pets do not understand what it's like," said Smith. "You love your pets like they are members of the family."

He was short and fat, born with only one testicle, repeatedly pursued by both male and female dogs, and cancer cut his life short, but his name fit; we were lucky to have him.

Women still not getting fair shake



By Kelly Seneni

It's no secret that our new Speaker of the House, John Boehner (R-OH), is prone to tears. With headlines like "Real Men Do Cry" (CBS), "John Boehner Crying Could Be Useful Political Tool" (Huffington Post), and "For Boehner, there's crying in politics - and other times, too" (Washington Post), it is obvious that for Speaker Boehner, crying isn't such a big deal. Whether he is discussing his experience as a small business owner trying to live the American Dream or tearing up as a Texan House Rep in discussing his experience as a POW in Vietnam, his tears are seen as a relatively positive thing.

Let's look back to the 2008 Presidential election. Hillary Clinton was making the run for office. When, at a campaign stop in New Hampshire, she cried over where she saw the country heading under the Bush administration and how she wanted to change that, the headlines were significantly different: "Can Clinton's Emotions Get The Best of Her?" (ABC) and "Can Hillary cry her way back to the White House?" (NYT) and "Hillary Cries for Votes" (digg.com) to name a few.

The first time Boehner cried (yes, it has happened on more than one occasion) nobody was questioning whether he could handle being the Speaker of the House (third in line to the presidency). Nobody said that his emotions were getting in the way, or that he was weak. So apparently when a powerful man cries it's a symbol of manliness, but when a powerful woman cries she is weak. When Boehner cries it's a useful tool. When Clinton cried she was crying for votes.

I have no problem with a man crying. If

Speaker Boehner has a soft side and cries during speeches more than I did the first time I saw the Notebook, that's absolutely fine by me. Turn on the water works. I don't really care if he cries or not. I do care about the double standard that came along with his tears. If the media just bashed Clinton three years ago for crying on the campaign trail, don't put Boehner up on a manly pedestal for boohooing and doing the same thing. Maybe it is just my inner feminist talking, but I think that's a pretty good example of sexism still alive and well in our society. This, of course, is all aside from the fact that women still make an average of only 82 cents (up from 77 in 2008) on the dollar of what a man makes doing the same job.

Over 40 years AFTER President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law, an almost 20 percent difference in salaries between genders still exists. Take Lily Ledbetter for example. In recent years she has been the face of the equal pay movement (Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.). Ledbetter was an area manager for a branch of Goodyear tires in Alabama, the only woman in her position. In 1979, when she started, she had the same pay as her male counterparts. In 1998, when she retired, that was not the case. Her pay rested at about \$3,700 a month, while the lowest paid male in that position made just under \$4,300. In 2007 she sued and the case went to the Supreme Court. She lost on the basis that she was too late to file the case.

BUT, to be fair, women were more likely to take sick days due to the fact that when a sick child calls, a mother must answer. This accounts for the difference in pay between single and married women, although the average pay of all women was 18 percent less than a man's pay. New studies show the gap is either smaller or non-existent for many single women. Married women still made significantly less than most men (even married men), leading to the 18 percent difference. It goes back to the idea of gender roles. Women are expected to take care of the children, and it is ingrained in us to do so. Is it fair that working mothers can be

penalized for taking care of a sick child? Absolutely not (nor should a man in that position be penalized for taking care of his children should that be the case).

I would also like to point out that the United States doesn't have an actual piece of legislation/section of the Constitution declaring equality between men and women under the law, unlike many other countries. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was proposed in 1923 and rewritten in 1943 by Alice Paul (who most people don't know because the Women's Suffrage Movement is rarely covered in depth in history classes), and it declares that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." It was introduced in every Congress from 1923-1972 when it was passed through the house and senate, and then it was sent to the states to be ratified. (Part of the procedure for amending the constitution requires 38 states to ratify it to become law). Long story short, only 35 states ratified. The bill was reintroduced into Congress and it has been reintroduced in every Congress since 1982.

So let me get this straight: in October Congress passed a bill making it illegal for commercials to be louder than the programming introduced in 2008. (Don't get me wrong. It's a great piece of legislation). And the ERA has been introduced into every Congress since 1982 to no avail? That's where my rights are placed? After the Commercial Advertising Loudness Mitigation Act? Ouch. Have women not yet proven that we deserve to be seen as equals by the government? Eighty-nine years after women gained the right to vote, we are still pushing for full equality.

Whether it be double standards between male and female politicians, difference in pay, or difference in expectations, inequality based on gender still exists. As Alice Paul once said, "I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality."

Ten day suspension offers time to sleep, read, miss out

By Bianca Rodriguez



The initial suspension was indeed a disaster. As if the humiliation of having to be escorted out of the building by your mother was not enough, I was hit hard with punishment: no phone, computer, or parties.

The morning after being suspended was odd, partially because I knew the sun was never that bright when I wake up for school.

From kindergarten through the eighth grade I missed a total of two school days. I always feared I would fall behind in classwork or miss something exciting during lunch. I am accustomed to routine, so 18 days of solitude was unheard of to me.

The suspension began November 22. It is well known that the month of November has numerous days off, turning my quick ten school days into 18 long days and nights.

The first few days flew by, despite being on thin ice with my parents. I was able to catch up on sleep. I slept until I was plain bored of sleeping.

For a while my boredom shifted to loneliness. I began to miss seeing familiar faces. It was surprising how I wished I could just get back to class.

I was not allowed on campus during school hours, which meant my fear of missing out on regular activities was now a reality. I was also not a part of the chaos that comes with Turkey Bowl. Being my senior year and last time to enjoy this school tradition, this was a big let down. Not being allowed around Lane from eight to three left me with an abundance of free time.

With the extra time on my hands I found myself doing things that were out of the norm. I visited different libraries and browsed rows of books just to pass time. (This was one of the only places I was allowed besides my home).

Returning to school was a bit awkward. I had to readjust. Everything felt different. I had missed chapters in books and plenty of inside jokes. I imagined it would be rocky coming back as far as school work, but my teachers sent me exactly what I would need to keep on track.

Suspension made me realize a few things. In part, I now know reading can sometimes be fun when in fact you choose to do it on your own terms. Overall, I see that I enjoy school. The days off sound great, but I would rather wait for a vacation - when everyone is out of school, not just me.

Lane production *Gypsy* features lively cast, characters

By Sophie Swenson



The lights are on, the stage is set, but instead of an audience, the actors of Lane's new musical *Gypsy* are busily chatting away. In the front row, backpacks and jackets are flung over seats while their owners are spread out in large groups throughout the auditorium, excitedly chatting and laughing, still waiting for 3:30pm to come around. Slowly and almost unnoticeably, different cast members begin to migrate

up onto the stage and rehearse their lines, while many still relax in the seats below.

This is only one of the many *Gypsy* rehearsals, and although there are about 25 students in the room, it's only a small fraction of the whole production. The rehearsals and the performers are split into different groups, and it isn't very often that they all share the same space.

Back in the rows of chairs, Megan Irving, Div. 278, Jasmine Garcia, Div. 252, Jazmyne Brown, Div. 182, and Ricardo Vicencio, Div. 183 are standing in a circle, comfortably joking about



the issues they come across in the play, like kissing.

"It's awkward because everyone's watching you, and you feel pressured to kiss because you're supposed to," said Garcia.

Although she and many other students at Lane would share the same opinion, Irving and Vicencio are not fazed by the kiss they eventually share during rehearsal later in a scene.

Stripping is another seemingly difficult element of *Gypsy*, which revolves around a young woman who eventually becomes a burlesque dancer. Jessica Cleary, Div. 273, and Amelia Mroczowski, Div. 451, both have roles as strippers, and aren't too concerned with playing the risqué part onstage in front of their peers, or parents.

"My mom laughed when I told her (about my role)," said Cleary.

Roles are another challenge that the actors face with *Gypsy*. For her part, Brown is learning how to play the trumpet, dance, sing, "and look good!" said Brown, giggling.

Apart from learning to play the trumpet, *Gypsy*'s dancing numbers are also especially intense.

"June (a character) does a lot of dancing, and she has to do the splits and sing at the same time," said Brown.

"It's really hard to do because I can't breathe, because I'm trying to dance and sing at the same time," said Garcia, who plays June in the production.

"Rose is the most exhausting role," said Ana Lovric, Div. 267, who plays Rose, an aggressive stage mother. Ir-

ving, who also plays Rose, nods in agreement.

"People play Rose, and then they retire- and we're doing it when we're seventeen" said Irving.

Soon enough the conversation switches over to



The cast members of *Gypsy* rehearse on stage in the auditorium.

last year's High School Musical, in which *Gypsy*'s cast agrees isn't as serious or as challenging as this year's number.

"With High School Musical, it was very kiddy," said Vicencio, "This musical is completely different from a lot of musicals we've done."

"It's not winning a game, and getting a girlfriend," said Irving. "It's like, 'my entire family has left me. We're poor, we're not going to have any money anymore.'"

The story of *Gypsy* revolves around Gypsy Rose Lee, a famous stripper in the 1930's and 40's world of Burlesque. Mainly, the play involves Rose Lee's (who is referred to as Louise, her middle name) experiences growing up with her family and the struggles that they face. Louise's mother, Rose is a huge stage mom, and pushes her daughters to perform as Vaudeville stars. At first, Rose pays all her attention to June; Louise's more talented sister, but after June elopes Rose begins to focus on Louise.

This eventually leads them to end up in a Burlesque house, where Louise becomes famous.

"Really, it's an incredible family story- lots of drama," said Mrs. Hanson, the musicals director. "I think what makes it really interesting is that it's based on a true story."

Soon all the actors have moved onstage, surrounding the current scene taking place. With Mrs. Hanson sitting in front of them, a group of five or six students hold scripts in their hands while they work on how to move physically across the stage. Every now and then a line will be missed or messed up, which causes the entire cast, as well as Mrs. Hanson to break out in laughter.

In a scene, one character is supposed to shake another, but the actors try to pretend punching each other instead. It's funny to watch, and contagious among the actors not rehearsing, who pretend to punch or be punched and then dramatically drop to the ground with alarming accuracy.

"Mrs. Hanson's laid back," said Garcia, watching the scene unravel from a flight of prop stairs. "She doesn't yell at us for doing stuff we wouldn't normally do in school."

By 5pm the majority of the cast is onstage, reading lines or quietly chatting with friends; sprawled lazily on stage equipment or sitting comfortably in the audiences chairs. The quiet buzzing of conversation is interrupted every once in a while by a sharp outburst from an actor, or the eruption of laughter coming from a scene.

Harrison Ornelas, Div. 172, has been in previous Lane productions and when it comes to plays, like many of the other actors, he is relaxed and ready for the production in Feb.

"The more you do it, the better you get," said Ornelas, standing in front of the staircase and watching the stage.

With all the practice, the memorizing, and most of all the familial feel in the air, it is apparent that the cast of *Gypsy* is ready to perform. Leaving the auditorium, Ornelas sums it all up, surrounded by laughter; saying "Its theatre."

New Harry Potter theme park offers magical visit for Muggles

By Ben Palmer

Gryffindor Scarf -- \$18. Elder Wand -- \$30. Butterbeer with Souvenir Mug -- \$12. A day at The Wizarding World of Harry Potter -- Priceless (but actually about \$100).

All in all, I spent about five hours of my Christmas Day at the Harry Potter Park at the Universal Studios Islands of Adventure in Orlando, Florida, and my mom spent at least \$300. The amount we have spent as a family on Harry Potter books, clothes, games, movie tickets, and DVDs skyrockets past the proportionally tiny amount spent at the park.

My point? Harry Potter is a money making giant! In the tradition of Disney, the magical series has covered all aspects of life, the tip of the iceberg being only the books and films.

Farther down the iceberg, I find the newest edition to the lucrative franchise, The Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

My life up until my visit to the park went as so: read the books, cry upon not receiving my Hogwarts letter on my 11th birthday, hope that J.K. Rowling got the age of admission wrong, give up hope of Hogwarts after my 12th birthday, and laugh in my parents' faces when I finally walk the streets of Hogsmeade Village toward the silhouette of Hogwarts castle against the 7am Christmas morning sky.

I was finally home. For an entry fee of \$60!

The films alone have grossed over \$2 billion at the box office, making Harry Potter the highest grossing film series in history.

While this number may startle some, or spur others to yell "capitalist pigs!" I would like to say that there is a reason the franchise makes so much money. It is awesome!

In my Muggle bedroom, I have a couple Potter posters plastered on my walls. On my desk is my box of Olivander's Wand Shop, in which is my prized Elder Wand. If you walk downstairs, you will find all six Harry Potter movies on DVD, all seven books on our book shelf (multiple copies of each) and a pile of stuffed animals, hiding my Scabbers the rat stuffed animal.

I threw him away once I found out he was actually Peter Pettigrew, of course.

In my kitchen, you will find a chocolate frog with a collectable famous wizard card, a chocolate wand, and a pink bag of jelly beans, labeled "Honeyduke's."

All these things have been bought over the years from Borders, Barnes & Noble, movie stores, poster stores, the internet, etc. I'll say it again: Harry Potter is a money making giant!

And I do not exactly mind! These are books that intrigued me as a kid, books that made me actually like to read. I found myself completely enveloped in the magical world that Rowling wrote, and I grew up side by side with my magically-inclined friends Harry, Ron, and Hermione!

Oh, and Hermione. One of my first celebrity crushes. I guess my crush was on Emma Watson really, but for a Muggle-born, she's quite the witch!

A far stranger phenomenon is the evolution of a Harry Potter based genre of music, called Wizard Rock. Harry and the Potters, Draco and the Malfoys, and Justin Finch-Fletchley and the Sugar Quills are just a few of the most popular bands in the genre that began to appear in 2002.

If listeners are familiar with the world of Harry Potter the music is a hilariously catchy shout-out to the magic of the franchise. I myself have only heard

tracks off of the album *Voldemort Can't Stop the Rock!* by Massachusetts based Harry and the Potters. I loved what I heard.

Dare I even mention the growing popularity of Muggle Quiddich? I dare. The sport based on the popular broomstick, ball, and hoop game played throughout the series has sprouted into the IQA (International Quiddich Association) and over 200 schools around the world now offer Quiddich as a club sport.

So far Harry Potter claims my favorite books, movies, stuffed animals (now retired), amusement parks, candies, music genres, sports, and celeb crushes.

Before someone shouts "Bloody capitalist pigs!" I'd like to introduce one other contender in the money-making ring:

Charity. And not the kind that goes "accio, good will!" (non Muggles are aware that "accio" is the summoning charm.)

No, Rowling has taken the magic of her written world and brought it to the real world, in the form of a charity called The Children's High Level Group. Rowling donated to it a portion of revenue from

her bestselling collection of short stories, *The Tales of Beetle the Bard*.

But the creator of the franchise isn't the only charitable partaker in the magical world. Harry Potter fans, under the guidance of the Harry Potter Alliance, have started The Deathly Hallows Campaign. The campaign utilizes pieces of the Harry Potter world, horcruxes, that are supposedly some of the darkest magical objects in the series.



For Harry to destroy the seven horcruxes means the destruction of Lord Voldemort. For Harry Potter fans to destroy seven real world horcruxes -- like starvation and abuse -- means a better world, thanks to our friends Harry, Ron, and Hermione. And J.K. Rowling.

This campaign takes place in the time between the releases of parts one and two of *The Deathly*

Hallows, the final film in the series.

The time between the two films is approximately nine months, meaning there is about one horcrux "destroyed" each month, leading up to the release of the final film.

In regards to the final film, I was extremely miserable at the end of the first part. I screamed almost as loud as Voldemort as he held the coveted Elder Wand at the film's close, looming over the defaced crypt of beloved Hogwarts headmaster Albus Dumbledore.

As a friend of mine remarked (the same friend with whom I had a wand duel during lunch), "Nine months? That's enough time to have a baby!"

Indeed, it felt like the pain of childbirth (unknown but well imagined to my friend and I) when we began the long and slow wait for the final film of our favorite franchise, Harry Potter.

There is no denying it, I'm a Harry Potter nerd through and through. I don't rep a gang, I rep Gryffindor. I fight for the rights of House Elves everywhere. I jam out to songs about Hippogriffs. I keep my wand clean and in its case. But above all else, I say "Avada Kedavra" to haters everywhere!

Athlete of the Issue

Matt Finnegan Div. 173



After overcoming minor knee injuries earlier in the season, Finnegan finished strong and is moving into the state competition with a 35-2 record. He is currently the 12th ranked wrestler in the state.

Favorites:

Dessert: Chocolate Peanut Butter Ice cream

Actress: Megan Fox

Teacher: Mr. Nobile

Music: Country

Color: Blue

Soda: Coke

Pro Athlete: Tommy Noble

Clothing Brand: Anything with swag.

Warrior: Who got you into wrestling?

MF: Chase Wilson was wrestling and said it was fun so I thought I would give it a shot.

Warrior: What is your biggest inspiration?

MF: The feeling of winning and gaining the respect throughout the state.

Warrior: What is the hardest part of cutting weight? And what foods do you miss the most?

MF: It's probably the worst experience I have ever gone through: running sprints, not drinking or eating, and sitting in suanas is all I really do. I'd say I miss my mom's home-cooked food.

Warrior: What about wrestling was more appealing to you than football?

MF: I like the idea that it is an individual effort. If you lose, you can't blame the linemen for not blocking. But if you win, you get all the glory.

Water Polo teams begin season with Band-Aids, ice-packs handy

By Jasmine O'Donnell

Kicking, punching, and scratching would be expected in a fight, but these are some of the aggressive tactics used in water polo games. Water polo is an intense contact sport, where if it happens underwater, it is basically legal.

"[Water polo] is probably the most aggressive sport out there, even more than football, and we don't use any pads," Girls' Water Polo Coach, Corrie Ulmer said.

According to www.athleticscholarships.net, Water Polo was first introduced to the U.S. in 1888, before it could be properly regulated. The brutality of the sport led to deaths of many players who were pushed underwater.

Today there are many rules to limit the aggression. Players are given kickout penalties for intentionally fouling, and must tread in the corner of the pool for one possession. Each player may receive three in a game, before being completely ejected.

Players use different tactics to slow down their opponents, like pushing, pulling on suits, and even punching.

"Getting punched in the stomach is the worst thing that I've had happen... you are trying to swim and you can't breathe," Wyatt Sugrue, Div. 185, said.

Part of the reason why the players are so aggressive is because a lot of the illegal contact goes unseen. Two water polo referees regulate the game from the deck.

"Last year a kid on Lane's team punched a kid...the kid stood up in the shallow end screaming in pain, the kid who got punched got a kickout for standing...since the ref didn't see what happened, no penalty was called on our guy," Matt Gullickson, Div. 365, said.

Lane's Boys' team pumps up the intensity against their rival Von Steuben.

"Our biggest rival last year was probably Von.. 'cuz they play dirty," Sam Gonzalez, Div. 250, said. "[Von] beat us last year when we should have won..."

we had better players and better swimmers, but we just never played well against them. The refs didn't call anything on them. If they were a clean team we would have performed better," Gullickson said.

Whitney Young is the Lane's Girls' team biggest rival.

"The game [vs. Whitney Young] does get pretty intense, but I don't think dirty. Being our rival, we've had a lot of time getting familiar with each other," said Megan De Guzman, Div. 362.

Girls' and Boys' Water Polo are both intense games, but the angles the coaches take on the aggression is slightly different.

"[Water Polo] can be really hard at times," said Jessica Tarnacki, Div. 369, "especially with some girls who like to cheat and hit underwater. It can get really aggravating. Our coaches tell us to play fair and keep our anger in."

"On the guy's team it's kind of unspoken by the coaches," Gullickson said. "They don't promote [rough behavior], but they don't say not to do it. If you were to get caught in a game for doing something dirty, they would get angry, but if you don't get caught then you get a 'way to be aggressive' from the coach."

The tough defense in the sport gives players great advantages, but there is a definite line between aggressive and dirty players.

"Aggressive is [when a player is] hard working, strong, and confident. Dirty is playing little tricks," Coach Ulmer said.

Water polo has become known for its brutality, but the true sport is played at its best when the players play smart and use their clean aggressive edge to their advantage.

The Girls' and Boys' teams are conditioning for their upcoming season this Spring. The Girls hope for another City title. The Boys are looking forward to a good season, and are excited about their new head coach, Reid Strelner.

Smith's support impresses her student athletes

By Jessica Barajas

Whenever students hear the ring of a cowbell during a game, they know Ms. Missy Smith is within the crowd of fans. Even with a hectic schedule, Smith always makes time to support her students, whether it be at a sporting event or any other extracurricular activity.

"With her cowbell that can be heard throughout the park, Ms. Smith is clearly our loudest fan during our baseball games," said Reynaldo Gonzales, Div. 185.

During a trip to Indiana, Smith visited a farm supply store, where she purchased her cowbell that she now takes to every basketball, soccer and baseball game she attends. She purchased the cowbell so her students would be able to identify her amongst the crowd.

"I wanted something loud that my students could be able to hear during their games to know that I was cheering them on," said Smith.

Smith and her cowbell have attended a numerous amount of games.

"I think she brought her cowbell with her to all of our soccer games she attended. Smith is very supportive and brings energy to everywhere she goes. She's a great teacher and friend and she's always there for when ever you need her," said Priscilla Madero, Div. 150.

"Out of the many things she taught, the one thing that stuck with me is that attitude is the one thing you can control in order to be who you want to be," said Madero.

To many lane athletes, Smith is not only one of their favorite teachers, but also one of their biggest supporters.

"She's our biggest supporter. She makes sure she handles all of her schoolwork and still has enough time to make it to our games and cheer even if their away games. I love her so much," said Eric Butler, Div. 170.

Smith tries to attend any game or event she is invited to by her students to see what talents her students have outside her classroom.

Smith knows that many of her students' parents are not able to attend all of their games and that is why she tries to attend as many games as possible to cheer them on. When Smith was a teenager her parents took pictures on all occasions, especially during her band concerts any other events she was involved in. She now does the same thing for her students.

"We always know when Mrs. Smith is at one of our football games because we can hear her and see her snapping pictures," said Robert Anderson, Div. 165.

After taking pictures of her students during their activities, Smith then makes several copies of the photos so that her students can share them with their families.

Smith is more than just a regular teacher to many of her students.

"I love that lady. No lie. She gives me good advice and is always so optimistic," said Dillian Torres, Div. 158.

Some even consider her a role model. "Mrs. Smith is a great person, not only

as a teacher, but as an influence outside the classroom. She's someone you can talk to and joke around with, she's someone I consider a role model," said Jackson Perri, Div. 185.

Anytime one of her students is mentioned in a newspaper, she cuts out the article and tapes it onto her desk. At the end of the year, she gives the articles to her students so they can keep it as a

Closeup trip to Washington D.C in March and the senior cap and gowns. She also works with other leaders in the STARS program every year.

Smith became involved with as many programs as she could since the first day she set foot at Lane. For her first two years teaching here she and her husband were the freshman basketball coaches. She was also the Hawaiian Club sponsor for five years. Smith has been only teaching at Lane for 10 years, has already accomplished much.

When Smith was hired at Lane she had dreams of becoming a teacher that could make a difference in her students lives. She has quickly developed strong bonds with students that she hopes will last a lifetime.

"I wanted to be able to support my students. Since I don't have any children of my own, I consider Lane students my kids," said Smith.

With or without a cowbell in hand, Smith will be considered one of Lanes most supportive and dedicated teachers at Lane. So whenever you attend a sporting event and you hear the ring of a cowbell, you will be sure that Smith is cheering on yet another student.



Ms. Smith poses during Spirit Week with some of her student athletes.

Smith is not only a teacher for Lane. She also teaches multiple classes at Depaul University one night a week.

"I teach students, at the school of education, who are planning on becoming teachers," said Smith.

Smith's unique way of showing off her students' talents is her "Desk of Fame."

memory.

"Students like to be recognized and that's my way of not only showing off my students, but also their achievements," said Smith.

Teaching Contemporary History and Business is not all that Mrs. Smith does for Lane. She is also in charge of the