

THE WARRIOR

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Lane Technical College Prep High School

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“It’s like something is missing” *Brittany Coffee* | 1993-2011

By Agnieszka Chrzanowska
& Mary Presley

“I had never been so wide awake during first period,” said Carnesha Smith, Div. 275, who spoke with passion and energy when talking about time she spent with Brittany Coffee, Class of 2011.

“That’s who she was,” Smith said. “[Coffee] was the type of person that had you laughing every time she was around.”

Coffee fell ill during her fall semester at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale (SIUC). She was sent to the hospital on Dec. 11, 2011 and was diagnosed with pneumonia. In addition, her potassium levels were low causing the illness to spread from her left lung to the rest of her body. On the morning of Dec. 13, 2011 Coffee passed away.

“She was always a little sick. She would take a couple of [sick] days out of the year, but it wasn’t anything this serious,” said Dominique Omoregie, Class of 2011. “I was at the hospital visiting her and the doctors said she was in the ICU (Intensive Care Unit). They let me give her a kiss goodnight. She was unresponsive and had a lot of tubes [connected to] her [body]. I gave the hospital my number and the next morning her mom and the hospital called me and said she was gone.”

Omoregie was one of Coffee’s best friends and her roommate at SIUC. Their friendship started five years ago at Lane, which gave Omoregie plenty of time to make many memories with Coffee.

“I took her home from school everyday. I would be tired but Brittany was always screaming and singing along to the radio,” Omoregie said. “When she was sleepy she would rub my ear and when she had a headache she would rub her head against mine [pretending like] she was giving me her headache,” laughed Omoregie.

From her colorful style to her undeniable presence, there was nothing about Brittany

that did not stand out.

“She was different; she did her own thing,” said Nike Omogiate, Class of 2011. “Her hair was always colorful and she didn’t care what people thought of her.”

Omogiate and Coffee spent most of their time together during Middle Eastern practices. Coffee never failed to paint a smile on the faces of fellow club members.

“If she wasn’t a part of Middle Eastern, I wouldn’t have had as much fun as I did. Every time she was there I was always [having a good time]. I love her so much,” Omogiate said.

Coffee used Twitter as a means of communication in and outside of the hospital. As her final day was approaching, Coffee’s tweets became more severe.

“On Twitter I didn’t think her tweets were that serious until they called and said she died,” said Omogiate.

The last tweet she posted read, “[It is] more serious. If you believe in prayer please pray for me. I’m very, very ill...”

Omoregie had a hard time coping with the news.

“It didn’t click until the next couple of days. I [still] feel like I’m waiting on her to call. I keep bouncing out of my sleep thinking she is there. It’s like something is missing,” Omoregie said.

Coffee’s friends considered her to be a wonderful friend who could always be counted on and was always available for moral support.

“She always kept her word when she said

she would be there,” Smith said.

Her friends described her as talkative, opinionated, goofy, outgoing, and humble.

“At times I thought I wasn’t as pretty [as Coffee] and [she] would tell me all the things she loved about me,” Omoregie said.

Outside of school Coffee was undoubtedly the center of amusement and laughter, but during school she was focused.

“She was driven, respectful, ambitious and sweet. She was very quiet. The type of student you would like to have,” said Mr. Gagliano, an English teacher of Coffee’s.

Math teacher Mr. Elias also appreciated her presence in class.

“She was the motivator on her side of the room, encouraging other students to finish their work. She was the one that had guts to ask questions. At first not that many people talked, but as the year went by she brought people out of their shells. She brought the class to life,” Elias said.

Coffee’s funeral took place on Dec. 17, 2011 at New Greater St. John Church in Chicago.

“Her funeral was very emotional,” said Maddy

Sopeña, Class of 2011. “There were a lot of people who miss her there. The church was packed.”

The speeches made by family, pastors, and friends helped bring some closure for loved ones in attendance.

“Some [speeches] made you laugh and some kept you crying,” Sopeña said. “Most importantly, she touched the lives of a lot of people in the 18 years she was alive... a lot of people.”

**“She was
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- Nike Omogiate,
Class of 2011**



Brittany Coffee displays her trademark flair in style and attitude.

Chicago Teachers Union explores idea of work strike

By Isaac Ceh

Will the 2012-2013 school year see a re-enactment of the CPS teachers strike of 1987? Lane Tech’s faculty is showing strong opposition to the proposal for an extended school day and school year without the compensation of additional pay. A new law gives CPS the authority to lengthen the elementary school day by 90 minutes, and the high school day by 46.

A CPS press release on Jan. 12 announced that CPS is following through on plans for extending the school day and year. Part of the announcement reads as follows:

With the move to a 7.5-hour day, students will receive the additional time they need in core subjects such as math, reading and science, get needed individual instruction to ensure they don’t fall behind, and have the opportunity for exposure to enrichment opportunities that were not formerly available. The District also intends to move to a calendar of 180 instructional days, an increase of 10 instructional days from the current CPS calendar, which will bring the number of school days in Chicago on par with other cities in the nation.

The teachers can either hope for a raise, work

longer hours without extra pay, or choose to go on strike.

Just before the winter break Lane’s Faculty took an opinion survey asking teachers whether they would be willing to go on strike if the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) chose to do so. A staggering 92.4 % teachers at Lane indicated they were indeed willing to strike if a reasonable negotiation could not be made regarding the new school day.

Many believe the only way to avoid a strike is to raise teacher pay. Still, the school’s administration is already planning for the longer school day CPS has mandated for next year by asking the PPLC (Professional Personnel Leadership Committee) to propose a schedule that fits the parameters outlined by CPS.

Next year’s proposed district wide start/stop time of 8:00am - 3:30pm would be accommodated by the PPLC’s current proposal by getting rid of Division and adding a 50-minute enrichment period between periods two and three. Enrichment courses would be offered over five or ten week periods. The PPLC’s plan suggested 40 possible courses that could be offered, including Study Hall, Yoga, Sign Language, Comparative Religion, and Fashion. (For a complete list of proposed courses and other details

of the PPLC’s proposal, go to <http://www.lanetech.org/pplc/lsd.php>).

In a newsletter placed in all Lane teachers’ mailboxes on the morning of Dec. 17, the school’s CTU delegates disputed the idea that the extension of next year’s school day and year was “a done deal.” It read:

While Mayor Emmanuel and CEO Brizard say the longer school day non-negotiable, it in fact is negotiable... everything is negotiable. They want us to work 29% longer over the course of the school year. The CTU wants a 29% raise. Let’s negotiate.

Also, the PPLC needs to be careful not to present the longer day schedule as if it is a done deal when it is far from being a done deal.

“If there is a longer school day I would like to see a study hall added to the schedule for the Lane students, so kids that are struggling can get tutoring during the school day,” said math teacher Mr. Toh.

An extended school day would not only affect students, but faculty, extra curricular activities, and sports as well. It will also make the commute to school much more inconvenient for students who take the CTA and live far away from Lane.

“Our kids come from all over the city. It takes some kids an hour to two hours to get home and

some even live in dangerous neighborhoods with gang related activity,” said Ms. Smith a special education teacher and CTU representative for Lane.

The CTU considers the a strike a real possibility. It even made a deal with a local bank allowing CPS teachers to open a savings account that will earn a .25 percent quarterly interest rate - a better rate than most banks offer for a short term plan. The CTU is encouraging teachers to set aside money in the event of a strike since they would not be receiving paychecks during that time.

“If the longer school day does take place, hopefully there will be an expansion of art, music, and other cultural diverse activities that are designed to benefit the students,” Smith said.

The urgency of redesigning the school system by newly elected mayor Rahm Emanuel has interrupted the flow of the current system, sparking resentment from the teachers of CPS.

“[Emanuel’s] still green. He needs to listen and weigh in on the peoples voice,” Smith said.

“I don’t think Rahm Emmanuel has been very diplomatic in general. He has put the teachers against him,” Toh said.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The thing I love most about the Lane Tech community is its diversity. This diversity is celebrated here throughout the school year in the variety of clubs, International Days, literature read, and classes offered. In our classroom communities most teachers are diligent about being inclusive of the many backgrounds represented. We select texts and conduct discussions with the intent of recognizing the value that all of our students contribute. However, there is one time of year when diversity is ignored leaving some members of the Lane Tech community feeling marginalized and disrespected: the Christmas Musical Assembly.

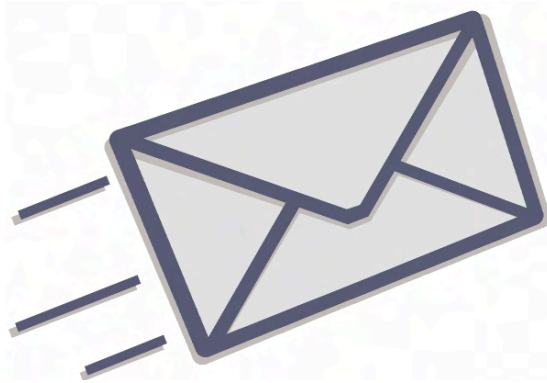
Dr. LoBosco opened the 2011 assembly by saying that it is a time for us to appreciate each other as a community. She also stated that the Christmas Assembly is the only event that is attended by all Lane Tech students. So, why aren't all Lane Tech students represented in this assembly?

I appreciate how much effort, coordination, and preparation go into this production. It has drama, comedy, and many musical offerings. The students and faculty talent is fantastic. I especially love watching Joshua James conduct the Gospel choir. I am troubled, however, by the fact that only Christmas is represented in this production. The Lane Tech community includes people from so many religious backgrounds. Until recent years there was usually one Jewish song performed in the assembly. That one song did not make me feel represented; it was a token gesture, and the song was sometimes not even a Chanukah song. Not only did it feel inappropriate (offensive even), but it also called attention to the fact that so many other religions were being ignored: Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, and Paganism among others.

If we have only one school-wide event each year, shouldn't it represent our entire school community? Why not create a production that *equally* celebrates all of the religions and their winter festivals?

May the new year bring us a true appreciation of our unique, wonderful community.

Courtney Feuer
Lane Tech English Dept.
Dec. 22, 2011



To the editor of the Lane Warrior,

Being a junior, I, like all other juniors, am required to take physics, a class which comes easily to few. I don't expect the challenge to be taken out of the class, but it upsets me that it seems too much to ask to get help with something that I and many others struggle.

Quite often, I have gone to tutoring only to find no one there. How am I expected to improve my grade and do better when there is no one there to help? If no tutoring is available, why not offer extra credit as an alternative? Work is still done and I still receive help by repeatedly addressing what may confuse me. If I put in the time and effort, I don't believe it is too much to ask to receive some help. Isn't that what the teachers are there for?

Signed,
Upset & Confused

100 days and counting...



Ms. Gayle Ramsey, Driver's Ed. teacher and fashionista, is shown here celebrating 100 days until her retirement with her 6th period Driver's Ed. class. Ramsey asked her students to dress in purple, the color of royalty, and bring tiaras and crowns to school in honor of her last 100 days at Lane.

"I'm excited, but it's really bittersweet," Ramsey said, surrounded by her students who know her for her attitude, her kindness, and her wigs.

Archive of the Issue

Page 3

Lane Warrior

October 26, 1987

Compact discs to replace old vinyl LP's?

by Julie Schwertfeger

Compact discs have become all the rage lately. Some Laneites say they'll push good 'ole vinyl LP's out the door. The fall of vinyl is possible but definitely not probable.

C.D.'s boast hard, nearly indestructible surfaces—vs.—the sensitive easily damaged vinyl record. The point overlooked in this is that the more sensitive vinyl has the ability to reproduce

a musician's music in a much larger dynamic range than the hard plastic disc can. That means the depth of sound and more 'real' sounding records.

In fact, technology has even made it possible for artists to record directly onto a disk, this is where the line music gets put onto vinyl through microphones directly to the record cutting lathe. The result is an extraordinary 'life like' sounding record.

Lunches priced right

by Denise Gawlinski

"Ugh! Yuck! Eat in the lunchroom? I never would!"

The above statement is a common remark made among high school students every where. The students' major complaint is about how bad the food is. While this might be true at other schools, Lane's lunchroom should be excluded from this unappetizing group.

The food at Lane is better than most would care to admit. There are different courses to choose from everyday, along with the regulars like hamburgers and homemade soup. The lunches provide a variety to one's diet. It is a complete, nutritional meal at a low cost.

Eating at any of the fast food

chains around school would not only be less nutritional, but would cost about six times as much. A lunch in the cafeteria is 50 cents, while dining at Wendy's, for example, can cost well over \$3.00.

The one clear advantage of eating off campus is, of course, being outside. But on the cold and raining days, it is not always worth it.

Staying in the lunchroom during your lunch period is not looked upon as the 'freshie' thing to do anymore. On any given day, tables of upperclassmen can be found there. So if you're poor and hungry, eat in the lunchroom; you might be pleasantly surprised.

This is when C.D. enthusiasts can say "Sure, but not all stereo equipment can realize the sound depth and quality of these recordings anyway." The fact is that mid-fi can be astoundingly affordable. For those interested enough in their music a little time invested in finding decent equipment is well worth it. The difference of a well recorded record is noticeable on any half-way decent turn table anyway!

"Well I'm not worried about how it sounds anyway. I'll just wait until the price of C.D. players drops so I can get one," said one Laneite. The record industry still has it's audiophiles and collectors. These are the people (and they're a small handful) that keep the market on it's aural feet. The demand for good recordings is 'high' to put it mildly.

So why do we keep hearing about taping laws and C.D.'s ruining the industry? Popular demand for C.D.'s puts a squeeze on producers. The producers will adapt to the trends and tastes of the general public by producing more C.D.'s. In the pop music industry this is happening.

On many recent albums by pop-groups including Steve Winwood, Prince, UB40, Brian Ferry, the Replacements, etc. the

sound has been bright, two dimensional and often over processed sounding. An example is 'Prince's Around the World in a Day' which has been called "the aural equivalent of staring into a pair of Boeing 747 landing lights," by critic Bill Fremer. In short the recording is so bad that little is lost on the switch to C.D. The musicians' sounds were put through so many cables, digital delays and overdubbing machines which filter out sounds and add new sounds electronically to compensate, that the 'music' is all but lost anyway.

Why does this happen?! According to *The Absolute Sound* magazine it's a rash of technologically trendy producers who say they "pressure their engineers to use costly gadgets so clients feel they've gotten their money's worth." Some young engineers have never even experienced live, unamplified music. How can they hope to reproduce it well? They can't, and haven't been.

Pop records have been sounding like the aural equivalent of Velveta because of all the processing, compressing equalizing, overdubbing, etc. The hope, for right now, lies in the recordings of older pop groups (70's) and in Blues and Jazz recordings.

Senior meetings encourage early application for FAFSA

Class of 2012 warned by Depaul financial aid officer that government funds for student aid have dwindled in tough economy

By Cherrell Anderson
& Dirce Toca

With questions and concerns rising about the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) process and how to pay for college, the director of financial aid at Depaul University in Chicago, Chris Rone, visited Lane on Jan. 10 to offer advice, directions, and even some tips to seniors so they can get the most out of financial aid.

The financial aid lecture took place in the auditorium during seniors' English class period.

On Jan. 1, the FAFSA became available to those attending college in the 2012-2013 school year. While there is no real deadline to submit the FAFSA, Rone advised that students apply as soon as possible.

"Financial aid has changed greatly since 2005. The government is cutting back because there are too many people who need money," said Rone. "If you submit your application after Mar.1, you could lose out on a lot of money."

This news worried several Lane seniors.

"The assembly brought my hopes down when I heard that the government doesn't have as much money (for financial aid) as it used to," said Diana Jaimes, Div. 253.

Rone advised to take early action because colleges prepare financial aid awards by Mar. 15.

"If you submit your application after March 7, you could lose out on a lot of money," Rone said.

FAFSA offers different types of financial aid, including gift aid and self help aid.

Gift aid is "free money" awarded based on any number of criteria (academics, achievements, hobbies, etc.), and grant aid based more on financial need. There is the MAP Grant from Illinois that gives up to \$4,720 and the Pell Grant from the federal government.

"The Pell Grant awards \$500 to \$5,500 and only about 22 percent of students get it," said Rone.

Self help aid includes work study options (on-campus jobs) and student loans such as:

- Subsidized Stafford Loans: given based on financial need, not required to pay interest rates.
- Unsubsidized Stafford Loans: more widely available than subsidized loans, required to pay interest rates.
- Parent Plus Loans: Parents of dependent children borrow money to pay for their education, credit check is required, loan is in parent's name.

Rone also shared with the students Depaul's policy on the maximum amount of money they can borrow that does not require a co-signing from a source of financial credit.

"As a freshmen, the maximum amount is \$5,500, \$6,500 sophomore year, and \$7,500 your junior and senior year," said Rone. "Any more loans you need will be credit based loans that give you an interest rate."

Seniors were given some tips on how to get as much financial aid as possible.

"If you're a student who barely got in to a [university or college], you're not going to get as much [financial aid] as the student who's in the top 20% of the class," said Rone.

Rone also advised students who have been accepted to a school

without a scholarship offer to be "extremely aggressive" with the financial aid office.

"Let [the financial aid office] know if you are a first generation college student or in a single-parent household to get more aid," said Rone.

Some students had questions for Rone concerning financial aid, including whether financial aid covers schools outside of the United States.

"The easy answer would be no," said Rone. "Some Canadian schools [are able to be covered by financial aid]. No schools in Europe are."

For a list of every school in the world that is eligible for financial aid, Rone told the students to visit fafsa.ed.gov.

The financial aid assembly answered some questions and enlightened some of the seniors.

"Some students don't know how to fill out their FAFSA if their parents are divorced," said Rone. "Use your custodial parent's information."

"I didn't know that [students] having a job in high school affects the financial aid," said Mary Geyer, Div. 251.

Having a representative from Depaul pleased some students. "Depaul is one of the universities I applied to, so [the assembly] was very helpful," said Leslie Padilla, Div. 257.

If students have not submitted their FAFSA yet, they should apply online at fafsa.ed.gov. Students will need to apply for a PIN (a four digit number) at pin.ed.gov to electronically sign their application. A parent must also have a PIN to sign if the student is under 24 years old.

Convenience of driving offset by parking problems

By Deanna Schnotala

Driving to school can be what some call "convenient." But parking, not so much. Do I park on Rockwell? Talman? Or what about one of those side streets? These are the questions driving students ask themselves.

Timothy Pinner, Div. 360, parks on Talman, a small side street behind McDonald's.

"I used to park on Rockwell, but now I park on Talman because it's less of a walk to McDonald's in the morning," Pinner said. For him, parking on Rockwell seemed risky after an incident that occurred to his car.

"Someone broke my window for \$2," Pinner said. "It's funny because they didn't take the iPod I had in the glove compartment."

A far walk and broken windows aren't the only things people have to worry about.

Victoria Potasz, Div. 253, used to park on the side street Cornelia. But while parked there, she accumulated six parking tickets.

"I parked 21 inches away from a crosswalk. Another time, I was more than six inches away from the curb," Potasz said.

Most would agree that those are not common reasons for getting a ticket. After getting six tickets in a matter of two months, Potasz decided to park elsewhere.

"Now, I just park on Rockwell because my locker is right by D, so it's a short walk," Potasz said.

Some students don't have to worry about parking. Seniors can apply for a permit to park in Lane's parking lot. It is \$60, and they also have to maintain good grades.

If students do not want to pay the price, or don't have the grades, they could simply sneak into the parking lot. One student, who wants to remain anonymous, does it because she is only a junior.

"I sneak into the parking lot early in the mornings sometimes," she said. "There's no security blocking the entrance around seven o'clock."

Luckily for her, she has not yet gotten the big, neon orange sticker that says "You are illegally parked here" plastered on her windshield, which security has been known to put on illegally parked cars.

If a student parks on a street, they just have to worry about finding a parking place. Walter Nolan-Cohn, Div. 381, has a problem with the way people park sometimes.

"I hate it when people take up two parking spots!" Nolan-Cohn said.

Cars on Rockwell and Talman are unevenly spaced out. There can be five feet between two cars, and then ten feet between another two. By having cars park closer together, there would be more parking spots available.

Many other students have problems with the five-minute walk to their car when they leave school. Although five minutes doesn't seem like a very long time, when it's 30 degrees outside and pitch black, even ten seconds can be an eternity.

"Sometimes when I have [cheer] practice late, I have to walk to my car in the dark," said Jacqueline Twohig, Div. 383. "There are so many creeps, I get scared."

Whether a student parks on Rockwell or Talman, finding parking can be difficult. But there are some tricks to getting a close spot. Students need to make sure they leave their house on time. But if they leave late, there is still a way to get a close spot.

"If I'm running late, I'll call my friend and tell them to save a spot for me," Pinner said. "They just take up

two spots and when I get there, they back up so I can get in."

If students could get guaranteed parking close to Lane, many would agree that there would be very little to complain about. But at Lane, parking is very limited. While driving to school may seem like a good idea, students should consider parking problems first.

Local police station closing

Jarka assures continued police presence at Lane

By Nathalia Mercado
& Sophia Swenson

Under Mayor Emanuel's new leadership, three of Chicago's police stations will close, including the station located at 2452 W. Belmont Ave. just two blocks south of Lane.

These closings are due to Emanuel's 2012 budget cuts for Chicago, which aims to save \$636 million. Police from these units will be taken from their original stations and spread out over Chicago, working in areas that have higher crime rates.

The three condemned stations were picked based on the age of their buildings, low crime rates of their surrounding areas, and the ability of neighboring stations to pick up what little slack the closed stations will leave behind.

Apart from the police station closings, Emanuel is also planning to reduce the five police detective areas of Chicago into three. Once all police officers have left, the Belmont station will be used as one of the three new detective headquarters.

Although officers at Belmont's station were told of the cuts six months ago, the idea of a different work environment is taking a while to get used to.

"People don't like change," said Officer Ratledge.

Ratledge and Officer Herrera, who both belong to the Belmont police station, agree that closing down the Belmont police station will cause

more problems for the officers who work there and the neighborhood it protects.

"For some people, it is getting there on particular days that can be hectic," said Herrera.

Not only will officers have a hard time getting to work, but cutting down the number of Chicago police stations might mean a longer wait for 911 callers who need help. If a station is taken out of a neighborhood and moved to another, then that neighborhood has no headquarters nearby to send help quickly and efficiently.

When the station is closed, Belmont officers will move to another police station on Halsted and Addison, which is already occupied by its own officers. Herrera and Ratledge worry that tensions might arise between officers when the Belmont station moves in on the Halsted station's "turf."

At the beginning of the school year, Mr. Jarka made a deal with the Belmont station, which sent officers to increase security at Lane. The deal included extra security at football and basketball games, weather permitting, and extra police cars patrolling after school.

"Students think I'm the bad guy," said Jarka. "They think they're mistrusted, but I just want them to be able to enjoy their campus."

Fortunately, all of the police officers that supervise school functions and roam the halls of Lane will remain in their current positions.

Inspirational posters pop up around Lane; offer students emotional support

By Agnieszka Chrzanowska

A few weeks before winter break, Lilah Mia Alkaisi, Div. 257, posted fliers around the school, with the words "Take what you need" printed on the front. The fliers had inspirational words written on little tear-off slips at the bottom of the page. With the help of Alexandra Alexandru, Div. 257, Bridgette Gomez, Div. 257, and Jasmine Hernandez, Div. 260, rushing to put the fliers around the school, Alkaisi was able to turn the day around for many students.

Perla Torres, Div. 252, admits to taking one of the slips when her emotions were slipping.

"It's one of those little things that can make your day," Torres said. "In a few hours the majority of [the slips] were gone."

Marie Christophell, Div. 364, also took a slip when she noticed a flier almost bare.

"I was feeling a little down and because

some were missing I figured I wasn't the only one. I took one to remind myself if other people can persevere through their tough times, then so can I," Christophell said.

Within days the fliers were taken down since they were not approved by the Student Activities office. Even so, they have left a lasting impression on some students.

"After I picked it, I wondered who actually took the time to do such a thing because it was a great idea," said Luis Rios, Div. 282. "It's one of those things that looks insignificant, but it can turn a person's mood around. It made me feel that I was not alone and it reminded me of the importance of having 'HOPE'."

Most Lane students may be intelligent but they are searching for something more ap-

pealing. Strength, freedom, or love: take what you need.



Posters offered support to students written on tear-off slips.

Lane drafting teacher whistles while he works

By Diana Barragan
& Julia Kulon

Before conversation, laughter and screams overtake the hallways of Lane, there is another type of sound that fills the air. It is softer and more musical. It is a whistle and it comes from the man who is known as the The Whistler, a name-sake that he has earned at other schools.

At Lane, he is first mostly Gary Rybicki of the Drafting Department.

While most teachers prepare for their classes in the mornings, Rybicki is typically heard whistling through the hallways.

"[Lane's hallways] like a giant auditorium, the sound just resonates off the walls," said Rybicki.

For Rybicki whistling is innate. Growing up, he remembers his father whistling in his free time.

"Now when I whistle, my father takes off his hearing aid because the amplification of the sound of my whistling has a higher pitch," said Rybicki.

A band director once suggested to Rybicki that he whistle competitively and enter a contest, but Rybicki declined the notion.

"I can't whistle in front of people because I would start laughing and smiling," said Rybicki, "To a certain extent, I whistle subconsciously."

Whistling, however, is considered to be a competitive sport. Every year since 1970 in April in Louisburg, North Carolina, talented whistlers from all over the world whistle against each other in a three day competition. These whistlers range from beginning amateurs to real champions. The contestants have the chance to compete in three different categories.

The Classical category is generally music from the considered masters of instrumental music. The Popular category, on the other hand, allows the competitors to choose from any popular music, such as jazz, spiritual, country or folk. The last category, Allied Arts, is not so much musical as it theatrical, allowing the individual to whistle a reenactment of a character or story.

Although Rybicki does not have a musical background, he does like to whistle certain favorite tunes such as the Canadian Anthem, Stars and Stripes Forever, the Gary Owen, or a Star Wars medley.

"If I watch a movie a number of times, and I like it, the theme song starts to stick with me," said Rybicki.

As easily as he can remember a tune, that is how easily the whistle leaves his lips.

"Sometimes, I worry in-between periods because I think 'Woah, I might be disturbing a class'," said Rybicki.

However, it seems like Rybicki does not have to worry about that. "A lot of people have commented [on my whistling]," said Rybicki.

"They've all been good comments."

For Rybicki, it's not about a competition. It's simply a part of him.



Mr. Rybicki fills the early morning halls with music.

"I just like hearing the sound, in a way it relaxes me," Rybicki said.

The next time you arrive at Lane a little too early, and you hear a whistle and see a man that looks a little bit like Santa Claus, have no fear it's The Whistler.

Santa Claus...err, mommy and daddy are coming to town

By Dirce Toca

He's a jolly good fellow, with a red suit and long white beard. If you were naughty this past year, he might have brought you a lump of coal. If you listened to your parents, nice. Your stocking was filled with presents. Ho-ho-ho. Merry Christmas.

But did you receive presents from Santa Claus or St. Nicholas? Who is the man in red? Here's how the story goes.

According to Yahoo! News, Saint Nicholas was the early Christian Saint who is the historical ancestor of Santa Claus. He was a bishop and was known for his generosity and love for children. Due to the Dutch's pronunciation, he came to be known as "Sinter Klaas." The term was carried by immigrants coming to America. The name "Santa Claus" became his alter ego.

In 1823, Clement Clarke Moore wrote a poem called "A Visit from St. Nicholas" which portrayed the Saint as a "jolly old elf". Forty years later, cartoonist Thomas Nast defined Santa Claus's image by draw-

"Well you want to know something? Santa is not even real. It's mom who wraps your gifts for you!"

ing him as a jolly old man with a white beard and red suit.

Santa Claus became associated with the Christmas holiday, giving children the idea that he only left presents under the tree if they went to bed early. But at one point or another, all these children stopped believing.

David Ulloa, Div. 459 was only six years old when he found out that the man behind that red suit was none other than his dad. That year, Ulloa had received a fish that sang *Don't worry, be happy*. It was only a few hours after that Ulloa set his toy down and Santa, a.k.a. Dad, accidentally stepped on it and broke it.

"I was so angry I started to cry and began hitting Santa. Then I pulled his beard and saw it was my dad. I cried even more," Ulloa said.

Another mishap with dad dressing up as Santa happened to Kassey Trahanas, Div. 265. Each year, Santa would visit and let the kids sit on his lap. However, Trahanas began to notice that every time Santa came, her dad would not be around. Her curiosity led her to follow Santa to the basement door from which he exited, but when she tried opening it, the door was locked.

"I waited when suddenly my dad come out of the door and asked if Santa was just here. But at the same time I'm thinking, 'he just came in the house, how did you not see him,' so I started crying," Trahanas said. "My mom tried to calm me down but finally said that this was part of growing up and to not tell my brother."

But what if your brother tells you instead?

Natalie Herrera, Div. 469, was eight years

old when her older brother burst her Santa bubble. Every year, the Herrera family spends Christmas together and wait until midnight to open presents. To kill time, Herrera's brother who was 13 at the time, asked her to play monopoly with him.

"I told him I'd rather play with my Bratz Dolls. But he kept begging and begging and I kept telling him no," Herrera said. "He got really mad and yelled saying 'Well you want to know something? Santa is not even real. It's mom who wraps your gifts for you!'"

With a lump in her throat and holding back tears, Herrera went to ask her mom if what her brother had told her was true. Without hesitation, Herrera's mom confirmed the sad news.

Even though some older siblings might have ruined innocent childhood beliefs, others actually play an important role in helping parents play Santa.

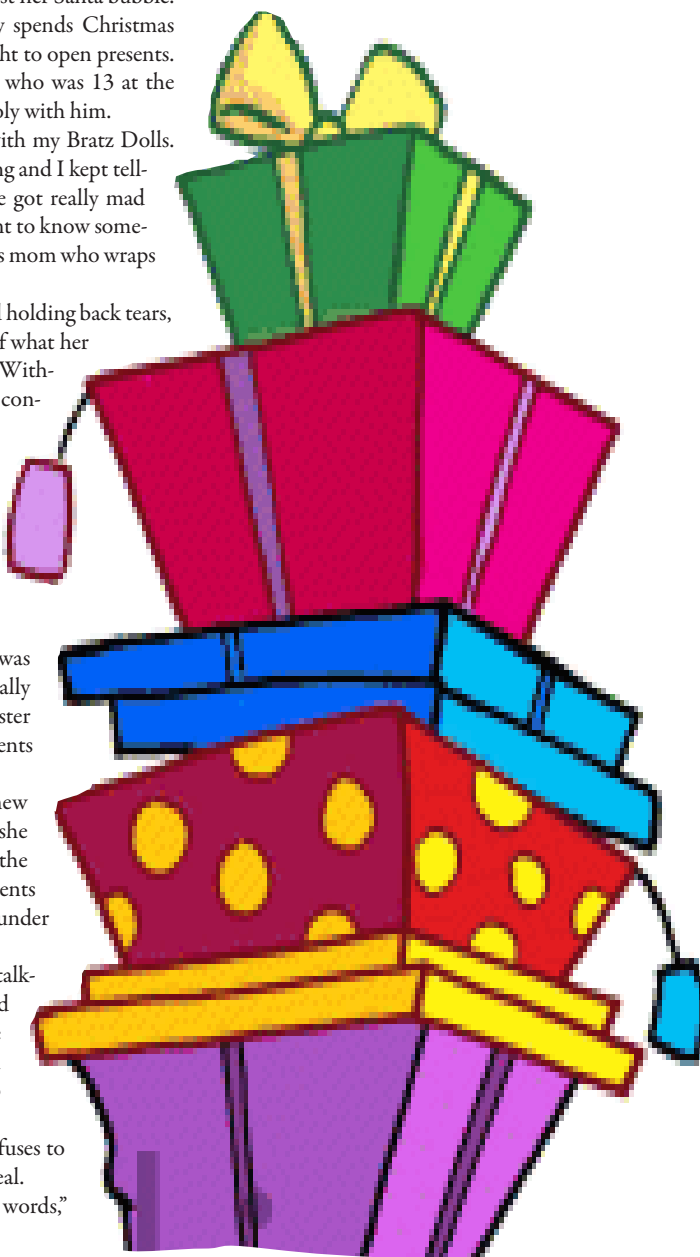
For example, Mikey Heath, Div. 253, found out Santa was not real when he accidentally overheard his mom and his sister discussing the Christmas presents they had yet to buy.

Heath's older sister already knew that Santa was not real, so she played spy, making it easier for the parents to find out what presents from "Santa" were to be put under the tree.

"Since I had heard them talking, I walked in the room and asked 'Wait, so you and dad are Santa?'" Heath said. "My mom didn't know how to react, so she started crying."

Till this day, Heath's mom refuses to admit that Santa Claus is not real.

"She will never say those words," Heath said.



Students celebrate untraditional holiday traditions

By Alexandria Martinez

Kasey Chronis, Div. 251, is usually anxiously awaiting her family's holiday traditions as soon as Thanksgiving is over. Chronis, like many other Lane students, does not just look forward to the gifts and goodies that come along with the holiday season; she also anticipates celebrating the fun, strange, and often quirky holiday traditions she shares with friends and family.

"Every year we [my family] go to my aunt's house on Christmas Eve and she hides a pickle ornament somewhere on her Christmas tree. Whoever finds the pickle first gets a small present," Chronis said.

Chronis makes sure she is the one to earn the prize.

"I normally win because when I get to her house, I go straight to her tree and start looking for the pickle while everyone is saying their hellos," Chronis said.

Chronis also shares holiday traditions with her family on New Years Day.

"On New Years, my grandma bakes a coin into a loaf of bread called a Vasilopita, and when it's done, we break the bread according to age. The oldest member of the family takes a piece first, and it goes in order until we get to the youngest. Whoever finds the coin in their piece of bread is supposed to have good luck for the rest of the year," said Chronis.

The Vasilopita coin is a common Greek Orthodox tradition, and is rumored to have begun at the end of the fourth century in Greece. The tradition still flourishes on New Year's Day in many Greek Orthodox homes.

Alexandra Pizarro, Div. 273, does not know how or why her quirky holiday tradition came about.

"My family throws pies at each other on New Year's Eve to bring luck for the New Year," Pizarro said. "We used to throw actual leftover pie, but

now we just use whipped cream pies."

Ariel Castro, Div. 260, participates in an ugly Christmas sweater contest that her family holds every Christmas.

"My dad started the tradition a couple of years ago, and it stuck. We get really into it, and try to out-do each other," Castro said. "Whoever wins gets a cash prize."

Mercedes Lee, Div. 262, and her family participate in a White Elephant, a spin-off on Secret Santa every Christmas. Everyone participating brings a wrapped gift, and the gifts are placed in the middle of a room. Then, everyone who brought a gift picks a number and when that number is called, they can either steal a gift from someone who has already picked a gift, or pick one up from the center. The process continues until there are no gifts left in the center of the room. The twist: The gifts have to be funny.

"One year, someone got a giant tooth," said Lee. "Another year someone got a bedpan...it was

thrown away as soon as it was opened, but it was pretty funny!"

Edyta Borek, Div. 257, celebrates the holidays the "Polish way," as she puts it.

"We basically celebrate Christmas Eve more than Christmas. We make traditional meals and we don't eat meat for some reason, so there's a lot of fish," Borek said. "But, before eating we read a passage from the Bible and pray, then break bread and go around the table wishing everyone good health."

At the Vo family household, holiday tradition doesn't start until Christmas morning.

"My family wears Christmas onesie-pajamas when we open presents. It's pretty funny," said Alex Vo, Div. 259.

So whether it's breaking the Vasilopita, or wearing an ugly sweater, holiday traditions prove to be fun for Lane students...no matter how wacky they may be.

Hearing loss could threaten music-loving generation

By Aisha Ali

Turn that down yo!

HUH? WHAT? WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!

Hearing loss is more common than ever before. According to a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association, nearly one in five American teenagers now suffers from some type of hearing loss, an increase of 31% since the mid-'90s. But, why is this happening? There is a wide range of causes that can be linked to hearing loss. Prolonged exposure to blasting music via earphones is one of these causes.

The world is getting increasingly noisy. It's getting harder and harder to listen clearly. And so many people take refuge from the cacophony by using earphones. Many Lane students can be seen with flashy headphones walking in the halls during passing periods. But what many people do not realize is that they are straining their ears when

blasting music.

"I like to hear the bass of the music so I have big headphones that I carry when I travel," said Kristina Guccione, Div. 385. "I like how you can hear the pounding and the bass, that's my favorite thing about them."

Media outlets promote the use of earphones by showing catchy advertisements with pop stars that show how to look "cool", in turn attracting the attention of teenagers. Suddenly everybody wants the new earphones, everybody has them. Now big headphones are looked upon in a positive light, but are they really safer than ear buds?

"When you have ear buds it's like the music is really going right into your ear. With bigger headphones it's more around your ear and its blocking out the other noise so you don't necessarily have to listen to it that loud," said Benjamin Vega, Div. 380.

Ms. Malinowski, a deaf and hard of hearing teacher at Lane, also believes that headphones are the better option.

"When you have those ear buds in, its shooting directly to your eardrum. The louder it is the more the vibration of the bones in the ear. With headphones, there's a way for some of the sound to escape or its muffled it's not a straight shot to your ear drum."

She believes that technology has improved the sound quality which results in louder levels in music leading to potential hearing loss.

"What happens when there's over exposure to loud music these little tiny bones in the ear will start to callous. when they callous they don't pick up the vibration that they normally would," she said.

The high frequency sounds are generally the first sounds that people start to lose. "Slight," hearing loss is defined as inability to hear at 16 to 24 decibels — or sounds such as a whisper or rustling leaves.

Continuous exposure to loud music is, "almost like continuously using a muscle," Ms. Malinowski said. "The muscle is going to be sore if you don't

rest it. You're probably going to damage it. If you pull a muscle you ice it and it'll mend itself. If you don't take care of it that muscle's going to rip and tear and you're going to create more damage. Likewise, when you consistently expose your ears to loud sounds or vibrations over extended periods of time the bones aren't going to pick up the vibrations as easily as they did."

A male junior that wishes to remain anonymous because he thinks others look down on individuals with hearing aids, says people are not appreciating what they have.

"I think people are taking everything for granted. I mean I would too. You don't realize what you have until you lose it, because I was five when I lost it. I just remember being able to hear everything perfectly and now its different. I didn't feel the change."

Although he did not lose hearing due to the extensive use of earphones, he knows how it feels to lose an important sense. He has experienced using hearing aids and having to read lips

and reading subtitles. He knows how it feels.

"Its like losing an arm, sometimes there's nothing you can do about it. A fake arm will only help you so far. That's how I feel, hearing aids will help you so much but it wont make it better. They aren't like glasses, once you put them on you see perfect."

"You have to be thankful for everything you have, like I'm thankful for my hair, there are people losing hair. You gotta realize what you have even if you haven't lost it yet," he said.

Another student who has lost their hearing is Hannah Fropolly Div 265. She lost her hearing genetically at the age of 1 and currently wears a cochlear implant.

"My advice to others is: be happy you can hear. Embrace that gift," Fropolly said.

So the next time you can hear someone's music playing, tell them to turn it down. Although they may hate you, you're actually doing them a big favor.

Band, orchestra, chorus display sibling rivalries

By Victoria Figueroa

The Lane Music Department has three children. Band is the first child; loud, rambunctious and lively. Orchestra is the second; disciplined, quieter and more relaxed. And the third child, Chorus, is constantly singing and always trying to have fun.

Like all siblings, the three branches of the music department are bound to clash.

But what are the differences? All three make music, don't they?

Well for one, band and orchestra members play an instrument.

"I guess it's the whole instrumentation of [the music] versus vocalization. In orchestra and band you are physically holding something," said Mylan Siscar, Div. 266, a cellist and a percussionist.

One difference between band and orchestra is that band has a larger variety of instruments. Each instrument makes its own sound and with all those different sounds, band members are able to enrich the music

they play. While band has over 10 instruments, orchestra has five at the most.

"In band we can do a lot more," percussionist Megan Guzman, Div. 362, said. "I think the music that [band plays] is a lot better."

Guzman believes that the wide variety of instruments and sounds is what makes band more capable of playing better music. She also points out the different groups that are within band: concert band, pep band, and symphonic band; all of which orchestra does not have.

Orchestra member Maeve McMahon, Div. 585 disagrees with the notion that band plays better music than orchestra does.

"Our pieces are more classical and band is a little more upbeat," McMahon said, "I like the pieces we play better."

Some musicians prefer to remain neutral on the matter, until they are asked to choose which branch of the music department is the best.

"With my friends we just joke around, but if it's having people choose between the

three, then yeah it's like 'no forget you, this is where it's at. Choir'," said Diana Chaidez Div.382.

Though there is competition between each branch of the music department, band, orchestra, and choir retain a level of respect for each other.

"[Each branch] is difficult at their own level," said baritone player Luis Vazquez, Div. 350. "I respect both groups."

Vazquez says it takes courage to sing and patience to learn to play an instrument for orchestra, both of which he doesn't think he can do. Vazquez points out the amount of time it would take to learn and memorize where to place his fingers on a violin and then learn all the different shifts in order to play a bigger instrument like the bass and the cello.

Though they may yell, scream and throw fits, the music departments three children love to perform and make music: something they will never disagree on.

Music Dept wins third in Glee give-a-note contest

Prize money of \$10,000 to be used for new tuxedos for boys' choir

By Erik Brito & Ben Palmer

In October and November, Lane students put aside their opinions of Glee to unite in an effort to win the Lane Tech Music Department up to \$50,000 from the show. The Glee Give a Note contest was Lane's chance to show off our squalor and win the department some much cash.

Evidently, the squalor wasn't squalorly enough. With 65,532 votes, Lane placed second in the contest, winning \$10,000 for music.

"Our goal was just to win a prize," said Mr. Mark Carrera. "We want to thank everyone for voting."

To prepare for the contest, the Carrera brothers wrote and filmed a parody of Bohemian Rhapsody, entitled "New Instrument Rhapsody." The boys of Advanced Mixed Chorus performed in the video, as well as various band and orchestra students.

Many Lane students used Facebook to spread the word, posting links to the video and voting site and urging friends to "support mu-

sic at Lane Tech!"

The administration even put aside the cell phone policy for a day when students were asked to vote on their phones during morning announcements.

Lane was enjoying its place at the top until, out of nowhere, tragedy struck. An Ohio school began to catch up in votes. The school had apparently been struck by a tornado, and needed the money a little more than Lane, according to interviewed students and staff.

Their video showed students crying, discussing their crushed love of music, and picking up the leftovers of their building, which lie in rubble completely destroyed.

"I mean, at first I felt bad for them," said Rebecca Lange, Div. 257, "but in a way every school has a reason for the things they need."

Lange added that "it was sort of unjust for them to win just because of tragedy."

The reason Lane likely didn't win as much money as some other schools was its lack of need. The contest only gave 10% of a school's final score to it's placing in the voting contest. The remaining 90% of the score reflected the video quality, creativity, and demonstrated

need.

As we demonstrated less need, we received only the second place prize. Lange says this is still fine with her.

"I feel like it's awesome we still got something," she said.

The money, M. Carrera says, will be split within the music department. Band, Orchestra, and Choir will each receive \$3000 while Guitar will receive \$1000.

"We'll probably buy tuxedos," said Mr. Paul Carrera, who heads the choir department with his brother Mark. "We're going to start with [the tuxedos] because we got [the money] from no where."

The cost for new tuxedos is over \$100, a price each male in choir had to pay. The Carreras say that tuxedos will now be available to rent for \$20-25 dollars, saving students money.

Bobby Linse, Div. 266, thinks that renting tuxedos makes much more sense for boys in choir.

"[The tuxedos] are really only meant [for performing,]" Linse said. "...Like you wouldn't wear that to prom or anything."



SUPER STUDENTS USE SUPER SKILLS TO GET INTO COLLEGE

NO LONGER IS BEING WELL-ROUNDED ENOUGH TO GET YOU INTO THE COLLEGE OF YOUR DREAMS



By Maximilian Albekier

Lane Tech - a school of Champions. A school of students who are well-rounded in their skills and interests. Top 90th percentile, varsity athlete, on the debate team; these are the students who colleges look for to recruit based on their achievements in high school.

For even many of these students, however, admissions counselors at their dream schools dismissively brush away their applications. Colleges are looking for students with noticeable "spikes" to whom they will award their big scholarships.

No longer is being well rounded enough to get students into their top choice of colleges. According to James Atlas of the New York Times, well rounded student's are not enough. As mentioned in his OpEd article on "Super Students" where he writes:

Even the most brilliant students have to work harder now... The competition for places in the upper tier of higher education is a lot tougher than it was in the 1960s and '70s, when having good grades and SAT scores in the high 1200s was generally sufficient to get you into a respectable college.

Students [who stand out for something REALLY

special] are known in college admissions circles as "pointy" — being well-rounded doesn't cut it anymore. You need to have a spike in your achievement chart.

Lane students should take note. You need to stand out in a pool of outstanding students. And this is not done through getting good grades alone. Just ask Megan Irving, Div. 278.

Although she dreamed of going to schools like University of Southern California (USC) and University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), Irving never imagined that it would be a real possibility. Irving was sitting at Tasty House when she received a call from UCLA asking her to apply.

"They heard that I was one of three finalist in the citywide play competition," Irving said. "Apparently it was enough for them to take notice of me."

Irving, who described her academic performance at Lane as "average at best" and her math skills "sub par," helped win colleges over with her skills in screenwriting.

Kemi Jibowu, Class of 2011, was also a student with a "spike." Her less than ideal ACT score of a 20 and "B" average GPA made it difficult for her resume to stand out in the stack of college applications.

When Jibowu was younger she played with her sister's drumsticks on everything around the house.

She joined the middle school band in the 6th grade and then started off her Merit school of music career in the 8th grade. Her achievements in the percussive field led to NIU's interest in her.

Lane Tech does have a few elite students that manage to do well in everything.

Daniel Schmitt, Div. 259, is currently ranked 4th in the Class of 2012. He is a varsity Cross Country and Track runner who has made positive contributions to the team. Schmitt has been noticed by both larger public universities and smaller schools due to academic performance and excellence in sport.

"I have a ton of college mail just sitting at home, and feel like I am constantly bombarded by their promotional materials and emails," Schmitt said.

Schmitt says his plans for college are similar to those he had for high school.

"I will look to take challenging classes, but also look to find a balance between academics and extracurricular [activities]," he said. "I am looking at studying environmental science, economics, or urban planning and hopefully staying in shape."

Kody Day, Div. 255, has a passion for horticulture. His unique skill set in this field is what made him stand out to colleges. It was the only spike he needed.

"I was a very lazy student," Day said. "I did coast

through much of high school, which I do not suggest."

Scoring a 24 on the ACT hardly made him stand out in a school where the average score is a 24.4.

"During my junior year I found my educational interest in horticulture," Day said. "Although, I didn't have many extracurricular activities through school, I do volunteer at The Plant Chicago, which is an aquaponic warehouse."

Day also maintains a large scale aquaponic system in his room.

"Michigan State offered me a few merit scholarships, a travel abroad scholarship, and many scholarships for my major," Day said. "In total, I probably received about 3/4 of my total tuition, room and board, et cetera, paid for and I haven't even applied for need-based grants or other scholarships."

Today, colleges are looking for students who have a strong academic base, but excel in specific areas. With the increase of college-bound students, admissions officers are digging deeper to get to know a student.

Schools are requiring personal statements and, often times, request a resume of accomplishments and extracurricular activities to see just how ready for college their applicant is.

SOPA legislation could tighten regulations on Internet

By Maximilian Albekier
& Claudia Maj

SOPA and PIPA, two proposed bills that could become laws may threaten how we use the Internet.

Both are acronyms for what may be the end of downloading music and movies without paying.

The Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and Protect IP Act (PIPA) are acts drawn up by Congress in efforts to stop copyright infringement and internet piracy.

The two acts were sponsored by major corporations in an effort to protect their merchandise. Companies such as NIKE, ABC, Disney, Viacom, and Tiffany & Co. have all made campaign contributions to the very congressmen and women who are to vote yes on the bill.

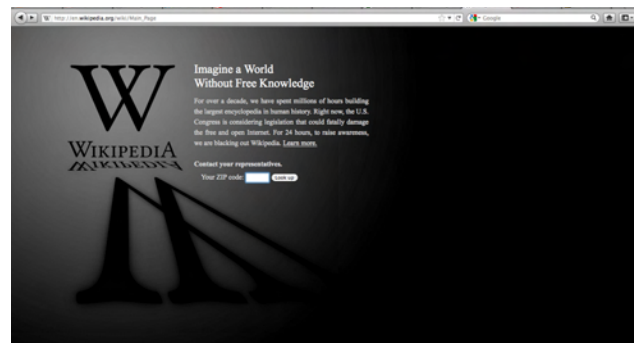
Under SOPA copyright holders could get court orders against websites accused of enabling or facilitating copyright infringement. Court orders against websites that post copyrighted material could

restrict online advertisers from doing business with the infringing website, crippling them financially. They could also bar search engines from linking to such sites, and requiring Internet service providers to block access to such sites. This would cut down drastically on the number of sites search engines like Yahoo! and Google could access.

In addition, SOPA could make unauthorized streaming of copyrighted content a crime, with a maximum penalty of five years in prison for ten such infringements within six months.

In protest against SOPA, websites like wikipedia, wordpress, craigslist, and mozilla went offline or posted blacked out homepages on Jan. 18 to bring attention to the bill. Google participated in SOPA blackout day as well by censoring their Google sign with a black box and posting a message to its users to tell Congress "Please don't censor the web."

Due to the large amount of negative press SOPA has recieved, Congress has been discouraged from voting on it. PIPA is scheduled to go to a vote on Jan. 24, but recent reports claim congressional support



for the bill has wained due to the unpopularity of the bill in the eyes of the public.

If either of the bills becomes law, certain websites like Facebook, Twitter, Yahoo, and Google could be at risk of getting blacklisted due to material on the sites that contain copyrighted or pirated material.

Three Lane seniors win Posse scholarships

By Airis Cervantes
& Alexandria Martinez

Noisy applause and excitement fills the crowded, dimly lit auditorium. Ninety-four students anxiously wait to walk across the stage to be awarded scholarships for college tuition from the Posse Foundation.

Included in the group are Lane seniors Ricardo Antonio, Div. 251, Jennifer Idrovo, Div. 281, and Richard Tran, Div. 280.

The three students were among many Lane students nominated for the award. After being nominated, the scholars underwent group interviews and worked their way up to one-on-one interviews with Posse staff. After being carefully considered, each was invited to the final round of interviews with representatives from the different colleges associated with Posse.

For over 20 years, the Posse Foundation, an organization dedicated to college access and leadership development, has awarded \$406 million to students all across the country. With Posse locations in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, New Orleans, and Washington D.C., the foundation has been able to nurture a support system for the students awarded.

As Posse scholars, Antonio, Idrovo and Tran all demonstrated exemplary academic success, leadership qualities, and personal accomplishments.

Ricardo Antonio will be a pre-med student at Denison University this fall. He was nominated by Mr. Vasek, a former Lane counselor.

"Mr. Vasek wanted to nominate someone with a high GPA, which I had, but really, Posse didn't require anything but leadership qualities and high school involvement," Antonio said.

He was on his way home from school, when he received a phone call from Posse.

"I didn't think I would be called back for the second interview,



Richard Tran, Div. 280.

never mind the last, and then I was selected! I didn't even want to pick up my phone. I was nervous," Antonio said.

Antonio worried that without the scholarship, the financial toll of going to college would be too much for his parents.

"If I didn't get into Denison I would be at [Wisconsin] Madison on student loans," said Antonio.

Posse granted Antonio with a full-ride excluding room and board.

"I'm still working on getting a scholarship from L.A.M.A.S. (Lovie and MaryAnne Smith Foundation) to pay for everything else," said Antonio

Antonio credits his brother for his inspiration and drive for success and cited his rather small family for making their bond stronger.

"My brother was the first person in our family to go to college and I don't know where I would be without him," said Antonio.

Ricardo Tran will be attending Oberlin College with his posse in the fall.

"I didn't believe it. Every single round I didn't think I was [going to] make it! I never wanted to set myself up for disaster," Tran said.

Tran received the phone call a day after his final interview when he was working. Five people from the Posse staff were on the phone with him to congratulate him with the news.

Tran is part of the Multi-cultural Youth Projects (MCYP), a branch of the Chinese Mutual Aid Association. The organization's mission is to "nurture and empower youth who embrace and act upon their potential to transform their lives and their communities."

"MCYP nominated me for the award," Tran said.

Tran knows the responsibility that comes

with being a Posse scholar.

"We're under more pressure. They want greatness," Tran said.

Jennifer Idrovo received her call from the Posse staff on Dec. 6 at 5:43p.m.

"I was a little nervous. My heart was racing!" Idrovo said.

From the beginning of the process, Idrovo knew there were about 2,700 nominees.

"I didn't want to get excited. I didn't want to get worked up about it," she said.

During the interviews with Posse, Idrovo told her story and "didn't hold back." She has been part of an organization called Teatro Americano for four years. The organization gives leadership opportunities to young students, while preparing them to perform a play every August.

"Jennifer is a leader. She just stands out," said Mrs. Hanly, English teacher and Idrovo's nominator. "Jennifer thinks beyond a normal teenager. She is always respectful and does beyond what she is asked for. She is an ideal student."

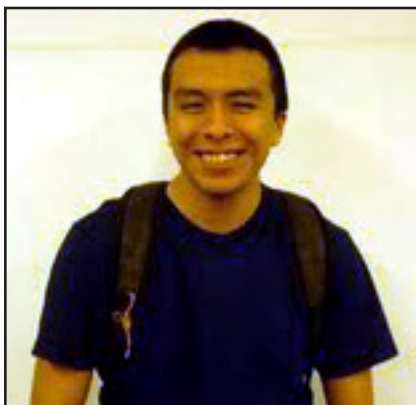
Although Posse is an added responsibility, Idrovo is looking forward to the pre-college training and the weekly meetings with her posse.

"It's great to be part of my posse. They're so cool and everyone has a story," Idrovo said.

"One of the [Posse] tag lines is 'It's more than a scholarship. We're in this for life'," Idrovo said. "I'm so excited for what's to come."



Jennifer Idrovo, Div. 281.



Ricardo Antonio, Div. 251.

Overweight students struggle to find confidence

By Diana Barragan

Kirsten Jacobsen, Div. 279 was walking down the sidewalk with her friends when she heard a car honk. HONK HONK HONK! She ignored it. HONKKK it blared again. She turned around only to hear the boys in the car yell in unison, “FAT ASS!”

“It’s something that happens once and then you forget it,” Jacobsen said.

Despite Jacobsen’s approachable personality and upbeat attitude, situations like this are common for her.

“When I wonder why people don’t like me, I automatically think it’s because of my appearance,” Jacobsen said.

Life for her has not been easy and the people that insult her are one of the reasons why.

To Jacobsen, everyone seems to have an opinion about everything, especially her weight. To this, Jacobsen says that people shouldn’t assume she is fat because she’s lazy. They have not been in her position.

From fifth grade to her freshman year, Jacobsen struggled with what she called “brink of suicide depression.”

“I was anorexic for a while and then I gave up on trying to not eat because it wasn’t working,” she said.

She entered Lane as a freshman already feeling defeated, but she began noticing girls who were built like her or much bigger who looked like they were happy. She soon made friends who told her she was beautiful in spite of her size. This gave her a surge of confidence she had never felt before.

Even though she has learned in recent years to feel better about herself, not every day is a good one.

“There are days when I wake up and ask ‘Why me?’ but then I try to remember that I’m perfect the way I am,” Jacobsen said.

Though she outwardly displays confidence with reminders like this, like many people in her situation, she still struggles to accept her body the way it is.

“I’m working out now because I want to be healthy...not to look different. I shouldn’t change my body, I should change how I feel about my body,” she said.

In spite of her persistent positive attitude, Jacobsen’s confidence gets tested more than she would like.

“You gain all this confidence and then you go out of the house and you see someone who you consider gorgeous and they hate themselves. What am I compared to them then?” Jacobsen said.

During her sophomore year, Jacobsen met a boy

and the two took an interest in each other. Despite his supposedly reciprocated feelings, he said that he could not take her out in public with him because of her weight. He said it would look weird if he dated her.

“It’s been tough being a chub, and I say that word affectionately, but my friends have been very supportive,” she said.

Even though her friends have been supportive, there are times when even their words can be unintentionally hurtful.

“I was talking to my friend about a guy I liked and I asked my friend ‘why doesn’t he like me?’ She said ‘There’s no reason for him not to because you’re great,’” Jacobsen explained.

Shortly after, a thin girl passed by the two of them and her friend said, “Well if you had a figure like hers then he would like you back.”

Though the comment was probably intended to be an indictment of the superficiality of boys and not an insult of Jacobsen, it still stung.

Nevertheless, she continues to show a brave face.

Jacobsen says her friends find it interesting that she has all this confidence, but admits she still worries about her appearance.

“At any given time I’m wearing two pairs of spanks underneath my pants,” she said.

Jacobsen added that she doesn’t own a pair of shorts, except for a pair of boxers and basketball shorts that she sleeps in.

Trying to accept her own body has proven easier-said than done. While dealing with rude comments from strangers and her own insecurities, she also experiences difficulties at home. Not only did she grow up in a family of “thin” people, Jacobsen says her mom can be a little “icky” to her.

“It sucks when you’re in front of your friends and your mom calls you a fat ass. My home life, because of my mom, is why I can’t gain or keep confidence,” Jacobsen said.

“Whenever I would come to her because I was hurt, she’d agree with those that insulted me or just ignore me. She makes fun of my weight when she’s angry because she wants to hurt me and she never apologizes,” she continued.

Although Jacobsen finds little or no consolation from her mom, she says that she can always count on her dad, who she considers her hero, to brighten her day.

“I guess you could say I’m a daddy’s girl. He’s the one who always tells me that if you’re a good enough person on the inside it doesn’t matter

what’s on the outside,” Jacobsen said.

Something else she has found that brings her comfort and confidence is singing. Jacobsen says that when she sings she feels in her heart that she’s in the spotlight.

“It’s my chance to prove something, and that something is that I have talents. In that moment it’s not what I look like. I’m just ‘a voice and voices don’t have bodies,’” she said.

While she might not like some parts of her appearance, Jacobsen says that doing her hair and make-up gives her the control that she does not have in other places.

“I got really good at doing my hair and make-up and I love doing it. It makes me feel beautiful when I create something that I think is beautiful in my eyes,” Jacobsen said.

In her ongoing quest to find confidence and acceptance, she continues to play the part.

“I try to seem as confident as I possibly can because I figure if I act it enough, then I’ll eventually become it,” Jacobsen said.

While Jacobsen is very willing to open up, there are others who are not. An anonymous senior says she has gone through similar feelings and experiences as Jacobsen because of her weight.

“I would want to perform in International Days, but obviously I can’t wear those costumes. Like Middle Eastern [Club’s] for example,” she said.

This anonymous senior has also started working out. Her main motive is to lose weight in time for prom, saying she doesn’t want to have to worry about her pictures. Along with dieting, the anonymous student is also choosing healthy alternatives to the typical burger and fries when she goes to McDonalds.

“Obviously, I want to change because it’s not healthy and it will make me feel better about myself,” she said.

Just as it has been for Jacobsen, gym class at Lane was not something that went smoothly for this anonymous senior.

“When I had swimming freshman year, I wouldn’t change in front of the other girls. I’d always go into a stall and change,” she said.

Jacobsen took the opposite approach last year as a junior when she signed up for Lane’s weight training class. The reactions of classmates were typically negative.

“Being a girl, I’m already looked at as weak, and so



Jacobsen strikes a pose.

being overweight just makes it worse,” she said.

In spite of the naysayers, Jacobsen continues to dream ambitiously. One thing she would like to do is to become a pin-up model in the style of models from the ‘40s and ‘50s. She finds the openness of the models from that era attractive.

“For one, they were curvier girls and they posed in ways that flaunted their assets and hid their insecurities. I just hope that one day the fashion industry accepts me as I am, or that I thin up,” said Jacobsen.

Easier grading scale leading to better grades

By Georgia Tankard

The new mandatory 10-point grading scale has spurred fresh attitudes among students, a transitioning period for teachers, and less complaining from parents.

The uniformity of the grading scale throughout school departments has aligned Lane with the grading scale of many elementary schools and other selective enrollment high schools.

“It looks to us like we are seeing a little bit of a shift upwards,” said Ms. Coorlas, a Lane counselor, regarding the recent quarter grades of students thus far.

Moreover, many Lane students have noticed changes with their own grades.

“My grades from this year are definitely higher. It is the most important year and the one that colleges look at the most,” said Moises Garcia, Div. 354. “It encourages me more because if this is a 10-point grading scale it makes it easier [for me] to get a higher grade.”

“I wish the grading scale had changed last year because I think I would have gotten straight A’s,” said Fikayo Masha, Div. 282. “My GPA would have been better.”

If the change had occurred during her Junior year, Masha believes it would have impacted her ability to get accepted to colleges because achieving an A might have been easier. Colleges didn’t see the complex grading system for each school, and thus “there is no way a college would know how hard you had to work for an

A,” Coorlas said.

“We would only send colleges explanations of our GPA but nothing describing the different scales in each department,” said Ms. Console, a Lane Counselor. “Every department was so different, but now that we are all uniform, colleges are now aware that we are using a 10-point grading scale.”

While there has been a slight shift upwards in student’s grades so far, according to Coorlas, grades this year may turn out to be similar to past years. Teachers are making their classes harder, and students get the mentality that “I could have done less and still gotten an A.”

“It makes me less motivated because I know that my grade will stay in the same range, [within the ten points],” said Mashaa.

During her senior year Masha admits to working less, and feeling more relaxed knowing that the scale is easier on her grades. This is a prime example of the Pygmalion effect; the belief that people perform better if expectations are higher.

Like Masha, many students are seeing a shift in attitude towards school.

“It has made me less inclined to do my work because there is more of a barrier between an A and a B,” said Jordan Ginsburg, Div 467.

Due to the 10 points between each letter grade, Ginsburg feels that she doesn’t have to work as hard.

“My parents were happy with the grading scale change because they thought I would do better,” said Ginsburg.

Hope Basil, Div. 354, believes that she is still working hard but the change in the grading scale has prompted less stress.

“This year is more important academically than last year and so I think I am stressing more than last year, but I think the grading scale has helped diminish that stress,” Basil said.

Mr. Lewis, an AP Human Geography teacher, feels like it is a teacher’s responsibility to motivate students. If he sees students showing an unsatisfactory work ethic, he acts accordingly.

“I think a student’s work ethic is dependent upon me and how I motivate them; you have to show students you care,” Lewis said.

While many students have noticed changes with their work ethic, the intention of the change in the grading scale was not to make school easier.

“We are not trying to make it easier for students, we are trying to make it fairer,” Coorlas said.

The change was made to comply with parental concerns about elementary students being at a disadvantage if they came to Lane, versus attending another selective enrollment school due to the grading scale.

“Essentially teachers are working at what is an A, B, C, D and F and what is a high level paper versus a low level one. Over the course of a few tests and grades given, we have to readjust our perspective on that,” said Mr. Bertenshaw, an English and AP Language and Composition teacher. “Instead of only having a five

point range you have a 10-point range for a paper to be strong in.”

While he feels that he may have to make changes to his tests in the future, Bertenshaw’s approach to grading essays remains the same.

“Students essays need to be really thorough, polished and exact in order to receive the highest grade, and that has always been my style,” Bertenshaw said.

Other teachers have made different changes.

“I’m adjusting how much of a curve I give on tests; in particular now [I’m] doing a reverse curve on tests where you get more of a curve the higher you score on a test,” Lewis said.

Based on the quarter grades Lewis noticed certain trends.

“I saw a lot of B’s and not enough A’s,” said Lewis. “It was hard to break into A territory because I was trying to be tough enough where the grades were pushed down but not over-inflated,” Lewis said.

With the change in the grading scale, Lewis felt he needed to be harsh on some

“I wish the grading scale had changed last year because I think I would have gotten straight A’s. My GPA would have been better.”
--Fikayo Masha, Div. 282.

level to ensure that not everyone was getting an A, and also had to change his mindset regarding what A level work is.

“If something is B work it deserves an 8 out of 10 now,” said Lewis. “What I have to look at is what students have been turning in to me and once I put several

grades in I see if these grades match with what I’ve been seeing in terms of work, performance on tests, what I think they can do on the AP exam. If the grades are too harsh, then maybe I decide to adjust it myself or give extra credit.”

As teachers adapt their own methods, they are relieved to receive fewer complaints from parents.

“This year I have not received a single email complaint from a parent,” said Mr. Golden, a Math teacher.

The change in Lane’s grading scale has brought about uniformity in the school and positive feedback from parents, teachers, and students.

Students face hardships of letting caffeine go

By Claudia Maj

An addict at 17; it is easy to fall into temptation, but this is not just any addiction solved by rehab. This white powder, in its natural form, can be purchased all around us, legally. Its name is caffeine.

As an experiment for this story, Christina Pacheco, Div. 367, agreed to go a full day without drinking any coffee. Pacheco drinks coffee when she wakes up, when she is on the bus before school, at lunch, after school, and during dinner, totalling up to 5 cups per day. She admitted that deprived of caffeine she might not be able to last the day.

"A day without coffee is a nightmare," Pacheco said. "I get drowsy, I can't concentrate, my temper flares up. The need is always there, chewing away at me, until I give up. It's like a drug. You always want more. You can stop it, but you don't want to."

The morning of Pacheco's caffeine-free day started off with her eating breakfast for the first time this school year, as opposed to just drinking coffee as she usually does. She ate a banana with strawberry yogurt and a granola bar.

"Food actually kept me going," she said.

Pacheco has P.E. second period, where she burned off her breakfast calories. Instead of getting a quick caffeine fix, she bought herself some water and traded her chocolate bar for a granola bar.

By fourth period she felt drowsy and started getting sleepy. She claims the worst part was when she realized she did not have any food to refuel. She asked her teacher to go to the bathroom and, once there, she jogged in circles until she felt awake.

"I think people in the stalls thought I was crazy, but oh well," she said.

Lunch was the hardest part of the day for Pacheco. Coffee is available at many stores and restaurants close to Lane. She had difficulty resisting the temptation.

"I swear [the coffee vendors] were calling my name," she joked.

Pacheco did not enter any stores where coffee was sold; instead she settled for Chinese food. Her final class of the day, physics, was a hard one to get through as well. Pacheco thinks she fell asleep but she is not sure.

"[The experiment] showed me that I don't always have to rely on caffeine, I'm going to try to cut down on it," she said.

Coffee has become a habit many students are not sure they can go without.

"Tired, dead, mad, angry," were some of the words Daniel Gosiewski, Div. 385, used to describe how his day without coffee would be.

Samantha Sullivan, Div. 376, even encountered some bad luck over bad coffee.

"One day, my coffee tasted [really bad], and I ended up

tripping over a cello and ended up in the emergency room," she said.

Some may think it was just an accident, but Sullivan blames her bad coffee, which she still drank all morning until the incident.

Although to some it may taste good, coffee does have its health risks.

Science teacher, Ms. Finchum, is surprised to see how many students at Lane walk in holding large cups of coffee. She herself started drinking coffee at the age of 13. Finchum also agreed to spend a day without drinking coffee.

While conducting the experiment she felt worn out and her day seemed long, but it was not as bad as she thought it would be.

"If I had to stop drinking coffee, I could. But do I want to? No," she said.

Withdrawal from caffeine can be difficult. Pacheco at one point in her life became addicted to an energy drink called Venom. She knew that the drink was bad for her so she decided to quit cold turkey.

"I stuck to water and juice and the first weeks were hell.

I couldn't sleep, my grades slipped, I was acting like a crazy lady," she said. Avoiding caffeine entirely was a bad idea. She began to drink coffee. After her failure to quit, she stopped feeling the need to stop because she would not go through with it again.

Not all Lane students turn to coffee when in need of an energy boost. Kylie Carlson and Olivia Clafford Div. 752, both dislike coffee.

"Coffee tastes oldish to me. I relate it with old tea," said Carlson who claims she could only drink coffee with a lot of cream and sugar. Her fellow classmate Clafford relates coffee to something else.

"[Coffee] tastes like liquor to me," Clafford said.

Both girls prefer to drink Gatorade or juice to help keep them awake.

WGN News aired a medical watch update on caffeine in December.

"Emergency room visits have skyrocketed of people who either consume energy drinks alone or combined with alcohol, massive amounts of caffeine in energy drinks lead to heart complications, dizziness, and headaches," the station reported.

To some, coffee is just a drink, to others it is the addicting substance that keeps them going. However health experts say caffeine and energy drinks do pose danger. In 2004, according to CBS News, researchers suggested that caffeine withdrawal should be included in the next edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of mental disorders.



Pacheco relies on coffee to keep her energized. Here she drinks her second bottle before division.

Excuses, excuses. Students have them down

By Marissa Higgs

Teenagers are clever, especially when it comes to getting out of trouble. Most, if not all, Lane students have used some kind of excuse for getting out of doing homework or for being late to class. While some stick with more common alibis, others use their quick wit to fool teachers.

Liliana June, Div. 572, loves her teachers and does not enjoy lying to them often. Still, even she admits to pulling out a couple handy excuses once in a while.

"I said that I turned in my homework and that they lost it," June said.

Her story was simple and worked, but she has witnessed a few more interesting excuses.

"A boy once said that his baby sister ate his homework. His baby sister was six months old," June said.

This was not the only person to use an excuse involving a baby.

Kleirizza Geronimo, Div. 250, once had

a class where another student used a similar excuse.

"This one kid told his English teacher that he works 40 hours a week and has a kid," Geronimo said.

The English teacher excused the boy from having to do his summer reading project because of the cover-up.

Ms. Ulmer, another English teacher, has taught at Lane for two years and in that time has heard her fair share of stories from students. A majority of the excuses her students have told her are similar.

"If I had a dollar for every time a student said that their printer broke, I'd be a rich woman," Ms. Ulmer said.

Mr. Piowarczyk has been a teacher for 33 years. Excuses are nothing new to him. He did however have one student who came up with an excuse that he remembers to this day.

"I had a kid that brought a note that said he didn't have his homework because he had a touch of cancer," Mr. Piowarczyk said.

While some of the excuses students give to teachers are entertaining, others can be a bit more serious. Matthew Peters, Div. 562, told his elementary school teacher a lie once to get out of trouble for not having his homework. It did not turn out as he had hoped.

"I used [the excuse] that one of my relatives died, but it happened like the year before. Then my teacher told my parents 'I'm sorry for the loss,' and I was caught," Peters said.

Grisel Medina, Div. 472, has discovered that the more elaborate her excuses are, the better they work. She is not necessarily proud of the fact that she has used them, but she does pride herself in her ability to make them up.

"I once told my teacher, 'my parents are divorced and I slept over at my dad's house yesterday but my books are at my mom's house. I'm really sorry but I couldn't ask to go back because they're not on speaking terms,'" Medina said.

Ms. Taitt has been teaching at Lane for 18 years, and has heard a variety of excuses

from students. She has caught onto the trick of using a long excuse.

"You can tell it's an excuse because it goes on and on. It's like a run-on sentence, it never ends," Taitt said.

When it comes to missing homework, plenty of Lane students find it easy to tell teachers that they left it in their lockers or at home.

Homework excuses, however, are not the only explanations heard around Lane on a daily basis. Students are late to class all the time and many are constantly thinking of new excuses to feed to their teachers.

"You can just put on a crying face and say you threw up last period and then ask to go to the nurse. There; it's an excuse for being late and to get out of the class," Medina said.

Not every student at Lane uses excuses that are as well thought out. Several students can get away with being late to class by saying that the security guards didn't open the doors when their lunch period ended, or that the kid in front of them was

walking slowly.

Although some teachers at Lane admit to knowing when a student is feeding them an excuse, that does not mean that they all call the student out. Others just want to believe that their students are fact telling the truth.

"Most of the time we know, but we want to give them the benefit of the doubt because we're so nice," Ms. Ulmer said.

While Ms. Ulmer may be one of the teachers who occasionally lets an unbelievable story slide, not all teachers are as forgiving. Ms. Paganelli is in her 8th year of teaching Italian and will often give the student a zero for not having an assignment. She does not have to deal with excuses regularly because of the relationship she has with her students.

"Most of the time I stress [to just be honest]," Ms. Paganelli said.

An excuse is just that: an excuse. The teacher who is told the story can either choose to believe the student or not. However, one thing is true: kids at Lane have come a long way from "my dog ate my homework."

Texting parents still not speaking teens' language

By Pres Harris

Your heart rate increases. You've just received a new text message, hoping it came from that special someone or even a friend. The message is lit up and you open it. Disappointingly, your parents are wondering where you are.

Whether they are limited to the "where are you?" text, or if they are prone to long conversations, there is no denying that parents text their kids. Unfortunately for parents, their texting habits may be viewed as awkward and unorthodox.

"...it's weird" said Jarvis Cleveland, Div. 274. "I don't like having long conversations with [my mom]."

In light of the conversation being "weird," Cleveland refuses to use common texting lingo with his mother.

"I don't send her any 'LOL's' even if it is funny" Cleveland said. "I basically text her to find out what we're eating."

While Cleveland refuses to use "LOL," Tyler Smith, Div. 568, receives "LOL's" from his parents regularly.

"They text me 'LOL' and they laugh at their own jokes" Smith said. "They tell stupid knock-knock jokes!"

Along with knock-knock jokes, it can also be amusing to see an older person who is very technologically savvy, or so they think. N'deyiah Corneh, Div. 576, commented on her mother's texting mishaps.

"I spell out all my words. She, on the other hand, thinks she knows acronyms and texting lingo so she abbreviates every other word; it's irritating," Corneh said. "She abbreviates 'love' with 'lv'- nobody does that."

Although technology is progressing, not every parent is accustomed to texting. Simon Negash, Div. 556, regrets helping his parents become more familiar with their phones.

"They never knew how to text, I taught

them how to text, and now they want to text all the time," Negash said. "They text me and when I don't text back, they constantly text me...they know where I am."

Negash's parents even use nicknames when addressing him.

"They try to act like they're cool," Negash said. "They text me like 'hey buddy', and I'm like 'what?!'"

Nina Hudson, Div. 473, is addressed by her father in a similar fashion.

"To start off the conversation, he texted me and said 'what's up booty loosey,'" Hudson said, "I was like 'I can't find my iPod' and he was like 'you're [out of luck].

Lmao I'm tweakin right now'."

Hudson sternly added that she "didn't want to talk to him."

While some find it unpleasant, not everyone finds texting their parents bothersome. According to Colin Winkelman, Div. 285, texting his dad is similar to texting his friends.

"He'll text me and be like 'what's up dawg,'" Winkelman said, "I text him like I text the rest of my bros."

For some students, texting their parents is no big deal. But for others, spending time "LOL"-ing at their parent's messages could easily pass as a hobby.

STAND-OUTS BREAK THROUGH CULTURAL BARRIERS

By Airis Cervantes

Straying away from the routine that one is accustomed to, is not a feat that most people challenge themselves to. Monica Juarez, Div. 275, a Hispanic girl, puts on a smile for the members of Cambodian Thai Club (CTC) when she heads to practice.

Like a green tree in autumn, one or a few people in almost every International Club at Lane are the odd ones out. In reality these "odd people" are different because they are not afraid to be outcasts. Many of these "stand outs" in their clubs appear to be very outgoing and willing to try new things.

Juarez is someone who gets positive energy from others and prefers people to just be themselves. Last year, Juarez proved to be an extrovert when she was one of only two Hispanic dancers in CTC.

"Monica was always really outgoing, which is probably the reason she joined in the first place. She got along with everyone well and she never seemed to be out of her comfort zone," said An-alyn Mendoza Div. 258, a member of CTC.

However appearances can be deceiving. Juarez still found it hard to break into the group's social network.

"I felt like they already knew each other. They were already part of their social group," she said.

Juarez was never invited to parties. During breaks at meetings other club members would dance to hip hop and she didn't dance along because she felt uncomfortable.

Some people who get anxious around strangers actually love being with others, in comparison to true introverts who find people exhausting. However, when someone is shy, people immediately assume the person is introverted. Although shyness is associated with introversion, it is not always the case. The "stand outs" of a club do not always consider themselves outgoing. Sometimes it is the opposite.

Damian Stachowski, Div. 277, considers himself a reserved person, but he does not appear that way when part of a club. Stachowski, a former member of German Club, decided to join Chinese Club when he realized that German Club was not for him.

"I didn't get along with the people. I couldn't break into their circle. I couldn't relate to them," Stachowski said.

Though last year Stachowski performed as a dancer for German Club, throughout the year he was also a member of Chinese Club because a couple of friends from the club encouraged him to join.

"I didn't know the people. There was a weird

ten-sion, but it went away. They were more my kind of people," Stachowski said.

Stachowski considers himself a person that keeps to himself, but the members of Chinese Club think otherwise.

"He can go into something new and not be awkward," said Daniel Doyle, Div. 250, member of Chinese Club.

Doyle admits that when Stachowski began as a dancer in the club he was more reserved, but when they began getting comfortable with each other at practices, he became part of the family.

In contrast, the members of CTC were a different group of people from Juarez's Hispanic friends, but her determination to be part of International Days motivated her to be part of the club. Members of CTC clearly noticed Juarez's eagerness to get involved.

"In the beginning, I think Monica was separated for a while and I think it did take her a while to get out of her comfort zone [because] she seemed so shy at first. But she warmed up to us after practices and after club bonding hangouts," said Princess Armentia, Div. 281, a member of CTC.

"She never excluded herself from the rest of us, even though it was her first year," said Elaine Quach, Div. 274.

When Juarez decided to tryout for the club again this year, she thought she had a better chance because she had already been a member of the club the previous year. However, she was disappointed when she didn't make it.

"I was upset. I liked the different people. It was nice to hang out with different people besides my Hispanic friends," Juarez said.

Bob Webb, a historian and scholar, wrote in his theory of Elements of Motivation that younger people find it easier to adjust to comfort zones, but as we age the ability to adapt becomes more difficult. If a person wants to grow and change, the person must first be dissatisfied with their comfort zone. All meaningful and permanent changes begin

with a day-dreaming and then they gradually become reality. Daydreams vividly show people what they truly want, until the old comfort zone is no longer acceptable. Juarez decided to change her lifestyle and step out of her comfort zone.

Many more students decided to break out of their shells as tryouts were hosted. Club officers were excited to select their dancers from the many students that tried out, and students had an overwhelmingly large range of clubs to choose from.

"I think because since [Aztlan] is a Mexican club, Hispanics are more attracted to join than other races," said Ulices Estrada, Div. 251, a member of Aztlan.

However, James Wenzel, Div. 267, was an exception to the Hispanics that tried out for Aztlan. Wenzel was encouraged to join the club by a division friend. Wenzel feels welcomed in his first year in Aztlan.

"It's not an exclusive club. There is no concept of 'you're Hispanic and I'm white'," said Wenzel.

Wenzel considers himself an outgoing person. Not only is he the minority in Aztlan, but he joined Jazz Combo without any musical experience.

"James is the kind of person anyone can talk to. You don't get a negative atmosphere from him," said Anthony Martinez, Div. 267, member of Aztlan.

At the beginning of the year, Wenzel wanted to try something new. In addition to Aztlan, he tried out for Filipino Club. Martinez thought Wenzel did exceptionally well in the Aztlan tryouts, but Wenzel did not make Filipino club although the Aztlan tryouts were harder. The steps in Aztlan were more complex and required a lot of endurance.

"I don't see how he didn't make the club," said Martinez.

Not only did students have many clubs to choose from, but club officers also had many students

to choose from. Students ask themselves how officers made such difficult decisions.

"Since [the dancers that get accepted into the club] are more familiar with the music and the culture, they tend to comprehend a little bit better," said Shrasta Tamraker, Div. 262, president of Indian Club.

When the clubs appear to have the majority of members the same race, it causes controversy. Martinez believes that clubs that have a minority want to create a sense of sameness and therefore they will be unique from the rest of the clubs.

"There shouldn't be race issues for [International Days]. I mean Lane is such a diverse school, I don't see why that should be an issue," said Jasmine Grullon, Div. 272, co-president of Pakistani club.

During tryouts, when the individual attention of experienced dancers is given to inexperienced dancers, the pressure is high.

"People feel intimidated, but it's mostly in their heads," said Erika Felix, Div. 251, vice president of Guatemalan club.

Bria Perry, an African American girl however did not feel intimidated when joining a Hispanic club.

"The first time I danced Latin dances was at [OLAS] tryouts and I ended up catching on pretty fast," Perry said.

Perry considers herself a people person, but she has to admit that she was nervous at tryouts and the first practice.

"It was nerve-racking. [Students trying out] knew the steps and it was all seniors teaching the dance," said Perry.

Coming into the club, Perry never thought the club made her uncomfortable. She never felt like the only African American person.

"It's not the race of the people, it's the connection that I have. The connection that I have with OLAS is deeper than race. It's a love for dance, music, and art that I share with the other members. That connection completely overlooks any difference in background," Perry said.

A member of OLAS, Edgar Diaz, Div. 271, knows that Perry is devoted to the club and her personality helps her fit in.

"Her relaxed nature helps to create a comfortable relaxed feeling: that feeling that the entire club is a family, which is good for the new members who come in [a little] nervous at first," said Diaz.

It comes as no surprise that most students who break through cultural walls and cross into new boundaries are friendly, cheerful people with a natural sense of curiosity and adventure.



Students overcome absence of parent



By Mary Presley

"I was in her room at the hospital about to grab the laptop to get on Facebook, but something told me not to. My grandmother and I stood beside my mom as her breathing continued to get slower and slower. It was taking a long time for my mom to breathe but when she finally did I was relieved. I knew it was her last breath. I kissed her on the cheek and said 'I love you Mama,'" said Ivelisse Negron, Div. 281.

Diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007, Negron's mother was told in August of 2009 she had one year to live. Sadly she did not make it to the end of that year, and passed away in December of 2009.

Many students at Lane have experienced the pain caused by an absent parent whether from death, illness, or separation. These absences have left a painful lasting impression on the lives of these students, yet they have persevered and grown stronger because of them.

"I'm still grieving over the death of my mother, but I try to stay positive. It never gets easy, but you get stronger," Negron said.

Grief is a natural reaction to death and other loss. Helping teens accept the reality of the situation allows them to grieve more and move on in life.

To help her grieve, Negron depended on the support of her family and friends.

"My family and I were there to talk to and be there for each other. We were okay with [her death] because we knew God wanted it to be that way," Negron said.

Grieving is a different experience for each person.

"When I'm in front of people I do not like to cry, but when I'm alone I will let it all out," Negron said. "My mom wouldn't have wanted me walking around depressed, crying, and having people pity me. That's not what I would have wanted either."

Her dad preferred to mourn privately as well. He did not cry in front of Negron. Instead he wanted to go to Puerto Rico to be close with his brothers.

Her brother also put on a stoic face.

"I do not have a problem talking about [my mother's death], but my brother acts as if he doesn't want it to be known. He hides his feelings. I didn't go back to school for a week after my mom died, but he went back a couple days later," Negron said.

Grieving does not last forever, but unexpected things can trigger old memories. For Negron, things such as smells, sounds, physical sensations, or even events bring flashback memories of her mother, which stimulate old emotions.

"I just got my braces off and I wanted my mom to be there with me because she was there when I first got them. I still wish she was here," Negron said.

In remembrance of her mom, Negron's friends and family decorated a white Christmas tree with pink ribbons symbolizing Negron's mother's struggle with breast cancer.

Feelings of loss also result for students whose parents split up. According to the Women's and Children's health network, a family breaking up is like a death.

"It makes me sad that my parents are not together, but everything happens for a reason," said Victoria Gruenewald, Div. 265.

When Gruenewald was only four years old, her mom left her dad because she discovered he was homosexual. By the power

of the state, Gruenewald's dad received full custody of her and her sister because her mom suffered from multiple sclerosis, an autoimmune disease that affects the brain and spinal cord. Now Gruenewald's mom has remarried and lives in Pennsylvania where her husband's family lives.

When a serious illness strikes a parent it is always a confusing matter for children. For teens that confusion can be compounded by a desire to help.

"My mom has gotten really sick. She is in a wheel chair and it is hard for her to do things normal people do," said Gruenewald. "This summer I'm going to move to Pennsylvania and go to college there so I can better help take care of her."

Growing up having a homosexual dad and no mother in the house, Gruenewald encountered many obstacles.

"I got teased in elementary school because my dad was gay," Gruenewald said. "I did not understand why they were making fun of me. It is not like I was gay. They were just making fun of someone I loved. I didn't have a problem with my dad being gay. I just wanted a normal family."

While a parent's illness is an enormous burden on all members of the family, it can weigh heaviest on children who depend on a parent for their physical survival and emotional well-being.

Even though Gruenewald's happiness for her parents comes from their happiness being apart, Gruenewald's older sister still has not fully come to terms with her mom leaving them.

"I do not remember my mom and dad actually being together. My sister, who was eight at the time of the split had the experience of being with my mom growing up, so it took her a long time to get used to her not being here anymore. My sister still has not forgiven my mom fully," Gruenewald said.

Most students suffer a broken bond with their absent parent, but for others the bond has never been there.

The parents of Zumiya Gomez, Div. 251, have been separated since she was a baby. The three words she chose off the top of her head to describe her father were "drunk, tall and cruel."

"I feel like my dad doesn't really know me, so I can't say he loves me," said Gomez, who sees her dad three times a year.

Due to her dad's heavy alcohol use, Gomez's mother stopped trusting Gomez's father. She does not know if Gomez will be safe when visiting her father, and worries until she returns.

Growing up without her father around much, Gomez never had a chance to enjoy father and daughter dances, which always made her feel left out.

"I used to find excuses for my dad as to why he lied to me, but as I got older it made me sad," Gomez said. "I felt like he didn't care about me."

The absence of her father caused even bigger problems in Gomez's life which eventually led her to therapy.

"I went to therapy because of other stuff but not having a father made things worse," Gomez said. "I blamed him for almost everything."

Gomez's issues with her father started to create noticeable problems in her dating life.

"If my father couldn't be there for me, why should I trust a guy to be there for me?" Gomez said. "When a guy lies to me

I can tell because my father use to always lie to me when I was little."

Even though Gomez faced many challenges because of the emotional and physical absence of her dad, she has learned from her mom to be more independent.

Adolescence alone can be a difficult time for teens, but having to grieve over an absent loved one can add complications to the teen years.

In situations of separated parents, teenagers often take on a lot of extra responsibility in their households.

Jennifer Diaz, Div. 577, has many responsibilities because her parents are separated. She has not seen her mom in a year as her mom moved to Texas in search of a better job.

"I'm still grieving over the death of my mother but I try to stay positive. It never gets easy, but you get stronger."
-- Ivelisse Negron, Div. 281.

"In the mornings I have to wake my little sister up, so I can do her hair and get her dressed. I take her to Communion, and pick her up from soccer practice," Diaz said. "Sometimes it is a lot of pressure because I have school, homework, chores, and then I have to watch everything I do because my sister, who is nine, follows in my footsteps. I have to help cook because my dad is not that good at cooking, but my 14-year-old brother also helps out a lot."

Complicating the hardships of growing up with an absent parent can occur when the child is embarrassed or ashamed of the absent parent.

An anonymous student has a father who has been in and out of jail, and the student's life, since he was seven years old.

"He is not in my life anymore and I do not miss him because of the reason he is in jail. When he was not in jail, he still was not there for me and my mom," said the student.

Based on these experiences, the student does not believe a boy needs a father in his life if he has other family members that can be father figures instead.

"My uncles have always been there for me since I was a kid," he said.

Though he is quick to say he does not need his father, the student admits that things were financially easier when his dad was around.

"The only one working is my mom and she has to support four children. When my dad was around it was better than it is now. We get by, but it is a struggle," he said.

Another student who wishes to remain anonymous said her parents were never married. They went their separate ways when her father was not able to be there for her mom when she got pregnant. Never really seeing her parents together seems to have made it easier in a way.

"It does not bother me that my parents are not together. It has been so long that I'm kind of numb about the whole situation. My parents being together is not something I wish for," she said.

She also says that she sees her father's money more than she sees him.

Having a parent taken away due to death, divorce, or incarceration can make a child vulnerable to grief, emotional stress, withdrawal, and discontentment. Given time and support, these children can find the strength to push past such hardships, even if there is only one parent available to lean on for support.





STUDENT RECEIPT

2501 W. ADDISON ST.
BUDGET OFFICE

STANDARD FEE	\$195.00
FOREIGN LANGUAGE FEE	\$15.00
ENGLISH WORKBOOK	\$14.00
BAND, CHORUS, & ORCHESTRA FEE	\$60.00
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FEE	\$60.00
CERAMIC ART & PHOTOGRAPHY FEE	\$65.00
YEARBOOK	\$45.00
SENIOR FEE	\$70.00
AP DEPOSIT -PER CLASS-	\$10.00
MUSIC THEORY WORKBOOK	\$14.00
GYM SHORTS	\$10.00
GYM SHIRT	\$7.00
~~~~~	
TOTAL:	\$565.00

Nicole Ortiz, Div. 279, did not think a public high school education had a price tag. Going to school is supposed to be free, but what disappeared from her wallet over the course of four years tells a different story.

"There's a reason I'm not going to a private school," Ortiz said, angry that she can hardly afford to pay for a "public" education.

A public education is supported by public funds allowing students to go to school for free. Even so, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) often develops a need for extra funds. In today's harsh economic climate it seems everything has a price.

Ortiz has a school debt of about \$400. With her single mother supporting six other children, the cost of Ortiz's education is often an issue.

"I have been in debt since freshman year but was denied free or reduced lunch. The lunch form is also used as an indicator of how much the student will pay for other school-related fees. Students who have a free or reduced lunch status are eligible for AP and college application fee waivers.

"We have no say in how the [lunch] status is generated. If someone is not happy with their status they can come back and fill out another

lunch form," said Ms. Rzadzki, Business Manager in the Budget Office.

Students can also apply for a standard fee reduction in the Budget Office if they cannot afford the \$195 fee.

Decisions handed down from the Budget Office are often perceived by students as unfair. However, it has very little say in where and how the standard fee money is used.

"I don't have anything to do with the choices," Rzadzki said. "The LSC [Local School Council] 'okays' the \$195 standard fee, not me. We are one of the cheapest selective enrollment schools in Chicago."

Walter Payton College Prep's standard fee ranges from \$275 to \$360, depending on whether the student is a freshman or a senior. These prices do not include extraneous purchases like AP class fees.

The collected standard fee at Lane is put into a separate fund away from any other money. The money in that fund can only be used for the assigned items listed on the Standard Fee Statement. Some things on this list include: fees for biology, computer education, counseling, handbooks, library maintenance, physical education, ROTC, and testing.

Lane also receives money from CPS. The amount given out by CPS is based on school size. This money is used to help pay for maintenance and supplies. Since Lane is so large, the funds from CPS cannot cover all school costs. This leaves students paying for part of their education.

A huge cause of rising debts at Lane is when students return text books late or not at all. When a student does not return a book, the original price of the book is added to the student's debt. Since book prices have risen, Lane replaces the lost book at a higher cost than the amount billed to the student. Lane loses money in the transaction.

"Seniors want to return books from their freshman year. By that time, we have already replaced the books using school funds," Rzadzki said. "The school is in the hole."

"When books are brought back to school on time, money does not need to be used to renew them. The money can be used for something useful," Rzadzki said.

Gabriel Mendoza, Div. 273, is one of the students who has not yet returned one of his books. Mendoza lost a geom-

etry book sophomore year that has still not been retrieved, but this is not all that is jacking up his \$700 school debt.

"I have unpaid standard fees from sophomore, junior, and senior year," he said.

Mendoza's family makes enough money to buy only necessities, which is problematic for Mendoza. He knows he will be able to pay off his debt eventually, but also understands it will not happen overnight.

Mendoza not only worries about his current debt, but finds senior year especially stressful.

Prom, senior luncheon, senior fee, and other senior expenses all contribute to the monetary issues.

"It all adds up," Mendoza said. "I try not to think about it, but how will I afford all these things? It's bull sugar."

The annual transportation fee, which pays for an athlete's transportation costs from Lane, has also been a major problem for Mendoza.

"I'm an athlete," he said. "I run cross country and track and have almost been kicked off my teams because I couldn't pay the fee at one point."

Since sports are one of Mendoza's priorities, he paid his transportation

fees but continues to put aside other debts until he can come up with more money.

Mendoza mentioned that another "big hit on students," was the CPS budget cut a year ago that eliminated various extracurricular activities and sports. Athletic teams, consequently, have been left to pay for more of their own expenses.

"Money doesn't buy happiness but it sure can help," Mendoza said. "We need to pay to get involved in school. If we don't get involved we won't have experience in the real world."

Last year in May, students organized rallies in downtown Chicago to save their education and their wallets. Part of the problem was their own expenses rising because of the lack of CPS funds for books, supplies, and teachers salaries. The other part of the issue was what they would be denied in the educational world.

"We shouldn't have to pay to learn. There's enough money to fund our schools," said Juan Martinez, Div. 261. "Our state 'leaders' just choose to use the money for other things. [Students] shouldn't have to pay at all if they're getting amazing scores and doing the best they can do in their high school environment."

***"We shouldn't have to pay to learn. There's enough money to fund our schools," said Juan Martinez, Div. 261. "Our state 'leaders' just choose to use the money for other things."***



# Tug of war between light skin, dark skin splits races apart

By Cherrell Anderson

In his early 90s hit, Michael Jackson sang, "It don't matter if you're black or white." Maybe he should have also sung, "It don't matter if you're dark skinned or light skinned." Skin color has not only caused tension between races for years, but also within races, notably with African Americans.

The term "colorism" refers to lighter skin tones being favored and darker skin tones being considered less desirable.

"People look at light skinned people as cleaner and the darker people are seen as ghetto," said Brandon George, Div. 250, who is dark skinned.

"For light skinned people, [stereotypes] are that they are more mixed, attractive, conceited, self centered, and arrogant. For dark skinned people, they are either ugly or 'decent,' and have a good personality," said Ashley White, Div. 264.

In Hispanic cultures, stereotypes about light skin and dark skin have a lot to do with social status.

Brenda Corona, Div. 251, is from Jalisco, Mexico, where most Mexicans are light skinned and have light colored eyes.

"Jalisco is more developed because it has a lot of main cities. The people there look white, so others assume they have more money and they look at darker Mexicans and think they're lower-class," said Corona.

Some students at Lane have been labeled with these stereotypes.

"Freshman year, a lot of dark skinned girls would give me dirty looks and I barely knew them," said Emily Christmas, Div. 276, who is light skinned and multi-ethnic, consisting of Polish, Czech, Croatian, and African American. "One girl called me fake and said I thought I was better than everyone else because I'm mixed, which is absolutely not true!"

People often learn at an early age that skin tone is an issue in society. White felt less attractive in her dark skin because she was always more attracted to lighter skinned people. White remembered the jokes her own friends would make towards her skin tone.

"If it was nighttime, [my friends] would say something like, 'Where did Ashley go?' White said. "In the summer, when I was a little darker, one of my friends said I looked like I was 'fresh out of Africa' and that I'm almost as black as the shirt I'm wearing," said White. "We insulted each other all the time so it didn't bother me; I've heard it all before so it was just another dark skinned joke."

When White was younger, she wished that her skin was lighter.

"Years ago, if I could have [changed my skin tone] I would have been light skinned, but not anymore. I learned that my black is beautiful," White says with a laugh.

Not everyone is as accepting of their skin color as White, and some try to change it. While skin care brands like AMBI (which is targeted towards African American women) and Clinique are used to even skin tones and fade blemishes, freckles, and other dark marks, "skin whiteners" are now being manufactured.

In January of 2011, Jamaican dancehall artist, Vybz Kartel, made headlines when he appeared several shades lighter than his normal dark brown complexion. Kartel claimed to have used cake soap (a clothes-bleaching product) to lighten his skin.

Kartel told Vibe magazine, "When black women stop straightening their hair and wearing wigs and weaves, when white women stop getting lip and butt injections and implants... then I'll stop using the cake soap and we'll all live naturally ever after," in response to the criticism of his new image.

When Blue Power Group, a Jamaican manufacturer of cake soap denied that it could bleach skin, Kartel said he actually used his own concoction which will be available as a men's line under the Vybz label, according to theybf.com (The Young, Black, and Fabulous).

Among the products in the "Vybz" product line are a skin brightener and body brightening soap. Kartel plans to market his products in the Caribbean first. (Kartel, however, was recently imprisoned in Jamaica after being charged with murder, presumably putting a delay on his plans as a businessman).

The main ingredient for skin lightening creams is hydroquinone, a dangerous chemical and bleaching agent, according to MedicineNet.com. While some people have benefited from using the chemical, using an excessive amount of it, however, resulted in skin peeling, and even turning the skin darker than its original color.

According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), "Approximately 65 companies sell over 200 different types of skin-lightening products containing hydroquinone in the U.S." Hydroquinone is banned in the UK, but its products are popular in Asian and African cosmetic markets.

The cases of skin bleaching further proves that skin color can be a bitter subject.

When Khadijah Lockhart, Div. 370 was growing up, she recalls that the black guys would always go for the light skinned black girls. Lockhart herself is light skinned, and says she received a lot of attention from guys.

"Dark skinned girls would always say that I think I'm all that' because I'm light skinned and have long hair," said Lockhart. "It hurt because I felt like they were judging me based on my skin color."

"I think it's absurd that my cousin, who is dark, often gets told 'Wow, you're pretty for a dark girl,'" said Natalie Frazier, Div. 280.

When it comes to dating light skinned or dark skinned people, some African Americans say they have no preference while others are more particular.

"I do think light skinned people look better than dark skinned people," said White

"I don't discriminate, but I love a chocolate boy," said Monique Paul, Div. 452. "But I'd also date a dark chocolate boy in a heartbeat."

"I personally am more attracted to light skinned people," said Diamond Brown, Div. 364. "It doesn't mean I don't find darker people attractive; it certainly isn't prejudice."

An anonymous light skinned African American male student, stereotyped dark skinned girls as, "easier to pull," meaning they are more sexually available than light skinned girls. His comment triggered gasps and shocked reactions from both light and dark skinned girls sitting in desks near him.

"From personal experience, more dark skinned girls get sprung on me faster," said the anonymous student.

Brandon George, Div. 250 added, "Since dark skinned girls usually get less attention, it's like they're thirsty for attention sometimes."

This rivalry between dark and light skinned people is nothing new, tracing some of its roots to the days of slavery. The website for PBS reports on the distinction between the "field slaves" and the "house slaves" in its "Conditions of antebellum slavery" section. The field slaves were more than likely dark skinned blacks and were forced to work outdoors. The house slaves were typically fair skinned blacks, usually descendants from the white slave owners. These slaves were allowed to work in the owner's home, had access to better food, and were often allowed to have an education.

More evidence of the presence of this prejudice throughout history can be found in music of certain periods. For example, in 1951, African American blues singer, Big Bill Broonzy, sang a song titled, "Black, Brown, and White Blues" about America's Jim Crow laws. Some of its lyrics include:

*"If you is ubite, you's alright,  
If you's broun, stick around,  
But if you's black, bmmmm, bmmmm, brother,  
Get back, get back, get back."*

The belief that "the lighter the better" continued long after slavery and Jim Crow. It has shown up in other areas of pop culture.

Film mogul, Spike Lee, made a film in 1988 entitled *School Daze* based on his experiences at historically black colleges and universities. In one of its most famous scenes, a sorority (consisting of mostly light skinned females, all of whom had long, and/or straightened hair) clashed with other female students, most of whom were dark skinned and wore their hair naturally. Sorority members called the non-affiliated students "jigaboos," an ethnic slur for black people with stereotypical, black features (dark skin, wide nose, and big lips) and in return, they were referred to as "wanna-bes," meaning "wanna-be white."

In the film, Lee also satirizes the "brown paper bag test," which was commonly used in the early 1900s by African American and Creole fraternities and sororities. These groups would not accept anyone whose skin tone was darker than a paper lunch bag in order to maintain its standards.

The entertainment business seems to encourage the separation between light and dark skinned people, going back to the early years of film when the role of maids were predominately played by dark skinned black women, to present-day movies, television and music.

"You'll see the more successful person in a movie is light skinned and the darker skinned person is struggling," said Lockhart.

"The light skinned people are the center of attention [in the media]," said George. "The dark skinned person has to be really good at what they do... at least more talented than the light skinned person."

On the online blog *Rhymes With Snitch* a new Tyler Perry movie was being discussed and some accused Perry of continually giving his light skinned actors a positive image and dark skinned actors a negative one. It was noted that in *Why Did I Get Married*, the darkest main female's role was loud, ghetto, and violent, while the lighter main female characters were pleasant, soft spoken, and noticeably intelligent.

The same stereotypes persist in the music industry as well.

"I think about the music I listen where 'red bone' and light skinned people are mentioned as being sexy and wanted," said White

Usually in rap and hip-hop songs, light skinned females are sometimes called 'red bones' or 'yellow bones' and they are referred to as being the most desirable. A few examples are as follows:

*"...I'm looking for a yellow bone, long haired star..."* - Soulja Boy's *Pretty Boy Swag*

*"...I like a long haired, thick, redbone..."* - Lil Wayne's *Every Girl*



*"...Beautiful black woman, I bet she looks better red..."* - Lil Wayne's *Right Above It*

The hip-hop documentary *Complexion Obsession* discusses the domination of light skinned, exotic women and the lack of dark skinned women in rap videos.

Stereotypes about light skin and dark skin are also present in Hispanic cultures as well.

"In some soap operas, the light skinned characters are nice and the dark skinned characters are evil," said Catherine Jimenez, Div. 377.

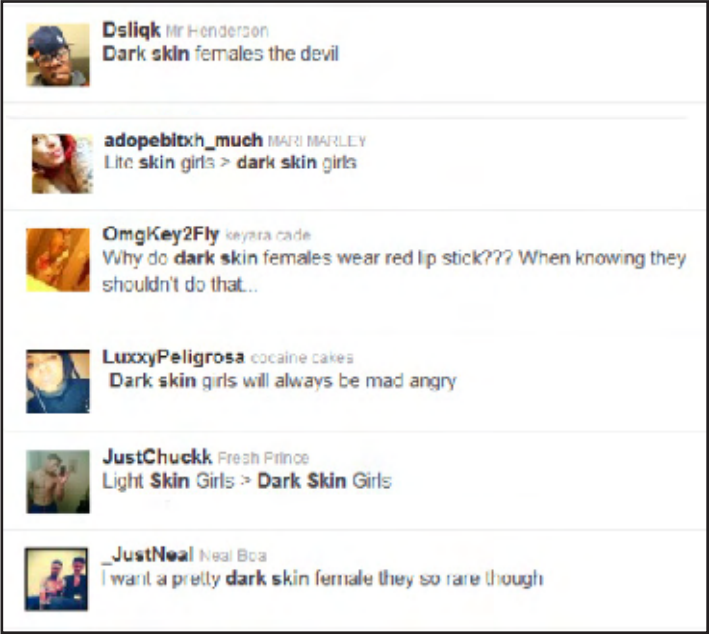
This light skin vs. dark skin battle can be seen on social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Usually made by African American teenagers, groups have appeared on Facebook with names such as "Team Light Skin" and "Team Dark Skin," and its Twitter equivalent #TeamDarkSkin and #TeamLightSkin.

The Twitter hashtags inspired club promoters in Columbus, OH. These promoters decided to create a party themed around skin tone differences, called the "Light Skin VS. Dark Skin Party." Both light skinned and dark skinned males and females were to attend and it was held on January 21, a few days after the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday.

"That's just ridiculous to me," said Paul. "I really would like to get five minutes with the idiots who made it."

"It's degrading," Christmas said. "African Americans have come so far from not having rights and struggling just to earn those rights, but instead we choose to have hate among ourselves because one person is lighter than the other. It's just a waste of everything our ancestors went through to get us equal rights."

The documentary *Dark Girls*, directed by Bill Duke, explores the biases and



Feelings about dark skin are expressed by youth through Twitter.

attitudes about skin color, particularly toward dark skinned women, outside of and within the Black American culture. In it, women shared their emotional struggles of being dark skinned. One woman said, "I thought [my dark skin] was dirt; I tried to scrub it away, wondering why it wouldn't come off." In the film, tears rolled down a woman's face as she recalled a woman saying she was glad her baby did not turn out dark after she gave birth.

Colorism is not only a controversial issue, but an emotional one that upsets many people, both light skinned and dark skinned. Although this issue may never die, there are still people who look beneath the skin and beyond the spectrum.

"Black people have come too far to continue to demean ourselves with this skin complexion issue. It really angers me," Frazier said.

"Real beauty isn't skin deep; it comes from within and shines outwardly," said Brown. "Real beauty is greater and more complex than skin color, clothes, or shoes. Real beauty is the little light inside of you that shines when everything else around is dark."



Vybz Kartel before and after his controversial skin color change



# LANE TAKES A BITE OUT OF HEALTHY EATING

By Julia Kulon

**H**ealthy eating has garnered a reputation among teenagers as being expensive. Fast food, on the other hand, though unhealthy, is cheap. Lane students taste both realities, but some believe there are ways around this dilemma.

"It seems challenging [to eat healthy] at Lane with McDonalds, Wendy's, etc," said David Timlin, Div 275. "But you can easily eat healthy and not feel the hurt in your wallet."

Current Captain of the Boys' Cross Country team, Timlin was the slowest runner on the team his freshman year. He blames this partly on his diet of two liter sodas (about \$1.50) and honey buns (about \$1.00). Once he stopped drinking pop, his running time started to improve. Later in the season he decided to stop eating chips, and the seconds on his running time continued to melt away.

Timlin considers himself to be a healthy eater.

He definitely doesn't scramble in the morning to pack himself a lunch. When it comes to lunch, he simply takes a few steps to Jewel or Mariano's.

If he's at Jewel, for example, he won't buy the culinary staple that many of Lane students were introduced to their freshman year: fried chicken tenders and a sugar-filled drink, like an Arizona iced tea.

Instead he buys a Clif bar, a banana and a roll. The next day, he might buy an apple and something sweet to satisfy his taste buds.

On both buys, he spends only around \$2.00, which is almost the same amount of money he was spending his freshman year on junk food. The alternative, fried chicken tenders with an Arizona iced tea costs around \$3.30.

Tess Bekker, Div. 480, is very conscious of how much money she spends on lunch, but manages to eat each day and stay within her personal budget of \$4.00. She gets a small soup and a fruit juice from Mariano's almost every day.

"My parents are both healthy eaters," Bekker said. "Kids just want to save money, so they don't

really think about what they're eating."

Mehvish Maghribi, Div. 253, simply likes the satisfaction of healthy eating.

"I like when I am able to enjoy the food I eat during meals, but not feel like a chore just to maintain my weight," said Maghribi.

For some it does not feel that simple.

When arriving to the corner of Addison and Western during her lunch period, Perla Torres, Div. 252, feels overwhelmed. She and her friends have a tough choice: Popeye's straight ahead or Wendy's to the left.

She recalls the promise she keeps making to herself: it's time to start eating healthier. But within a forty six minute period, time is ticking and "healthier" alternatives more easily found at Jewel or Mariano's seem less appealing.

In a collective decision, Torres and her friends ultimately opt to cross the street and go to Popeyes.

"Fast food at Lane is everywhere," said Torres. "It's hard to ignore it. I try to eat healthy, but money is a factor and friends are an influence."

Torres limits herself to a \$5.00 lunch budget. She feels a bit conflicted while she eats her french fries, but reflects that a Mariano's sandwich would cost her around \$4.00, and that's without a drink.

Fikayo Masha, Div. 282, feels the same way.

"My friends and I always go out to eat and they always decide to go to Popeyes or McDonalds," Masha said. "It's hard for me not to buy anything."

Nancy Ton, Div. 468, goes for food that will match her \$5.00 budget and fill her up.

"I mostly get chicken from Jewel or pizza from Mariano's," Ton said.

Ton blames these less healthy lunch choices to the food options around Lane.

"At home there's usually a better choice of food for me to pick from since my mom knows where to buy healthier food for [much] cheaper," Ton said.

Healthy eating among teenagers is something less and less common in recent years.

Most Lane students understand the basic concepts behind healthy. Most know it is best to stay away from excessive fats and

carbs. Most, however, don't worry too much about the consequences just yet. But they should.

Adolescence is a time where it is particularly important that one receives good nutrition. People between the ages of 13 and 19 should be consuming a complex and balanced diet of iron, calcium, protein, carbohydrates and complex fats. Protein aids healthy growth, carbs give energy, iron keeps the respiratory system healthy, and calcium builds strong bones.

In 2010, Congress passed a child nutrition law reinforcing that all schools improve the nutritional quality of lunches. The vending machines at Lane have been filled with healthier, though more expensive, alternatives such as granola bars and Baked! Lays potato crisps.

Some don't find the higher price to be particularly problematic, but say they would like to see more options — the same complaint voiced about the food outlets near Lane.

"I think Subway and the whole Jared Fogle thing is overrated," Bekker said. "I'd like to see a Potbelly's open around Lane."

Regardless of the price or nutritional facts, sometimes indulging in comfort foods at familiar prices is too overwhelming to resist when the lunch hour rolls around. Still, some are disciplined enough to practice healthy eating habits and, in some cases, it might just be rubbing off on their lunch partners.

"My boyfriend eats with me every day at Mariano's," Bekker said, "but I know he'd be happier eating a McChicken sandwich sometimes."

## A WEEK OF CHEAP, HEALTHY EATS

### MONDAY

Mariano's

Small Soup (\$2.18)  
Kaiser Roll (\$1.40)  
Arizona Iced Tea (Green Tea w/Honey) (\$1.19)

TOTAL: \$3.77

### TUESDAY

Wendy's

Baked Potato (\$1.00)  
Small tea (unsweetened) (\$2.18)

TOTAL: \$3.17

### WEDNESDAY

Quizno's

Under 500 calorie

6-inch sub (\$3.49)

Small drink: (\$1.25)

TOTAL: \$4.74

### THURSDAY

Subway

Six-inch sub meal

(w/ drink + chips)

(\$4.29)

OR

Six-inch sub

(\$2.49), ask for

water in a cup

TOTAL: \$4.29

(or less)

### FRIDAY

McDonald's

Side Salad from

Dollar Menu (\$1.00)

Small Drink (\$1.00)

TOTAL: \$2.00





# FROM CLASSES TO CAREERS

## LANE STUDENTS GET HEADSTARTS ON FUTURES

By Ben Palmer

While the average student may spend his or her free time watching TV or going to parties, some Lane students are making early preparations for lifelong careers. Caitlin Walerowicz, Div. 272, uses her elective classes and summer breaks to ready herself for a career in Physical Therapy.

"I was working in a hospital's rehabilitation room and it was mostly older people who had just had replacement surgeries," said Walerowicz, who started volunteering at a hospital the summer after her sophomore year.

After experiencing the field first hand, Walerowicz decided to focus on the human body in her studies. She currently takes Anatomy and has taken AP science classes.

"Obviously you have to know the bones, tissues, muscles," Walerowicz said. "I already saw for the [human kinetics] major [at the University of Illinois] that I have to take a lot of anatomy. Physics

helps too."

Students like Walerowicz benefit from their early decision for future career tracks. This allows them to work both in and out of school to prepare for college and beyond.

"I want to retain what I learn in my science classes," said Kristen Kelly, Div. 362, "and I want to retain it for life."

Kelly plans on becoming a radiologist and currently takes AP Biology and Genetics, both of which are useful in her intended career.

"I only really took AP Biology and Psychology for the fun," Kelly said, "but I took AP Calculus to place out of math [in college]."

Kelly hopes that by taking AP math classes in high school, she can get those credits out of the way and focus more on her intended major in college.

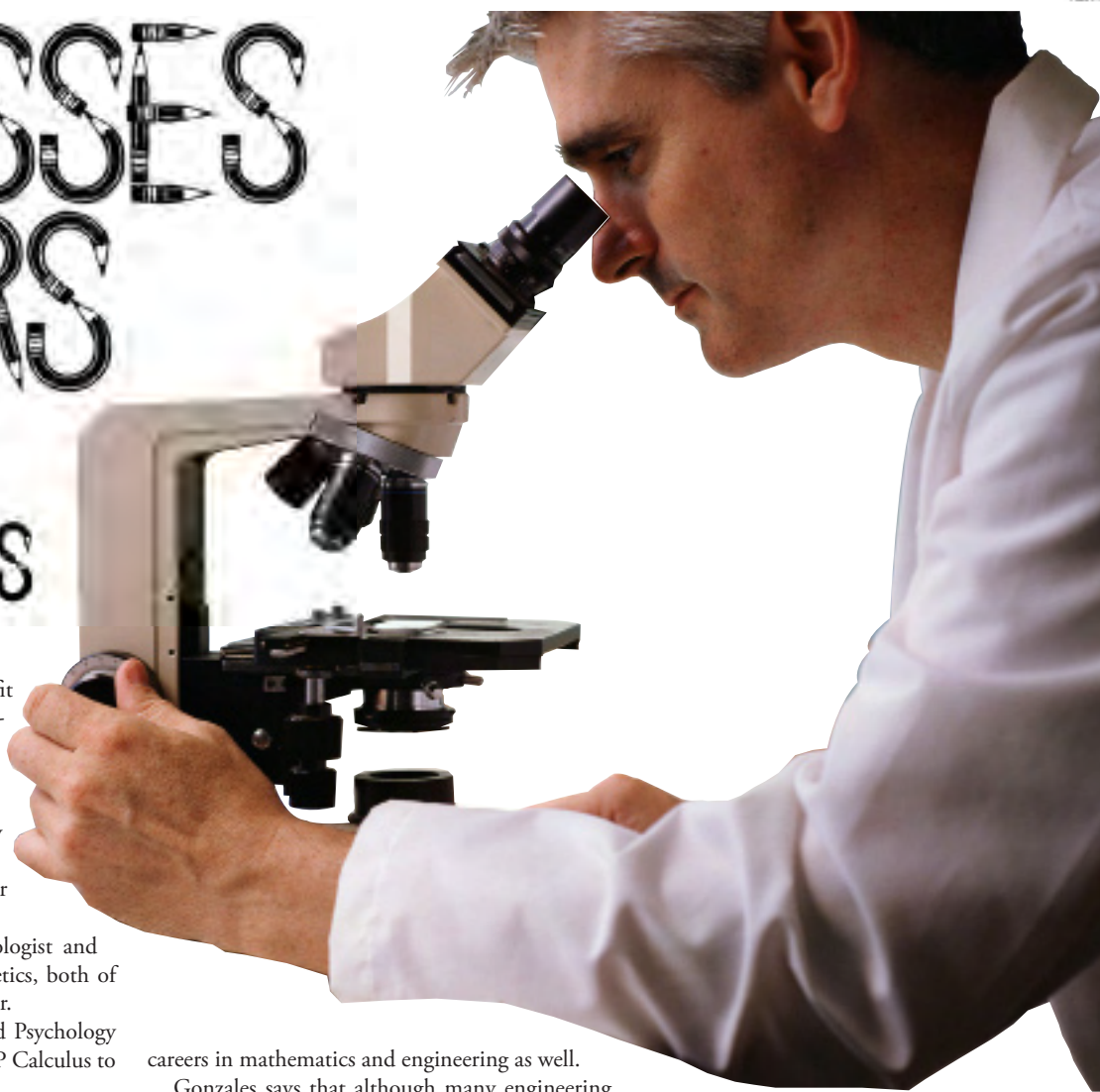
Lily Hart, Div. 270, has taken an impressive list of classes including Microbiology, Anatomy, AP Biology and AP Environmental science. She says that her work load is primarily focused on preparing herself for a career in microbiology.

"I even just do science stuff on my own," said Hart. "I like to go to American Science and Surplus and buy petri dishes and agar and just do stuff myself."

So far Hart has grown and experimented on mold in her free time, in addition to experimenting on E. coli for Lane's science fair each year. Her experiments for the fair look at the effects of variables like temperature, luria broth, and garlic on E. coli.

Hart says being in the Alpha program at Lane has helped her focus on science, as has working with her mother in an oncology office.

While these three students seem science-bound, math teacher Ms. Gonzales says it is easy to prepare for



careers in mathematics and engineering as well.

Gonzales says that although many engineering classes have been eliminated from Lane, there is a push to bring them back. Part of this rebirth of engineering and math can be seen in the GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Math, and Science) program at Lane.

"GEMS opens eyes to engineering opportunities for girls," said Gonzales. "There's actually a lot of money going toward that cause nationally."

For those who simply wish to prepare themselves mathematically for life after high school, Gonzales says her Discreet Math elective would do the trick.

"It's mostly seniors in the class fulfilling their math credit," Gonzales said. "But it teaches you about the business world, insurance...even how to do taxes."

Gonzales says that the biggest question she receives in math classes is, not surprisingly, "When am I gonna use this in real life?"

"It's difficult because of a lack of flexibility," Gonzales said regarding her desire to apply mathematic concepts to the real world. "The way math is taught nationally, we push for mastery, but not an understanding of why [math is important]."

Gonzales believes that to be a marketable job applicant in the future, students need a basic foundation not only in mathematics but also in engineering. She says she hopes to see more engineering classes at Lane in the future.

Like Gonzales, science teacher Ms. Benas says that all good applicants in the science field need some basic skills, many of which can be learned at Lane.

"For any science career in general, you need exposure to the scientific method, experimenting pro-

cedures, and research methods," said Benas, who teaches Alpha biology and various genetics classes. Benas was pleased to hear of Kelly's desire to go into radiology, and was glad that her class could help.

"I have another student who's taking genetics because she wants to go into nursing," Benas said.

To students interested in a career in science, Benas says it isn't enough to take classes.

"Don't just go to school for it. Experience it!" Benas said. "Get an internship! Try it out! See if you like it!"

Benas said internship opportunities are constantly offered to Lane students, and those interested should ask their teachers about these chances at first-hand experience.

"I worked at a wildlife foundation and taught education programs to kids, school groups, even college kids getting class credit," Benas said, adding that this is how she discovered her love of teaching.

"There are volunteer positions in labs...the botanical gardens, hospitals...through the fire department," Benas said.

Benas also was quick to list careers which classes at Lane could lead to, which can be seen in the box below.

It is easy to ignore the future and live in the now, but these teachers and students agree that starting early pays off. By preparing in high school, a student can look forward to a successful college career and increased job opportunities after their education is finished.



Left: Lane student Jasmine Villalobos observing crime scene evidence under the microscope in her forensics class.

## THE NUMBERS

### HOW MUCH YOU CAN MAKE AND WHAT CLASSES TO TAKE

Job Title	Classes at Lane	Avg. Yearly Salary
Anesthesiologist	Anatomy, AP Biology, AP Chemistry	\$200,000+
Natural Sciences Manager	AP Statistics, AP Biology, Genetics, AP Chemistry	\$125,000+
Marketing Manager	AP Statistics, Business, Journalism	\$120,000+
Astronomer	Astronomy, Physics, AP Calculus	\$100,000+
Physical Therapist	Anatomy, AP Biology, Physics, AP Chemistry	\$76,000+
Clinical Psychologist	AP Psychology, Microbiology	\$72,000+
Microbiologist	Microbiology, AP Biology, Anatomy, Genetics	\$70,000+
Soil & Plant Scientist	Horticulture, AP Biology, AP Environmental Science	\$65,000+
Forensic Science Technician	Forensic Science, AP Biology, Genetics	\$55,000+
Radiologic Technician	Genetics, AP Chemistry, AP Biology, Microbiology	\$54,000+

For information on these and more careers, visit [www.myplan.com/careers](http://www.myplan.com/careers)



# Tattoo removal proves painful process

By Maggie Popek

“Extremely quick but extremely painful” was the feeling a Lane student who wishes to remain anonymous felt, as a laser penetrated her skin, targeting her once meaningful tattoo. “It felt like someone was carving my skin with hot metal,” she said.

Flashback to a few months earlier when getting the tattoo with her best friend was exactly what she wanted.

“I was really sure of myself... I didn’t even second guess it,” she said. “We both had agreed we wanted something to symbolize how we would never stop being friends. I acted on impulse and was living in the moment instead of thinking of the long term effects.”

But after the friendship ended she was left with both physical and emotional pain.

Riding the familiar elevator up to see a laser specialist is now a constant reminder of that decision she regrets.

“I wish that I would’ve never gotten it in the first place because it hurts 10 times worse removing it compared to

getting it,” she said.

After having her mother fill out legal paperwork, she was off to a room where she iced her tattoo and then put on goggles to protect her eyes from the laser. The laser targets the pigments of the tattoo and produces short but intense bursts of light that break down the ink. It takes multiple sessions to remove the tattoo.

“I have to go back for three or four more sessions, but I’m so scared to because of the pain,” she said.

Regretting tattoos is very common, especially when the tattoo is done at a young age. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, 17% of Americans reported regret their tattoos. At Lane, Tenzin Moenkyi, Div. 466, is one of them. She got her first tattoo at the age of 14.

“I regret that one [tattoo] because I didn’t really think it through. It was just a spur in the moment type of thing. But I’m going to get it covered when I’m 18,” Moenkyi said. The tattoo is of a nickname that her friends gave her: “Dime.”

“I thought it was cool and fun,” she said.

Although she liked the tattoo then and still likes it, she says it is not something she will want on her body when she is older.

“I’m going to get it covered later with something meaningful,” Moenkyi says. “But I haven’t decided on what [I want] yet.”

Tattoo regrets are not only limited to students. Ceramics teacher, Ms. Arter, recalls the time she got her first tattoo around her ankle.

“My first tattoo was when I was 15 and the guy who did it was just learning. It was in his house,” she said.

Based on her experiences, Ms. Arter now says that if she could start over she would be a “clean slate.”

“Sometimes I just want to wear a dress without having crazy tats everywhere,” said Arter who now has seven tattoos.

For those that are planning on getting a tattoo, Arter offers advice.

“Hang it on a wall for two years and stare at it,” she said. “If you still like it, get it.”

Dr. Lobosco recommends trying out “temporary tattoos” before getting a real one.



**Tenzin Moenkyi, Div. 466, displays the tattoo of her nickname she had inked above her hip. She plans to cover the tattoo with another image when she turns 18.**

# Missing school due to injury, surgery a real pain

By Robin Buford

Missing high school is a major obstacle to face, and a surgery or major injury doesn’t ease the struggles. But for some at Lane, it’s possible to make a positive out of a negative.

Christina Diaz, Div. 390, knows all too well the struggles of getting through school after surgery. Diaz was born deaf and had to get surgery at only three years old.

“I had a bone in my head that had to be moved so doctors could insert a piece to help me hear,” Diaz said, who had to take intensive speech and hearing therapy before and after her surgery.

“I went to Child’s Voice, a strict private school for deaf children, and they did not allow you to do sign language,” Diaz said.

Child’s Voice seemed to be a helpful opportunity for Diaz because after four years of training and graduating from first grade, Diaz was able to start public school. Starting high school may be confusing for some, but for Diaz it was a whole new world. While others only had to pass a test to get into Lane, Diaz had to go the extra mile.

“I’ve always wanted to come to Lane but it was harder for me,” Diaz said, “I had to get recommendations because of my hearing complications.”

Aside from Diaz’s mother talking to the school board, she had someone else in her corner to help out.

“Ms. Malinowski made a recommendation for me to get into Lane. I was happy because she’s been helping me since freshman year,” Diaz said.

Diaz struggled most of her childhood trying to adapt to new surroundings, and thought she was finally making progress until her junior year of high school.

“I had a hearing-aid, but the day of Turkey Bowl I went deaf in one ear for two days and needed emergency surgery,” Diaz said, “It took two weeks for our insurance to approve coverage of my surgery.”

Diaz’s family surrounded her as she sat nervously waiting for surgery at Children Memorial Hospital. Since her last surgery the bone in her head had grown, blocking the hearing piece that had been activated years ago.

Diaz missed school for the rest of October and half of that time she spent it on the couch not being able to hear a thing. But upon her return to school, her division and friends welcomed her with smiles, hugs, and balloons.

“I was so happy to be back. I hated being on the couch. I missed my friends,” Diaz said.

Although catching up with friends was easy, catching up with school work was

more of a challenge.

“It was so hard to make up all the work I missed and to have to start off where everyone else was, I had to go to tutoring,” Diaz said. “Junior year is big and I didn’t want to have to go to summer school, but if I have to I will. I plan on finishing out this year the best I can.”

Although Diaz had friends to welcome her back, she was reluctant to share her reasons for leaving school even though her hearing had returned.

“I didn’t want to be known as the deaf girl. I wanted people to get to know me and not my disability,” Diaz said, “I would hear people talk bad about friends who were like me, and I would confront them, but inside I wouldn’t want to be in their position.”

Diaz has faced many obstacles since she was young but they haven’t stopped her from trying. Diaz’s actions show that she has turned her disability into a motivator to keep her focused in life. Although she has missed out on a lot and is still struggling to catch up, Diaz says that her time off makes her really want to learn and not just ease through the rest of the year.

In the case of Emily Fusilero, Div. 379, her injuries didn’t force her from school, but they made it harder for her to get around and stay focused. Fusilero tore the tendons in her ankle while playing around with friends. She saw many dif-

ferent doctors, but ultimately she only needed a walking cast.

While Fusilero was supposed to be allowing her ankle to recover, she was instead putting it to work.

“I’m a swimmer. So I went against doctors orders and got back in the water,” Fusilero said.

Fusilero didn’t have any problems outside of school, but inside “it was hell.”

“Oh, God - getting around - it was the hardest thing in the world. Hallways seemed like eternities,” Fusilero said.

Lane’s elevators for the handicapped and people with broken legs didn’t do much good Fusilero, either.

“Security was rarely there until they finally learned my pattern, but there’s so many other kids with broken legs walking around, and only two elevators miles apart,” Fusilero said, “Sometimes I would have my teachers call for security.”

A lot of teachers are strict about tardy students and being prepared for class, but Fusilero’s broken ankle gave her advantages others didn’t have.

“Teachers never gave me tardies and I didn’t have to carry all my books to my classes because teachers would have a copy in the classroom for me,” Fusilero said, “I even enjoyed a few minutes longer at lunch.”

Delia Rodriguez, Div. 381, broke her ankle while skating on a trip in Joliet

and had to wear a cast for nearly three months.

“It still bothers me if I stand or walk for too long; I was glad I got to stay out of school for awhile but wasn’t happy about the work I had to make up,” Rodriguez said.

While other students may have left class earlier or used the elevators to get around school, Rodriguez decided to take matters into her own hands.

“I couldn’t use the elevator because I would never see a janitor,” Rodriguez said, “Besides I didn’t feel like I really needed help getting around.”

Although Rodriguez didn’t let her broken ankle limit her abilities, she was anxious to get it off.

“Sometimes I would pretend to be in a lot of pain so I could stay home,” Rodriguez said, “But I couldn’t do it a lot because my friends were so worried. They took my injury really seriously.”

Rodriguez didn’t have to deal with making up work after missing so much school.

“It was after finals so catching up was easy,” Rodriguez said. “I had to make up work, but it was all do-able since it was the end of the school year.”

From the most serious surgeries to minor injuries these girls used a bad situation to make positive outcomes for the long run.

# Fashion tastes mature as students get older

By Grace Kerpan

Freshman year: graphic tees and skinny jeans. Senior year: wide leg trousers and an Oxford shirt. An unexpected, yet common evolution of style many Lane students go through in high school.

Senior year and even junior year are the times when most students realize what it means to be mature and start becoming true adults. Manners and style seem to follow the same timeline.

“People expect a more mature behavior from me because of the way I dress, but it also helps me act more mature because I respond to my surroundings. They set the bar as to what’s expected,” said Vivian Nguyen, Div. 276. “My style is an outward display of my personality and it represents me as a person. If I want to be seen as an adult, I should look and act like an adult.”

College and future careers can also hinder change in the style of certain students, like with Demi

Richardson, Div. 383.

“It’s like, the older I get, the more I focus on more important things and fashion in high school is not nearly as important as getting a job or [into] college,” Richardson said.

Richardson prefers a milder wardrobe with neutral colors in her junior year as opposed to her bright and colorful freshman look.

“Now it’s more simple colors and being relaxed. I like to be comfortable and wear neutral colors, not just because they’re in style, but because I’m not trying extremely hard to dress up in the morning. I like the effortless look, I don’t really care about impressing people,” said Richardson.

Meeting new people and learning about style was the turning point for Jeremy Carr, Div. 374.

“Freshman year, I barely had a style. I used to wear like sweatpants and occasionally jeans to school,” said Carr, “Now, I have a sense of what style is and I’ve evolved a lot. I go for clothes that catch my eye and will go with my wardrobe.”

Carr’s mother also played a role in his style transformation. She worked for J.Crew and received discounts on the clothes available at the retailer.

“I started liking stuff from there and branched off to other stores and types of wardrobes,” said Carr.

The change in style isn’t always as dramatic for other students. Stephanie Harnett, Div. 274, still abides by the comfy look, but tries to dress it up a little more now.

“My style outlook hasn’t changed much, but I do try to put in a little more effort now. I try to dress up my ‘bum swag,’ I throw on some leggings, maybe some boots and a hoodie. I keep it very simple,” said Harnett.

Students want to look like an adult and be treated like an adult, and their style is one of the most important indications of maturity.

“I just want to look older, like I know what I’m doing. I don’t follow trends, I’m just chilling and living life but I want to be treated like more of an adult,” said Cooper Chambers-Hines, Div. 363.

The specific changes vary amongst students, but the outcome is similar for each young adult - simplicity.

As most students begin to dress in simpler fashion, they begin picking classic pieces in neutral colors. With these style changes, their looks become more mature.

Personal style is also the outward expression of one’s own personality; clothes reveal a lot about the person wearing them. The classic and elegant style is more commonly associated with a sophisticated and respected individual.

The evolution of a student’s aesthetic is one of the many changes that comes along as high school progresses, but it’s one of the most important. A mature teen commands respect, even from adults, so presenting oneself professionally is a key development in that direction.



By Emina Cirkic

# DAYDREAMS TAKE ON DEEPER MEANINGS

## Victory

For Debbie Onofrei Div. 267 life is constantly changing, but one thing always remained the same—she was going to become a surgeon. Her daydreams revolve around becoming a surgeon and television shows that portray the lives of surgeons. Most of her daydreams take place with the Grey's Anatomy cast and setting.

"It opens with me standing outside and several ambulances rush into the parking lot. A paramedic brings a patient whose heart has stopped. I do CPR and after that stops working I pound his chest with my fist," said Onofrei, "His heart starts again. I feel victorious!"

Mia Irizarry also has many daydreams about her dream profession. Since she was a little girl she has always wanted to become a veterinarian.

"I was on a safari and I got lost in the jungles of Africa. Then, I saw a tiger crouching in the bushes. The tiger was about to attack me, but then it just fell over. Its paws were bloody," said Irizarry. "I tranquilized it and bandaged its paw up. I saved the tiger's life."

In Irizarry's daydream, she was lost in the beginning. This can signify a loss in motivation or direction in life. She is lost until she finds the tiger, a symbol for her future and what she wants to do for the rest of her life. After she finds and saves the tiger, she knows what direction she wants her life to go in.

*Waves crash onto shore as her eyes adjust to the beauty around her. Her skin soaks up the sunlight, and she feels the warmth deep in her bones. Her toes squirm and squish in the sand as the wave brings a flood of water to her feet. Vanessa Roman, Div. 283, is in paradise. Suddenly, a ringing sound fills her head: the bell for her next class. She shakes out of her daydream and proceeds to class.*

*Daydreams are a common escape from reality many students use to get through the long school day. They act as a refuge from a boring lecture, muggy day, or a distraction from surroundings. Daydreams sometimes pose a deeper psychological meaning and are related to things a person does, sees, and experiences during the day.*

*"Daydreaming is essential, a profound and highly significant human function," said Dr. Maria T. Lymberis, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at UCLA in a 1993 LA Times article, The Human Condition: Why Do We Daydream? "What someone daydreams tells a lot about a person—who they are, what they are, what their personality structure is, their internal problems and vulnerabilities."*

*Common themes for daydreams include several topics of fantasy: Love, Glory, Escape, Revenge, and Victory.*

## Love

During teenage years, teens often fantasize about being in love. Whether it be about falling in love with a celebrity like Taylor Lautner, or dreaming about asking that girl in 2nd period to prom, it all has to do with the theme of love. Daydreams about love often suggest a craving for affection or signify love as an immediate goal.

"I daydreamed I was dating this Mexican gangster and was in love with him," said Sarah Hanses, Div. 266. "We were in L.A. and then I was getting initiated in his gang. The daydream lasted for 20 minutes!"

Hanses had this daydream in Spanish class. When she is bored in any of her classrooms or does not understand what is going on while the teacher lectures (like in Spanish class), her mind tends to drift and she falls into a daydream easily.

"After watching the commercial for Breaking Dawn, I daydreamed I was making love with that vampire from the movie. I was on an island with him and everything. It was so weird," said Cristel Kolmeder, Div. 257.

In daydreams, there is often a link between what is being dreamt and emotions experienced in real life. According to SLD, vampires are thought to possess high agility and speed. Kolmeder's dream may have indicated that she searched for someone with great power and perfection in life.

## Escape

It was eighth period and Onofrei, could hardly wait to go home. Her eighth period was her worst class; her teacher was horrible and she never learned anything. She usually just sat in class quietly, but today she had to talk to her horrible teacher. She had a terrible argument with the teacher and walked out. Onofrei hailed a cab outside and went straight to O'Hare airport. She walked through security and hopped on a plane going straight to Hawaii. She escaped her problems back home.

Daydreams about escape create a needed excitement and thrill in a daily routine.

Psychologically, daydreaming about escape can mean there is an underlying problem in the subconscious. It can be a problem you are trying to avoid or cannot solve. During escape daydreams, you escape from the problem. According to the *Secret Language of Dreams* (SLD), "Seeking an island for refuge reflects a craving for solitude or a conviction that most problems in life come from other people."

"In drafting class, I daydreamed I was a unicorn. I didn't want to do work, so I flew out of the classroom and into space," said Caleb Smiley, Div. 556.

## Glory

Daydreams about heroic acts often indicate the need for power or respect. Daydreamers might dream about being a hero because they feel helpless or powerless.

"I daydreamed that I was [my class's] savior from terrorists. It was an apocalyptic scenario and I was the superhero," Anthony Quezada, Div. 452, said.

Quezada has this same kind of dream repeatedly in different classes. He likes being a hero and saving his classmates. These daydreams give him superhero qualities.

Another student, Gary Williams, Div. 452, daydreamed he had a different kind of superpower while he was in class.

"In my daydream, I knew the answer to every question anyone asked me. My teacher asked me some complicated problem and I knew the answer. I got money and fame [from my superpower]," said Williams.

Williams daydreamed this scenario while he was in class when his geometry teacher asked him a complicated question and he answered correctly. He daydreams the most when he sits in the back of the class; Williams daydreams about eight times daily. Many people daydream about what is occurring in the surrounding world. The numerous superhero movies and comics that glorify extraordinary abilities contribute to daydreams about glory.

## Revenge

Revenge, it is surrounding our lives all the time. From trashy women getting their "man" back on Jerry Springer to annoying siblings at home, revenge is a constant temptation in life.

"I've daydreamed I turned invisible and messed with people in different classes," said Mia Irizarry, Div. 279. "I daydreamed that I set this girl's hair on fire. It's her most prized possession, so I think I had legit reasons!"

Irizarry had this daydream in physics, as a junior, when she was bored. She had just gotten into an argument with a girl she despised. According to SLD, fire in daydreams represent destruction but also represents purity and a clean start. In Irizarry's daydream, she dreamed about setting a girl's hair on fire; Irizarry is purifying her life, cleansing herself of her enemy.

Daydreams about revenge offer the dreamer the satisfaction of seeing a person suffer for the wrong they have done in the dreamer's life. It may not be reality, but the daydream acts as a replacement for what a person can really do for revenge.

"I daydreamed in my second period class that the annoying and loud kids that sit behind me got arrested and beaten up," Cristel Kolmeder, Div. 257 said.

According to the *Secret Language of Dreams* daydreams about violence often times represent a struggle for self-assertion or a fight against unwanted aspects of life.





By Sophia Swenson

# Students spooked by ghost sightings in Lane's basement

Natalie O'Sullivan bolts down a hallway underneath Lane's stage. Up above her, actors are about to play the next scene of *Antigone*, and one of them needs microphone tape, stat. Frazzled, O'Sullivan drops a pen and bends down to retrieve it. As she looks up, a black mist hovers in front of a door not five feet from where she is standing. The cloud of mist then makes a twirling motion and disappears into the room, causing the door to slowly close behind it.

"I didn't scream; I was just shocked," said O'Sullivan who graduated from Lane in 2009 and became the assistant director for this fall's play, *Antigone*. "I just ran upstairs and told Ben [Palmer] 'I just saw a ghost in the basement.'"

Lane's auditorium is bursting with life; voices rise and fall, laughter breaks out, feet stomp, and hands clap. The stage lights are bright and energy is in the air as students prepare for their next production. But underneath the stage, there's a different type of energy, one that has the actors upstairs watching not only their steps, but others as well.

Down a poorly lit metal staircase is a long dark hall. Multiple doors on each side open up into fluorescently lit rooms, which are either used for dressing or storage spaces where old forgotten props and used school equipment are kept. Oddly enough, there is even a room which has walls that are lined with typewriters borrowed from Lane's basement and used in a past production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

In fact, the doorway of the "typewriter room" was where O'Sullivan's paranormal encounter occurred, but it wasn't the only site underneath Lane's stage where something unexplained has happened.

Jill Cutro, Div. 385, was making her way down the same hallway about a week after O'Sullivan encountered the black mist and noticed a different door that was open farther down the hall. Since the light was on in that room, Cutro could see clearly between the door and the floor underneath it.

Taking a closer look, Cutro noticed a shadow that looked like someone was walking into the room. Not thinking too much about it, she called a fellow cast member's name, thinking someone had come down to the basement without her noticing. But upon further inspection, Cutro found no-one.

"I was legitimately scared," said Cutro, who didn't pay much attention to O'Sullivan's story or the idea of spirits prior to her own experience.

"Apparently, [the ghost] was in my dressing room," said Megan Irving, Div. 278, who did not want to enter her dressing room after she heard what Cutro had seen. Like many others, Irving would spend as little time as she could in the basement when there was no one else there; trips alone would involve sprinting down the hallway, trying to spend as little time there as possible.

Of course, like every ghost story, there has been speculation as to whether or not Cutro and O'Sullivan saw actual spirits or just mind tricks. Old buildings and bad lighting are only two of the many explanations for why people have spotted "ghosts," and Lane is a very old building that has very bad lighting.

Ms. Meacham, who directs the fall plays at Lane, refuses to validate the existence of spirits or whether the rooms underneath Lane's stage are occupied by anything out of the ordinary.

"Most old buildings have drafts, noises, and unusual shadows because of bad light, but old buildings also have a lot of history," said Meacham.

Mrs. Hansen, the director of spring musicals, used to spend hours down in the dressing rooms working on costumes and props but never saw anything suspicious.

"It's a very noisy basement," said Mrs. Hansen, who then explained that several generators are kept by the dressing rooms, and open doors sometimes move because of drafts. "I can see how your mind can play tricks on you."

Jasmine Garcia, Div. 252, heard a noise in the basement one afternoon when she came downstairs early to get ready for a performance.

"You don't know when there's someone down there because when [dressing room] doors close, you can't hear anything [outside the room]," said Garcia, who heard a loud crash through her dressing room door, which usually blocks any sound coming from the outside hallway.

Coming out of her room to investigate, Garcia was unable to find anyone else in the basement and ran upstairs.

"I figured it was piping because [the basement] has an old, torn down boys bathroom," said Garcia. "As humans, we try to shrug off and blame [unexplained phenomena] on the piping. I told myself it was [the water pipes] so I could go back down there."

One common element in each witnesses claim is that every experience occurred to when he/she was in the basement alone.

Vanessa Paolino, Div. 254, was "dissing" the alleged ghost, when she had an experience herself.

"I was walking downstairs wearing flats, and there were heels clicking behind [me]," said Paolino.

Every time Paolino sped up, the footsteps sped up. Every time she stopped, the footsteps stopped with her. What was curious about the incident was that Paolino was not wearing heels of any kind, and when she tried to recreate the same noise with her feet wearing the same shoes; the clicking of heels she heard could not be imitated.

"Vanessa doesn't walk; she slides," said Elizabeth Berens, Div. 290. "I'm on stage crew, and have never been down [in the basement] long enough to see anything happen; but everyone says it's haunted and I believe it."

Berens has heard from others about doors slamming and other frightening noises occurring in the basement.

Lane's auditorium, where the stage and seats are, opened along with the rest of the building in 1934. Many art pieces, mostly created by the WPA (Works Progress Administration) program, are still kept inside the auditorium and its foyer. The iron fire stage curtain; the auditorium's biggest art piece, is raised and lowered using water pressure, which failed during a Lane concert when the stage curtain slowly lowered onto the performers. Fortunately, no one was injured. The auditorium was also used for study hall and graduations for different high schools.

The auditorium has remained a constant center of activity at Lane since day one, and never ceases to surprise both students and staff with a new trick from time to time. Regardless of whether experiences in the basement had any paranormal substance or not, it goes without saying that Lane has a long and rich history as a school loved and cherished by those both alive and dead.





# NO SEX, DRUGS, ALCOHOL; JUST LIFE

By Kelly Mrofcza

David Jimenez, Div. 280, spent a night in summer 2009 catching up with old buddies. Jokes were being exchanged, laughter was exploding, and soon seals were being broken off of vodka bottles stolen from a parent's liquor cabinet.

Portions of the drink were being poured into glasses and passed around the group. Jimenez declined the offering, causing a scene. His "friends" commented that he obviously was not "man enough" to take any, telling him that if they were him they would be so embarrassed. That is when Jimenez realized something.

"Why would I be embarrassed of my own opinion and of the choice that I made? I left that night without saying a word to any of those guys and I haven't since," Jimenez said.

This sparked Jimenez's decision to becoming "Straight Edge." This means that he abstains from using drugs, drinking alcohol, and smoking. Being Straight Edge also means not having sex unless in a committed relationship.

According to the 2009 article "Understanding Straight Edge" by freelance journalist Paul Comeau, the lifestyle began in the late 1970s and the early 1980s and arose from the values of popularized punk rock of the time. The band, Minor Threat, is considered the spark of the movement. Their famous song, "Straight Edge," had lyrics that opened the minds of the youth. The song convinced fans to live life absent from toxins. The song is doing the same for this generation. Because of the influence that punk rock has on the movement, many Straight Edge people look the part by permanently marking themselves with tattoos to show their commitment to the lifestyle.

One of the main Straight Edge symbols is a big, bold, black X on the back of one or both hands. Before being lead singer and drummer of Minor Threat, Ian Mackaye and Jeff Nelson were members of a band called The Teen Idles. At the time of their tour in California the band members were all underage and in order to be allowed into the venues, big X's were drawn on their hands to prohibit them from drinking. Straight Edge people turned that X into a symbol for their clean living.

Leeza Bautista, Div. 277, plans to get bold XXX, which is also a common symbol for clean living, on the back of her leg. She said that getting a tattoo will show she is committed to being Straight Edge even throughout adulthood.

Giovanni Delgado, Div. 260, never found an interest

in drinking or smoking. He bases a lot of his Straight Edge ways on rock music. Minor Threat is one of his main inspirations as well as other Straight Edge bands.

"[Straight Edge bands] basically spread the message of staying sober. So they're a big impact on the lifestyle I lead," Delgado said.

Lane grad Jimmy Smith, from the class of 2010, has also committed his life to being Straight Edge. Currently he is attending Triton College and has been straight edge for the past six months. His reasons for doing so have a lot to do with his family. He watched his cousin throw his life away by abusing drugs and alcohol and saw his uncle struggle with alcoholism. He did not want to follow in their footsteps.

Christian Gibbons, Div. 453, experienced a major loss that significantly affected his decision to become straight edge.

"My mom died [when I was in fifth grade] from Hodgkin's lymphoma, which is a cancer of the lymphatic cells in the immune system," Gibbons said. "I picked [Straight Edge] up during the recovery process. I felt like I wanted to improve my life and put her death behind me."

It was not until Gibbons reached eighth grade and learned about drugs and abstinence that he actually understood what being straight edge was all about. That is when he really committed himself to the lifestyle.

Straight Edge people are not limited to avoiding sex, drugs, and alcohol. Some people claim that being vegetarian or vegan is a part of being Straight Edge. Delgado, for instance, abstained from eating meat for six months until Thanksgiving came around and he could not help but eat some turkey.

"Being vegetarian felt great, but whenever I saw my sister eating meat I'd want to go back to eating it," Delgado said.

A common impression of Straight Edge people is that they like to act superior to others who do not choose the lifestyle. A tattoo-covered, man-handling, WWE professional wrestler, CM Punk, is a good example of this. As he kicks the faces of his opponents during his matches, he preaches things such as "I am STILL better than you. Because I AM drug free, I AM alcohol free, and I AM straight edge."

Though it is his job as a wrestler to show aggression, there are some events that demonstrate that being Straight Edge can also mean being violent. Forceful Straight Edge people in Boston have rioted against drug dealers. And after the murder of a 15 year old in Salt Lake City in the late 1990s, Straight Edge members were classified by police as being a part of a "gang."

"People associated with the Straight Edge gangs are called 'hardline' and are based on sheer hatred towards people who are not straight edge. But like all other groups, there are many levels of Straight Edge," said Jimenez, who doesn't preach his lifestyle choices.

Similar to Jimenez, Smith is also humble when it comes to his decision to be straight edge.

"It's really just a lifestyle and I have no right to force my opinions down other people's throats. Do I think it's senseless and stupid to go out, drink, and get drunk every night? Yeah, I do, but I can't say you're an idiot for doing it," he said.

Bautista has a different view.

"I feel like when you're a drunken mess, you lose everything. Same goes for someone who makes smoking or doing drugs a main part of their life," Bautista said. "If I do something stupid, I don't want to be able to use 'being under the influence' as an excuse. If I get myself into a mess, it was because I made a sober mistake, not a drunk one that I won't remember the next day."

The reactions these students get from openly being Straight Edge range from negative and positive.

"When I decline a beer at a party it usually sparks up a conversation. The majority of kids respect me for my decision," Delgado said.

As for Bautista, people are shocked to hear she is Straight Edge.

"It is frustrating. It is almost like they expect everyone they meet to have [consumed alcohol or smoked] at some point," she said.

Bautista has been in situations in which people try to pressure her into drinking or talk her into smoking, and usually it's from her closest friends. She says she will always decline.

Straight Edge students plan to be Straight Edge long-term, despite the fact that college life often revolves around drinking and partying.

"I don't plan on having the 'college experience' that most people my age are looking forward to. So I don't think staying edge will be a huge struggle," said Bautista.

Gibbons has similar views when it comes to college.

"College might be tough, but I have a plan for that too; see, my dad once told me something that his dad told him: don't follow trends, set them. When everyone else is having 'fun,' I'll be doing other stuff," he said.

Gibbons enjoys reading, drawing, and writing poetry.

Smith has reassuring things to say about being Straight Edge in college and proves that it is possible. He believes that as long as a person has strong self control it is easy to choose not to drink and smoke. He understands that people have trouble when it comes to peer pressure, and said that being Straight Edge means having good self-discipline.

Most people who are clueless about the Straight Edge lifestyle often link no alcohol use, no drugs use, and no sex with strong religious feelings.

"Religion and Straight Edge are two separate things. But like religion, Straight Edge is open to anyone," said Jimenez.

So, if there is no drinking, smoking or sex... what do they do? Delgado speaks for most Straight Edge people when he says, "just because I'm Edge doesn't mean I don't like to party."



# Dropping a beat on dubstep culture

By Madeline Savoie

A long line of people begins to form outside of the Congress Theater. Taking over the theatre this evening is The Mothership Tour, featuring dubstep artists Skrillex, 12th Planet, Two Fresh, and Nadastorm. Around 6:30 p.m. the doors open and the line begins to slowly shuffle into the theater as each individual goes through a quick search before being allowed entrance to the venue. The old fashioned ballroom, now used as a concert venue begins to fill mostly with 17+ teenagers, young twenty year olds, and a scattering of those 30 and up. A few under 21 year olds get caught by security when trying to buy some drinks, but other than that the atmosphere is quiet except for a soft buzz of noise acting as the calm before the storm.

## WUB WUB WUB.

The dubstep concert begins. The wobbling bass line turns the crowd into a pulsating wave of tightly packed sweaty bodies; all regard for personal space is quickly forgotten. The variety of ages does not stop the crowd from unifying to enjoy the atmosphere the music creates, enhanced for some by the use of drugs and alcohol, and all are thrashing about to the beat. For anyone new to the dubstep genre, this atmosphere could be overwhelmingly abrasive, but for the avid listener, it is only a part of the dubstep scene.

Skrillex, stage name for 23 year old Sonny Moore, is known for his dubstep remixes and technology filled light shows which accompany his music at concerts. The computer technology lighting he adds to his shows is triggering notions that dubstep is a part of an almost rave-like experience.

For some like Andre Garcia, Div. 276, this atmosphere only increases the attraction to the music. Garcia says that embracing the rave-like atmosphere is the most essential component of the dubstep experience. Garcia himself is lead singer of the metal/hardcore band, Beyond the Rapture, so is no stranger to music some shy away from.

"There are a lot of people who say they love dubstep and really only know about Skrillex," Garcia said. "They probably don't even go out to

the raves and really experience what dubstep is actually about."

Owen Jones, Div. 277. Jones, also a musician himself, playing as a drummer in the alternative rock band Give Back, has been interested in dubstep since it first became popular in America a few years back. Due to his knowledge of the origins of dubstep he agrees with Garcia's comment that Skrillex is often considered the only form of dubstep by fans who have recently jumped on the bandwagon.

Jones says Dubstep originally started out as a chill, relaxed kind of music with simple drum and bass combos but artists like Skrillex and Deadmau5 have turned it into an almost heavy metal like genre. Jones, a self proclaimed lover of all music, enjoys the newer branch of the dubstep genre for what it is, but humorously relates the more modern sounds of Skrillex to that of, "vomiting sounds," in the most appreciative way.

"As dubstep became more mainstream, producers mixed it with more party music," Jones said.

An article from the New York Times, of 2008, called *Evolving and Mutating, Dubstep Splits Cells and Gives Life to Dance Floors* by Kelefa Sanneh describes this change in dubstep, and these "vomiting sounds" incorporated into the baseline:

"The timbres are scrambled and the tones are obliterated; instead of a melodic groove, you get a huge, serrated blob."

Though Jones agrees with Garcia that dubstep cannot solely be identified under Skrillex's name, he disagrees that the rave scene comprises the sole purpose of dubstep. He does feel the rave scene is assisting in the electronica genre's acceptance into culture as a whole, but does not think that dubstep music and the rave scene should be placed hand in hand.

Jones does believe this stigma against dubstep and electronica music exists as did similar notions that heavy metal "When people say, 'Hey do you want to go to a dubstep show?' the other person responds with, 'You mean a rave?'" said Jones. concerts encompassed the drug scene twenty or thirty years ago.

Jones himself believes that dubstep can be appreciated as music on its own but thinks that at Lane, the listeners of dubstep are definitely inter-

ested in the party aspect.

"You don't go to dubstep shows for the music you go for the experience," Jones said. "You are going to go to do drugs and watch the crazy spectacle. Whoever beforehand, went to house parties now goes to dubstep shows."

Paige Tuttle, Div. 560, understands the popular opinion that dubstep is essentially there to accompany a rave atmosphere or enhance a drug experience, but denies that these opinions are true.

"You can listen to any music and do drugs, a vast majority of the people [at dubstep concerts] do drugs, but it's not like if you listen to dubstep you do drugs," she said.

Tuttle thinks that people who listen to dubstep do enjoy the atmosphere surrounding the music concerts, but she personally can appreciate it simply when she is just focusing on her homework. Tuttle enjoys the beats and the constant repetition of certain sounds that is incorporated into dubstep.

Sophia Dominguez, Div. 275, acknowledges that a rave-like, drug enhanced atmosphere does exist in the dubstep genre but feels there is no need for drugs in order to enhance the experience.

"I think drugs are a part of dubstep but the experience by itself is kind of like a drug. It makes you feel so high," Dominguez said. "People use drugs to intensify the feeling, but it's already pretty intense."

Dominguez, who recently attended the recent Skrillex concert at the Congress in November, strongly believes that the atmosphere of a dubstep concert is like no other concert, but not because of the rave atmosphere.

"The Skrillex concert was about how you are feeling and interacting with other people around you, and how the music is making you feel," Dominguez said. "At other concerts it's about connecting with the artist, with dubstep it's all

about the feeling between you and the music."

When describing dubstep, Dominguez had to compare multiple types of genres in order to describe the uniqueness of the genre.

"It's an electric type music with the feeling of rock music and the intensity of hip hop, all in one little package," Dominguez said.

Drugs or no drugs, Gina Lagattuta, Div. 270, feels dubstep concerts are not about the music at all.

"I wouldn't think of it as a concert, I think of it as a massive rager where people are getting crazy," Lagattuta said. "Everybody is close together and touching everyone and you aren't really appreciating the music, it's more of the crazy rave like atmosphere."

Lagattuta personally does not feel comfortable in this atmosphere but understands people's attraction to the party scene.

Lily Hart, Div. 270, had to ask a friend what dubstep was the other day, she knew so little about it. Her friend informed her that, "it's all the rage these days." From what she has heard of it so far, she thinks its intensity as a genre makes it hard to be universally popular.

"I think of Skrillex and imagine people at a rave that type of scene."

She says that the music is just a factor in the whole experience, and dubstep is not always about the music. Though she understands many may not be open to the genre, she herself would go to a dubstep show.

"I'm always open to new music genres and I think that I might like it," Hart said.

For those like Hart who is open to the dubstep scene, or Lagattuta who does not have much interest for it, Jones has some words of advice. He says dubstep encompass more than just Skrillex or Deadmau5.

"Don't just go with the number one Youtube hit when you look up dubstep," Jones said. "Dubstep is more than super crazy raves, it's not always the crazy music you think it is."

**"When people say, 'Hey do you want to go to a dubstep show?' the other person responds with, 'You mean a rave?'" said Jones.**



Photo from <http://musicusb.pdlink.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Raves3.jpg>



## Famous Musicians

People often inherit qualities from their relatives, whether it is a funny looking nose, that one birthmark on grandma's cheek, or being short; but one thing a few Lane students inherited was the same musical talent as their famous relative.

David Starr, Div. 462, is the third-nephew of **Styx guitarist James Young**. Styx is known for hits such as "Mr. Roboto" and "Come Sail Away."

"I see him once or twice a year," Starr said, "It's not like he's a famous rock star."

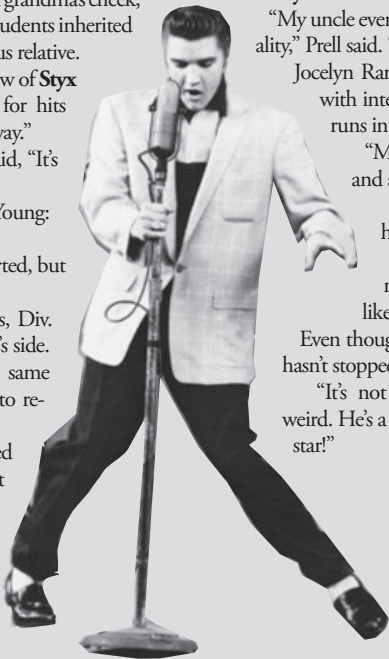
Starr also has another connection to Young: they both play guitar.

"I wouldn't say that he's the reason I started, but it definitely helps."

Another Lane student Christian Davis, Div. 264, is related to **Dr. Dre**, on his mother's side. When Davis was little, he attended the same reunion as Dr. Dre, but was too young to remember.

"At first I wouldn't have said he influenced me because I kinda started [rapping] just for fun, not really thinking about the background of it all," Davis said. "But when I think about how far he's gotten, it kinda pushes me to keep going."

Unlike Starr and Davis, Zoey Prell, Div. 550, has no musical connection to



her famous relative, The King of Rock and Roll.

Prell is related to one of America's most notable singers, **Elvis Presley**. Her aunt's husband is Elvis's second cousin.

"My uncle even looks like Elvis, the hair, but also the personality," Prell said. "He's a total diva."

Jocelyn Ramirez, Div. 373, is cousins through marriage with international superstar, **Enrique Iglesias**. Music runs in the family for Ramirez, who plays the cello.

"My cousin is a violinist and my sister is in choir and a band," Ramirez said.

Even though they are family, Ramirez still holds Iglesias to his star image.

"I admire that he is a Latino artist and that many people outside of the Latino community like him," Ramirez said.

Even though Enrique Iglesias is part of the family, it still hasn't stopped Ramirez from having a crush on him.

"It's not weird. He's a star!"

# "You're related to WHOM?"

Over 4,500 people walk Lane's hallways each day. Ever think of all the famous connections they have?

Reported by Journalism I students

However, not everyone is as passive about being related to a famous athlete. Tom Szaro, Div. 380, is proud to tell people that his uncle is **Rich Szaro**.

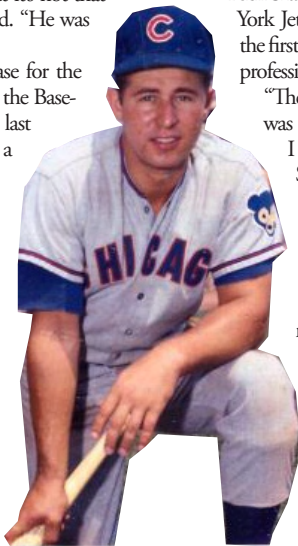
Rich Szaro played as the kicker for the New York Jets and New Orleans Saints. He is the first Polish NFL player, but had to quit professional football early due to injury.

"There was a week when I thought I was cooler than everybody because I was related to an NFL player," Szaro said.

Rich Szaro once owned Richard's Sporting Goods, a factory that supplied shops throughout Europe in Poland.

"He came up from nothing in a new country to becoming a success [in America]," Szaro said.

Szaro says that he will always idolize his famous uncle because he continued succeeding in life even though he had to end his football career.



## Famous Athletes

Although fans are inspired by their favorite athletes, not all of them can say they are related to one. When Nick Zais, Div. 350, watched a football game on the wide screen with former NFL player, **Mark Tauscher**, it was just another ordinary day. Tauscher, is Zais' cousin, and these casual football afternoons have happened many times before.

Tauscher played offensive line for the Green Bay Packers from 2000 to 2011. He had to end his football career due to a shoulder injury, but was present during the 2011 Super Bowl. Zais says that Tauscher has a championship ring to prove it.

Even though his cousin has played for the Packers, Zais remains loyal to the Chicago Bears.

"My dad's okay with me being a Bears fan because he knows I'm Chicago all the way," Zais said.

Zais's father told him that Tauscher always wanted to play football. Zais says that he is inspired by Tauscher's drive to pursue his dreams.

Brittany Garcia, Div. 372, does not box it out with her cousin, **Alex Garcia Jr.**, a UFC/MMA fighter, but she does occasionally have dinner with him.

Garcia keeps in contact with her cousin, who was ranked the number two prospect in the welterweight division in 2009. Sometimes she communicates with him through Facebook, or over her mother's freshly prepared meals. Garcia found out about her cousin's fame when her father told her about it.

"I usually see him for a month every summer. We keep in contact through email and text," Garcia said. "UFC is a hobby for him. What he really wants to be is a police officer."

Garcia says that she does not see her cousin as a famous athlete, that he is just another member of the family.

"He's been wrestling for a while, and he's always had the family's support," Garcia said.

Nick Rzyany, Div. 351, says being related to his cousin, the late **Ron Santo**, was never anything special.

"I am a Cubs Fan, but it's not that big of a deal," Rzyany said. "He was just an ordinary guy."

Santo played third base for the Cubs and was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame late last year. He was not just a baseball player though. Santo donated millions of dollars to research for diabetes, the disease which caused him to lose both of his legs.

He passed away on Dec. 3, 2010 from bladder cancer.

"My family did not grieve for Ron Santo, the famous baseball player," Rzyany said. "They grieved for Ron, our family."

## Local Celebrities

When Chicagoans think of "the weatherman," the first thought to pop into their head is Tom Skilling, but for Julian Dimaio, Div. 272, he first thinks of his father, **Rick Dimaio**.

As the head meteorologist on Fox until 2006, Rick Dimaio gained fame throughout Chicago and now teaches the subject he knows best, meteorology, at the Art Institute, Loyola, and Lewis University in and around Chicago.

Despite helping Julian make friends throughout most of his school life, there is one common misconception of having a famous father.

"People always assume that I'm rich and own a Bentley, but I don't," said Dimaio. "One question I always get is if I know Tom Skilling, but I think I've only met him once."

Nevertheless, people find Julian's life and father's profession interesting, resulting in new friends and people interested in Julian's life.

But Julian does get perks, like helping his father judge an Italian-American beauty pageant.

"He'd introduce me to them [the contestants], and let me influence him on the judging," Dimaio said with a smirk on his face. "I obviously picked the hot ones."

Although he does not want to follow in his father's weatherman shoes, Julian hopes to work in broadcasting as a video editor. He has his experience in the newsroom with his father to thank for introducing

him to this "glamorous" field of work.

While Julian's dad, Rick Dimaio is doing the reporting, others like Jenny Shultz's, Div. 365, next-door neighbor is making the news. Shultz's neighbor, **Jeff Tweedy**, is the lead singer and guitarist of the Grammy-winning band Wilco.

"I've been to a couple of his shows, mostly when I was younger, but I had no idea the band was so famous then. It didn't even cross my mind. But now I know who they are and I listen to their music. They're actually pretty good," said Shultz.

Being young made her completely oblivious to Tweedy's fame, and she still thinks of him as a neighbor first.

"My parents are pretty close with him and growing up his son Spencer was my best friend," said Shultz, Div. 365.

Through the years she's trick-or-treated with Tweedy and his family and spent time at the musician's summer home in Michigan.

As Shultz's neighbor rocks out, Emerald Dukes', Div. 352, father is working for social change throughout Chicago.

Dukes has attended rallies and protests with her father, **Bishop James Dukes**, who is a social activist. Bishop Dukes focuses on issues dealing with urban violence through his organization Liberated Inc.

Chicago's homegrown locals are reporting the news, winning Grammys, and working for social justice. Some Lane students have a front row seat for seeing it first hand.

tions as anything extraordinary.

"To anybody else it might be special, but it's just my family," Murray said.

George Zima, Div. 354, is also a direct descendent of a former U.S. president. However, his relationship to **William Howard Taft** occasionally causes him trouble.

"Nobody believes me! I have to call my mom to prove it," Zima said.

However, verifying this connection to Taft proves to be a simple task for Zima when challenging his friends to a game of golf.

"I know he was the first president to be an avid golfer and I think this was passed down through generations because every guy in my family has been an avid golfer and they have all learned from their dads, including me," Zima said.

Zima plays on Lane's lacrosse team. It is different from golf, but Zima enjoys it all the same.

Like Murray, Zima does not frequently mention his connection to the former President.



## Famous Presidents

"There's nothing like whipping out a twenty and being like 'I'm related to that dude,'" said Daniel Murray, Div. 267. Smiling with pride, he puts the bill back in his pocket.

**Andrew Jackson**, the seventh President of the United States, appears on the front side of that twenty dollar bill. President Jackson was nicknamed "Old Hickory" for his tough and aggressive personality. He was shot twice in a duel and never fell to the ground. Murray, a lineman on Lane's football team, jokingly believes he has inherited this toughness.

Remarkably enough, the Jackson family name has been kept through several generations. Melissa Jackson, Murray's mother, still carries the President's famous last name.

Besides Murray, there are many Lane students that have famous relatives, although many do not view their connec-

## Famous Actors

On the night of her Sweet Sixteen, Elisa Flores' perfectly done hair and flawless make-up brightened up the room, but the thing that stood out most was the one-of-a-kind designer Couture gown she was wore. All eyes were on her.

"I felt like a princess," said Flores, Div. 373.

Flores's fairytale attire was due to her famous uncle, **Lazaro Perez**. Perez is a bridal designer who has been featured on TLC's *Say Yes to the Dress*, and in Martha Stewart's recent copy of *Weddings*. For Flores, having a talented designer as an uncle has been a delight.

Custom made gowns and dresses for Flores's friends, family, and herself were all designed and made by Perez for Flores's 16th birthday.

"One of them was a finale piece for one of his shows," said Flores about her Sweet 16 outfit.

Other benefits include getting to attend runway shows, and even receiving her own custom made wedding gown for the future.

Daniel Birt, Div. 371, is second

cousin to **Liam Neeson** who has starred in popular movies such as *Taken*, *Batman Begins*, *Schindler's List* and the just released *The Grey*.

"NO WAY BRO!" said Birt when his mother explained their relation while watching one of his Neeson's movies. Birt's mother grew up in Ireland with cousin, Neeson.

Although Neeson's career is still going well, Birt has still never met his famous relative.

"He sent us a picture of himself a few years ago. It's framed behind our bar," Birt said.

Despite their distance, Birt considers every movie featuring Neeson "a big deal" and takes pride in calling him family.

"Have you seen *Taken*? He's honestly, THE man!" Birt said.

Alejandra Lemus, Div. 349, is also related to someone famous: talk show host **Christina Saralegui**, who is the Cuban equivalent of Oprah Winfrey. Lemus hopes to some day follow in her footsteps.

Whether it is for the free designer outfits, bragging rights, or inspiration for future success, Lane students are proud of their celebrity connections.

## The Infamous

Some Lane students like to boast about their relationships to well known people. Becca Peterson, Div. 354, has not been so lucky. She is related to not only one, but two unfortunately famous men. One used propaganda and military might to try and eliminate a race of people. The other has been married five times, allegedly killing one of his wives, and accused of killing another.

"My friend in grade school said she was related to former president Zachary Taylor and I wanted to know if I had something to compare with that and so I asked my mom if I was related to anyone famous," Peterson said.

Upon hearing about her relation to **Adolf Hitler**, Peterson was excited.

"At the time I didn't know who he was so I was ecstatic to be related to someone famous," Peterson said.

"I flaunted this fact for a year, but I would always get the same reaction: 'Don't go around killing people'...and eventually it started to lose the entertainment factor," Peterson said.

She didn't try to defend herself in these situations because the remarks were always sarcastic. Eventually she only brought up the topic when asked or around those closest to her.

"I fear that people I don't know will judge me because Hitler has a bad reputation," Peterson said.

While she finds Hitler's actions reprehensible and considers him to be "deranged," she acknowledges his strong leadership skills.

"He convinced many people to follow his rule. To be a leader it takes the skills to guide," Peterson said.

Her other infamous relation is to local Illinois resident and accused murderer **Drew Peterson**. Her aunt knows him fairly well, but Peterson has never met him.

"I didn't know I was related to him until after he was accused of murder," said Peterson.



"At first everyone brought it up at family gatherings, but after a while we stopped talking about it because it was a touchy subject for my aunt," Peterson said.

Her aunt knew him well and was quick to defend him.

"She thought that the authorities were wrong in accusing him and because of that she holds resentment towards [the authorities]," Peterson said.

Other family members had a different opinion.

"My family doesn't like our name tied to him or Hitler... people who are judgmental would most likely consider us to be strange," Peterson said.

Regardless, Peterson does not feel that her relation to infamous people hurts her.

"Being related to two famous people is just a weird fact about me," Peterson said.

Along with Becca Peterson, Jorge Calderon, Div. 575, is related to someone famous: **Mexican President Felipe Calderon**. The president is his great grandfather's cousin.

According to some Lane students, Calderon is creating problems within Mexico.

"I don't really have ways to say that he's good, but I have ways to say that he's bad," Calderon said.

As cartels in Mexico have gained more power, violence has erupted in the streets and corruption has increased within the government.

"It's really corrupt. The police are giving information to the cartels about guns and drugs; last year when I went there a cartel threw a grenade into a bank," said Calderon.

Daniel Montero, Div. 268, has a very similar opinion.

"He's corrupt. I heard that he lets his narcs take care of their own businesses as long as he gets the profits."

Regardless of their backgrounds, these infamous people certainly are well known and an interesting point of conversation for their Lane relations.

appreciate that he was in power. I guess I'm more proud of that fact that he was a pretty well-known guy in Poland than I am of his views," Spychala said, referring to his communist take over.

Justin Fernandez Div. 382, is also pleased to be related to his famous relative. He is related to **former president of the Philippines, José P. Laurel**.

While researching his family tree, Fernandez also discovered that Laurel was nearly assassinated while signing a peace treaty between the Philippines and Japan. The signing of this treaty was a decision viewed as a sign of weakness by his people. Fernandez, however, stands by what his great-great uncle did.

"I was surprised, proud, and shocked," he said.

These famous connections demonstrate the diversity of Lane students, and act as a reminder that anyone can follow in the footsteps of their ancestors.

Whether it is learning about their mistakes or the inheritance of certain traits, having a famous connection to a President or any other famous person can revive one's sense of pride and serve as a good story among their peers.

"I really don't celebrate being related to Taft. I just am. It's so long ago in the family tree that it's not even a huge deal," Zima said.

Other Lane students share the same sense of pride Zima and Murray do, even with connections to former non-U.S. Presidents.

Valerie Spychala, Div. 459, is the great-niece of **former President of Poland, Marian Spychalski**. As a founding father of communist Poland, Spychalski started off an architect, and worked his way up the ranks. He became a military commander and then a communist politician.

"I'm proud that my family has been successful, but I'm not exactly proud with the way they have done it," Spychala said.

Spychala admits that she was not affected much by her ancestor's political affairs and it is not something she cares much to talk about. Her family migrated to the United States from Poland around the time that Spychalski was president. Her parents never discussed the reason they moved.

"We don't really talk about his political views. We just



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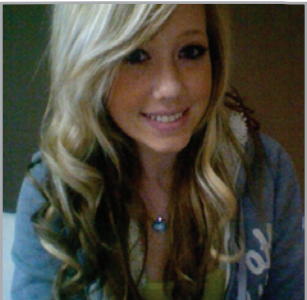
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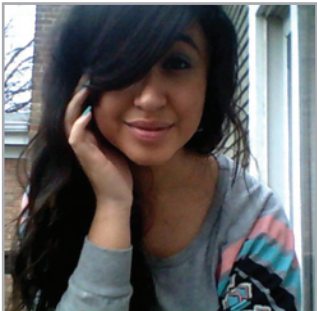
## Friends (4)



Christina Pablito



Torrie AsianBarbie Glass



Angie Lopez



Kevin Carlucci

# Students face identity theft

By Vanessa Pena

Sara Majerska, Div. 281, signs into Facebook to check her updates. She finds a link on her wall to “Christina Pablito’s” profile. Instead of Christina being a friend or even a stranger, Majerska sees something familiar in Christina’s face: her own.

The so-called “Christina Pablito” was using photos of Majerska and adding Lane students as friends on the social networking site. The thief would message Majerska’s friends introducing herself as Christina in an attempt to bring attention to the fake profile.

Christina gained multiple friends that would “show love” on her wall by posting fake greetings as if they have been long-time friends.

Majerska is not familiar with any of the people who posted or why anyone would use her pictures to make friends under a fake Facebook name.

Christina began adding Majerska’s friends who knew something was wrong. They recognized their friend’s face, but the name and information on the profile was off.

“The ‘About Me’ was made up since it was very unbalanced. It did not make sense. Her ‘About Me’ said all these things that didn’t match my values,” said Majerska, who does not recall all the fabricated details since this incident occurred in the summer of 2011.

Majerska failed to discover who the identity thief was. She messaged Christina asking why the profile was using her photos, but she never heard a reply. Christina also never accepted Majerska’s friend requests. Finally, Majerska reported the fake profile to Facebook personnel.

Facebook did nothing to solve her problem and the page is still online. However, there have not been any posts from Christina since February.

Majerska believes that the profile could have been made to defame her reputation.

“I think [the thief] just made it to be stupid. I don’t know if someone made it who didn’t like me,” said Majerska.

Today, Majerska keeps all her pictures on private and only adds people who she knows. She is not the only one walking the halls of Lane with a stolen identity via the Internet. Other students have also had their identities taken and used on a social network.

Eesle Koh, Div. 255, also discovered a fake profile impersonating her. The person had Koh’s profile picture and went by the name of “Torrie AsianBarbie Glass.”

“The ‘About Me’ read something like this: ‘I drink until I hit the floor, I smoke that dough,’” said Koh.

Since the mystery person would not accept Koh’s friend requests, Koh asked her friends to add the person and report back.

“The fake profile wrote on the walls of guys that I didn’t even know!” said Koh.

Taking a stand against “Torrie AsianBarbie Glass,” Koh called Facebook personally and reported the fake profile.

“I never talked to a real person representing Facebook. It was just a voice message that told me they accepted my report,” said Koh.

Two days after the profile was reported, the page was taken down. Koh believes it was made with bad intentions, tricking guys into thinking she was something she’s not.

After experiencing this, Koh claims she is now very careful. She puts her pictures on private and is careful about whom she adds as a friend. She also hides everything on her profile from public viewing.

Kristen Reyes, Div. 378, can also be found as “Angie Lopez” on Facebook. Reyes discovered the fake profile impersonating her in August when she stumbled upon it while viewing a friend’s profile. That friend was friends on Facebook with “Angie Lopez.”

“Angie” did not attempt to communicate with Reyes. Rather than trying to hurt Reyes’s reputation, the thief used the profile to attack someone else, leading a vicious cyber bullying campaign against a girl from Shurz High School. “Angie” has posted about “trying to steal Lopez’s boyfriend.” The profile has even threatened to harm the girl that it is targeting.

“I didn’t really make a big deal about [the profile]. I was just like ‘okay?’” Reyes said.

Recently Reyes viewed the profile in length causing her to change her feelings about the situation.

“The fact that I saw [the thief] talking so bad about some girl really worries me now! This just got really creepy,” she said.

The profile is still up today since Reyes has not reported it. She says the profile thief has not made any contact with her to cause concern. The friend request Reyes sent to “Angie Lopez” is still pending and no mutual friends from Lane exist between them.

Though Reyes has not found the creator of this profile, she says that if contact between “Angie Lopez” and her friends were made, she would take action.

“I’d definitely be hitting up Mark Zuckerberg then!” she said.

Many tend to think that drama like this is only between girls looking to disrupt each other’s lives. This is not the case for Mikey Heath, Div. 253.

Heath received a message from a distant friend with a link directing him to “Kevin Carlucci.” The message sent Heath to a profile with a stolen picture of him, and comments from girls who seemed very interested in the fake “Kevin Carlucci.”

“[The thieves] were major creeps though because not only did they use all my pictures but they added people and had conversations with them,” Heath said.

Soon enough, the fake profile of Heath started gaining the attention of even more girls. Girls from different states that had absolutely no connection to Heath were commenting on his pictures on the fake profile.

“There were girls writing on the wall asking why I wasn’t texting them back... people were commenting on pictures of me, writing stuff, and [the thief would respond]. The picture comments were just basically like ‘oh my god. You’re so hot, cutie,’ and stuff girls say to me,” Heath said.

Heath is a strong believer that the profile was just made to get girls using his good looks.

It was evident that the creator of this page not only created a fake identity but also created a line of friendships in the process.

“[The girls] would tell the creep how much they missed him/her and how they couldn’t wait to text me every morning. I honestly felt so violated,” Heath said.

Heath attempted to add the fake profile, but he ended up getting blocked from the page. Heath soon gained access to the account when his sister added the intruder.

Heath contacted Facebook and the page was deleted shortly after.

Facebook is not the only place for an identity thief to find a victim. Users of Formspring, an anonymous question-asking social networking site, have experienced identity theft as well.

Joshua Aguiar, Div. 255, does have a twin, but it was not the work of his twin sister that was bringing him negative attention.

Aguiar received a text message from a very close friend at that time with the question: “Did you just write on my Formspring?” His friend was so insulted by the comment on her Formspring that she contacted Aguiar right away.

After three days of nonstop harassment towards Aguiar’s friends, the fake profile was taken down. Aguiar believes that the creator did not do a good enough job to ruin his relationships with friends if that was the purpose of the fake Formspring.

While some learned quickly about consequences of being impersonated by someone on a social network, others are still unaware of the rights they have in that kind of situation.

Identity theft is broken down into statutes, meaning that different types of theft result in different degrees of crimes. The more serious the crime, the greater the consequences.

The statute which identifies thieves who impersonate someone else falls under the fourth degree, although this varies from state. Stealing someone’s identity on the internet was recently changed to a crime due to the suicide rates connected to cyber bullying. Identity thieves like those above could face over a year in prison depending on local laws.

There is also an act called the “Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.” This is effective when the “terms of use” are broken, which is now considered criminal activity.

Last year, a woman by the name of Dana Thornton was indicted for committing identity theft in the fourth degree. She was sentenced to a maximum of 18 months in prison.

Thornton impersonated her ex boyfriend on Facebook using his photos and personal information. She used this page to write things such as “High all the time, had herpes and frequented prostitutes and escort services.”

The law she broke reads that it is illegal to use the Internet “for the purpose of obtaining a benefit for himself or another or to injure or defraud another.” Thornton used her ex-boyfriend’s information to defame him with malicious intent.

The strictness of these consequences came into play when a 13 year old girl committed suicide in 2006 in a suburb of St. Louis after being targeted online by a fake Myspace page. The Myspace profile was created by the mother of a teenage girl in order to humiliate the 13 year old in retaliation against rumors spread about her own daughter.

Facebook established a chat system in early December that allows users to connect with a crisis counselor attempting to tackle the bullying and defaming done on their page. This new tool provides an instant chat session at any time for those seeking help. This service is Facebook’s way to help individuals defend themselves against identity theft, bullying, or offensive content. With more than 800 million users on Facebook, “crisis counselors” have been added to help any users in need.

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# Ladies, embrace your geeky side



By Sophia Swenson

Move over, Gossip Girl. Out of the way, 90210. The geeks are coming through. Although it is nice to sit down after a long and stressful day to the beauty and glamour of Blake Lively or AnnaLynne McCord, something always bothers me. How does Serena van der Woodsen keep her makeup so lovely even after a huge sob fest? And why doesn't Naomi Clark get sweat stains on her nice Calvin Klein dress after frolicking around California in ninety-five degree heat? These are the questions that keep me up at night.

Luckily, a new girl has blown into town. The

**A new breed of female comedians is changing what it means for women to be funny, successful, and even cool**

kind of girl who isn't afraid to talk about her smelly pits or the big swollen "ugly face" that comes right after a good cry. (Every girl's got one, gentlemen; you'll see it when we deem you worthy.)

"Who are these women?" one might ask. "And how did they get so fabulous?" Well, the newly-found love for the geeky/awkward/unpopular girl, (let's just call her "gawkpoper"), all began with Tina Fey and her New York Times Best Seller *Bossypants*. Here lie Fey's cringe-worthy memoirs of being a hermaphrodite child, turned awkward teenager, turned desperate college girl, turned weird improv roadie, turned beautiful gorgeous famous woman! It's almost as easy as 1-2-3, ladies!

Even the stunning Zoey Deschanel couldn't stay away from the temptations of becoming a painfully awkward lady in her show *New Girl*. I mean, if anyone can go from kissing Joseph Gordon-Levitt to singing songs with Justin Long (let's not get into how much of an awesome nerd he is for becoming a symbol of Mac Computers), it's the undeniably charming gawkpoper chick.

If you haven't seen the movie *Bridesmaids* (and

I'm assuming that everyone who lives in the United States and prides themselves on a respectably good sense of humor has), then immediately turn to the nearest iPhone owner and watch the entire film before returning to this article. No hurry. This can wait.

Now that you have just returned from witnessing the work of the funniest group of ladies since the Golden Girls, we can resume this little journey through the land of funny women. Oh yeah, they're out there. And while women have been expected to cook, clean, and sew over hundreds of years, we have used that quiet time to think up some of the crudest and crass fart jokes that would make even Will Ferrel cringe.

These are a different type of female comedians - the type that will stand in front of the world and talk about bodily functions or swear words for hours. This is the kind of woman who doesn't listen when men say "women can't be funny," but instead flips them a whole new type of bird made out of academy awards and other shiny metal statues that are probably sitting on top of Melissa McCarthy's mantle right now.

So before we get too caught up in who stole whose boyfriend, or how someone managed to gain seven pounds, (could she be pregnant? Quick! Cue the collective gasp!) I'd just like to point out who comes out on top of all the television, computer generated, romantic comedy garbage: the girl who isn't afraid to make a fool out of herself, or show off her comedic genius through methods that only men have used for the past hundred years.

I'm sorry. What did you say, beautiful twenty-something trying to portray a sixteen-year old? Mrs. Fey couldn't hear you. Her stack of Emmy's and Golden Globes got in the way.

So boys, next time you're sitting in class, daydreaming of Regina George's - ahem - nail polish collection, maybe take a walk on the wild side and talk to the chick next to you with the big glasses.

Girls, see that skinny kid in the corner reading? He's going to invent the next Facebook. The hunk next to you who's sticking his gum underneath the seat? Well, not all the Harry Potter books in the world have enough magic to get him a steady job.

## Lane alum band YAWN wakes up fans with crazy visuals

By Ben Palmer

Mother nature's tech-savvy sister gave birth to YAWN, a young band of four twenty-somethings (including two Lane grads) trying to make their musical and visual mark.

Although they may be "too indie for you to have heard of them," YAWN has been gaining a following through the web. The band's music has the catchiness of pop, the alternative feel of MGMT, and the music-video feel of OK Go.

The song Kind of Guy, about which band members George Perez and Sam Wolf spoke to Lane's TV Broadcast class, sounds like a slightly off-beat experimental pop song. The music video, on the other hand, is a meditation VHS that melts into a cosmic glow-stick puppet show. On LSD.

The use of bright colors, trippy transitions, and chromatic kaleidoscope space scenes is enough to give anyone horrific drug flashbacks. However, the band insisted to the prying students that drugs are in no way a theme in their work.

"Most of our videos are really trippy," Perez responded to the questions. "But whenever music videos have stuff flashing, people say it's drug-related."

"We're more catchy than trippy," Wolf insisted.

Most of the songs, like Toys, make use of digital enhancement in terms of background sounds and instruments. The band successfully avoids the overuse of these disguises and never loses the glory of a good melody and interesting lyrics. Despite what some could see as symbolic or deeply thematic lyrics, Wolf admits that "lyrics are always an afterthought...which is probably a bad thing."

Fun fact: The lyrics for Kind of Guy have nothing to do with space, drugs, or color-orgies. They are, in fact, about Wolf's cat.

YAWN's songs are honestly quite fun to listen to. If you've ever wanted to be the first of your friends to know about a band, this is the band to know about.

Gasoline (off their album Open Season) has a classic guitar riff with a sort of beach-y rock/pop rhythm. The vocals are consistently smooth throughout their songs, allowing



them to be relaxing background music while hanging out. The melodies and rhythms are, however, good enough to be the center of attention, and I'd have no problem if a song by YAWN came up on shuffle during a party.

Regarding the videos, I'd like to say that Kind of Guy was an isolated incident. The band acknowledges, however, that it enjoys making videos that fit their busy music.

"We have a lot wind sounds, water sounds, and trees," said Wolf. "It's very visual, and [the directors] represent that."

While discussing a music video in the classroom, Mr. Maslanka came to a realization of some semi-graphic symbolism in the Kind of Guy video.

"Ohhh...that was going through the birth canal?"

"Yeah," replied Perez. "That's why we had it dripping with all the fluids."

This raw energy and ability to experiment with sound and image is perhaps the key to YAWN's success, as it is competing in a new music market which relies on downloads. The band admits to living off of T-shirt and CD sales, as well as money from gigs. They make all of their music easily available online so as to get out there more.

"It's more about touring and festivals than about being at a good label," said Wolf of the band's business strategy. "Some artists get by at labels but it's really about touring."

The band has toured Europe, played at South by SouthWest in Austin, and will soon start a west coast tour including Vancouver, Seattle, and LA. YAWN will be opening for the Cooks.

Open Season and YAWN E.P. are available for download on iTunes, as are their singles.

## Elephant in the Classroom

A column dedicated to examining those awkward high school situations

By Cody Lee



OMG! Winter, and snowmen, and presents! Yayyyy, right? Wrong. Now that winter's eerie glow is creeping up on us, a demon that we are all semi-content with just got 1,000 times worse...riding the CTA.

The bus usually isn't too bad. We might have to deal with a few weirdos every now and then, but that's about it. You wait a few minutes for a bus to come, get on, pay, sit down, put on your headphones, then get off. Occasionally some people might smell like feet, or take up two seats, but it's not that big of a deal. But in the winter, everything multiplies.

Waiting for the bus in a blizzard is probably the worst feeling on Earth. The 10 minute wait seems like an eternity. You can be wrapped in nine coats, seven pants, 20 gloves (each hand), and five hats, and somehow you're still freezing. On top of that, you can't text anyone to pass the time unless you're crazy and want to take off your gloves.

By the time you get on the bus, it's completely crowded and you can smell the sickening snot from everyone's red little Rudolph noses, including your own. Everyone that usually takes up two seats, now takes up four due to the layers of clothes that they are bundled in. There is no room to reach in your pocket to grab your iPod since you're crammed in like a sardine. Instead of listening to glori-

ous music, you have to hear all about dumb, adolescent topics like Justin Bieber's baby-mama-drama.

If you are one of the lucky ones to get a seat, you end up next to a sneezy, tissue abusing little kid, infected with the common cold. If you are not sick already, it's bound to catch on by the end of the bus ride.

After about 15 minutes of riding, you are no longer freezing. Quite the opposite actually. You are sweating. It's amazing grace when you first step on the bus and it's 90 degrees, but after a while, the heat becomes unbearable. And it doesn't help that you are buried under 100 articles of clothing.

Did I mention that the bus ride is three times as long as usual because of the snow-time traffic? You would think that there is nothing you can do besides (uncomfortably) hang in there. On the contrary, allow me to offer a cornucopia of ideas to help pass the time:

* **People Watch:** It's surprisingly interesting, human beings do fascinating things.

* **Talk to the bus driver:** Most amusing stories you will ever hear, guaranteed.

* **Read:** Not my cup of tea, but some people look pretty intrigued in what they are reading.

* **Learn something new:** Learning new stuff is great 99.9% of the time. Whether it's learning how to snap, whistle, or speak Polish, the bus is the perfect learning ground.

* **Look out the window:** When worse comes to worst, and there is nothing at all to do, you can't go wrong with the beauty of... nature.

If you have to take the bus everyday, that stinks... literally. But at least now you know how to make the best of it. Obviously it's not the luxurious life but getting on a bus with so many brilliant opportunities is simply priceless.

## As Good As It Gets

Advice so nice you'll read it twice

By Mary Presley  
marypresley@lanewarrior.com

Dear Mary,  
My ex-boyfriend wants to get back with me, but I'm really diggin this other dude. How can I let him down easy without being a complete [witch]?

Dear Friend,

It is very clear that your ex boyfriend was not ready to move on at the same time you were. He keeps holding on to you because he feels like there is something left in your relationship that he can fix. Clearly you do not agree.

The best way to tell your ex that you moved on is to show him. "Show rather than tell" should be your new goal. Flirt, text, or talk to other guys in front of him. While doing so, completely ignore your ex. When he texts you, do not text him back. Or tell him you're busy or something. Trust me, the more distant you become, the more he will see that you do not

need him anymore, and that he does not need you anymore.

On the other hand, what if your ex just wants to be friends with you again? I mean, didn't you guys start off as friends in the beginning? Maybe, he realizes your relationship wasn't worth your friendship.

Looking at your situation from a different perspective always helps see the other side of things. Instead of ignoring him, ask him what he wants from you. Then you can go from there. I hope my advice is helpful. If not, just remember: sometimes this is as good as it gets.





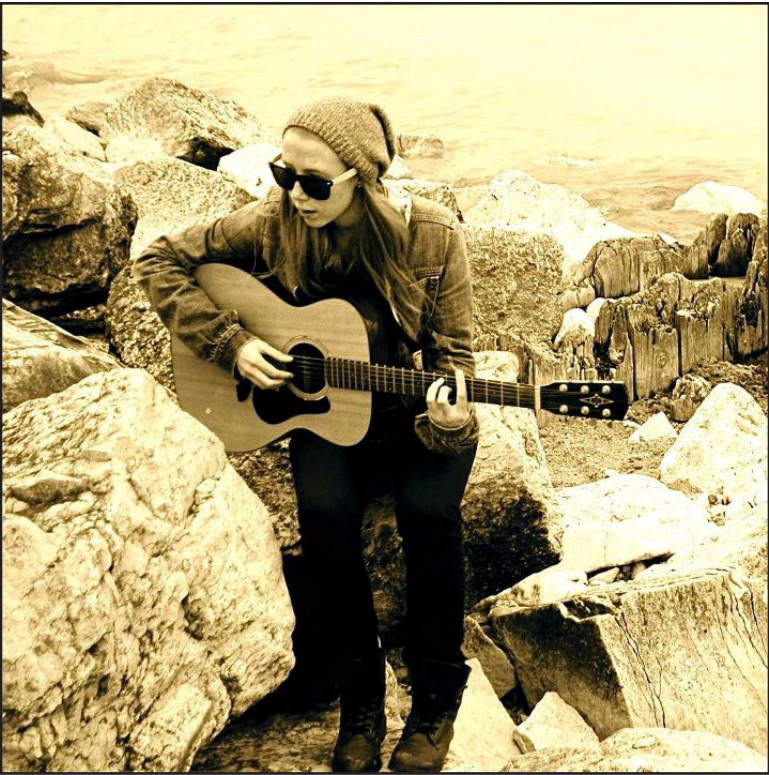
STANDOUT OF THE ISSUE: Savanna Dickhut

By Mary Presley

**Warrior:** How long have you been singing?  
**S.D:** I started when I was 14, but I took chorus when I was in 6th or 7th grade. I started taking music seriously when I got a guitar for Christmas. At first I was terrible, but practice makes perfect.  
**Warrior:** How would you describe your type of music?  
**S.D:** It's not country. It's definitely Folk-Pop. I would compare myself to Colbie Caillat in terms of sound.  
**Warrior:** Who are your inspirations in terms of music?  
**S.D:** People who I meet, experiences I have, and things people go through inspire me. My major influences are Joni Mitchell, The Beatles, Bob Dylan and James Taylor.  
**Warrior:** Who contributed to your album? Did you write all the songs on your own?  
**S.D:** I wrote all my songs. Charlie Kim played lead electric guitar and Adam Vida played the drums for me.  
**Warrior:** Your project is considered an

EP...What is an EP?  
**S.D:** An EP stands for extended play. It is shorter than an album, but larger than a demo. It usually is around five to six songs.  
**Warrior:** How long did it take you to put your EP together?  
**S.D:** It took me around a month. I started in October and finished in December. I went to the studio twice a month.  
**Warrior:** Where can people buy your EP?  
**S.D:** You can find my EP on Bandcamp, if you search savannamusic.bandcamp.com. It is free on Bandcamp, but if you want a hard copy, you can find me around school because I will be selling them for three dollars. I also have a Facebook music page, just search Savanna.  
**Warrior:** What is the point of your EP? Are you hoping for fame?  
**S.D:** Originally I wasn't planning on doing an EP, but one day I was in the studio recording my music for college applications, when I decided I would do an EP. I have been wanting to record an EP for a while, so I just got it out of the way. My dad helped me pay for it with the help of Charlie Kim and Adam Vida.

**Warrior:** What was the biggest challenge during the process of completing your EP?  
**S.D:** The biggest challenge probably would be making sure everything sounded the same as it sounded in my head. I have a lot of ideas and I'm a perfectionist.  
**Warrior:** Where did you record your EP?  
**S.D:** I recorded it at Experimental Sound Studios in Rogers Park.  
**Warrior:** What are you doing now to promote your EP?  
**S.D:** I'm networking and promoting it online and advertising it at school. I sold a bunch of EPs at my shows already.  
**Warrior:** What is next for you in terms of music?  
**S.D:** I'm planning on going to college for music to study the music business and songwriting. I would like to write in the music industry for a living, but if me being a performer does not work out I still want to be involved in music. It is not about the fame for me. It is about doing something I love. I want to work with musicians who love music just as much as I love it, and I would be happy getting money for something I love.



The cover to Dickhut's EP, Seven to 17.

Upcoming Albums

- Kid Cudi - WZRD (1/20)
- Lana Del Rey - Born 2 Die (1/23)
- Tim McGraw - Emotional Traffic (1/24)
- Tyga - Careless World: Rise of the Last King (1/24)
- The Fray - Scars & Stories (2/7)



Must See Movies

- Underworld: Awakening - 1/20
- The Grey - 1/27
- Chronicle - 2/3
- Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace (3D) - 2/10
- The Vow - 2/10



“Antigone” brings tragedy to Lane

By Airis Cervantes

Lane Drama Department's captivating dramatic production "Antigone," left a lasting impression on its viewers. As the curtains spread and the stage stole the spotlight, the Chorus wasted no time in introducing the play. As all the characters stood like statues, the Chorus enthusiastically described the personalities of each and introduced the plot of the play (in case the audience had not done its research). Antigone is a young women. She is the daughter of Oedipus, the niece of Creon, Haemon's lover, and the sister of Ismene, Polynices, and Eteocles. The cast members who played Antigone did an exceptional job in characterizing her as melancholy and withdrawn. When Oedipus dies and Creon becomes king, he decides to step down and allow Polynices and Eteocles to take turns being King of Thebes. At the end of Eteocles's term, however, he refuses to let Polynices rule. The two brothers fight to the death and once again Creon is reluctantly given the crown. Creon decided that Eteocles' will be ceremoniously buried by the people of Thebes, while Polynices is left to rot in the dirt unburied. A particularly gripping scene near the beginning of the play showed Ismene rush onto the stage and fall on her knees begging Antigone not to bury Polynices. Ismene reminds Antigone that she could be condemned to death for defying the king's decree. The sisters violent arguing captured the viewer's attention. Later, after Antigone says goodbye to the nurse, Ismene arrives once again. Antigone confesses that she has visited the body of Polynices and attempted to bury him.

The Lane Antigone production also added humor to the tragedy. When the guard spoke to Creon about the attempt to bury Polynices' body, he started babbling nonsense. The scene awakened the crowd and led them, for just a moment, to step away from the plot. Once again, Antigone attempts to bury the body and the guards arrest her and take her to Creon. Creon attempts to be understanding, but he refuses to take orders from a woman. At one point Creon is so infuriated that he clenches small Antigone by her arms and shakes her, and Antigone yells that he is hurting her. When Haemon, Creon's son rep- rimands Creon for sentencing Antigone to death, the viewer's judgment of Creon completely changes. Creon says to Haemon, "the girl doesn't love you." He is no longer the least bit understanding, only heartless. Antigone is sentenced to a "live death," in which she will be buried alive in a tomb. The Gods tell Tir- isisus the prophet that a curse will haunt Thebes. As a result Creon turns to the citizens for help and they decide to set Antigone free. In the tomb, they find they are too late as Antigone has already hanged herself. Haemon who has already found his way into the tomb to find Antigone dead, attempts to slash his father, Creon, with his sword. Haemon then in despair and re- venge stabs himself to death in front of him. When Eurydice hears that her son Haemon is dead, she also commits suicide. Creon is left alone and alive, and asks the Gods for death. In a dramatic closing scene, the three dead characters are draped in red with their heads bowed, as the red spotlight shines on them.



## Athlete of the Issue Natalie Frazier, Div. 281



© Jane Rickard  
Welles Park Bulldog

Frazier started playing basketball for Lane her freshman year. Recently, her name was mentioned in the Sun Times for scoring a team high 13 points in a game against Steinmetz. She has also been offered a Division 2 athletic scholarship.

### Favorites

**Color:** Black

**Movie:** The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

**Food:** Lasagna

**Music artist:** Aaliyah

**Class:** AP Psychology and Film Studies

**Sport Team:** Chicago Bulls

**Moment:** competing against rival, Marshall High School

### Q & A

**Warrior:** What was the hardest thing you had to overcome in becoming a better player?

**NF:** "Definitely becoming a more confident and poised player. I've played with girls and guys who are stars and I really had to find my own style of play and calm myself down on the court."

**Warrior:** What inspired you to play basketball at Lane?

**NF:** "My biggest inspiration was simply that I love the game and I wanted to play at a school with a great reputation."

**Warrior:** Did you have to overcome any injuries?

**NF:** "Junior year I had a lower back injury. It was not fun because I just sat on the bench and watched my team. I felt helpless."

**Warrior:** How do you get ready for games?

**NF:** "Music pumps me up. I usually listen to super gangster rap like Young Jeezy, T.I., Mel-low Hype, and Danny Brown. I have my own basketball playlist."

**Warrior:** How dedicated are you as a player?

**NF:** "I am very dedicated. I have not missed a regular season game or a full practice yet."

## Boys' Softball undefeated for second year in a row Win streak now at 52 games and counting

By Kelly Mrofcza

The 16-inch Boy's Softball Team swung their bats, ran the bases, and scored themselves another City Championship this season, marking their second consecutive City title.

The team defeated Washington 12-3 in the final held at UIC in late October. The victory marked the 52nd consecutive game the team has won.

The team has also been recognized by ESPN's Michael Wilbon who wrote to the team talking about mentioning their accomplishments on ESPN.

The players and coaches are very proud of the way the season ended. Alex Sheehan, Div. 254, said winning the championship twice in a row and being on a two year winning streak is the coolest thing he has been a part of at Lane.

Most players felt the same way while others felt the streak made the season a little dull.

"There is no doubt that it was fun, but some games were such blowouts that it would get slow and boring," said Peter Tuttle, Div. 261.

The team faced many schools that were not as talented as they were leading to uninteresting "blowouts."

"We probably put up close to 80 runs on [Steinmetz] in the last two years," Sheehan said.

Clearly competition was not as tough for some games. Coach Stavrakas, the head coach since 2009, insists that even if some games were easily won, winning 52 games in a row takes a great deal of talent.

The team had some close calls along the way. One game in particular where their winning streak was threatened was against Taft. A baseball tournament was being held on the same day so only about half Lane's team could make it to the softball game. With the team down to its final out in the last inning and the score tied, Tommy Lauletta, Div. 261, stepped

into the batter's box and delivered a pitch into right field, which brought in the winning run.

"It was a really awesome moment that truly defined us as a 'never say die' team," Lauletta said.

Northside was another school that provided some good competition, but Lane fought through tough spots to continue their streak.

During the season, the coaches made the team practice every day, even through cold weather and rain. The frequent practices in less than ideal conditions helped ingrain a toughness in the boys that helped them in real games, according to Stavrakas.

Besides being physically conditioned for the games, the only special technique the team had to help with the victories was to be louder than any school.

"We always like to be intimidating, and [being loud] kind of freaked out the other teams," Tuttle said.

Coach Stavrakas also had a specific technique that helped the

team claim the undefeated title.

"I was very loose about the whole thing. We talked about the streak a lot and I didn't believe in 'jinxing' the team if I did," he said.

Coach Stavrakas wanted the boys to be comfortable with any outcome.

Tuttle said that Coach Stavrakas still had really high expectations for the team.

"[His expectations] really pushed us to work harder because for some reason we didn't want to disappoint him," Tuttle said.

Aside from the competition and pressure, the team had a brotherly bond that lasted through the season.

"I am going to miss the guys so much. We had a lot of fun playing and I will never forget them," said Cody Davis, Div. 270.

Zachary Barth, Div. 355, expects another undefeated season and City Championship again next year.

"With dedication and hard work, we can do it," he said.

## Cubs visit Lane; announce plans for new Lane baseball stadium

By Kelly Mrofcza  
& Emina Cirkic

The band was ready to play and the students were ready to shout. However, it was not a typical Lane sporting event. Members of the Chicago Cubs were in Gym One.

Cub's pitchers Randy Wells, Jeff Beliveau, and James Russell along with infielder Darwin Barney were four of the guests. Accompanying them were coaches Rudy Jaramillo and Lester Strode, as well as newly hired general manager, Jed Hoyer, and head manager, Dale Sveum. Keith Moreland, the WGN Cubs sports analyst, was the MC of the event and did his best to rile up the crowd.

The event was part of the annual Cubs Caravan, a two-day excursion of Cubs players and coaches to schools, neighborhoods and communities throughout Illinois and Northwest Indiana. The caravan gives fans a chance

to see players and staff in person and off the field. All members of Lane's Letterman Club, varsity sports, and 2011 City Championship teams were invited to attend the event. A few selected varsity athletes were allowed to speak to the players, managers and coaches.

Towards the end of the event an answer was finally given to the question on everybody's mind: will the Cubs sponsor a brand new baseball stadium by Clark Park? Indeed, the empty lot next to the football field will be transformed into a mini replica of Wrigley Field. Final details of who will own the field and when it will be built is still unknown.

Aside from the big announcement, one of the topics covered at the event was players' nutrition. Russell talked about how important it is to eat a good breakfast and be active. Some of the foods he mentioned that professional athletes use to replace junk food include bread and chicken. He emphasized that a healthy diet keeps the players energized and fit.

When it comes to working out the Cubs also follow a disciplined regimen.

"We spend a lot of time in the gym. For pitchers we need to keep our core and abs strong," Wells said.

The players also talked about their inspirations for becoming major leaguers.

"I watched my dad play in the major leagues and it sparked my interest," Russell said.

Wells credits his success to his old baseball coach.

"He was the one calling the pro leagues to watch me play," he said.

When it comes to the game, the players and coaching staff are always committed. They have plans for a successful year and are hopeful that several strides will be made toward getting the Cubs to a World Series.

It seems the team is working hard under its new leadership to create an atmosphere of youthful exuberance and an atmosphere of winning.

"Our biggest focus is to get the team younger and

more multi-dimensional," Sveum said.

Barney fits the mold of a player who is excited to be playing baseball.

"If I wasn't in the major league today, I'd still be trying to make it. It's all about following your dream," Barney said.

"The day we stop getting butterflies is the day we stop playing," Sveum said.

Along with answering questions from students, team members also asked Cubs trivia questions to the crowd. Whoever raised their hand the quickest and answered the question correctly received a Cub's accessory like visors, hats, and t-shirts. However, the best gift Lane received that day was about the construction of the new stadium.

According to a Cubs spokesperson at the event, "A school of champions deserves to have a place to play as champions."

## Boys' Cross Country first 3A team to qualify for State in nine years

By Vanessa Pena

The points were tied and the winner was unknown. It was all down to the next point made by either Maine South or Lane. Of the 20 teams that compete in Sectionals, only five move on to State.

With a tie breaker needed, captain Lucas Beltran, Div. 277, and his team members ran hard for the finish line.

"Between Lane and our competition, Maine South, we knew we had to step up our game. Myself and another team member passed Maine South runners that brought us to victory," Beltran said. The Cross Country team had earlier won City, which led them to Regionals and then the big hurdle: Sectionals. The next step: State.

After race officials reviewed and revised the final score at Sectionals, Lane

was announced the winner by a single point.

The boys left school on Friday Nov. 4 to prepare for their race at State the next day. Lane's top seven runners were selected by Coach Roof to run for the team.

The boys were already familiar with the course since they had run at a meet held there earlier in the season. They also knew the opposition would be tougher. "I already knew what a competitive field we were going to overcome," said captain Danny Zimny-Schmitt, Div. 259.

It is a long season for the team as training started in July and the season ended in November. However, Mansur Soeleman, Div. 371 is grateful for the workouts and preparation.

"Coach Tony's workouts are really hard and difficult. The fact that they were very hard put us in shape for state. I feel

like we really stepped it up compared to last year," he said.

"It was the effort and training that brought us here," Zimny-Schmitt said. "It was a full team effort. Everyone was just so happy to have made it so far, but we still had to give it our all."

The day of the state competition, many supporters came to cheer on Lane.

"Everyone was so supportive and our manager, Johnny Mak, did an awesome job in supporting us," said Captain David Timlan, Div. 275.

Though Lane did not place at State, team members appreciated the opportunity.

"It was a good experience because it was new. It was the first time in nine years for a 3A team to make it down to State," Timlan said.

Saving his best run ever for the state competition, Soeleman ran the three miles in a personal best 16 minutes and

8 seconds.

With many of the seniors leaving next year, remaining team members know they will have a tough challenge next year.

"When seniors leave, myself and other team members will have to step it up," Soleman said.

Timlan knows it will be difficult for next year's team to repeat the success of this year.

"I wouldn't put them down, but it'll be harder. My advice is to run hard, and do what the coaches tell them to do," he said.

Still, before thinking too much of next year, team members are enjoying the success of this season.

"We were just so happy we made it so far," Beltran said. "Getting to state was like a hurdle we couldn't get over. Everything just came together while nobody believed in us."



Lucas Beltran, Div. 277, runs in Sectionals helping the team qualify for State.