

THE WARRIOR

“The world was robbed”

Lane alum passes away

Abraham Mendoza | 1990-2010

By Sofi Kerpan

“As a teacher you have to have a kind of persona...you’re not considered human. One day, I was going through something difficult and I wasn’t myself,” recalls Ms. McMeans, AP Photography teacher at Lane.

She had been in the dark room with her students. Among them was Abraham Mendoza.

“Abraham could tell something was wrong. He came up to me and he just said... ‘It’s okay.’ I felt so understood.”

This past summer, friends, family, and Lane teachers grieved the loss of a compassionate young man.

Mendoza, a Lane Alum from the Class of ‘09, was on a hiking trip with his RA (resident assistant) group from Bard College in upstate NY, near Catskill Falls, on Aug. 20. He went off-course, lost his footing, and fell to his death.

“It’s an incredible loss. He had an old soul. He knew who he was,” said Ms. Meacham, who met him through theatre productions at Lane.

An outstanding student and friend, Mendoza charmed many of his peers and teachers with his charisma and brilliance.

“There are a lot of smart students. He was intelligent, not just smart,” said Ms. Holland, his AP Statistics teacher.

Holland is one of many AP teachers Mendoza studied under at Lane. In total, he took 10 AP classes. On the exams, he scored a five (the highest possible score) on eight of them, and a four on the other two.

Aside from academic achievement, Mendoza harbored a love of expression. He found outlets for his voice and his sentiments in theatre, photography, and writing. Those who knew him well can hardly speak of him without mentioning this talent.

“He loved art. Art finds beauty in everything, which is what he always did,” said Eric Campos, a close friend, Class of ‘09. “His writing and acting, and his photography... that is where the beauty of everything really manifested itself.”

Mendoza shined in McMeans’ Photography courses where he discovered a medium in which he could excel. He even got to meet legendary photographer, Annie Leibovitz, when she was in town.

McMeans especially remembers a Polaroid emulsion lift project he did in her AP class in 2008.

“It was so delicate and so powerful, just like him. Sensitive yet strong. Everytime I think of him I think of this image,” McMeans



Mendoza, above, harbored a love of expression. Bottom left, his AP Photo project, “Medusa”

said.

This silent strength exposed itself in theatre, as well. He was a prolific bit player, even while at Lane, where he performed in productions such as 2008’s *The Laramie Project*. He was an ensemble member at Free Street Theatre, where he wrote and performed in many productions.

“He used to joke around and call us, [his friends], sell outs, because we were music theatre nerds. We auditioned for the musicals. He was into serious theatre,” said friend and former classmate, Nicolette Nazarowski, Class of ‘09.

“Abraham saw theatre as a way to convey a political or social message for larger change. His plays were a little dark, because he wanted to create change,” Meacham said.

Mendoza’s writing abilities further exhibited his talents in the arts. His English teachers took notice, describing him as a brilliant writer, far beyond his years. Mr. Maslanka, his junior year AP Language teacher, had even decided to collaborate with him on the script and production of *The Laramie Project* as a method of staying in touch with Mendoza during his senior year. “The world was robbed,” said Maslanka.

Mendoza’s legacy will be his adventurous spirit. “I wasn’t on the hiking trip, but it sounds like when he left the group he might’ve been going where most people aren’t supposed to go, beyond everyone else, which is exactly what he did in life. It was his curiosity. He probably had a beautiful view in front of him, but thought to himself, ‘I want to see more’. That’s who he was,” said Mrs. Langford, his AP Psychology teacher. His friends agree.

“Abraham doesn’t live on earth anymore, but he never really did. He was beyond earth,” said Nazarowski.

Although Mendoza’s life was cut short, his contributions in life cannot be denied. He seemed to be destined for greatness.

“He emailed me from college once, and I kept the email because I knew the world was going to know his name one day. I still have it saved. I’ll always keep that email,” Holland said.

A service was held at his school, Bard College, on Sept. 29, where dedications were made to him. But Mendoza’s legacy seems to have already set in here in Chicago. Before he left for college, he wrote on a high beam across the Free Street Theatre stage: “You are what you eat: so eat hopes, eat dreams and lives. Devour raw energy. Consume the universe.”

“Yesterday I saw that one of the ensemble members had written this on her turquoise backpack in bright white-out,” said Free Street Theatre Creative Director, Anita Evans.

In his passing, Free Street has established the Abraham Mendoza Memorial fund to collect contributions for his family to help defray the funeral costs.

“To make a contribution, see video clips of Abe’s performances, or the amazing photographs Abe took, go to [freestreet.org/abe.html](http://freestreet.org/abe.html),” said Evans.

Langford is hoping to start a scholarship in his memory with the help of other teachers who knew and loved him.

“Hopefully, we can start a committee, or fundraiser. The scholarship will be for other Lane Tech kids who had the same qualities as Abraham did, and who want to go to a small liberal arts college, like he did, at Bard,” she said.

Mendoza’s passing weighs heavily on the hearts of those who knew him. Though a great loss, the impression he has left upon Lane is beyond doubt.

Meacham remembers her first impression of him. “He came into play auditions with blue hair. I thought, ‘Who is this kid?’ And then he spoke. Then I knew, he was something great.”

Say goodbye to \$5 Pizza Friday, Dominick’s to close

By Katarzyna Barnak & Sofi Kerpan

Dominick’s, one of the lunch spots on most of students’ lists, is no more. Due to competition and a lagging economy, the well-known grocery store on Western and Roscoe is closing. It looks like the epic battle of Dominick’s pizza versus Jewel chicken has finally named it’s winner: chicken.

Reasons behind the demise are clear, as one Dominick’s employee can attest to.

“No sales; no business,” the employee said.

But the grocery store/pizza parlor always seemed to be packed with students, especially in the winter, since the store offered indoor cafe seating near the produce section.

“Where are we gonna eat during the winter? I’m not staying in the lunchroom,” said Kailie Stevens, Div. 181.

As lunchtime hibernation at Dominick’s is no

longer an option, these students will have to look to other options.

“I guess we’re eating at Jewel more often now,” said Katie Sullivan, Div. 358.

Closer and larger, Jewel seems to be a student favorite, and likely the reason for Dominick’s decision to close doors. For good reason, too. Jewel has self-checkout, Redbox movies, Osco pharmacy, and...chicken. The Friday \$5 pizza deal and the CTA transit card station couldn’t keep Dominick’s open.

“It’s not a big surprise [it’s closing] because not many people go here,” said Ajka Jaserevic, Div. 379.

Still, some students favored Dominick’s for their customer service.

“I think Dominick’s is more respectful than Jewel and they value and welcome their customers more than Jewel,” said Alejandro Bedolla, Div. 154 who came there for lunch at least once a week.

The change will come with hard feelings for Bedolla.

“It was a good place to come after school and hang around even though we would only buy a bag of chips and some pop. They would never kick us out,” he said.

Luckily, the employees’ jobs are safe. All will be relocated to other Dominick’s stores, and are guaranteed a spot. Roscoe Village residents, however, will now have to go to Jewel if they want to do their grocery shopping locally.

“This was the closest Dominick’s to my

neighborhood,” said Jocelyn Jaimes, Div. 165.

The future use of the building is yet to be determined, and students are hopeful that another lunch period hangout might be established - maybe even a healthy option.

“As long as it’s not a fast food joint. A fresh market would be nice,” said Kaitlyn Howell, Div. 375.

Or maybe Mexican?

“Chipotle! Pretty please,” said Joan Bunyi, Div. 183.

It looks like Jewel will be getting more business for the time being. On the bright side, Dominick’s is in the process of opening two new Chicago locations to offer “ingredients to life,” as their slogan proclaims.





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# Cadet Brigadier General title returns to Lane

By Nicole Jacobs

On Sept. 17th 2010, Dolores Santillan, Div. 179, anxiously waited in her front row seat as Major General Anderson from the Air Force spoke at the podium. Although the room was packed with JROTC instructors and proud parents from all over the city, it was completely silent. When the general announced Santillan's name as this year's Cadet Brigadier General for Chicago's JROTC program, her parents proudly pinned the medal on their daughter.

According to Colonel Kochheiser, it has been three years since the last Lane student was awarded top cadet in the city.

This year's competition included 43 schools and 12,000 students. In order to try out for the city core staff, students had to first take a written test. Then they proceeded on to a panel interview where the judges narrowed it down to two finalists. The other finalist was Jai Hillard of Whitney Young who was appointed executive officer.

"It was nerve-wracking to hear the position, but I didn't do anything alone. The staff was behind me," said Santillan.

Santillan and three other Lane students competing for city corps jobs attended a two week long summer camp in June at St. John's Military Academy in Wisconsin. At the camp, students were tested to see how they handled themselves with their staff and other cadets throughout Chicago to see who would potentially make a good Cadet Brigadier General.

"Dolores' people skills and personality were what made the difference at the camp," said Kochheiser. "Books and interviews are nice, but the proof

is in the actions, and that is where she pulled away."

Santillan was under a lot of pressure, but Lane has more students on the city corps staff than any other school. Kochheiser attended the camp as well to support his students.

"I tell them that if they focus and apply themselves, they can 'take over the world,'" said Kochheiser. "It feels good because I know we have a really good program here in Chicago."

As a Cadet Brigadier General, Santillan represents all the cadets in the city at VIP events, serves as a judge at city-wide drill meets, and coordinates with the District Army instructor for guidance. Santillan also has many responsibilities handling city-wide functions such as service learning projects like the military ball.

Along with Kochheiser, many of Santillan's fellow JROTC classmates support her as the Cadet Brigadier General.

"Santillan knows what she's doing," said Ahmad Abushalbak, Div. 385. "I've always had a feeling that she had a good chunk of leadership in her. I'm glad to be here at Lane where the highest ranking Cadet goes. It makes me even more proud of Lane and encourages me to try harder to achieve my goals."

"I was at the camp with her," said Mehvish Maghribi, Div. 253. "She was a very good leader at the camp and ran it well alongside her subordinates there."



Cadet Brigadier Dolores Santillan (third from right) and Colonel Kochheiser (center) pose for a picture with other cadets.

"As a JROTC student she is very committed and is good at what she does," said Isamar Velazquez, Div. 172. "She is also a hard-worker and she also gets good grades."

Although Santillan did not receive any scholarship awards, she considers achieving top cadet in the city as one of her biggest accomplishments.

"The military has always been my direction even before I joined JROTC," said Santillan. "I want to go to college first though and after that I would enter the Army as an officer."

Santillan has two cousins in the military. The eldest is in the National Guard Reserve and the other joined the

Navy to become an intelligence officer.

"Their actions and accomplishments influenced me to join the [military] program," said Santillan. "However, it has been in my head since I was five."

Coming into Lane, Santillan never thought that she would make it this far.

"I could not have done it without the help of LTC Kochheiser who has always been there to answer any questions, no matter how dumb they were," said Santillan.

Santillan demonstrates that hard work and dedication are two important factors in pursuing something that you love.

## Clubs lure students to social scene

By Katarzyna Barnak

Colorful display boards line the tables while eager students rush into the lunchroom. In the midst of this commotion, a smiling Jorge Franco strolls up and down the aisles with a cardboard sign above his head. Scribbled in permanent marker, the sign reads: JOIN ANIME CLUB 9 PER. IN 155 WED.

Franco is one of the many club representatives who took special measures to allure students to sign up for their club.

"You got to hook them into it," said Aztlan President, Jennifer Alvarez, Div. 162. "We brought guacamole and chips and spicy Mexican candy."

These special measures seemed to work for the most part.

"At a certain point we were completely surrounded by people from all corners of the table," said Alvarez.

"It's worked a few times when people actually followed me and asked what Anime Club is and I showed them the big screen," said Franco, Div. 360.

Some clubs had very authentic looking displays to attract students. Hawaiian Club's board looked like a Tiki hut while the officers wore leis and the dancers' straw skirts. They also offered fruity Starbursts.

"We are not trying to bribe anyone with candy. It's to interest the people who didn't see International Days last year," said Sabrina Hufana, Div. 184.

Hawaiian was not the only club who dressed up to get attention. German Club girls were wearing traditional German dresses, otherwise known as the "Gretchen costume."

Other clubs felt it was unnecessary to draw atten-

tion for students to join.

"Honestly, I haven't done much to gain members. Mostly, I just told people about it," said Jackie Bannon, President of Baking Club, Div. 169. "It's really cool to have a lot of people sign up, but it's hard to manage all of those people and to find the space for them."

Some clubs, however, did not worry about the space factor since they meet in places like the auditorium.

"In Key Club we're always looking for more people to come out and volunteer at events so the more the merrier," said Angela Jose, Div. 178.

Since Lane is so diverse, most of the clubs are ethnic clubs. Some, like Chinese Club, wanted to distinguish themselves by spelling the club's name in giant fortune cookies.

"Our club is different from all the other Asian clubs because of the Lion Dance and different fan techniques. We deal with a lot more hand movements," said Cindy Dang, Div. 155.

The large number of students that showed up and joined clubs made the day a success.

"There's about 400 or more that signed up this year, and we're really happy that people joined, and are excited about the club," said Bannon.

"Key Club is always one of the most popular clubs...We had a little over 300 people sign up," said Jose.

Whether it is the special measures clubs take to appeal to students or simply the variety of clubs there are to join, Club Days is an event that personifies Lane.

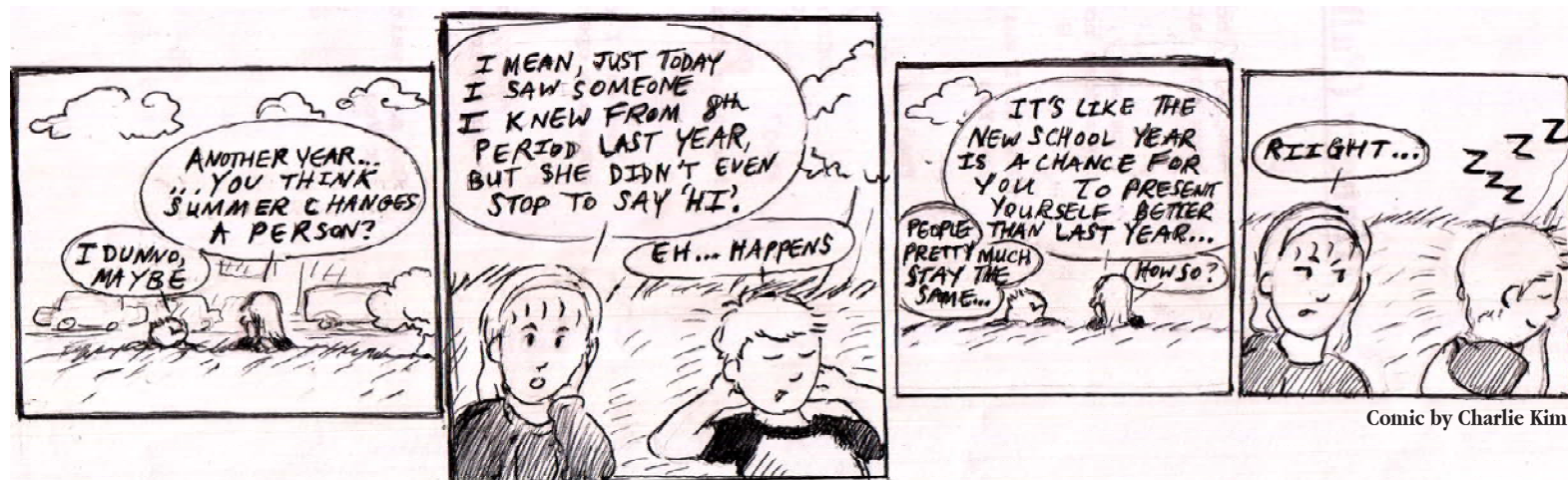
"Club Day is necessary...it brings people together," said Shanice Hilliards, Div. 358.

## A letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,

The Lane Warrior staff would like to introduce its first issue! As a reminder, The Warrior is a student-produced publication, and therefore we value student opinion. We are always interested in hearing reactions to our publication: good or bad. This year, we would again like to encourage letters to the editor in response to our articles, and we welcome any feedback you may have. Email any such responses to [feedback@lanewarrior.com](mailto:feedback@lanewarrior.com). We look forward to representing the student voice and documenting this year at Lane. Go Indians!

Sincerely,  
The Warrior Staff



Comic by Charlie Kim



# Mayor Daley announces he will not seek re-election

## Students, teachers react as city prepares for change

By Kelly Sineni

On Tuesday, Sept. 7, Mayor Daley announced he will not be running for a seventh term. He is the only mayor many Chicagoans have ever known seeing as he has spent six terms as mayor (about 21 years). Now Chicago has to prepare for new changes in the city.

"Today I'm announcing that I will not seek a seventh term as mayor of the city of Chicago. Simply put, it's time. It's time for me, it's time for Chicago to move on. Improving Chicago has been the ongoing work of my life. I love every minute of it," Daley said at his news conference.

Daley took office after a special election in 1989, and in Dec. will surpass his father as the longest serving mayor of Chicago. He has become a popular and respected mayor, as well as a big Chicago name.

"I think Daley has done a good job with trying to beautify the city by remodeling the lake front and building Millennium Park. He was concerned with Chicago's image," said AP Government and Politics teacher Mr. Wasielewski.

Although he has been praised in the past, he has also been highly criticized for many of his decisions.

"Clearly, they won't always agree with you and obviously they don't like it when you make a mistake. But at all times they expect you to lead, to make difficult decisions rooted in what's right for them," said Daley.

In recent years, Daley has been criticized for privatizing many public

city utilities and for the closure of Meigs Airport in 2003 when Daley had bulldozers destroy part of the runways at the airport without required notification.

"His worst moves were in privatizing public things such as the skyway and parking meters. It's not only that he sold it, but he got bad deals. Some people say he could have gotten a much higher bid," said Wasielewski.

"I don't think he did a good job. He took a lot of short cuts and didn't put money where it needed to be," said Adam Kapustka, Div. 190.

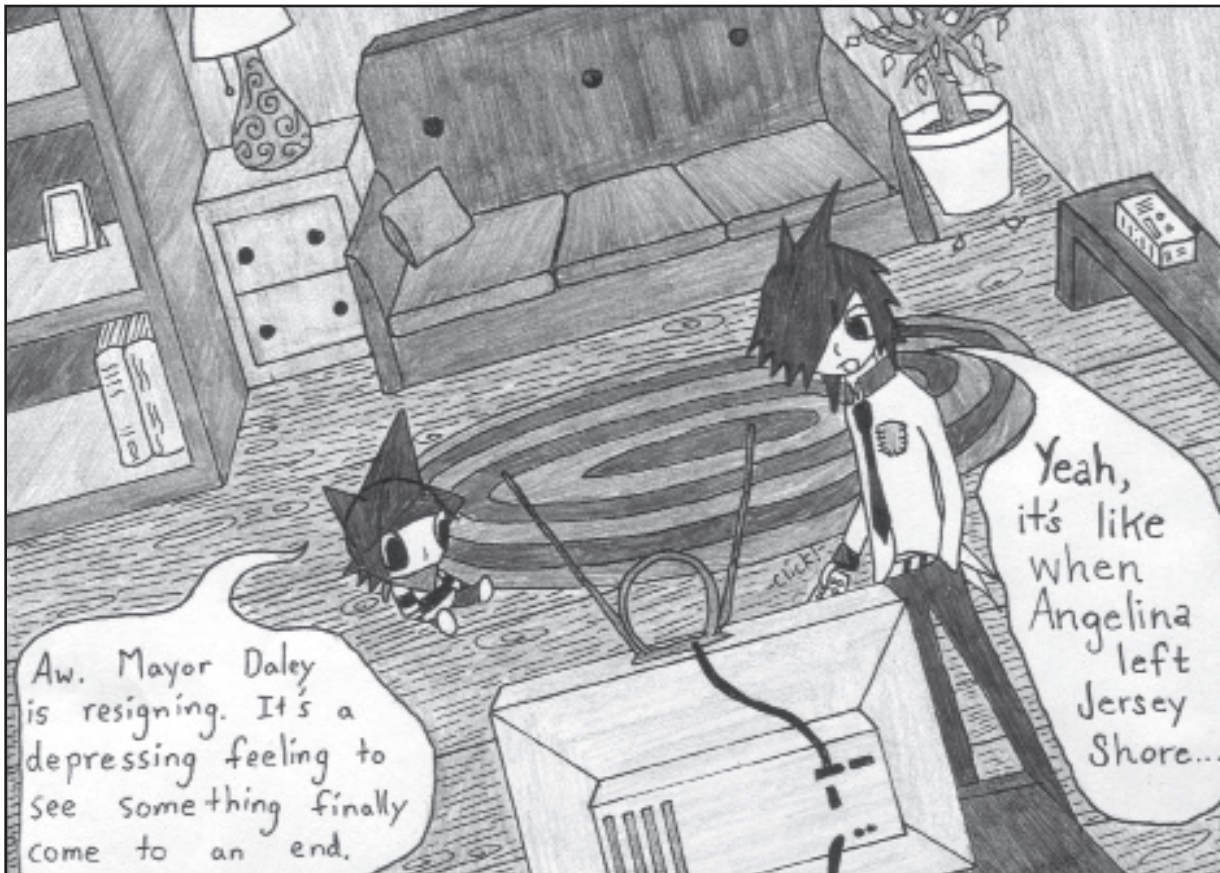
As Mayor Daley said, it is time for him, and time for Chicago. That also means it is time to consider who could be replacing him and if his move will be a good thing for the city.

"It's good in some ways, but negative in others. He is experienced, and it [Daley's experience] is something we could benefit from," said Rolando Pinto, Div. 185.

"I think his job has been overrated at times, and as sad as it seems, I think it is time Chicago had a new mayor," said James Wenzel, Div. 267.

"I have never really known any other mayor," said Kendria Helm, Div. 372. "I'm skeptical as to who will be good or motivated enough to do the job, but I'm open to see what a new mayor can do."

Mayor Daley's decision has raised some questions as to why the longest running mayor in Chicago history decided not to run again.



Comic by Edwin Cho

"Many of you will search to find what's behind my decision. It's simple. I've always believed that every person, especially public officials, must understand when it's time to move on. For me that time is now," said Daley.

Although he says it's just time, some say his wife's health may have played a role in this decision. She has been fighting breast cancer since 2002, and it has recently spread to her bones, liver, and lungs.

"Twenty years could do some damage to a person, but his wife is definitely a factor," said Pinto.

Others believe he may just finally be

burned out on politics.

"I thought maybe he just wanted to retire and live his life," said Kendria Helm, Div. 372.

"If I was mayor and spent as many years as he has spent in office, I would retire too," said Ashley Whitehead, Div. 353.

There are already many big names in the political world who are considering running for Chicago's mayoral office, including Rahm Emanuel (President Obama's Chief of Staff for two years who formerly held the 5th US House District seat), Jesse Jackson Jr. (holds US House seat in the 2nd district and

son of the famous politician Jesse Jackson Sr.), Luis Gutierrez (holds US House seat in the 4th district), Sheriff Tom Dart, as well as countless other house reps, aldermen, and other Cook County officials.

"I don't think it is going to be one of the popular names out there like Jesse Jackson Jr, Luis Gutierrez, or Rahm Emanuel. It will probably be someone who doesn't have too many opinions surrounding them," said Wasielewski.

The primary election will be held on Feb. 22, 2011.

## Lane alumni visit on Professional Day

By Vivian Troche & Nicole Jacobs

A Government Intelligence agent, a Vice President of Bank of America, and a Chicago Tribune reporter were roaming the halls of Lane on Thursday, Sept. 23. No, they were not filming an episode of CSI; it was Professional Day hosted by the Lane Tech Alumni Association and over 30 Lane alumni came and talked to students about their jobs and experiences.

"This was my eighth year participating. I also brought one of my younger daughters to participate with me and hand out gifts such as pens and tote bags from Bank of America," said Glenn Hamilton, Class of 1976.

Teachers received a list of speakers to choose from and had to submit a form with which one they wanted.

"I try to pick speakers who had a hard time and had to overcome adversity to get where they are today. They all had very interesting stories on how they failed and had to overcome it," said Mrs. Serantoni.

Students listened to the speakers and asked questions about their experiences, where they went to college, what they majored in, and more. They heard from people who were once in the same seats that they sit in now.

"I learned a lot from the speakers and it changed my decision on what I wanted to do after college because I realized that I would need to take a lot of math and science classes, which isn't my strong point," said Angelica Figueroa, Div. 159.

If students study hard, in twenty years they may be able to return to Lane and talk about what an interesting job they have.

## STARS Mentor Freshmen Tailgate Party kicks off school year

By Brianna Toney & Nicole Jacobs

The Green and Gold STARS mentors waited for the freshmen as they made their way towards the lunchroom. The freshmen were served pizza and soda as they walked around and talked to their fellow classmates. Face painting and henna tattoo tables were some of the new stations available this year at the STARS Mentor Freshman Tailgate Party.

This year's tailgate party was held for the freshmen before Lane's football game against Curie High School on Sept. 17. It was a way for the freshmen to interact with each other and get to know each other. This year, however, there was a smaller student turnout compared to the tailgate held last year.

"I think we had more students attend the tailgate last year. I think it was because the football game was earlier in the day," said Ms. Dulberg, who is one of the coordinators for the Stars Program. "It can be hard for freshmen to wait around school to attend the tailgate and then attend the football game at 7pm, especially if they do not live close to the school."

Despite the smaller turnout, there were more activities held at this year's tailgate that the attendees were able to enjoy. There were henna tattoos, face painting, and performances by the cheerleading team, dance team, and the band. All of these activities and performances were

new this year, according to Ms. Dulberg.

"The performances were cool to see," said Green STARS mentor Gabriella Quinones, Div. 156. "Everyone was gathered throughout the lunchroom eating and talking. It was great."

Many students claimed they enjoyed the social atmosphere provided by this year's tailgate.

"I'm expecting good, free pizza and a good time hanging with my friends," said Ronan King, Div. 462.

Most of the students who attended enjoyed the music, ate, and spent time with friends. There were even students that were not in the STARS mentor program [nor were they freshmen] that went to the event and had a good time.

***"They [the freshmen] don't know how lucky they are that they have this [the stars mentor program]," said Wendy Valladares, Div. 156.***

"We didn't have this our freshman year," said Wendy Valladares, Div. 156. "They [the freshmen] don't know how lucky they are that they have this [the stars mentor program]."

The program was created in the 2009-2010 school year based on The Kick-Off Program in Indiana, which was created by Lee Lonzo. When Lonzo retired, he took the program to a national level. Lane's STARS Mentors Program followed the model set up by Lonzo, which

was to help and welcome new students who are making the transition into high school.

The STARS Program will continue to hold events to bring the freshmen together. The dance held for freshmen on Thursday, Oct. 21 was the most recent of those events.

www.g33ktest.com



# South Korean teacher experiences American education first hand

By Bill Felton

"This homework is so easy," a student in the front of the room happily announces.

"Easy. Easy, breezy, beautiful... Cover Girl," Ms. Nam responds to her class with a broad smile. The class laughs at her reference to a beauty product commercial. Nam remembers this slogan from the many times she heard it while learning English.

Nam learned much of her English by watching American television shows such as *Golden Girls*, *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, and *America's Next Top Model*.

Nam was a math teacher in South Korea and is now teaching Algebra II/Trig this year at Lane. She is experiencing first-hand American schooling and its students, as well as noticing many differences between South Korean and American education.

Students at Lane are much different from the students Nam taught in South Korea. American students exercise more independence and freedom in their daily lives. This freedom is shown in the amount of free time students get after school to spend with their friends and enjoy the day, a luxury South Korean schools do not have.

"I feel sorry for Korean students. They don't have time to enjoy their lives," Nam said.

Students in South Korea are in school much longer than American students. A routine school day along with time spent on homework will last well into the night, with students eating not just lunch, but also a dinner at school. America has a large amount of land and natural resources which provide industrial jobs to those who do not continue their education. In South Korea, however, many students view education as their only means of success.

"Korean public high school is totally different," Nam said. "Students usually stay until nine or ten at night."

Nam is also glad to see that American students are open and honest in the

classroom, willing to ask questions about unclear lessons.

"I never had many questions teaching in South Korea. Students were ashamed to ask. It's different here and I like it," she said.

Comparing what she has seen at Lane to her own country's educational system, Nam believes that American education is more beneficial for its students.

"I wish I enjoyed school like American students. They feel less pressure," Nam said.

Nam is looking forward to seeing Lane's traditional events such as International Days, and was excited to participate in Lane's Spirit Week.

"Spirit week was awesome, but I feel sorry for the freshman and sophomores who didn't experience [the pep rally]," Nam said. "When people yelled at the freshmen I was shocked, but it really was funny."

Nam was selected through a program that allows the transfer of two foreign teachers into

CPS each year. Since 2007, one math teacher and one science teacher have taught in a Chicago public school. To get accepted to teach in America, each applicant must pass an English language exam.

"I studied for over 10 months and took mandatory classes," she said. "I [also] developed my English by watching American television."

After passing the English language exam, each applicant must personally interview with two CPS superintendents.

"We talked about teaching philosophy, dealing with people, and dealing with students. They tape recorded the whole conversation," she said.

Nam is here for one school year but has the option to extend her stay for two more school years. She is living with her husband, who was a literature teacher in South Korea, and her two children. Nam's children are both going



Mrs. Nam sits at her desk in her classroom.

to school in Chicago and her husband currently is staying home to take care of their children.

Nam misses her friends and family in South Korea and is looking forward to seeing them after her time teaching in Chicago. However, she said she will also be very sad to leave Lane when the time comes.

"I get sad at the thought of losing my students at the end of the year," Nam said. "I'll definitely cry when I have to leave Chicago."

## Belgian exchange student shows off unique style at Lane



Anaelle Moncarey, Div. 158, is enjoying the American lifestyle at Lane.

By Brianna Toney

Hollywood. That is what all the girls in Belgium dream about. At least that is what Anaelle Moncarey, Div. 158, believes.

"Fashion is important to them," said Moncarey who is a Belgian foreign exchange student studying at Lane this year. "Everyone [in Belgium] cares about what they wear, and if you dress different everyone thinks you're crazy or weird."

At Lane, however, she has experienced

something different. Her style has not been considered weird or crazy.

Moncarey's hair is a mix of reddish-orange and black. A typical outfit for her might include dark skinny jeans, Converse shoes, and a printed tee.

At home in Belgium, many assumed she was punk or emo. She, however, doesn't classify herself as either.

"People in Belgium want to be super stylish," Moncarey said. "Their style is based on Hollywood and what they see on TV. I don't."

Moncarey has her own style. She dresses in what makes her comfortable and what she wants to wear rather than on what other people are wearing or what is trendy.

"Sometimes people look at me with big eyes, like OMG, what a weird style!" Moncarey said. "But I don't care. I don't want to be like them. I want to be myself. That's why I dress different."

At Lane, Moncarey has realized that everyone's fashion sense is not the same. She has witnessed the school's diversity, and not just because of its various races and cultures.

"Some Belgians think that all Americans follow one style, a fancy style, and that's what's normal. But it's actually different," Moncarey said. "There are more people here with their own style. People had on pajama pants when I got here. I'm

like 'okay... that's normal?'"

She has also noticed that most people at Lane like to dress comfortably.

"I've seen so many people here with sweatpants on. It's normal. But where I'm from, if you have on sweatpants, they ask why you have them on, and they look at you strange. They assume something's wrong," Moncarey said.

Due to the fact that everyone has their own style and dress freely, Moncarey feels that her sense of style has been welcomed by Lane students.

"Here [at Lane], so many people tell me they like my hair and my style. Back home, I was sometimes looked at as an outsider by people who weren't my friends," she said. "I would get strange looks like 'Oh my God, what does she have on?'"

Fashion style is not the only thing she has noticed that is different from life in Belgium.

"[In Chicago] it seems like milk is the center of the world. Everyone always wants milk," Moncarey said. "In Belgium, you are looked at like you're crazy if you ask for milk."

Within Moncarey's first hours here, she realized how unusual things are. She experienced being at very noisy restaurants and how different the sizes of things are in Chicago when compared to Belgium.

"When we went to the restaurant, they

gave me this big cup full of water. It was free. This was something I was not used to," she said. "Where I'm from, the cups are smaller and more expensive. You always have to pay for more because you always need more."

Other things at Lane that are out of the ordinary for her include school spirit, the many clubs, the way students switch classes, and the how quiet many students are in their classes.

"There is no school spirit [in Belgium]. We have to find clubs and things to do outside of school," Moncarey said. "Things are more separated."

The way schools are set up in Chicago is also different from those in Belgium. There, the schools are set up based on your "smarts" and overall, students are in the same classroom for six years, unless they transfer to a different school.

"Class [in Belgium] is like your family. You are so used to seeing the same people all the time, everyday. Everyone knows each other," she said. "Here, you are always changing classes and this school is way bigger."

Although life at Lane is different for Moncarey than what she is used to, she seems to be enjoying her time here.

"Lane has so much school spirit. There is like a T-shirt for everything," said Moncarey.

## Choose trendy Halloween costume ideas for this October to stand out in crowd

By Sofi Kerpan & Aleks Pavlovic

### Snooki:

This Halloween, hit up GTL (Gym, Tan, Laundry) and channel your inner Snooki, ladies! Once you are bronzed to the point of no return, slap on some MAC cosmetics. Don't be shy about it. Suit up in form fitting clubwear of the leopard persuasion. Next, pouf your pouf hairstyle with all your might. Complete the ensemble with stilettos and a pouty expression. And don't forget your jar of pickles, either.

### Lady Gaga:

Vegetarians beware! Make a statement as controversial pop star, Lady Gaga. Take a trip to your neighborhood butcher and inquire about a discount when buying in bulk. Purchase several cuts of steak. Better yet, buy the whole cow. Get crafty with your purchase and fashion yourself a mini dress. It might be a little slimy. Don't forget your

confidence! You'll need it when the raw meat starts to smell. Put on your poker face and play a love game, girl.

### Blagojevic:

Grab your royal blue track suit and prepare for a quick jog around Ravenswood Manor. Quickly transform into one of Illinois's most beloved governors, Rod Blagojevic. Then, go hang out around City Hall and do whatever it takes to get recognized. Attract paparazzi with your feathered hair, and while making an important phone call, remember: your phone conversation may be monitored.

### Ke\$ha:

Tik Tok the night away in your unisex Ke\$ha costume. Become a hot mess: borrow a tutu from your best friend's younger sister and flashy makeup and glitter from her older sister. Anything ripped and feathered is acceptable. Don't wash or brush your hair for a week. Brushing your teeth with a bottle of Jack not recommended.





## STANDOUT OF THE ISSUE: On air with “Mike Sabbath” live from WPNA radio

By Kelly Sineni

It's Saturday night and senior Michael Obrecki, Div. 150, is sitting at the microphone in a small studio. He is seconds away from going on the air. A quick glance at his notes, and then “Its Saturday night, get ready for one hour of music you won't hear anywhere else!”

Every other Saturday at 11pm, Lane's very own Mike Obrecki is the Mlody Mix host known as Mike Sabbath on WPNA 1490am.

WPNA is the radio station owned by the Polish National Alliance that features Polish broadcasts throughout the Chicago area. Obrecki has been hosting the show (in English) since Apr. 2007 when the station decided they wanted a younger audience.

Obrecki prides himself on getting local (and sometimes not so local) bands out there and playing the music that he says “you won't hear anywhere else.” This includes Three Cent Cinema (started by Lane Alumni), So Many Ways (who sent him their EP), The Acne Kids, Farwell, and Smoking Popes. However, he does play some mainstream music as well such as Eminem, Good Charlotte, and Sum 41.

As Mike Sabbath, Obrecki has been able to get into shows for free. These have included Anti Flag, Motion City Soundtrack, and most recently Every Avenue with Sing It Loud at the Metro.

“You just have to e-mail the record label or band and say who you are representing and nicely ask for a press pass,” said Obrecki.

Another major perk of being a radio host is getting to talk to his favorite bands.

“I got packages from AF records and Epitaph (owned by the guy from Bad Religion). I am getting an interview with Anti Flag when they get back

to Chicago and Matt Friction of the Pink Spiders e-mailed me, saying that when they reunite and come to Chicago they will give me an interview.”

Of course it is not all just free shows, free stuff, and cool interviews. Obrecki puts in a lot of thought and hard work into the show.

“About three days before the show I get all of the music I want to play, then jot down what I want to say, and go to the station at around 10 o'clock to get ready.”

Obrecki tries to play music relevant to those awkward teen years, which might contribute to the appeal of the show.

“I just want to basically get the point across that if you're what people would call an outcast or loser, listen to the show 'cause I think everyone has felt like that at some point. And I would like to think I try to get people through that with music or something inspirational I say,” Obrecki said. “I'm just like you. I have glasses and bad acne, and music gets me through everything.”

Obrecki's job description includes editing out any inappropriate content in his chosen music, contacting bands and labels, extensively researching music news, and keeping up with the Mike Sabbath facebook page and blog.

Obrecki was not always known as Mike Sabbath. In the early days of the show he just went by Mike Obrecki. The show made the shift about three years after its start.

“I was in the lunch room one morning sophomore year, and my friend had a Black Sabbath hat on. As soon as I saw the word ‘Sabbath,’ it just clicked in my head: Mike Sabbath. It was just one of those moments where you know something is right,” he said.

Recently, Mike Sabbath made another change to the show. Instead of pre recorded shows, he broad-



Lane student Mike Obrecki hosts his own radio show under the name “Mike Sabbath.”

casts live.

“Live shows are so much more fun and spontaneous. You can be more yourself. In pre recorded shows it is easy to be someone else.”

Ratings of the show have shown that Mike Sabbath somehow has a decent sized Australian audience. In fact, more Australians listen to the show than Americans.

“I find it mind boggling,” he said.

The popularity may be due to a difference in time zones and a band called The Playbook that he consistently plays.

Obrecki will be graduating this June and plans to go away for school, which brings up the question of the future of Mike Sabbath.

“I'm still going to do the show in college. I will have the equipment and I can just e-mail it to the station. Mike Sabbath will live on through college.”

For all the updated music news, go to the Mike Sabbath facebook page and be sure to tune in Nov. 6 for his next show on WPNA 1490am!

## Lollapalooza gets “loco”

By Johnny Stacewicz

Lady Gaga, MGMT, Green Day, The Strokes, Cypress Hill, The New Pornographers, Arcade Fire and many more. Lollapalooza 2010 had a line up that few people wanted to miss, regardless of whether or not they had a ticket.

Lollapalooza is an eight-stage music festival that covers almost the entire Chicago Loop Lakefront. Not only does that mean thousands of people, tons of bands, and one of the biggest music venues in the country; but it also means less experienced security, hundreds of yards of six and a half foot fences, and swarm of teenagers waiting to rush them.

The majority of teenagers like music, but not all teenagers have \$215 to spend on a three-day pass. Instead of the more ethical approach of saving up to buy a ticket or even listening from outside, several jumped on port-o-potties, scaled fences, and ran from police.

Sneaking into Lollapalooza may not have been the safest or most honest way to get in, but it made for some of the most entertaining stories.

Lakeshore Drive was a common entrance for hoppers. To cross Lakeshore Drive one had to get across one mesh fence and then four chain link fences (one on either side of the Drive) which lead them right into the crowd of the main stage. Some waited for a group to form and then rushed across Lakeshore. Others were more creative with their ideas.

“We got into a cab, and paid the guy beforehand to let us out on Lakeshore Drive so we could just hop [over] right away,” said Diana Schwartz, Div. 269.

Others like Pat O'Connell Div. 182, just happened to know the right people.

“My friend's mom is a cop who worked Lollapalooza. She got me and a few other kids in for free on the second day,” said O'Connell. “I hopped the first

day mostly to just say I did it.”

Some managed to find a large enough group to use brute strength. Paul Odrobina, Div. 150, and Mike Delatore, Div. 172, both were in groups that actually pushed down a fence and then rushed through.

“I was with a group of about 50 kids and some started hopping a fence, but as they were hopping, the fence's hinges broke and just fell over and then we just rushed into the crowd,” said Delatorre.

However, there was a small group of hoppers that did get caught.

“I was with a group of about 60 kids and we rushed across Lakeshore Drive,” said Odrobina. “We got over the fence but I turned around to look for a friend. When I got back [to the fence] I got caught by a fat security guard.”

Some were a little more creative in their entrances.

“I was with a group of about 40 people and we jumped a fence by the Art Institute. After that we hopped a chain link [fence] and had to climb over port-o-potties, then rush into the crowd,” said a student who asked not to be named.

Getting over the fence was only the first part of sneaking in.

“Once you're in you have to get into a crowd and blend in, stay away from cops and security guards,” said Nathan Alvarado '10 graduate.

Many of those who did pay were not upset by those who did sneak in successfully.

“Everyone goes to Lollapalooza to have a good time. How people get in is on them. I wanted to hangout with my friends who hopped the fence,” said Jenna Wasserman, Div. 153.

Lollapalooza is one event that was not slowed by the recession. Thousands of people flocked to the four by two block concert grounds, some getting their money's worth, others simply enjoying some free music.

## Dragonflies invade Lane

By Katarzyna Barnak

Lane students were not the only ones zipping through the campus this summer. The school grounds were also zipping with hundreds of dragonflies. Many students who had to practice outside for the Pep Rally or for sports tournaments were bothered by the colorful insects.

“One just came by my face and I started screaming and swinging at it while it was trying to fly into my mouth,” said Dance Team member, Sierra Reed, Div. 155. “Eventually, I ran away from it instead of just standing there.”

“They totally bothered me because we ran through like a herd of dragonflies and had to dodge them,” said cross country member, Martha Glodz, Div. 159.

Although harmless to humans, dragonflies often give the impression that they are dangerous.

“I mean they are pretty and all, but they move so quickly and they are so big. Compared to bumble bees, I think they are scarier,” said Diana Marczuk, Div. 176.

A few band members who practiced on campus during the summer did not want to stay outside because of the swarms.

“We did have kids who asked if we can have extra breaks or move to a different place to practice, but I didn't let them,” said band director Mr. Obrien. “They're gonna find us anyways.”

Other students were so focused on playing that they did not really notice the dragonflies.

“One girl was holding her flute so straight that the dragonfly just sat down on it like it was nothing,” said Amy Piekosz, Div. 183. “It was pretty funny.”

According to the Prairie State Outdoors website, dragonflies are actually beneficial to the environment. They basically eat everything that people hate: mosquitoes, ants, mayflies, gnats, bees, and other small, pesky insects.

“As long as they don't bite me, and as long as they eat the bugs I hate, dragonflies are fine with me,” said Marczuk.

Dragonflies can travel up to 38 mph due to their long body and set of four wide wings. According to the Prairie State Outdoors website: “Birds and spiders are its natural enemies, but dragonflies can zip by so fast, it's hard for either to catch them.”

Since Lane is a park-like area, it was a perfect place for the dragonflies to reproduce. There was also lot of rainfall in the summer so it was very humid. This allowed the dragonflies to flourish.

“I couldn't help but think that they breed like bunnies,” said Piekosz. “There were so many.”

“If you see a dragonfly hanging about, it's only because it's waiting for a female so he can love her,” according to Prairie State Outdoors.

Although there will be fewer dragonflies as the weather cools, the insects are likely to come back to Lane next year as long as Chicago continues to have humid summers.



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# SPIRIT

# WEEK

# 2010

## Sports Day



Arielle Steward, Div. 462, complements her Bears jersey with a flower and temp I.D.!

## Geek Day



Wyatt Sugrue, Div. 185, let out his inner Urkel on Geek Day.

## Mix N' Match



Jacqueline Fayne, Div. 183, and Belen Sandoval, Div. 160, tried on new hairstyles.

## Spirit Day



David Timlin, Div. 376, showed off his Indian pride by painting himself gold.



## Lane students respond to visit from Westboro Baptist Church



Lane student John Bieszczat explains his "counter protest" to other students.

By Ben Palmer

It is Sept. 8, 3:30pm and the silence is deafening at the corner of Western and Addison. Among dozens of signs reading, "GOD HATES FAGS" and "GOD HATES AMERICA," the leader of the Westboro Baptist Church, Shirley Phelps, clings to a young member of the flock, no older than 8-years-old. Lane students tensely watch from a security-enforced distance, often muttering unmentionables as they are urged off campus by Lane security.

It is Sept. 9, 3:30pm and the cheers for equality and the honks of agreement from passing cars are deafening at the corner of Western and Addison. Among dozens of signs reading "GOD LOVES ALL" and "HONK 4 EQUALITY," protest organizers John Bieszczat, Div. 353, and Tatiana Delgado, Div. 372, are shouting.

"WHAT DO WE WANT?"

"EQUALITY!"

"WHEN DO WE WANT IT?"

"NOW!"

This second protest was a response to the church's protest. Bieszczat created a Facebook event the night of the initial protest, troubled by the nature of the church's messages.

A former member of the Lane swim team, Bieszczat was a friend of last year's openly gay swim captain, Michael Podgers.

"Podgers has been a guy I respect...and the Westboro Baptist Church [was] basically insulting him and all other gay people," said Bieszczat. "I felt that was completely wrong and I needed to take a stand for them."

The Topeka, Kansas based church has about 70 members, mostly

relatives of the church's pastor and founder, Fred Phelps. They are known for their strong anti-gay, anti-Jew, and anti-Muslim sentiment. The church believes America is a "doomed" nation for allowing these groups equal rights.

The church often protests against America at the funerals of US soldiers. These anti-soldier protests have caught the eye of the courts. The case of "Snyder v. Phelps" moved to the supreme court Oct. 8.

After the family of a dead US Marine won their case against the church for intentional emotional distress, the Court of Appeals reversed the ruling. The case is now in the hands of the Supreme Court due to questions it raises about freedom of speech.

Of Lane, the church said the high-achieving school was, "fag infested" and "pervert run," but not much else.

Lane was one of a few other Chicago area schools the church planned to visit on their trip. Evanston Township High

School was supposed to be picketed the day after Lane, but the church did not show. ETHS students were anticipating the protest, and likely would have reacted similarly to Lane students.

This reaction spread quickly from the web (FaceBook group) to the streets. Within a couple hours of the group's creation, there were already 150 confirmed participants in "Support Gays and Jews Day."

The next day, those who RSVP'd "yes" on Facebook wore colorful clothing and any pro-gay, pro-Jew, or pro-Muslim apparel they owned. Delgado was one of these participants.

"John started the Facebook group," Delgado said, "but I thought 'that's not good enough. We need to protest.'"

This counter-protest acted like an amoeba, starting after school with a small number, but absorbing passersby and growing larger and louder.

"Everybody was cheering," said Rachel Bach, Div. 454. "It seemed fun and what [the church did] was really disrespectful."

Cars passing by responded in a chorus of honking horns. Even one student walking by remarked, "I wish I could honk," prompting his friend to let out a quick "beep beep!"

The protest hit its height after about 40 min-

utes. The group's numbers had increased to at least quadruple the original number of protesters.

"They just told me to hold a sign," said Richard Ericson, Div. 174.

While Bach and Ericson were latecomers to the cause, other protesters had a connection to it for some time.

"I was offended because I have two moms... They're gay AND Jewish!" said Noah Dina, Div. 379.

Others protested the day of the church's visit. Aynsley Parker, Div. 467, was initially hesitant when her female friend, Troi Valles, Div. 358, suggested they kiss in front of the church.

"Would you?" asked Valles.

The answer was a silent "yes" as the two kissed, and Phelps stopped singing her religious song.

Bieszczat and many of the protesters seemed to focus on the gay-rights aspect of the day. Ironically, the protest fell on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, during which many Jewish students do not attend school (or protests). A few "Happy Jewish New Year!"s were also heard from time to time.

As the protest neared its conclusion, the seemingly unrepresented third group of attacked individuals took its stand. Maryan Mohamud, Div. 351, walked up to the protest and the sign holders looked her way as she spoke.

"Is this for the gays and the Jews?" asked Mohamud.

"Yeah"

"Well, where the Muslims at?"



Passing cars honk in support as students hold colorful folders reading "GOD LOVES ALL" at the corner of Western and Addison



# Teachers' pets not just found in classrooms

By Aleks Pavlovic



They tell you that a dog is a man's best friend. What they do not tell you is that teachers maintain steady lives outside of school. They need friends too, and when they cannot find comfort in fellow humans or chocolatey goods, they look for love that crawls toward them on all fours. It is the kind of unconditional love that cannot even be found in the sappiest of John Hughes movies -- the kind of love that can only be delivered by a pet.

Unofficial cat man of Lane Tech, AP Human Geography teacher Mr. Lewis, is proud to be the caretaker of multiple stray cats from the Chicago-land area. He once found one lingering in front of his house and decided to take it to the vet. This friendly feline turned out to be pregnant, and eventually became the mother of five kittens. Most of them ended up in the company of Ms. Garcia and former Lane teachers. Lewis has also found homes for his friends' cats, as well as for a cat that

once wandered into Lane. He finds them easy to tend to, claiming, "No walks, no worries."

Those who have Mrs. Langford as a psychology teacher cannot possibly go throughout the year without hearing about one of her top five blood-sucking television shows, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Langford loves the show so much that she decided to name her Boston Terrier after the main character, Buffy. Her dog does not exactly enjoy sucking blood like her vampire slayer counterpart, but she does thoroughly enjoy licking toes.

"Lane Tech teachers think she has a major licking problem," said Langford.

Ms. Reedy is one of the teachers who has seen Buffy in action.

"She won't just lick you once or twice, but will start licking and lick constantly for five, ten minutes easy," said Reedy. "She does seem to prefer feet, but I have seen her lick blankets with just as much enthusiasm. I think it is really gross, but others find it charming about her."

Recently, Langford submitted pictures of Buffy to see if she qualifies for the Midwest Boston Terrier Rescue calendar. Is Buffy the next Ms. November?

English teacher Mr. Poirier deals with

stressful days by curling up with literary classics and his beloved Chihuahua, Huckleberry.

"Due to his age, he is missing several teeth, but his severe Napoleon complex keeps him going after any dog larger than 10 pounds that has the misfortune of crossing his path," said Poirier.

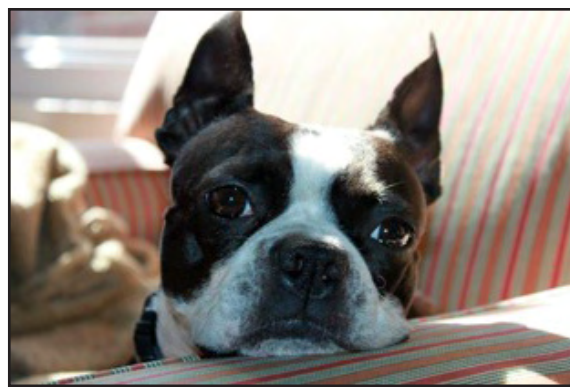
He also has a wiener dog named Henry, two sophisticated dachshunds, and a pug named Lucy who "is fat, but comfortable in her own skin and embraces her status as plus sized. She loves treats and long walks to the park. Last Halloween, Lucy was a pig."

AP Statistics teacher Ms. Holland is in love with Oops, a little white dog that came to live with her last spring. Oops lost his vision to cataracts

and is essentially blind.

"He didn't have a name when he came to live with me and bumped into things before he figured out the layout," said Ms. Holland. "I would say 'oops' whenever he did until he started responding to that name, so now he is 'Oops.'"

Oops is about 12 years old and has adapted remarkably well to his blindness. When he plays fetch with a tennis ball, he waits and listens carefully to the ball bounce. When it stops, he dashes



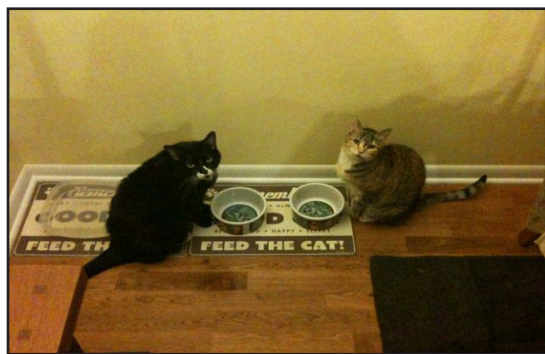
Mrs. Langford's Boston Terrier, Buffy, in a daze.

over to where the last sound came from and does a 'grid search' of the area until he can find the ball.

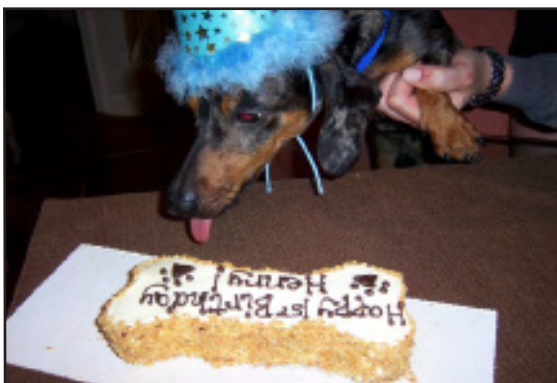
Keeping certain exotic animals as pets is considered by many as taboo, but counselor Ms. Console goes bananas for the idea. George, her pet monkey, was a baby when she attended high school. He was named after Curious George, fed from a bottle, and soiled his diapers just like any other baby would. Holes had to be cut in his diapers for his tail, and he even owned a pair of jeans. George spent time with Console's friends and made sure to be there for moral support at her soccer games. Today, George lives with Console's parents and has quadrupled in size.

"I was joking around with my dad about pets and just mentioned that he should get a monkey," said Console. "The next day, he brought home a monkey. Be careful what you wish for!"

After assigning exams and dealing with perplexed adolescents, many teachers are happy to go home and enjoy the company of furry creatures that love them unconditionally.



Mr. Lewis' cats, Ben and Jen, pose for the camera.



Mr. Poirier's wiener dog, Henry, celebrates his birthday with his festive hat and doggy cake.

## Seniors celebrate Oktoberfest with pie-eating, apple-bobbing, dancing in Memorial Garden





# Not such a funny story afterall

By Ben Palmer

*It's Kind of a Funny Story* isn't as much a funny story as it is an awkward dark comedy that can hit close to home for some over-stressed high schoolers, while still providing laughs.

The film starts at the end, or rather, what could have been the end, of the life of its stress-vomiting teenage protagonist Craig (Keir Gilchrist). After calling a suicide hotline, he proceeds to check himself into a mental hospital where he is given a tour by fellow patient Bobby (Zach Galifianakis).

Galifianakis is best known for his character in *The Hangover*, the hilariously odd Alan. I was slightly disappointed that Galifianakis's distinct comedic style of inappropriate timing didn't shine through the suicidal mentor Bobby, but the strong cast of "crazies" was enough to redeem most of that disappointment.

Among my favorite patients were Solomon, the acid-addicted Hasidic Jew; the Patriot-act paranoid phone-debugger; and Craig's roommate, the bed-bound Egyptian who finally leaves his room to dance to the music of his people.

But through the comedy there must be romance, and Craig slowly falls for a fellow teen patient, Noelle (Emma Roberts). Noelle's self mutilation scars combine with Roberts's ability to convincingly act outside the limelight of her star-studded lineage (aunt Julia Roberts) and yield a viable, albeit unpredictable love story.

So, you have love, suicidal teenagers, schizophrenics, and Zach Galifianakis. Sounds like the formula for wacky psychiatric antics, right? Well, I was surprised to find the film far darker than expected. Although there was no bloodshed or flat out violence, seeing the usually comedic Galifianakis have a mental breakdown in a rec room was eerie to say the least.

The entire movie, while mostly funny, was as bitter as it was sweet. It was chock full of life lessons and less-funny themes that may confuse audiences expecting an escape from work-related stress.

After all, it was the stress of school that nearly led our hero to suicide.

Of the comedy in the movie, only a few moments were actually "laugh-out-loud" for me. The largest of these, and probably the most expensive scene in the film, was a fantasy sequence in which a music-therapy session becomes a rock concert. On lead vocals singing Queen/David Bowie's "Under Pressure" is Craig, backed up by Bobby and the rest of the patients. The scene was ridiculous, but entertaining none the less.

Among the gems of the film are one-liners from the psychopathic supporting cast, the odd yet enchanting "mind-maps" drawn by Craig, and the connection that he maintains to the outside world.

Craig calls home to speak to his family and receives visits from them everyday. Lauren Graham as Craig's fragile mother is a nice treat for Gilmore Girls fans, although her speech is much slower and less witty.

His best-friend's girlfriend (and object of his own unrequited love), Nia, eventually pays Craig a visit and the two have their own array of awkward scenes. The best of these is when the two are embracing in the bed of his roommate, who was in the bathroom all the while.

After being vomited on by Craig and yelled at by his roommate ("SEX IN MY BED!"), Nia finally takes her leave. This makes room for Noelle to enter the romantic fray. The sappy romance that Gilchrist and Roberts portray may be sappy enough to bore some, but was unconventional enough to capture my attention.

Ultimately, the film's greatest attribute was not its comedy, but its message, which seemed to be: "don't be afraid to make a drastic change to your life if you don't like the path you're on." Sure, that's a Lifetime Original Movie message, but Lifetime hasn't snagged the Mental-Hospital Comedy of the Year award yet.

The relationships built by the primary players felt genuine enough



to move me in an emotional way, but not a comical way. If you're looking for a light-hearted comedy, don't look this way. Maybe not the best date movie, but a good film never the less.

## You Again... not again

By Katarzyna Barnak

In the movie *You Again!* Hollywood reached inside its magic hat and instead of giving us something a bit more original, produced another generic white bunny about overcoming a high school bully.

The movie starts off with Marni Olivia Olsen (M.O.O.), a geeky social outcast (played by Kristen Bell), tormented by the head cheerleader, Joanna (Odette Yustman). After graduation, Marni becomes a successful, beautiful woman who climbs to the top of her public relations job. She comes back home for her brother Will's wedding, only to learn that her future sister-in-law is her archenemy from high school. Marni goes to great measures to show her family who the real Joanna is. This is followed by a sequence of dance offs, races, and food fights between the two girls.

While Marni's mother Gail (Jamie Lee Curtis) is trying to tell Marni to put her past behind her, new trouble walks in – Joanna's Aunt Ramona (Sigourney Weaver) who was Gail's nemesis. These two are actually entertaining to watch, especially in the pool scene where the ladies are in identical red dresses, trying to drown each other. Touchstone Studio outdid themselves in the trailer, however.

They made it seem like there was constant action, but there wasn't. In the trailer Ramona has devil horns and a goatee drawn-in in Gail's photo album; but in the actual movie it was missing.

The one thing the movie deserves a shout out for is the casting. Jamie Lee Curtis and Sigourney Weaver are magnificent in their parts. Weaver has a sort of regal presence and elegance (not to mention she speaks fluent French in the movie as well as in real life) that made her the perfect pick for the wealthy Aunt Ramona – the luxurious hotel tycoon. Curtis, on the other hand, carries warmth, spunk, and comicality that make her suitable for the role of Gail – the spontaneous mother who used to be the most popular girl in school. Bell also did a fine job as Marni, especially with her continual metamorphosis. (She changes her hair four times in the movie). Yustman who up until now played in thrillers and horror movies, was a little mediocre in the comedy department, but made up for it by acing her part as the oppressive cheerleader.

Nonetheless, a great cast does not erase a poor script and storyline. Whoever wrote the screenplay should have been more innovative and used fewer clichés. Aside from the unbearably cheesy display of affection between Will and Joanna (calling each other "Hunsies," trading Eskimo kisses, and arguing over who loves who more), the movie fails to deliver consistent humor. I went to this comedy expecting to giggle more than once or twice. The only time I actually laughed was when the 80-year-old Grandma Bunny (played by the charming Betty White) responds flirtily to Tim (Joanna's old suitor) who is asking for Joanna's number, "It's 555-0172. I'm also on Facebook... and the Twitter." I can see why many people want this lovable old lady to host the Oscars.

One thing is for sure, *You Again!* will not be in the running for an Academy Award. It is fun and cheesy, and the only place I see for it in the future is the Five Dollar or Less section at Jewel.

## The Social Network: viewers like this



By Kelly Sineni

Would you believe that an angry blog about a girl is what started that little billion dollar company we call Facebook? Lets be honest here, at least half of us have been on Facebook at least once a day since freshman year (maybe even before then). We are the generation of social networking, the internet generation, which could be why *The Social Network* pulled in \$23 million in its first weekend.

I walked out of the theater and did what I'm sure a lot of people did: texted an update to my Facebook page telling what I thought. And I thought it was fantastic. I expected to go in the theater and see a decent movie, but I did not expect to be blown away by *The Social Network*.

It opened up in a bar with our lead character Mark Zuckerberg (played by Jesse Eisenberg) on a date. Zuckerberg is portrayed as a "nose in air, I'm smarter than you and I know it" type. In short, he gets into an argument with his date (after Zuckerberg who is a Harvard sophomore slips up and says to her, "You don't have to study. You go to BU.") After she storms out, he runs off to his dorm to write an angry blog about the event.

Drunk Zuckerberg then crashes the Harvard network due to a site he launched called Facemash (what anger and beer does to a tech savvy Harvard student) that compared females on the Harvard campus. He then meets rich twins who ask for his assistance on making a social networking site for Harvard and gets an idea to make "The Facebook." Zuckerberg talks his best friend into being the CFO and to give thousands of dollars to the company. He eventually stabs his best friend in the back and gets sued by him and the rich twins. This is all told as a series of flashbacks during a court hearing.

Whoever did the casting for *The Social Network* deserves a huge high five. The cast was phenomenal. Before the movie came out there was criticism of Jesse Eisenberg (often mistaken for Michael Cera, but they are indeed two different people) and Justin Timberlake. Personally, I felt Eisenberg was perfect for the role. He had the ability to make Zuckerberg

come off as a complete backstabbing jerk, but in a weird way you still felt sorry for him because he was a...lets face it, socially awkward computer nerd who just wanted to be noticed.

Justin Timberlake also impressed with his role as Sean Parker, the smooth talking, trouble making, money hungry founder of Napster. Many JT fans still think of him as the most popular of the boys in... oh what was that band? N\*SYNC! But of course

he had to grow up, and the numerous SNL skits and other movie roles he did helped him ditch his tween heartthrob of the 90's image.

Major kudos also go to Andrew Garfield (who played Eduardo Saverin, the CFO of facebook, and will be playing Peter Parker in the 2012 Spiderman reboot) and Armie Hammer (who played the Winklevoss twins, yes both of them), whom I had never heard of before this performance. But I could not applaud him more on his efforts.

Aside from the near perfect cast and the relativity Facebook has in a lot of our lives, the story behind Facebook in *The Social Network* is unexpected to say the least. Everyone has dealt with the ending of a friendship, and even though these two Harvard guys are the creators of Facebook, it is impossible to lose sight of the fact that they lost each other. The movie dealt with betrayal, greed, and change, which everyone can relate to. Who hasn't fought with a best friend? (Although not everybody has been sued by one). Who hasn't felt left out when an old friend finds new friends? One need not be on Facebook to understand hurt like that.

There really was nothing I didn't like about *The Social Network*. Before all the pre-release hype about this movie I really didn't know there was a major million dollar lawsuit regarding Facebook. Director David Fincher was able to make a brilliant must see movie (Dare I say it? One of the best of 2010!) that explains how one of the most visited sites on the web came to be. Along with examining the legal controversy behind the site, the movie also addresses issues of betrayal and heartbreak. I see some major awards and nominations for this film come Oscar season and I definitely wish it the best of luck.

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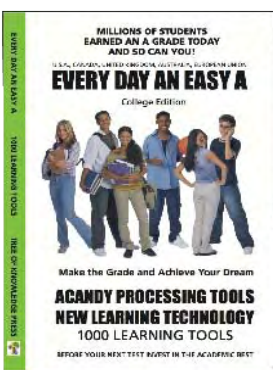


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# G.O.O.D Friday music from Kanye West is great on any day

By Brianna Toney

Kanye West has done it again. No, he didn't stop Taylor Swift in the middle of another speech. Deciding to leave the auto-tune behind with his last Album *808s & Heartbreaks*, he's been proving why he's one of the greatest rappers ever!

Kanye has been releasing hot new music in order to get his fans ready for his new album. These leaks are a part of Kanye's *G.O.O.D Friday* movement, where Kanye releases a new single every Friday until his album comes out. He wants to give his fans a sample of what songs are going to be like on his album. These songs have included *Runway*, *See Me Now* - a feature with Beyonce and Charlie Wilson, *So Appaled* - a collaboration with Jay-Z and Swizz Beatz, *G.O.O.D Friday*, *Runaway Love* and the newest popular release - *Monster* which features artists such as Jay Z, Rick Ross, Nicki Minaj, and Bon Iver.



I think Kanye is definitely showing everyone what hip hop is missing with these new releases: real music. Many "rappers" now aren't truly rapping, but making dance music with lyrics that mean nothing, and using auto-tune to make these songs even more pointless. But he's doing more than that. Kanye West shows that he is more than

a rapper. He's an artist. Without the senseless lyrics and the ridiculous auto-tune, Kanye is re-releasing feel good music. That's the vibe I get from these songs. Songs such as *See Me Now* have a great mixture of West's great lyrical skill as well as his swagger. These songs have beats that are insane, and make you feel good.

You can't help but move to these songs, whether it's a head nod, or a full dance. He even does a remix to *Alors On Danse*, a popular dance song in Europe. On the remix he raps "I'm freezing late for the rest of ya'll, I'm way better than the best of all, and even though

they focus on just the flaws, this still gonna annihilate the festivals." (Of course he still raps with a conceited demeanor. I mean, he IS Kanye West.)

Kanye continues to step out of the usual Rap element (as he always does) with his lyrics and the beats that accompany them, created with great

combinations of pianos, drums, acoustics, and other sounds that aren't normally heard in Rap songs. For example, in *Power* he loops a chant in the background through the entire song.

With these leaks, Kanye West shows how Rap has evolved, and how he has evolved as well. Yes, Mr. West is still a cocky rapper. But with these songs, he proves that he has a right to be. He appeals to fans of many different genres of music. He has some rap songs that seem more Pop than Hip Hop, he has some that seem more like an R&B song, and he has some that are pure Hip Hop. Not all artists can do that, and most of the time when artist do try, they FAIL. He has crazy collaborations under his belt with these songs, working with the artists previously mentioned as well as Common, Beyonce and even Justin Beiber with *Runaway Love*.

These songs remind me of the Kanye West that we loved to listen to in *College Dropout*. He shows that Hip Hop can be taken to another level and the lyrics can mean something at the same time.

Many people criticize Kanye West for his fashion, demeanor, and actions in his personal life. But to me, no matter what crazy things he does outside of the studio, if these songs are a sure preview of what Kanye West's new album *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* will be like, I definitely recommend getting the album on the expected release date, Nov. 22, 2010.

## Doo-Wops and Hooligans anyone?

By Nicole Jacobs

You might have heard him on B.O.B's hit single, *Nothin on You*, and Travie McCoy's, *Billionaire*, but this young, talented singer has dreams for himself. Who might this gifted artist on the rise be? The smooth, soulful, and Hawaiian native, Bruno Mars, and he's out with his debut solo album, *Doo-Wops and Hooligans*, which hit stores on Oct. 5, 2010.

Mars (born Peter Gene Hernandez, 25) is of Puerto Rican and Filipino descent came from a musical family. From singing, to song-writing, to producing, and performing, Mars is a multi-talented artist who does it all. The release of his highly anticipated album includes 10 tracks infused with everything from soul, to reggae, to rock. Mars' soft, beautiful voice leaves listeners addicted to his old school charm.

*Just the Way You Are*, the lead single off of Mars' album, is a major Billboard hit, with lyrics that spark a female's obsession and even impresses men. Then there is *Grenade*, an upbeat track that examines intimate relationships. *Talking to the Moon*, is a track that deals with the difficulties of being part of a relationship that experiences struggles. Both of these tracks consist of heart-felt lyrics that can make

anyone fall in love with Mars' musical ability.

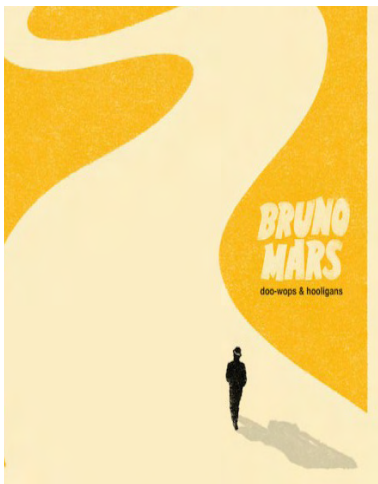
"It's better if you don't understand, just listen and have a good time," said Mars on his website. That is exactly what *Doo-Wops and Hooligans* does for me: It makes me want to just sit back and relax while being entertained by Mars' captivating style of music. *The Lazy Song*, successfully explains that feeling of being lethargic and procrastinating, something teenagers in high school experience almost everyday.

Mars' soft, inspirational lyrics are similar to Robin Thicke's contemporary R&B feel. *Our First Time*, by Mars reminds me of Thicke's, *Lost Without You*, single off of his album *The Evolution of Robin Thicke*. I believe both artists demonstrate songwriting that comes directly from the heart.

B.O.B and Cee-Lo Green are featured on the track, *The Other Side*, and is another favorite among Mars fans. Collaborations with these artists and Mars' pure talent help to make the album more successful.

*Doo-Wops and Hooligans* is an album no one can really complain about. Mars delivers with lovable music that investors will greatly appreciate. The multit talented artist clearly demonstrates the use of his gift as a vocalist. Mars' debut release does not disappoint.

Grade: 5/5 stars.



## Selena Gomez brings out sun with A Year Without Rain

By Katarzyna Barnak

Almost exactly a year after the debut of *Kiss & Tell*, her first album, Selena Gomez and the Scene presents us with a second CD. They say practice makes perfect and I think that this definitely applies to Selena. This follow-up album is fantastic, particularly when compared to her first.

*A Year Without Rain* is more of a pop/dance genre and has some great tracks. Selena reveals a more soulful and dance-loving side. Thanks to this album, she establishes herself vocally, proving that she has an original sound. On her previous album, Selena sounded too much like her peer, Demi Lovato.

Her title track *A Year Without Rain*, is the cherry of this delicious ear candy. Selena also reveals her soft side in *Ghost of You*, a delicate reminiscence of lost love. The invigorating *Spotlight* is a message to throw the mirror away for all the girls that are over worried with their appearance. I also love *Live Like There's No Tomorrow*, which has great acoustics, piano and drum accompaniment, and could potentially be our graduation song! I also enjoyed *Off the Chain*, *Round & Round* and *Rock God*.

Some people criticize Selena, saying she is not much of a talent due to her auto tune and

"processed-sounding" songs. However, nowadays most of the music industry is using the computerized technique at one level or another. Selena does not use it nearly as much as Ke\$ha, Lil Wayne, or The Black Eyed Peas. Those recognized artists built their entire careers on that sound. If you hear their live concerts you cannot help but cringe at some moments. But I actually YouTube'd some of Selena's live performances and they are fine - she actually hits all the notes.

Overall, this album is a collection of awesome feel-good jams; much better than her previous, childish one. I guess Selena Gomez got some advice from Shakira, who appeared on Gomez's Disney Channel show *The Wizards of Waverly Place*, where the two sang the senior songstress's hit *Gypsy*. Shakira is known for her bilingual covers. Not only does Selena's music transform to something you can really sway your hips to, but her hit single *A Year Without Rain* on the Deluxe Edition is also included in Spanish. I have to admit that the Spanish version is more sensual and Selena sounds more mature.

It's a great CD to have in your car and sing along to. The album costs \$9.99 and includes ten great tracks. You can also get the Deluxe Edition (which is the one I have) for an extra \$3. It has an additional five songs (which includes a remix and the Spanish version of *A Year Without Rain*.)

I can see many of these songs appearing on soundtracks of movies and being played at parties, and graduations. A shout out to Selena for her improvement, and I can't wait to hear what she has in store for us next.



## Weezer finds way to fans' hearts with new Hurley album

By Kelly Sineni

Good ol' Weezer has done it again. On Sept. 14 they released *Hurley*, their eighth album. It includes 14 tracks, although four are considered bonus songs (including a cover of *Viva La Vida*, and a "rocked out mix" version of a single released over the summer called *Represent*). I have to say, I absolutely LOVE this album.

It starts off with what sounds like orchestral instruments tuning up, and then BAM! The bass line booms through the speakers. Guitars and drums go crazy. It's pretty clear Weezer is back with the very catchy first track, *Memories*, which is followed by two very upbeat songs with a style only Weezer can do, *Ruling Me* and *Trainwrecks*.

Track four, *Unspoken*, is one of my favorites on the album. (Who am I kidding? All of them were favorites). But this is a particularly beautiful song. It's acoustic until the last 50 seconds when it gets louder - a lot louder. The song examines a relationship that obviously is taking a bad turn and puts all that anger into an innocent sounding song.

Another especially notable song on this album is *Brave New World*, which has a very old Weezer sound to it I think. Stylistically, it reminds me a little of the chorus of *Hash Pipe*.

*Hurley* is one of the few albums (like Weezer's *Blue* album and *Pinkerton*) on which I like pretty much every song. Even the cover of *Viva La Vida* was done very well. To be honest, at first I really didn't like the cover at all, but after listening to it a few times it grew on me. It isn't as good as the original but it

was done nicely.

There are two great things about Weezer that distinguishes them. They have their own distinct sound and they have kept the same general style since they started in the 90s. They've done all this while keeping their songs from sounding the same, unlike other bands I know like Coldplay, Daughtry, Nickelback, etc..

Weezer began releasing albums in 1992 and still manages to attract new fans, as well as keep some loyal ones who have been there from the start.

*Hurley* is hands down better than *Make Believe* and *Raditude*, but not as good as *Blue*. I'd rank it on the same level as *Pinkerton*, and it is definitely a must hear. Major kudos to Weezer on their eighth album.



The new Weezer CD cover features a picture of Hugo "Hurley" Reyes from the TV show, *Lost*, with band members in the background.



# Finding a college not so different from finding love



By Ben Palmer

## Standardized Test Sample Question 1:

Lawyer : Laws :: Teenager : \_\_\_\_\_

- a.) social security checks
- b.) love
- c.) college
- d.) both b and c

I think the answer is d!

As a teenager, I have had two things constantly on my mind: love and college. (Maybe not in that order...actually, yes. Probably in that order). And as a teenager, I have been constantly receiving advice on those same two things.

My love advice comes from my wise older sister, or my more experienced friends. My college advice comes from teachers, and parents, and TV, and books, and parents, and handouts, and parents. Did I mention parents?

Judging by who dishes out this advice, one might

think it would be as differing as its subject matter! But I have discovered this is not the case. In fact, I have discovered that the advice I receive for finding the “college that’s right for me” is just like the advice I receive for finding the “person that’s right for me.”

Every college I have visited so far has been adamant that I not lie on my transcript, or do a bunch of activities that I think a college wants to see. I wondered, why is that? You tell us what you are interested in seeing, yet you do not want us to do these things, even if they help us get into your school?

One school I visited told me that I needed to have taken “as many AP classes as possible.” The admissions counselor then cracked a joke, saying, “if your school offers 20 APs, we’d like to see that you took maybe around 17!” Nobody laughed. Some people even wrote it down like it was a New Testament. The school wants me to take three or four APs a year, but not to waste my time with classes “you will never care about.” What?

Every person I have talked to about relationships so far has been equally adamant that I not lie about who I am, or do a bunch of things that I think a person wants to see. I again wondered, why is that? You broadcast interests and style to the world, yet do not want me to mimic those interests, even if it helps me get into your life?

I once liked a girl that seemed like the perfect person. She was pretty, smart, athletic, popular, and a

fan of scream-o (weren’t expecting that, were you?) Well, I started listening to a little of the genre, hoping to become more like my crush. A headache and two Tylenols later, I was beginning to move on. I was back to listening to S-Club-7 and being very, very single.

Basically, why should I be myself if a college or person has made it clear that who I am is not good enough for me to be in their graces?

Colleges never told me why I should be myself, except that if I simply did what was best for me, I would feel the right school out, and it would feel me too. Funny, sounds just like the advice to “be yourself, and the right person out there will feel that.”

Seeing this similarity, I began to realize just how alike colleges and people are! Colleges have standards of entry, and people have standards of acknowledgement or acceptance.

Colleges require you to pay tuition every year, and people require you to buy candy/gifts/meals. People even have a form of need-based-aid, called pity dates. The list goes on!

So now that I see that my college and romantic searches are not very different, and I have been told that being myself is the best way to find the right person and right partner, it is time to ask the big question. What will being myself accomplish if I am not at/with the best school/person?

Well, here’s how I see it. Or rather, how this generic and un-biased standardized test sees it.

## Standardized Test Sample Question 2:

Which of the following sounds like the best future for me? I could...

a.) spend 4 years of high school taking classes I hate, joining clubs I despise, and working toward the standard of entry at whatever school I want. Then I get in, and pay a quarter of a million dollars for 4 years of an education I only want because it’s fiscally reasonable, then get a job and inevitably a life that follows a similar “fiscal first” suit.

b.) take the classes I want (while still challenging myself), join clubs and activities that garner my interests, and search for a school that fits my needs and abilities. Then I get in, and pay the same quarter of a million dollars for 4 years, but I get an education that I will enjoy and value, and move on to a career and life that I can love and be passionate about.

c.) make myself into whatever my dream-person wants me to be, and spend my entire 4 years being someone I am not, just to move into something more serious and eventually marry. From here, not only am I not myself, but I am beginning to resent those people that are.

d.) find someone who appreciates me for who I am. We will take our time and love each other for exactly who we are, until we marry and live happily ever after.

e.) both b and d

Now, which would you pick? Don’t worry, points won’t be deducted for wrong answers. And remember, this is a timed test.

# Court order finally bans Don’t Ask Don’t Tell...for now



By Kelly Sineni

Recently Congress introduced a bill that would repeal Don’t Ask Don’t Tell (DADT), which was shot down Monday, Sept. 21 by the Senate after being passed by the House in May. Then on Oct. 12, Federal District Judge Virginia Philips from California issued an injunction (court order) banning the US Military from enforcing DADT, meaning homosexuals can openly serve in the

military for the time being.

Don’t Ask Don’t Tell (DADT) is a bill signed by President Clinton in the 90s, that enabled gays to enlist in the military. Previous to that, gay men and women weren’t allowed to serve, due to the sexual orientation question when they enlisted. Basically after DADT the military was no longer allowed to inquire about the sexuality of their enlistees, and enlistees were not supposed to be open about their sexual preferences. Hence the name Don’t Ask Don’t Tell.

At the time it was a step in the gay community, because it allowed gays to secretly serve in the military. Now it is considered by many to be an outdated, discriminative policy, and I have to say I agree. Times change, and over the past 17 years since DADT was passed, America is much different from when the Clinton administration was running the country.

I think that anyone who wants to serve in the armed forces should be allowed to do so without having to hide who they are. Kudos to Judge

Philips for making that ruling. It takes a lot of guts for someone to make a call like that after a bill repealing DADT was just shot down. Philips’ ruling may be repealed by a case in the Circuit Court of Appeals, or by the Obama Administration by Dec. 1. While his administration has been an advocate of gay rights, it is not standing up as strongly as one might expect in this case. (This is, after all, an election year. Politics as usual).

America was built on the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Americans have the right to live the life we want, within legal reason. And I personally think that nobody should be punished for something they did not choose to be nor for something that really has no negative effect on society.

The world is full of gay people... so what? Homosexuals are Americans too, and deserve the same rights as straight Americans. They contribute as much to society as anyone else. They vote, and they pay taxes. Should they decide to serve

our country, what reason does the government have to stop them from being open about their sexuality? In the midst of war, when soldiers are being shot at and bombs are going off all around them, I’m pretty sure they won’t be worrying about whether the guy next to them is gay.

John McCain, who played a ringleader roll in stopping DADT from being repealed, used the excuse that we have to account for what the troops want. I’m all for supporting what the troops want. We should respect and honor them, but let’s be honest here. They are probably already serving with more gays than they know.

Maybe in the end nothing will physically change if DADT is repealed. No more or less gays might serve, but I think it would be a smart direction for the country to move. The rights and respect of our citizens (ALL of our citizens) should always be a priority of the government, election year or not.

# Drake gives shout out to fans at NIU concert

By Bianca Rodriguez

The lights were slowly dimmed as music played softly. Fans quickly scurried to their seats while others jumped to their feet to welcome the rap artist who took the stage sporting a red letterman’s jacket displaying a white “D” for Drake. The doors to Northern Illinois University’s convention center opened Sunday night at 7:30 for fans attending Drake’s concert “Thank Me Later.”

The concert was lit with purple and dark blue lights creating a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere for a venue with not a bad seat in the house. The balcony seats sat just above the stage bringing those up high just as close to the action as the fans on the floor. Even from the balcony, the five o’clock shadow Drake rocked was easy to see.

While fans “dressed to impress” with fancy skirts, flashy blouses, and crisp kicks, Drake performed in a black v-neck shirt and blue jeans. Unlike other performers who wear outrageous costumes, Drake kept it casual with a hint of swagger. Drake comes off as an average guy, which is reinforced by the messages of his new songs. They give the impression that he is just a regular guy wondering exactly what he has gotten into.

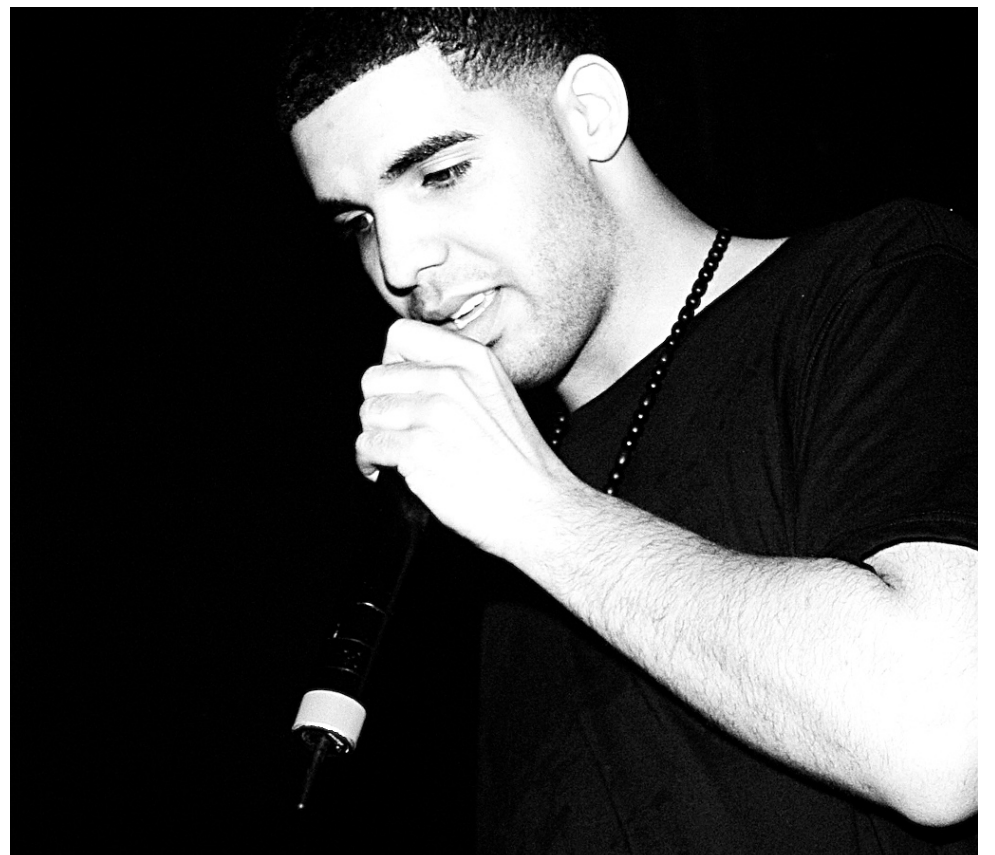
Before focusing on music, Drake starred in De-grassi: The Next Generation. His connection to the audience is natural and he appears more than comfortable on stage.

At the concert Drake performed several tracks from his mixtape *So Far Gone* and his newly-

released studio album *Thank Me Later*. Though his immensely popular *So Far Gone* was never released as an album, after being selected to perform at the 2010 Grammy Awards ceremony, it is apparent his talent has been recognized. Drake tickets for the show in the Chicago Theater sold out within two weeks of going on sale. Due to high interest an additional show was added to his visit in Chicago and Drake performed on back to back nights, Oct. 13 and 14. Drake kept fans on their feet jamming to his clear and clever flows, waving their arms, and singing along to every chorus.

In appreciation of his fans, Drake spent approximately 10 minutes recognizing them by pointing out individuals in the crowd. He complimented different outfits and facial expressions of those in the crowd. Starting on the far left, he slowly moved to the right recognizing each section making sure to include those in the balcony. Drake even brought one audience member on stage. He then proceeded to kiss and caress her to Alicia Keys’s Unforgettable. Before returning her to her seat, he handed her a Blackberry, which was a gift from a sponsor of his tour. He then celebrated this short and shallow relationship as further example of what he criticizes in his music.

Throughout the concert Drake played music honoring other artists such as Aaliyah and his close friend Lil Wayne who is currently serving a year in prison. Drake asked the crowd, “NIU, who here still supports my man Weezy?” The audience responded by clapping, cheering, and shouting, “Free Weezy!” After video taping the



audience on his cell phone to later show Wayne, Drake performed Wayne’s song *I’m Going In*.

With adrenaline pumping, Drake continued playing recorded versions of his own songs so

he could rap over them, creating what sounded like duets with himself. Drake’s originality and connection to his audience made for an energetic and highly entertaining show.



# Schneider wins Olympic Gold

By Johnny Stacewicz

Max Schneider had a grand total of three weeks to enjoy his state championship before he had to turn his focus to the 2010 youth Olympics in Singapore. As a sophomore, Schneider finished last year's wrestling season with a state championship and an undefeated season in the 145lb weight class.

Three weeks after winning, on Apr. 12, Schneider went in for shoulder reconstruction to repair a torn rotator cuff. Schneider recovered in four months, just in time for the youth Olympics in mid Aug. The shoulder injury did not seem to slow Schneider down in the least as he defeated Song-Chol Hyon (PRK) for the gold medal.

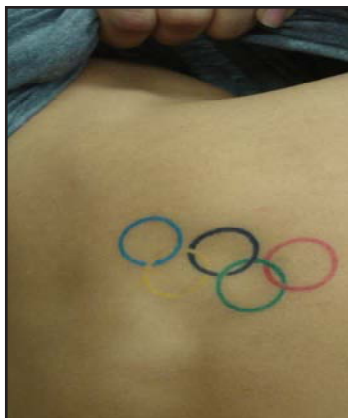
Like all athletes, in order to succeed and compete at a high level, Schneider has had to make sacrifices. He has either

broken or dislocated more than half of his fingers and he also has back problems. His success has come at a toll. His body bends in ways that it is not supposed to, he has to constantly eat high protein meals, and he has a personal workout routine in order to maintain his weight. He has to know how to control himself, which is not always easy for teenagers.

"[When I am with my friends] I know my limits, there are times I can have fun and times when I know I need to stop," said Schneider.

But with these responsibilities come a few perks. Schneider has traveled all over the world to compete with some of the top athletes. The U.S Olympic team pays for all of Schneider's training and his personal trainer gives him free training.

"Most of the people who work with me have been there from the beginning,



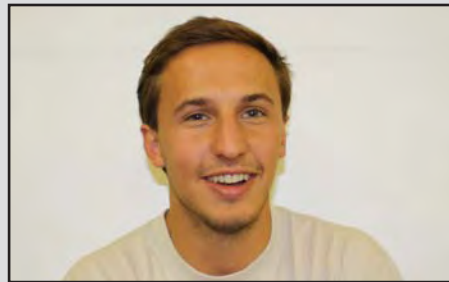
Schneider shows his Olympic rings tattoo, which commemorates his victory earlier this year.

My coach and I have been together forever, but there are also some people who haven't," said Schneider.

The Olympics is definitely a goal for Schneider, but right now, he is going to take some time to enjoy his gold medal.

"Knowing you're the best in the world, there is no feeling like it," Schneider said.

# It's a hard-knock life for athletes



By Johnny Stacewicz

Hat tricks do not come often in sports, especially in soccer. Three scores by a single player in one game is a rarity. My last hat trick came on July 13, 2006. I had just scored the last of my three goals to put our team up six to four against a team from California. In celebration, one of my teammates jumped into my arms and I immediately went down. The tone went from joyous to concerned. My teammates gathered around and tried to help me up, but my left leg just would not work. I had dislocated my knee cap for the first time.

In high school, there is no money, no cars, no fame. The practices are long, the equipment is not exactly grade A, and at the end of the day, dead tired and dirty, athletes have to go home and do homework. The main differences between high school and the pros is not just skill, it is our for the love of the game.

As a kid, I bounced off the walls constantly. It drove my teachers and parents crazy. I needed something that would not only keep my attention, but something that could keep up with me.

Soccer saved me. I think every kid should play. Soccer equipment is dirt cheap. The only real thing you need is a ball and a flat surface, and the game never stops. I fell in love with it. Then, the summer after seventh grade, genetically bad knees caught up with me.

Since seventh grade, I have dislocated my knee cap four times and had three

surgeries. Due to a sprained knee and a small tear in my meniscus, my senior season ended early.

As high school athletes, we give sports everything we have and sometimes they turn their backs on us. Whether you are a football player with a broken ankle, a baseball player with a bad elbow, a soccer player with a bad knee, or another athlete whose body has begun to give

up on them, it can be hard to see the bigger picture right away. I know it feels like you have nothing. The one thing you were good at, the one place that you could go to get away, was taken from you. You did everything people asked of you and it was still taken away. When it happens, nothing can be said or done to give back what was taken.

I know the heartbreak. It is hard to live with, but the sooner you get over it the better. Whether they made a mistake in a game or got injured on the field, athletes need to have a selective memory. Forget the bad and move on.

What happens to the greatest athletes when they lose? They get back up and work harder. That is exactly what we need to do: pick ourselves up, clean ourselves off, and work because that is what we are best at.

There is a certain strength that cannot be lifted or squatted. It is the strength one gets when you are on crutches and take the stairs anyway. It is the strength that comes when you go to physical therapy three times a week for two months learning how to run again. It is the strength that comes from keeping your head up when you have every reason to let it hang.

For everyone of you that has been forced to say goodbye to something you love before you were ready, it is time to get up and get to work. Because that is what we do. We roll with adversity, and get back to work.

# Freshmen star in varsity sports

By Vivian Troche

As Maddie Lord, Div. 471, entered Lane for her first day of high school she was completely prepared. She has spent most of her summer practicing inside and outside the school building and knew her way around.

Lord is one of the six freshmen who made the Lane Varsity cheerleading squad. Freshmen athletes have an advantage because during practices and games over the summer, they learn the layout of the building.

"I don't think we stuck out as much because we knew where we were going, knew who we were eating lunch with, and knew a lot of upperclassmen," said Lord.

Over the past three years there has been an increase in the presence of freshmen on Lane teams. In fall of 2008, the dance team had their first freshman make the team. In winter of

2008, the cheerleaders held their first winter tryouts. This school year the Boys' Varsity Soccer team has freshmen twins, Jose and Sergio Fuentes, Div. 452 on the team.

"Two or three years ago, we didn't have any freshmen, so we decided to hold winter tryouts to give them a chance to make the squad," said Coach Barbara Carabio.

This school year the debate team has joined in on the trend. They sent out fliers to grade schools, telling them what the team was about and encouraging them to apply for the team. Debaters traditionally signed up for debate at the end of their freshman year and took it as a class the following year. This year the new debate advisor, Ms. House, decided to shake things up.

"Most suburban schools do have freshmen on their debate teams, meaning that once a student reaches their senior year in debate, they have four years of experience and can be better prepared

through that experience. This potentially puts our senior debate students at a disadvantage, simply because they have not had the same amount of learning opportunities," said Ms. House.

Having freshmen on teams is not just good for teams. It also benefits the students. It helps them adjust to high school, meet new friends, and meet upperclassmen who can advise them on problems.

"The thing that I like most about being a freshmen athlete is when I'm walking down the hall and one of the upperclassmen waves to me. I feel special and my friends think that it is cool that I know seniors," said Varsity cheerleader Jessica Smith, Div. 476.

"The upperclassmen and the freshmen don't butt heads. The upperclassmen see them as like their little babies; but they realize that they have the skill level to be on the team and they respect that," said Coach Barbara Carabio.



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# Athletes of the Issue

Sergio Fuentes, Div. 454  
&  
Jose Fuentes, Div. 452

Sergio and Jose Fuentes are identical twins and the only freshmen on Lane’s Varsity Soccer team. Jose starts at right midfield and has scored five goals this season. His older brother, Sergio, starts at attacking midfield and has scored six. The twins have played a major role in the success of the team.



**S. Fuentes**

Hip Hop, R&B  
Ceral and milk  
Math  
Brown  
Superbad  
Target  
Sergio Busquets  
Barcelona

**Favorites**

**Music**  
**Food**  
**Class**  
**Color**  
**Movie**  
**Store**  
**Athlete**  
**Team**

**J. Fuentes**

Hip Hop, Rap  
Peperonni Pizza  
Math  
Red  
Superbad  
Bestbuy  
Christiano Ronaldo  
Real Madrid

**Warrior:** How does it feel being the only two freshmen on Varsity?  
**SF:** It’s a great feeling being the only two freshmen on the team. It’s an amazing experience. It’s something I am going to remember. I’m really looking forward to my next years on the team.  
**JF:** It’s a really good feeling being on varsity as a freshman. I know it is not an easy thing to do. I am really proud of my brother and myself.  
**Warrior:** What is the biggest difference in your style of play?  
**SF:** I attack more on offense and I am just more of a beast (laughs.)

**JF:** I am way faster than he is. And my shot is better, for sure.  
**Warrior:** Who is the biggest influence in your life?  
**SF:** The one person who has helped me the most in getting where I am today is my mother. She is always on the sidelines cheering me on. She always provides me with all I need to become the person I am today.  
**JF:** My mom is the one person who has really helped me. She is always at our games and practices. I know i would not be able to do this without her.

## Student athletes lose weight, gain competitive advantage

By Aleks Pavlovic

Jordan Sultanian, Div. 281, has finally shed the pounds that weighed him down for much his life. According to Sultanian, motivation is key, and going from a weight of 244 to 181 is worth the struggle.  
“I didn’t want to be fat anymore,” he said. “Now people always tell me I look good.”  
Sultanian’s ambition kicked in after realizing that losing weight was required to maintain his performance on Lane’s varsity football team.  
“I was too fat. I was wearing size 40 pants,” Sultanian said. “Now I’m a 33.”  
Sultanian started off his diet by eliminating fast food and eating three meals at the same time each day. He invested in a treadmill and worked out while keeping up the same eating habits. His mother helped him by preparing him nutritious meals.  
“When you see tempting food you need to tell yourself, ‘I don’t have to eat that,’” Sultanian said. “Stay away from that donut.”  
Regardless of sport, athletes must take

measures to remain committed, disciplined, and in shape. Even if a coach does not set a strict diet for the members of his team, many dedicated athletes take the time to set their own.  
Youth Olympic gold judo champion Max Schneider, Div. 281, stays away from complex carbs and simple sugars to stay on top of his game.  
“No bread, no potatoes,” said Schneider. “Red meat is the devil, and during holidays you need to ignore the gingerbread and turkey and gravy staring straight at you.”  
Schneider compares building muscle to building a snowman.  
“When you want a big one, you need to pack on snow,” he said. “I build myself with foods high in protein and four meals each day.”  
Wrestler Chase Wilson, Div. 164, does his best to bring his weight down naturally with different weight loss techniques and healthy eating.  
“Our coaches do not support illegal weight cutting,” said Wilson. “Losing weight naturally can’t always work out so you need to put in extra effort to lose those three or four extra pounds. I prefer running with multiple hoodies on to

sweat everything out.”  
The state of Illinois has a system intended to keep wrestlers from hurting themselves by either cutting too much weight too quickly or by not cutting enough.  
“Before you start wrestling, they test the amount of fat you have in your body,” said Wilson. “The state sends back a list declaring what weight each wrestler needs to be at and by what date. Each year the rules are changed and mixed around to keep the athletes healthy.”  
While Wilson and other wrestlers watch their weight as a requirement, other athletes, such as lacrosse player Jenna Wasserman, Div. 153, maintain healthy habits for personal wellness.  
“It’s all about feeling healthy,” Wasserman said. “I never tell myself I can’t eat something, but when I eat better I feel better.”  
Whether Lane’s athletes are resisting gingerbread cookies or simply doubling their vitamin water intake to remain toned, all have their own methods of keeping in shape.

## JV Boys Soccer wins City title



The JV Boys’s Soccer Team beat Kelly High School 4-0 on Sept. 15 at McKinley High School to win City for the first time in six years. Sophomore Abraham Sandoval scored three goals in the first half, including one on a bicycle kick and another on a diving header. Freshman Robert Peia added a fourth goal for Lane in the second half. Junior Zorolm Reed played solid in goal, making “three amazing saves,” according to Head Coach, Mrs. Vale-Suarez. Sandoval and Reed were both lifted up and carried off the field in celebration after the game.

## Softball team stays undefeated

By Johnny Stacewicz

“Honestly, my favorite part of being a [softball] manager is listening to Tim Feeley sing songs from Glee everyday,” said Mia Irizarry, Div. 279.  
The laid back attitude of the players and the constant jokes that surround team practices disappears, however, come game time. The team knows when to get serious.  
After beating Kennedy on Wednesday, the team’s record improved to an impressive 24-0, which has surprised neither coaches or players.  
“The chemistry and the raw talent on the team is absolutely insane,” said Patrick O’Connell, Div. 182, the longest tenured player on the team.  
Coach Stravakis, who has been coaching boys’ softball for seven years, has never had a more talented group.  
“[This year’s team] is the most talented group we have had in the last seven years. [However,] that does not guarantee us anything,” Stravakis said.  
One of the biggest differences of this year’s team is that for the first time in recent years some of the more talented player’s on the Varsity Baseball Team tried out. Jackson Perri, Div. 185, who is being scouted by some Division III schools for baseball, decided to play softball his senior year. Previously, he had refused to play softball because he thought it would negatively affect him in baseball.  
In last year’s October issue of the Warrior, Perri was quoted as saying, “I was always good at softball, but I didn’t try out because I felt it would mess up my swing in baseball.”  
Perri had a change of heart, however, and now is the starting left fielder on the softball team - the same position

he can be found playing on the baseball field come spring time.  
“I have always played softball. I figured it was my senior year. There is no next year. I just said, ‘screw it. I am going to play,’” Perri said.  
Tim Feeley, Div. 155, a pitcher on the Varsity baseball team, is also in his rookie season as a softball player.  
“The great history and tradition is what really drew me to softball. I have wanted to play since freshman year, but because of baseball I couldn’t,” Feeley said.  
Anthony Morici, Div. 168, who played baseball freshman and sophomore year, enjoys the more-laid back attitude of softball.  
“[I like softball more because] it’s more laid back and we are actually going to win,” he said.  
The team has won all but four of their games by slaughter rule. The team made it to the City semi-finals beating Phoenix Military Academy on Oct. 18, and Kennedy on Oct. 20. The City championship, scheduled to be played at UIC on Oct. 25, did not have a result at press time.  
Stravakis wants his team to stay focused and humble. He is encouraging players and fans to remember that their success is due to a complete team effort, and not purely because this year’s team has baseball players on the roster.  
“I didn’t know we had baseball players, but I will say that our success has come from all of our softball players contributing,” Stravakis said.  
Feeley’s off pitch singing has been somewhat of a good luck charm. As painful as it is to his teammates ears, they hope it continues all the way to UIC.