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Mr. Trevian pageant too risky for administration

by Sarah Zhang

Over the past few months, New Trier's Social Service Board members have been working on a new fundraiser to replace Band-Aid, Social Service Board's largest fundraising event where local bands play in front of their peers to raise money for selected charities.

Their latest idea is a parody pageant called "Mr. Trevian," but it was ultimately rejected by the NT administration.

Band-Aid has been slowly losing student interest which is why the Social Service Board is looking for a replacement.

Spiro Bolos, one of the Social Service Board sponsors, said "Band-Aid has been a long standing tradition, but the numbers keep dwindling year after year."

The decline in student attendance to Band-Aid was one of the key factors in the development of the "Mr. Trevian" idea. "Mr. Trevian" was supposed to be a new, fresh way to raise more money for the chosen charity, seeing as Band-Aid was just not bringing in revenue or a crowd like it used to.

Social Service Board is always looking for new fundraising possibilities, so when the idea was brought up in meetings, the board welcomed the change. The premise was based on the traditional beauty pageant, but with men as the

contestants.

Lauren Butler, a junior on the Social Service Board, explained "It would have been an entirely male performed talent show of sorts, like a parody of the classic female beauty pageants. We had events like Question and Answer and outfit competitions."

Although the members of the Social Service Board were in favor of this idea, Principal Denise Dubravec and Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Timothy Hayes, voiced their concerns during a meeting, according to sponsor Dan Lawler. Also present were student activities coordinator Stacy Kolack, Bolos, and Lawler.

Lawler explained that when they brought it to the administration, the main concern was that it would be counter-cultural to the New Trier atmosphere. "They told us the rationale was that the culture of our school is to try not to create competition by highlighting winners. For example, we don't do class rankings or have a valedictorian."

"It could be taken as offensive or sexist. It wouldn't have felt organic, like how we want a student event to feel. It would have had to be heavily scripted and could have taken a different turn," said Kolack.

There were attempts in making "Mr. Trevian" more accessible, such as making it "M. Trev," so that anyone could participate, according



Amy Androw and Sabrina Carlins, two of the presidents of Social Service Board who helped pitch the "Mr. Trevian" idea |Minturn

to Bolos.

Even though a few neighboring schools also host events like "Mr. Trevian," there was still worry that the task would have been too large in such a short amount of time. "Mr. Trevian" would have had to have been entirely run, produced, and scripted by students, unlike Band-Aid, where New Trier hires a company to set up the stage and sound equipment.

Nida Saleem, a junior on the Social Service Board, said that "they [the administration] told us that perhaps a less complex idea might be easier to do, especially since 'Mr.

Trevian' would have to be really scripted to be sure we wouldn't offend anyone."

Shyam Thakkar, one of the three presidents of Social Service Board this year, said that "their reasons were justifiable, and make sense; I just wish we knew that going into it a few months earlier, because it would have helped a lot. Other than that, their reasons make sense."

Even though the idea was never truly fleshed out and brought to the school at large, some students seem to support the idea, such as junior Bella Miller, "I think that it could

have been a really fun time. I would love to have seen the funny outfits the guys would have had to wear, and I bet a lot of people would have gone."

Moving forward from "Mr. Trevian," Social Service Board is still brainstorming their next event, with ideas like Dollar Days, a dance for the freshman class, and a dodge ball tournament. The Social Service Board is trying their best to "make an event that people go to year after year, make a kind of legacy," said Bolos.

Dances fill up New Trier students' social calendar



Sophomores, juniors, and seniors filled the main gym last fall at New Trier's 2014 homecoming dance |Kolack

by Grace Murphy

With only a few weeks between two of the biggest school dances at New Trier, Turnabout and Prom, students are beginning to feel the stress that comes with planning groups, costumes, after parties, and more.

Activities Director Stacey Kolack explained, "The date for Turnabout is selected for February or March due to gym availability and other major events going on in our calendar that students would be

involved with. We don't want them to feel like they can't go to the dance because they've got a big choral performance or something like that. We do our best, but it's not always possible because our students are all so involved."

Kolack also stated, "We need to check the calendar for conflicts; you don't want to have a dance on the same night as a play. And then you also need to find space. Dances take place in gyms, so we need to make sure it's on a date that there's no home gym use. Because of all of

the setup involved, dances can take up to twenty-four hours at least to set up for their big production with lights and everything. So it's not just those three hours that the gym has to be open."

Global Exchange Club sponsor, Moira Gitau helps plan Turnabout. She described, "My options for scheduling are very limited. We try not to put it too close to the beginning of February, because putting it so close to finals makes it very hard for everyone. So this year, my first choice was for Saturday, Feb. 21,

but Winter Carnival got it. So my other option was to go much earlier and that was going to be hard, so I decided this year I would try going into March."

However, some students feel that if the two dances are so close together, the school should only have one event all together. Junior Olivia Bacon explained, "It would be much better if the dances were spread out or if the school just got rid of one of the dances. I mean how many costume-themed dances do we need?"

Junior Bina Saipi added, "I think it would be better to have Turnabout

'There's no break from the planning and stress that come along with school dances.'

- Kate Andrews

earlier and spread out the dances because they're too close."

Bacon also discussed how some students can feel when they are not asked to the dances, "The stress and drama could also really hurt some people's self esteem or make them not want to go at all if they aren't asked."

Many students agree that with the dance so close together, it adds a lot of unneeded stress to their lives. Junior Rabel Kapadia said, "They should be farther apart so you have time to look for a dress, possibly get a date and all that."

Senior Riley McNulty expressed

her stress, "It puts a lot of pressure on finding outfits and making plans for the dances in such a short period of time."

Several students mentioned the fear of having Prom and Turnabout so close together. One such fear is that boys will ask separate Prom dates before Turnabout even happens. McNulty said, "People are a little worried that their Turnabout date is going to ask someone else to Prom before Turnabout."

It seems that the biggest worry, above finding dresses, groups, and themes, is finding a date to the dance. "It's already so stressful for some girls to find dates for Turnabout and then having the added pressure to wait to be asked to Prom is even worse. Especially if guys decide to ask before Turnabout even happens, it's just unnecessary stress and drama," said Bacon.

Junior Kate Andrews said, "As soon as you finish planning and getting everything set and ready for Turnabout, you have to start thinking and getting organized for Prom. It's too much having them so close together. There's no break from the planning and stress that come along with school dances."

Junior, Paige Phillips would not want the dances to be more spread out because she likes that they are towards the end of the year. Phillips said, "I think, even though people never want to admit it, everyone likes the hype of having a dance and trying to find a date, dress or costume, after party, and all that."