

# Spirit Week 2014 ends with a bang, not a whimper

by Maddy McVey

By all counts, New Trier's 2014 Homecoming dance was a success.

Seniors made it a great night, cherishing their third-to-last dance before graduation. Juniors had the chance to experience dressing up as a theme (as opposed to formal wear) for the first time, and sophomores got to go to their first dance as members of the Winnetka campus.

Senior Amy Androw, whose theme was "Risky Business", said, "I had a really good time at homecoming. It was nice not having to pay for anything. I didn't enjoy it my sophomore year, but this year was more fun because I had a really good group and no one took it seriously. Everyone was dancing and no one was in a bad mood or killing the vibe."

Many students agreed that dressing up in a theme was a lot better than dressing formally. Junior Sabrina Barkal, whose theme was criminals and cops said, "I liked themes much better than dressing formally because the pictures aren't as awkward and you don't need to have a boutonniere and flower for your date."

Androw said, "I prefer wearing a costume because it's a lot more comfortable and cheap. You can get creative with it too, but it can cause conflict in the group when people disagree about it, and that can be a source of stress."

As a sophomore however, the group must still dress in formal apparel, even though all other upperclassmen are in themes.



Junior Jack Litowitz and seniors Charlie Goldberg, Luke Duros, Michael Mestanas, Tarek Affi, Ben Muldoon, and Charlie Maher in costume at Homecoming |Kolack

Sophomore Annabel Walsh said, "I think both dressing formally and dressing in theme are fine. I don't have a preference."

Freshmen haven't been a part of the Homecoming dance for quite some time. Androw, Barkal, and Walsh agreed that this is a good thing.

"A lot of people ask within the first few weeks of school and that would be stressful for freshmen because no one really knows each other yet, and they would just go with their friends from middle school, and not branch out," said Androw.

Some of the most enjoyed parts of Homecoming night were the after parties and the party buses. However, the least enjoyed part of the night ended up being the dance itself.

"I didn't enjoy the dinner part of our night, but the after party was

really fun," said Walsh.

Barkal said, "I didn't like the bright lights in the gym. If New Trier were to change anything in the future, it should be making the lights less strobe-like."

Most homecoming groups generally take party buses to the school that includes flashing rainbow lights and U-shaped seating. However, other groups choose to take limos, school buses, or even their own cars.

Androw said, "I really enjoyed the time we spent on the party bus. We danced a lot, and everyone got into it. It was a great bonding experience. However, I did not like going to Olive Garden for dinner because they gave us our food two minutes before we had to leave, and it's ratchet."

# New Trier's illustrious additions to popular culture history

by Joey Schuman

As is tradition on Halloween, New Trier will be filled with students dressed in a wide variety of costumes.

While there will always be the inevitable Minion, superhero, or Teletubbies costume, many students find their inspiration each year through current pop culture. In honor of this (occasionally) current events-inspired dress-up day, The New Trier News presents four of New Trier's most notable appearances in the world of pop culture.

## (Almost) any John Hughes film

The late filmmaker and Glenbrook North alumni churned out cult classics that still relate to many of today's high school students. Among them, "Home Alone", "Ferris Bueller's Day Off", and "Uncle Buck", had scenes shot at the Northfield campus, while Sixteen Candles contains scenes shot at the Winnetka Campus, according to IMDB. Another iconic Hughes film, "The Breakfast Club", derived its title from a nickname by New Trier students and staff for morning detention.

## "Mean Girls"

Perhaps the most quoted film of all time (at least in the 18-24 year-old demographic), "Mean Girls" lampooned the stereotypical high school "clique" at fictional North Shore High School in Evanston.



Zoe Levin is emerging as a star actress. She graduated in 2012 |AP Images

Despite basing North Shore High School on New Trier and including references to Skokie's Old Orchard (now Westfield) Shopping Center and Wilmette breakfast favorite Walker Brothers, minimal filming was done in the area, according to the Internet Movie Database.

## "High Times at New Trier High"

New Trier found itself as the national poster child of teenage drug usage in December 1996 after Time's James L. Graff published an investigative piece claiming that "New Trier kids who smoke pot" were "by all accounts more than three-fifths of the student body." According to the Chicago Tribune, Graff later admitted on WNTN that an edit to the piece had caused an inadvertent change in the message and that 60% of the student body merely admitted to trying it at

least once or twice, as opposed to the implication that 60% were regular users. Regardless, New Trier's outsider reputation had been cemented for years to come.

## Trevians on the big screen

Countless New Trier alumni have made some form of contribution to the film or television industry. Most recently, Class of 2013 graduate Katie Chang ("The Bling Ring"), 2012 graduate Zoe Levin ("The Way Way Back"), 2003 grad Beck Bennett ("Saturday Night Live") and 1996 grad Jake Johnson ("New Girl") have burst onto the scene in Hollywood. They join a stacked list of famous actors/actresses from New Trier that includes the likes of Rainn Wilson (Class of 1984), Hal Sparks (1988), Virginia Madsen (1979), Bruce Dern (1954) and Charlton Heston (1941).

# More Dudes takes Facebook by storm

by Max Borushek

Internet fads are just that: fads.

They have a shelf life that can be as short as 10 minutes and maybe if they have some staying power, a week. However an ever expanding Facebook group is trying to change the way we perceive fads.

More Dudes is a Facebook group that has seemingly grown overnight. Once a small group that no one knew about, the group now has over 16,000 members on Facebook. This group is of course not limited to New Trier students, as people of all ages across the country are members of this group.

Many self-proclaimed "dudes" preach the strong community in the online group. One anonymous New Trier Student had this to say about More Dudes. "It's more than just a silly Facebook group. It's a place for dudes to be dudes with other dudes. As someone who's for the dudes, that's what I'm all about. Dude on!"

Nothing epitomizes the More Dudes attitude quite like this quote. In the about section of the Facebook group, dudes follow three simple steps: Step 1. Add a Dude, Step 2. Add more Dudes, and Step 3. Enjoy the dude love. This philosophy is followed by all dudes in the group and is imperative if you want to accentuate dudeliness.

When asked about what More Dudes means to him, senior Colin Richards said, "It's a great way to make new friendships, get yourself out there, and express yourself."

This isn't the first nationwide internet fad to hit New Trier, as last year people were obsessed with "No Bev." "No Bev" was a group whose members would take pictures of other people without any beverages

while eating or doing various activities. The popularity of "No Bev" was short lived at New Trier, and was old news two weeks after it had taken the school by storm.

Of course no fad can be matched by Yik Yak, which was the subject of controversy last year. It was popular for about a week at New Trier until it and many other Chicagoland schools had it banned for people bullying other students on the app.

More Dudes is different. There isn't any bullying that happens on the group. There aren't pictures of people with "No Bev." More Dudes is a community of people that share their common interests with the rest of the dudes in the group. People can, well, just be dudes in it. It's a dudely community.

*'Step 1. Add a dude, Step 2. Add more dudes, and Step 3. Enjoy the dude love.'*

More Dudes continues to grow on a daily basis because people from all over the country keep adding more members, and the members will then become "dudes".

More Dudes has been relevant for almost two weeks now, but is it going to be relevant a week from now? Only time will tell if it becomes the next big thing. Some think that More Dudes is going to be around for a long time. Others will be over it in two days. But regardless of what happens, More Dudes will live on as a dudely community for the dudes.

# New adviser chair Ted Koulentes

by Features Staff

Ted Koulentes has recently been promoted to be the Sophomore Boys Adviser Chair. However, Koulentes holds as many titles that reflect his love of sports as his academic achievements.

He is the Boys Golf Coach, and the Boys Lacrosse Coach. "I participate in a lot of activities at New Trier because I like working with kids and being involved in different things at the school. I think it's important to meet lots of different kids and be a part of New Trier," said Koulentes.

Koulentes played football, wrestling, and volleyball in high school. He even continued to play football at Carthage College his freshman year, but had multiple concussions that ended his career.

After 15 years of service at New Trier in the Special Education Department, Koulentes admits this is not where he saw his future going,

"I was a psychology major at the University of Illinois and finally decided late my senior year that I did not want to just keep doing research, I wanted to work more with people."

Teaching runs in the Koulentes' family, however. According to Koulentes, he has an older brother, the Principal at Highland Park High School, who helped inspire him to

go into teaching. Not to mention his younger brother, Matthew Koulentes, is also a Special Education teacher at New Trier. "The three of us always had great experiences growing up. We loved high school and our college experience and I think that helped push all three of us into these careers," said Koulentes.

*"Being a freshman adviser for 14 years, I would always try to make advisory exciting and as fun as possible."*

*-Ted Koulentes*

Koulentes is exuberant about being the new Sophomore Boys Adviser Chair. "I am really excited to be back at the Winnetka campus and reconnect with the teachers and students again," said Koulentes.

"I love advisery; it was always my favorite part of the day. Being a freshman adviser for 14 years, I would always try to make advisery exciting and as fun as possible. I now love helping advisers work with the kids in their adviseries."