

Photo Opinion: What is your Starbucks order?



**“Tall blended
chai tea latte”**

-Freshman Esther Frost

**“Tall
vanilla bean
frappuccino with
chocolate chips”**

-Sophomore Hannah
Chookaszian



**“Venti caramel
ice coffee”**

-Junior Brandon
Mitchell

**“Venti skim
pumpkin spice
latte with extra
whipped cream”**

-Senior Joe Faught



Staff editorial: Culture change starts on the gridiron

On Friday, Sept. 5, the New Trier football team hosted the Warren Blue Devils in their 2014 home opener. Amidst a fairly heavy rain and with an even less promising forecast looming, the bleachers rocked and an unusually pumped-up New Trier student section was already nearing full capacity and getting rowdy with school-issued thundersticks and noisemakers.

This atmosphere would have been impressive in itself, but the game was still 30 minutes from kickoff. Even the most casual Trevian football fan came to an optimistic realization that night: school spirit is currently stronger than it has ever been.

When Brian Doll was hired as New Trier's newest football coach in April, there wasn't much buzz among the student body.

Why would there be? After years of mediocrity, football had taken a backseat to hockey in students' minds.

Doll had turned a struggling Elk Grove football program into a perennial conference championship threat. So wins were expected in Winnetka, but a complete culture shift? Not so much.

From the outset, the NT football power elite established an aura of inclusiveness. If the 2014 team was to be a winning team, it would be everyone's winning team.

This collective fandom started with the "Green Team" sweatshirts, a longtime staple of the senior experience. The process of actually getting a sweatshirt to wear to athletic events had been notoriously exclusive in past years.

Different stories float through the halls pertaining to how the process became the large-scale operation it is today, providing sweatshirts to over 500 seniors. But no matter the cause, the visual effect is noticeable: on game days, hallways are flooded with the iconic sweatshirts. It is the clearest proof of a more unified senior class.

Unique measures like this help to explain why, on that rainy September night, the student section was out in full force an entire 30 minutes before the game even started.

They help to explain why a student section once known to be empty as soon as the second half began (after that night's Dance Team halftime performance) was still causing communication problems for the Warren offense on their desperate last-minute drive that ultimately failed.

It [Green Team Sweatshirts] is the clearest proof of a more unified senior class.

In the week leading up to the Trevians' home debut, Doll organized a student tailgate before the game. Similar to something that most major college football programs have instituted, he blocked off a chunk of the Northfield campus parking lot for students to get excited for the game together.

To take the time to organize such an event is one thing; for students to take Doll up on the offer, showing up in hordes before getting their first chance to see the new-look football team? It was an admirable feat, especially when considering students' recent history of relatively poor support for certain sports.

The numerous steps taken by Doll and other team leaders have done wonders in boosting student enthusiasm, but perhaps the biggest boon to the school-wide attitude shift has been the unequivocally strong performance from the football team.

Winning truly is the best form of marketing, and this year's squad has proven just that. A 5-0 start, its best since 1996, led to a number 19 state ranking and a packed student section

for both home games thus far.

Friday morning meetings between football team representatives and students in the school EPI center, another welcomed Doll initiative, have without a doubt proved to solidify relations between team and student body and promote that night's game. But students don't show up to watch a super excited football team. They show up to watch a dominant football team, and so far this season, that's what they've gotten.

This complete 180° in student support was never more evident than on Oct. 2 in Park Ridge. In a matchup of Central Suburban League () South frontrunners, the undefeated Trevians traveled to face the 5-0 Maine South Hawks in the game of the season to that point.

Maine South had not lost a conference game in their past 66 (66!) tries. New Trier kept it close, staying within 3 points into the 4th quarter, but the Hawks pulled away late after a rain delay.

While they didn't get the final result they wanted, the football team only had to look behind its own bench to observe at least one moral victory. A contingent of at least 200 students had traveled 30 minutes on a stormy Thursday night to cheer on their undefeated football team.

A month-long and presumably tireless effort from New Trier football to rouse the student body had culminated in this, a visiting student section that was almost as big and arguably louder than that of the IHSA powerhouse home team's section.

Will this type of support carry on through the year and with other sports? Nothing is for sure. But Doll and the rest of the football team have proved one thing: an entire school, from the entire student body all the way to the teachers, alumni, and surrounding community, can be united by the revitalization, both on and off the field, of an athletic team. Student support is in ready supply; just give them the thundersticks.

So, what are we going to do tonight?

by Abby Burton

Usually when the weather gets warmer, the activities that are available for us teenagers are endless.

We can either head to the beach or ride our bikes around Northwestern's campus. Unfortunately, I have found lately that, because the weather has started to cool down, my friends and I have struggled to find things to do.

Sure, we can always find our way to someone's basement, but we always end up getting trapped down there.

We sit in a circular formation and stare down at our phones, hoping that someone will come up with a creative idea. Many of you probably can guess how this ends; we never figure out what to do.

The only type of activity someone suggests always revolves around spending money for food. Whether it's going to get ice cream, grabbing a late bite to eat, or buying materials at Walgreens for baking, I always end up spending at least ten dollars on items that I really didn't need.

The problem is that most of the

time no one actually is hungry or in the mood to bake a very mediocre dessert dish, but we do it any way because all of our minds are tricked into thinking that there is nothing better to do other than spending money.

In reality, if we put our creativity to the test, we could think of so many things to do that don't involve money.

I mean, really, we could go outside and play a competitive game of football, participate in an intense game of cards, or even huddle around a bonfire. We could put our phones away for once and actually enjoy each other's company.

I don't necessarily think that spending money on activities is bad. The last activity that I spent money on that I thought was actually worthwhile was when my friends and I drove down to the city to try archery for the first time.

Although I was skeptical about whether or not the long drive would be worth the twenty dollar archery fee, I was proven wrong.

My friends and I showed up and got to spend an hour by ourselves learning how to put an arrow into

the bow and aiming it right on target. I'm not saying that after one hour I became an expert at archery, but I definitely realized that expanding my interests by experiencing different activities is much more enjoyable than sitting in a dark basement.

My friends and I have also made big plans for this upcoming winter to ensure that it is not a boring one. I don't know if our bucket list will be accomplished, but I sure hope so.

Once it starts snowing, we plan to head down to a close skiing resort like Alpine or Devil's Head just for the day. We aren't exactly skiing or snowboarding professionals, but it's definitely more fun to fail miserably at skiing and fall down than one black diamond that we thought we were able to conquer, than staying back in Wilmette and doing nothing.

Everyone has the ability to think of something creative to do in this colder weather, but it depends on having the motivation to try something new.

Trust me, doing something out of your comfort zone is entertaining and definitely gets you out of that boring rut.

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