

“Parking spots...are a problem”

Lagniappe goes out with a pop, according to students and staff
by Georgia Caras



The unique theme of the New Trier bubble was this year's focus | Fitzgerald

Lagniappe Potpourri, the sketch-comedy show run by students, for students, never fails to warm the hearts and create conversation.

This year was no exception.

Each Lagniappe production has a respective theme that is the central focus for the majority of the skits.

This year's theme was POP! When the bubble bursts, and it was directed by Seniors Claire David, Albie Smith, and Emma Fitzgerald.

As in past, the show managed to implement hot topics of conversation into funny, quick-witted scenes performed by Sophomore, Junior, and Senior students.

Some of the most renowned scenes included a teacher version of the bachelor, a play on words of the much anticipated senior prank, and even a juul-oriented bit involving the New Trier News.

From subtle body language motions, to a range in accents taken on by each character, the attention to detail and quick-witted humor the writers and cast of Lagniappe possessed was no secret.

In addition to the satirical sketches that are found in every year of Lagniappe, there was also a Tribute to the late Timothy Estberg,

who had been one of the predominant sponsors of the show for the past few years.

Senior Claire David, the show's lead director said, "Albie Smith, Billy Loveman, Isaac Slomski-Pritz and Josh Bretthauer made it all during tech week. Tech week is the hardest and longest few days of the entire production, so I have immense respect for the profound work they put into the project. I honestly have no idea how they did it."

Regardless of whether or not an audience member knew Mr. Estberg, the video undoubtedly had a lasting impression on everyone who viewed it. After its showing, there was not a dry eye in the house.

In addition to the amazing sentiment the show illustrated in terms of Mr. Estberg's legacy, this year proved to be a showcase for some of our school's funniest and most talented students.

Each Lagniappe show concludes

with a cast-wide closing song that incorporates the lasting remarks of what the show wished to emphasize. This year's final song echoed that although we live in a bubble, each and every one of us has our own perspectives and experiences.

What some seemed to struggle with, however, is the happy resolution the show concluded on the issue of the New Trier bubble, which has struck a good amount of conversation recently, given the immense change that our school has had and will continue to experience, both in architecture and in administration.

When thinking about the bubble as a whole, it is important to focus equally on the positive and negative effects it has on the community it entails. What seemed to be partially omitted from the Lagniappe script was how the bubble might negatively impact students.

High hopes for new civics requirement

Freshman will be first to fulfill mandatory course
by Beth Wall

The class of 2020 is the first to be subject to bill HB4025. In plainer words, the first class required to take a course in Civics.

The Illinois General Assembly Public Act 099-0434 claims the goal of the course is to "help young people acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and responsible citizens throughout their lives."

The act requires that every student, prior to graduation, take part in at least a semester of the course.

Social Studies Department Chair Michael Christensen believes that though the mandate will require an adjustment period, it shouldn't entirely disrupt students' schedules.

Specific course titles are to be released in the 2017-2018 Program of Studies, but the department is primarily looking to implement the change within pre-existing courses of a stand-alone Civics program.

In fact, Christensen estimated that nearly 30% of students could already meet the requirement by their enrollment in pre-existing classes.

Christensen said that an average day in a Civics class would include learning about government

institutions, simulations of how bills become laws, and debates about hot-button topics (such as gun control or voting laws).

Christensen also said the class would mainly be discussion-based, "in preparation for those sorts of conversations that they will be having when they leave this place and go into the broader world."

Although sophomore Colleen Butler felt that a course that focused on current events might be more relevant than a conventional history class, she also said that a government-based class would prove to be immaterial to many students.

"There are some jobs where you really need to know about the government, but not everyone needs to know the specifics," said Butler.

Conversely, senior Alec Lestrud said that a specialized education in Civics is necessary. "It's important for students to know how their government works, how they can contribute to it and how it can benefit them in the long-run," said Lestrud.

Christensen echoed this sentiment, saying she "would hope that a student could walk out of the course feeling excited about the process of being involved, and understanding issues enough to be interested in affecting change."

A lesson in democracy may prove to be especially pressing in the face of this November's presidential election, and in light of the increasing polarization of American politics.

Student devotes his free time to racing cars

Junior Alex Ertmann spends his weekends racing at 70 miles per hour
by Jessi Zook

While most high schoolers dream of getting their licenses, Junior Alex Ertmann was driving long before he blew out his sixteen candles.

Ertmann began racing at eight years old, though back then his vehicle of choice was a Go-Kart. He raced these small, open-topped cars at races in the area. "I saw races on T.V. and knew I wanted to do it," Ertmann said.

Originally, desiring to participate in such an unexpected activity was a challenge for Ertmann.

"My parents were nervous about it at first. My dad didn't want me to, but I told him I was going to be fine and eventually he agreed."

One of his father's main concerns was speed.

"You have to understand, these cars can go up to 100 miles per hour. Alex often reaches 75 miles per hour while racing. It obviously makes us nervous," Jim Ertmann, Ertmann's father, said.

Yet, many safety precautions are taken to protect drivers. Cars are sized in order to protect drivers and fireproof suits are worn while driving.

Now, Ertmann's father accompanies him to all of his races. "[My dad] doesn't race, but he watches me there," Alex Ertmann said.

Ertmann raced Go-Karts until last year, when he turned sixteen and

began racing in Mini Cups. These races are open to anyone age eight or up. The cars used are similar to those in professional races, though they're half the size. According to World Wide Motor Sports, the "goal of the series is to provide an inexpensive, entry level stock car racing experience for new drivers."

The races are held nationwide, though, as Ertmann discovered, they're often not held in the area. He regularly travels to Rockford or Morris, Illinois, as well as Anderson, Indiana and Madison, Wisconsin. "There's really nothing around here," he said. He races every Saturday.

Ertmann's whole family makes his racing a priority. However, managing such a time consuming activity can be difficult. Races can take up a full day and, if they're far away, Ertmann and his father stay overnight.

"We have two other kids," Jim Ertmann said. "It's hard to juggle all of the races, while still being present for their activities."

Often times, Jim Ertmann and his wife need to plan ahead, one tending to Alex Ertmann and one to the other kids.

Yet, the races themselves provide a host of other challenges, primarily involving crashes.

According to USA Today, 38% of NASCAR racers don't finish races due to crashing. While Ertmann is not competing at such a competitive level, the commonality of crashing is still present at the Mini Cup level.

And while he's never crashed, Alex Ertmann has had some close calls. He said, "I've spun out a few times, but haven't hit anything. It's really nerve wracking."

Robbie Gobeli, junior, shares an advisory with Ertmann. "Yeah,



Alex Ertmann, adorned in racing suit and helmet, poses with his car after spending a Saturday racing | Ertmann

there are dangers in racing," Gobeli said, "but cars are so safe these days and there are so many regulations to prevent those things from happening."

The risks are clear to Ertmann. "It's actually pretty scary seeing people crash," he said. "I've managed to get my way around them without hitting anything. I've just seen them, but it's scary."

Despite the risks, racing is what Ertmann loves to do. Gobeli, too, loves racing, though he doesn't participate himself. "It's so cool how passionate Alex is about racing. We talk about it all the time. We can really bond over the shared interest."

The benefits of racing are multifaceted. For starters, it's improved his day to day driving.

Ertmann said, "I've been racing since I was eight, so when I got my license, I already knew how to drive. It's helped my 'regular' driving improve, for sure."

It's also given him immense confidence. "I love it, and I've won three races so far." This season he's already won races in Rockford, Illinois and Anderson, Indiana, as well as the Grundy Feature Race in Morris, Illinois.

There are two types of races in which Ertmann participates in: heat races and feature races. A heat race consists of ten laps and feature races are longer, requiring drivers to complete twenty five laps.

"The races aren't always the same length," Ertmann said. "The feature race in Anderson, Indiana was

thirty laps."

Racing has also given him the opportunity to interact with people of other ages. "There's people younger than me, maybe eight or nine, and then there's people in their fifties," he said.

Despite racing alone, Lori Ertmann, Ertmann's mother, said the activity is very social. "It's collegial, really. Everyone helps each other, making sure everything's running smooth and everything's safe. It's taught Alex to be a team player."

Despite the risks that Ertmann faces, his parents are confident that racing is worth it. Jim Ertmann said, "Seeing him achieve his dreams, seeing him grow and mature, is incredible. It's given us a lot of satisfaction as parents."