



# The New Trier News

NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL, 385 WINNETKA AVENUE, WINNETKA, IL 60093

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## Heroin remains a threat to the North Shore

### Suburban teenagers the most common heroin users

by Emily Abt

Through the past decade, heroin has grown into a sought after drug in the North Shore area.

Paula Nixon is an active heroin addict who formerly attended Glenbrook South. "Dealers come up to this area because they know there is a lot of money, and some of the kids are tricked into trying it, thinking it's cocaine or something else," Nixon said in an interview with Glenbrook South's newspaper "The Oracle."

White suburban teenagers are the most common heroin users. A study at Roosevelt University's Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy, found that there was a 442 percent increase in users under the age of 17 and a 393 percent increase in users ages 18 through 20 between 1997 and 2000. These statistics support their conclusion that, "Chicago and its suburban counties are suffering the worst heroin problem in America."

Former New Trier student Meghan Murrin, class of 2005, began experimenting with drugs as

a 15 year old freshman. After being caught violating the New Trier Code of Conduct, she was immediately expelled from her high school sport, volleyball, however her expulsion did not prevent her from staying out of trouble. Murrin said in the Chicago Tribune, "That lent her more free time to hang out with friends who seemed to also have an interest in trying different drugs."

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, "New heroin users typically are young, White suburban residents. The increase in heroin indicators, including deaths from overdose, in the suburban counties around Chicago (specifically, DuPage, Will, and McHenry Counties) is the most important finding for the Chicago area for this reporting period."

Few people are aware of how common heroin is used in the suburbs. It has the reputation of being a 'lower class' drug, however that is not the case. Sophomore Graham Michelson stated, "No, I don't think it's popular," he said, "I don't hear about anyone I know doing it. It's a ghetto thing, your life is definitely messed up if you're shooting a drug into your bloodstream."

Wilmette Police Chief Brian King told Huston, "One alarming



Heroin usage is becoming a more prevalent trend among suburban students, including those at NT | AP Images

sign is that many younger heroin users report to police that they were unaware that heroin was more dangerous or more addictive than other drugs."

PJ Newberg is the mother of a former teenage heroin addict. Now in final stages of recovery, she created a website known as, 'Northshore Secret Heroin Problem,' where she shares her personal experiences with anyone interested in the process of overcoming heroin abuse.

"After four deaths in a seemingly drug-free suburb outside Chicago, I decided to start a website and not-for-profit organization to educate and inform the public." Newberg explained on her website, "very little information about the epidemic-sized problem is available and the problem is far too often overlooked and swept under the table."

Her website provides statistics and information regarding the drug itself; however, it also contains links

to possible resources that people can use to research if they fear for their own safety or the safety of a loved one.

"The whole reason I got involved with anything related to heroin awareness was because I saw how heroin ruined lives and tears families apart," Newberg said. "This drug is so dangerous and has killed countless young people. If I could just get the word out about how dangerous the

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## New Trier welcomes new Athletic Director

### Augie Fontanetta will return to NT Athletics in July

by Georgia Caras

As New Trier readies to say goodbye to athletic director Randy Oberembt, we welcome his replacement, Augustino "Augie" Fontanetta.

Fontanetta is currently the director of athletics and activities for District 211, which includes Conant, Fremd, Hoffman Estates, Palatine and Schaumburg. Before that, he served as the athletic director at Fremd.

Although he does not currently work for New Trier, Fontanetta spent a substantial amount of time working in the district.

"I spent my first 14 years of my career as a Kinetic Wellness instructor and coach for wrestling, football and softball at New Trier, including five years as the head wrestling coach. New Trier was a wonderful place to grow and develop as a young teacher and coach," Fontanetta said.

He also told the Chicago Tribune that, "[New Trier is] an exceptional place that offers athletic programs as part of the educational vision of the school.

There already is a great coaching staff in place, and I am looking forward to working with them and giving them the support and resources they need to succeed."

Current athletic director Randy Oberembt said, "He knows New Trier because he's put a decade and a half in here. You can tell he really loves New Trier because he wanted to be back here. He had a very wonderful job, and we should all feel really proud that he left a really good job so he could be here."

In terms of what brought him back to the school, Fontanetta said,



Augie Fontanetta currently directs athletics for District 211 | District 211

"What I like most about New Trier is the commitment that coaches and parents have to the district and to provide our student-athletes with exceptional experiences, including athletics."

Although excited, Fontanetta knows that taking the place of Oberembt, who was recently selected as the Illinois Athletic Directors Association's Class Athletic Director of the Year may not seem easy, but it is a feat that he is more than willing to take on.

"Randy is an excellent Athletic Director, and well-respected not only at New Trier, but also throughout the state. Although I think it is important to respect Randy's legacy, my goal will be to create and establish my own culture. I am definitely excited for the challenge," Fontanetta said.

In terms of explaining what constitutes a good athletic director, Fontanetta said, "[They] need to

be accessible and approachable for students, parents, staff and community members. Athletic directors need to have the ability to plan long-term and have a vision for continued development and growth for the athletic department. This includes coach development, hiring, and facility planning."

To Oberembt, there is a crucial aspect of being a good and effective athletic director.

"The relationships they form with students and other faculty. These relationships are really what builds the institution, and I think that [Fontanetta] is very much going to do an outstanding job with this," Oberembt said.

Principal Denise Dubravec said, "We were really impressed with Augie's attitude and past experiences. The experience he brings will definitely benefit our students.

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## Return of Kings promotes misogyny

### Anti-feminist group Return of Kings gains traction

by Marie O'Connor

Men from the organization Return of Kings were called together to meet up on Feb. 6 and share the ideas of anti-feminist activist and founder of the organization, Daryush Valizadeh, and join in "pro-rape" protests.

The organization, spread across 43 countries, is dedicated to masculinity, and the preservation of the patriarchy. Women, gay and trans men, and men under 21 are banned from attending these world-wide meet ups and from participating in the organization completely.

The Feb. 6 meet up was, in Valizadeh's words, an attempt to allow members to make "normal friends" without having to hide behind a computer screen for fear of consequences.

According to the Return of Kings website, "[ROK] aims to usher the return of the masculine man in a world where masculinity is being increasingly punished and shamed in favor of creating an androgynous and politically-correct society that allows women to assert superiority and control over men."

The group has caused outrage world-wide, spurring petitions to ban the group and to officially label it a hate or terrorist organization. Lindy West from The Guardian wrote, "They worship a model of gender politics so retrograde that [Valizadeh] explicitly recommends his followers move to developing countries as impoverished women

are easier to manipulate into submission."

The site is filled with articles about masculinity and being more of a man, with articles about how to raise girls, and how to properly treat a woman interspersed throughout. There are titles such as, "Five reasons to date a woman with an eating disorder," or "Five reasons you shouldn't feel guilty about European colonialism." It is these beliefs expressed through misogynistic articles that have put the organization under fire.

One of the group's most controversial stance is what has been labeled a "pro rape campaign." Although Valizadeh has recently stated that any references to legalizing rape were simply "satire," he did publish an article in which he wrote, "By attempting to teach men not to rape, what we have actually done is teach women not to care about being raped, not to protect themselves from easily preventable acts, and not to take responsibility for their actions.... [I] am sure I have the solution: Make rape legal if done on private property."

Despite the claim that the legalizing rape come was meant to be satire, there has still been serious backlash from not only feminist groups and the media, but also from governments around in countries scheduled to host one of these meet ups.

According to the Washington Times, "Mayors in the U.K., Australia and Canada have publicly condemned the blogger, and petitions have been launched to revoke his travel rights. A U.K. petition calling for him to be banned

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