

# the NEW TRIER NEWS



## Editor's Note



AP

After a church shooting in Sutherland Spring, Texas left 26 people dead on Nov. 5, 2017, we decided it was necessary to produce our then upcoming December issue of the examiner on the topic of guns, and the culture of guns in America. We have been most disheartened, but not surprised, these past few weeks that gun violence continues to plague our nation, most recently resulting in the untimely death of 17 students and staff members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. For this reason, we have decided to produce a special issue of the New Trier News, to be released Friday, March 9, not just on guns or shootings, but on the surge of student driven activism that has resulted from this most recent tragedy.

## Taking action against collegiate sexual assault

Tulane University sends out sexual assault survey to perspective students

by Danielle Kurensky

Tulane University sent out the results of their sexual assault survey to admitted students this winter.

Last year Tulane sent out a climate survey to students that assessed the issue of sexual assault on its campus. The survey, which had a 53 percent undergraduate response rate, revealed that 41% of undergraduate women had experienced sexual assault since enrolling at Tulane.

While it is becoming more common for colleges to partake in these surveys, few send the results to admitted students.

Senior Drew Gorski, who received the survey results from Tulane, said that none of the other schools he applied to had shared information on sexual assault.

Post High School Counselor Deb Donley believes many schools don't send this information as they don't know how it will be perceived.

"It is a great practice to make the information available, but it is not what families expect to receive from colleges. So it is alarming, especially if you are looking at sending your son or daughter off," said Donley.



College of William & Mary graduate protesting changes to Title IX | AP

Although it is rare for colleges to share this information, many appreciated Tulane's transparency about the issue.

"When I got the survey, I felt like Tulane was one of very few schools that actually cares about sexual assault and was trying to do something about it," said Gorski.

Junior Gillian Van Neck agreed that it takes a lot of courage for a school to send this information.

"I would definitely appreciate the honesty from the school because I know it is a stigmatized topic," said Van Neck.

These surveys strive to break that stigma and provide honest communication. Donley believes this is important in stopping sexual assault on college campuses.

"The first step to try to fix

anything is to do a needs assessment to determine what the real situation is or how that situation is perceived by students," said Donley.

Some feel in order to truly make an impact, society, not schools, needs to teach what consent is at a younger age.

"Girls are taught if a boy is mean to you or tugs your pigtailed that means he likes you, when really, that's just him being mean," said Van Neck.

Although sexual assault is a major issue on college campuses, few students talk about safety at college with their Post High School Counselor.

"Typically if we hear it from someone at New Trier it would be a parent," said Donley.

While many current students

don't ask about sexual assault on campus, it is more common for graduates to ask.

Although few students ask about safety at college, it is something many female students are constantly aware of. "It is always something, especially when you are a girl, that you have to keep in mind," said Van Neck.

Sophomore Rachel Glucksman, agreed with Van Neck and said, "I worry about myself everywhere."

For many male students, sexual assault on college campuses is not something they often consider, but having discussions about it has made them more aware of the issue.

"The fact that a potential school I could go to is sending out statistics like this makes it far more real," said Gorski.

This year was the first time the viewing was mandatory for all seniors to watch in advisory.

Along with viewing the film Donley encouraged students to take the Yoga and Self Defense gym class.

"The yoga self-defense class is something we want to promote to our students because you never know and the self-defense aspect is really important," said Donley.

In the email sent to students, Satyajit Dattagupta, the Dean of Undergraduate Admission at Tulane, said, "Tulane University has the opportunity—and the obligation—to make sure we are leading real change."

## "Hunting Ground" raises awareness

Mandatory screening exposes controversial college cover-ups

by Millie Winter

All senior adviseries watched the documentary "The Hunting Ground" on Thursday, Feb. 8, during an extended advisory period.

Susan Paunan, senior girls' adviser chair, explained that New Trier hosted a viewing of the documentary because "preparing students for a safe and successful transition to their post-high school lives is a priority in our adviser room work during second semester."

Having both male and female seniors watch this powerful documentary created a common experience that launched discussions and activities. "The viewing was intended to provide an entry point into conversations about a range of topics, including consent, bystander intervention, and personal safety," said Paunan.

As a senior adviser, Steven Rish hoped that the showing of this movie would impact his students by "[giving] them a sense of how frequently this happens and how they can be a positive impact."

Rish's advisory combined with Jennifer Loring's girls' advisory to create a mixed-gender environment. "It brought an interesting dynamic to bring both groups into the conversation," said Rish. Many students have expressed



Both male and female seniors viewed "The Hunting Ground" on Feb. 8 | CNN

the importance of informing both male and female students about the reality of sexual assault and its consequences.

Most adviseries also conducted a variety of activities to provide statistics and information about sexual assault to students and to set the tone for the viewing. In addition, adviseries conducted activities following the viewing.

"We had a follow-up to hear some reactions from the seniors. We also went through some scenarios," said Rish.

Students expressed that they feel conversations need to continue beyond this one day.

According to Paunan, senior adviser chairs hope that adviseries continue to have follow-up discussions about the topic. "All advisers are planning on doing follow-up activities with their groups

and a number of resources were provided to advisers by the committee that organized the day," said Paunan.

Seniors who were interested in the topic also had the opportunity to attend a discussion panel. The panel included New Trier staff as well as representatives from the Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault. Furthermore, on Apr. 3, seniors can attend a workshop led by New Trier alumni Hannah Merens and Easton Joyce as part of Senior Institute Day.

Many students expressed that they came to understand the gravity of the issue of sexual assault on college campuses through the documentary. "I did not know how serious and how big the issue was until watching the movie," said senior Rachel Weix.

Senior Amy Boyle echoed, "I didn't realize the extent to which sexual assault was covered up until after watching the documentary."

## Freshman campus sees an increase in vaping

Administration attempts to combat alarming trend

by Layla Saqibuddin

While juuling continues to grow in popularity among high school students, what's more concerning to administrators is the fact that some students have begun vaping as early as freshman year.

The use of Juuls, a nicotine flavored e-cigarette, has increased nationwide, and now more than ever, a majority of high school students are attracted to the idea of this being a "healthier cigarette".

At the Northfield campus, Freshman Boys' Adviser Chair Mark Howard is anxious about the growing trend.

"What scares me the most is a teenager getting addicted to any form of nicotine. Students who are doing this are putting their brains at a significant risk for addiction at a very young age. Honestly, it is very sad and scary, and I would like to prevent this from happening," said Howard.

However, many students don't feel the same way. At the freshmen campus, some students have found Juuling to be an acceptable behavior.

"It doesn't seem like a big deal to me. Juuling has been more acceptable and expected rather than using cigarettes or e-cigarettes. At least people aren't smoking as often," said one freshman that wished to

remain anonymous.

A study completed in 2016, showed that young people who start vaping at an early age are more likely to begin a smoking habit.

Many students don't realize the long-term effects of Juuling and the consequences on one's health.

"Another freshman said, "Juuling is addictive. I think students are fooled by the Juuling companies. Juuls contain a pod, which is equal to one package of cigarettes".

Another study done in 2016 by the CDC, reported "Two million high school and middle school students vaped, which is about 11 percent of all high school students in the United States."

The US General Surgeon General has decreed this a major public health concern.

The increase of vaping and Juuling has grown because students may have friends who have access to these devices.

"I think students who Juul are just like other students. They probably have friends who Juul and are willing to try something new. Someone juuling wouldn't make me have a different opinion of them," said another freshman, that also wished to remain anonymous.

At the Winnetka campus, Assistant Principal Scott Williams takes this trend seriously. He believes there is a common misunderstanding of juuling.

"Just because there is a

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