

The New Trier News



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Widespread student support keeps Destinations alive

Still controversial after 41 years

by Jasmine Gonzalez and Emily Abt

Every year controversy strikes when the New Trier News publishes its Destinations Issue. The edition, by far the most popular, has recently become the subject of debate among a number of high schools who publish similar issues.

While the majority of students report their college or university, 30% refrain from doing so for a variety of reasons. Even though submitting your destination is optional, the decision to do so is not any easier for some students.

"We all know that when dealing with things that are, in theory, optional, sometimes are not, in fact, optional," social studies teacher Aileen Geary said.

Some readers find the destinations issue unnecessary. Sophomore Graham Michelson said, "I think it's good for the people who are proud of where they're going, but bad for the people who are not. The bad stuff definitely outweighs the good stuff. If someone is going to Stanford, then everyone knows from Facebook anyway, so there's no need to show off."

For most people, the main problem with the issue is the perceived competitiveness that comes with it. A popular opinion is that when students become aware of where others are going, judgement and envy are inevitable.

"I think it's fun to see what

people are doing but I also think that it becomes loaded with competition in ways that are problematic," Geary said.

The feeling of shame and being inadequate for others leads to stress when deciding whether or not to submit a respective destination.

Principal of the Winnetka campus, Denise Dubravec, acknowledged the impact that choosing to submit or not has on students, "I've heard from parents the stress of kids having to publish that they didn't get into a particular school that they wanted."

"If I was a student I would probably withhold my name. A college education is more than just a status symbol. I just don't feel like I'm my best person when I'm reading it, just reducing kids to their colleges," English teacher Anthony Gudwien said.

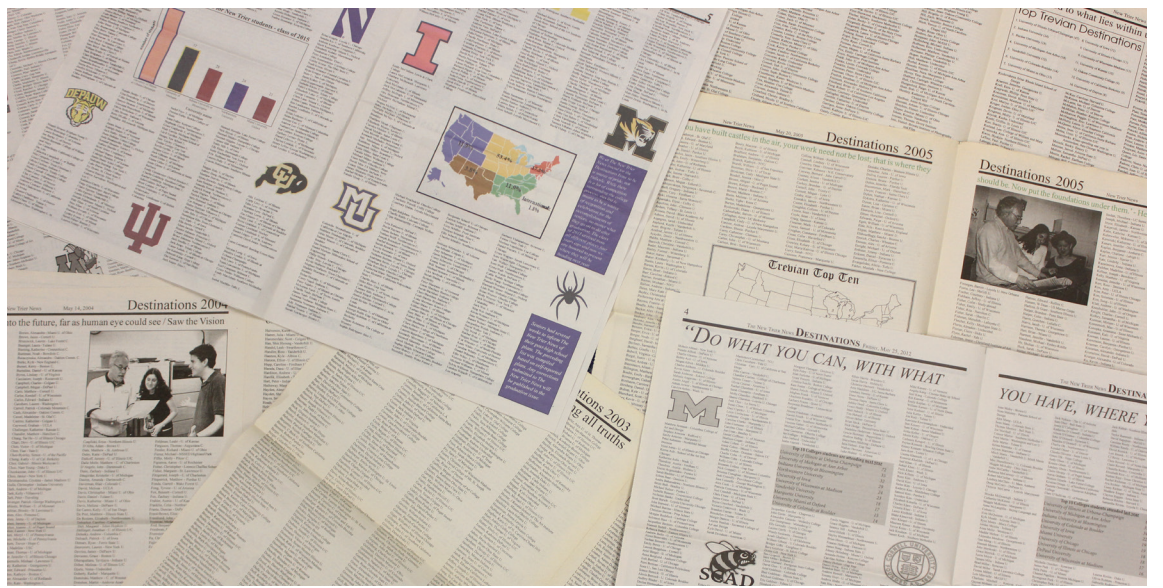
Despite the controversy, a survey that recently went out to the senior class found that the overwhelming majority of approximately 600 senior respondents want the issue to be published.

The survey also brought up the problems that the edition makes students who have other plans, such as a gap year or not attending college, feel excluded.

"It's important to think about how we can incorporate all students, including the ones not going to a college," Dubravec said.

Despite the negative aspects of publishing the destinations issue, it seems that most people enjoy it.

"I like to see where people are going. If some only get into one college, then it's not like readers



The Destinations Issue, a longstanding Trevian tradition, consistently inspires debate year after year | Blickstein

would know they failed to get into other ones that they applied to. It's a way to stay connected with your classmates," sophomore Eden Hirschfield said.

The majority of the senior class, who the issue is all about, seemed to be in favor of the issue. "It's awesome to look through and see where everyone is going," senior Nick Sonzero said.

"Going to a college away from home can be stressful in itself. By knowing if any of your classmates are attending the same school, you can share the excitement and anticipation. You definitely want to see where old friends and classmates that you lost touch with are going and maybe you guys are even going to the same college," senior and chief editor Elizabeth Byrne said.

"I think it's nice to see what colleges other people are going to because that way you get the option

to make friends with those people here before you go. It gives kids the option to reach out to each other, and maybe even decide to room together," sophomore Jill Economis said.

Another major aspect to the Destinations Issue is tradition. Not publishing the issue would be a change that many people are not ready for, especially in a community that puts such an emphasis on college.

"College is a really big deal, especially for a community like this and people wear their college with a real sense of pride. There's a sense in which people worked hard and it's good that they're going there and they deserve it," Gudwien said.

"Parents really like it too, I know my mom told me to snag one for her friends that don't have high schoolers because even they want to be in the know about where everyone is going," senior and opinions editor

Carly Travis said.

The fact is that the majority of students seem to enjoy the issue. "When the paper comes out each year, everyone in my advisory is so eager to read it. Normally people lack an interest in reading the paper—there is a drastic difference," junior Chloe Brass said.

In addition to that, many underclassmen say they find the issue inspirational rather than competitive as they get to see what universities some of their classmates will be attending.

"It's reassuring when you go through the list and see that other students have gotten into the college you might want to go to," Brass said.

As for whether or not the New Trier News should continue to publish the issue, the feedback from students has shown that the majority are in favor of continuing the tradition.

Students seek adventure through international universities

Students looking outside U.S. for university

by Max Minogue and Kate Holly

Going to college away from home is already a life change, so it takes a special kind of student to push it a step further and attend an international college or university.

For many students, going to a school outside the United States is not even an option. The United States is considered the college capital of the world with 4,706 two-year and four-year colleges and universities according to the U.S. Department of Education.

College counselor Daniel Rogan said, "The international education is for someone who's really looking to push their boundaries and get outside of their comfort zone right away, right after high school. I think it's more for the adventurous soul, the adventurous person."

Senior Laura Watkin decided to go international this fall and attend McGill University in Montreal, Canada. However, going to school outside of the United States was not always on her radar. "For me it wasn't really that I wanted to go



More and more NT students looking international for university | Zervas

international. It was the fact that it was a really good school that had a lot of things I like. It just happened to be international."

Still, Watkin said that many of the aspects of McGill that she enjoyed were because the institution is outside the US. "I didn't want Greek life or parties or football, which I guess is all the result of it being an international school," Watkin said.

The language barrier can also provide a challenge for many students, as many international schools are not English speaking. For Watkin, McGill provided a balance of comfort and international culture.

"It's an English school and

people in general speak English, but it still feels very international because the first language is French in Montreal."

Senior Owen LaCava, who will be attending the University of St. Andrews in Scotland next fall, agreed with Watkin. "It wasn't really about wanting to study abroad; I loved the schools themselves. If St Andrews was in America, it would still be my top choice."

For LaCava, it was less about the novelty of studying internationally, and more about liking the Scottish school system itself. The Scottish system allows students to study up to three academic courses during

their first two years and then requires students to focus on one or two courses for their Honours programme during the third and fourth years.

He also looked at University of Edinburgh, University of Aberdeen, and University of Glasgow, all in Scotland, and Trinity College in Dublin.

"That's why I chose it over study abroad programs: I just wanted to be at that school over others, not simply be outside the United States," LaCava said.

Going international is a larger commitment compared to study abroad programs through American universities, which many students consider.

College counselor Michael O'Connor said, "You're looking to establish your own identity there and to develop your own personality amongst a different college. Whereas, in studying abroad, you have this safety net of American education under your belt."

According to Rogan, a student will often consider going international if they have experiences growing up in foreign countries and wish to return to an educational system to which they are already acclimated.

This was the case for senior Tae Kim. "I've lived in various countries

and I always thought that I'd study abroad so I can continue experiencing new cultures."

Kim is set to attend the University of Hong Kong in the fall. In terms of life at an international university, it seems that students are treated more as adults rather than as being in a transition period.

"The manner in which education is given to the students is different. Where continuous assessment or quizzes are typically in colleges within the States, in, for example, the United Kingdom, they basically only have a midterm and a final exam," O'Connor said.

College Counselor Gretchen Stauder-Gow echoed this sentiment, saying "There's an overall greater expectation on students that they're going to adjust."

In the American system, there's all this about transition and support. In the United Kingdom, it's much more, you're here, you're on your own, you do it. It's not that there isn't support, but more is expected of the students. There aren't as many safety nets."

Without the safety nets of American universities or of the home country, the upcoming year should be an entirely unique experience for all of these seniors.