

THE NEW TRIER EXAMINER!

5

Students agree Homecoming (mostly) about afterparty

by Georgia Caras

Contrary to what is commonly perceived as the, “typical high school dance experience,” most New Trier students spend a limited amount of time at the dance itself, as after-parties have become the highlight of the night. “There’s no doubt that every year, the after party has definitely been the best part of my dance experience,” junior Charlotte Melgard said. The majority of students express the same sentiment as Melgard, including senior Caitlin Chapman. “Dinner is just regular eating, the dance is subpar, and the after party is really where the fun begins,” Chapman said. Although some think of it as a scheduled obligatory night others see it as a pivotal part of the high school experience. “The main reason people go to the dance at all is because it’s just part of the high school experience,” Senior Jake Laderman said. “I personally enjoy going to the dance, but I know that a lot of people would rather not go at all if it wasn’t a social norm.” In addition to tradition, parents have a substantial role in dance attendance. “A lot of parents probably wouldn’t be okay with kids not going to the dance because it’s implying that we’re only using the night to go and have a party. The dance is a good cover,” n anonymous senior boy said. While most students attend because they consider it as a part of the

experience that they don’t want to miss out on, Chapman said, “You’re usually only there for 15 minutes anyway, so there’s nothing you’re missing out on.” While a small portion of the night is always allotted to the dance itself, some students are opposed to spending an extensive amount of time at the dance itself because its activities lack in variety. Sophomore Leo Purcell said, “It’s all dancing and strobe lights. It feels like a bar mitzvah.” However, some students enjoy the actual school sponsored dance. Junior Isabelle Bryla said, “I had fun seeing all my friends, and the DJ was good, so I stayed for like an hour.” Although the consensus seems that most are not fans of the dance, some are very excited at the chance to see friends from school outside the classroom environment. Senior Philipp Srivastava said, “It’s a place where you meet classmates that you don’t hang out with, but still know them from school.” Bryla compared the dance to the after party “the dance was almost as good as the after party.” Though students feel there is a lack of activities at the dance, they feel the opposite is true for the after party. The party itself can last until the middle of the night, and though it is often executed over three to four hours, the after party is rarely be a bore to students. “My favorite part of after parties is the beer pong tournament and declaring a winner for it. There’s also music, racey dancing,



The New Trier lobby and rotunda are covered in tin foil for disco-themed Homecoming week | Coladerci

good food, and hookups. You can just go crazy and run around with your friends till 1am. It’s so much fun,” an anonymous senior girl said. With the after party the focus of the dances, people rarely pay attention to the dance itself. Homecoming is organized by Pep Club and their work in decorating and organizing the dance often goes unnoticed as students focus on after-parties. “I hate to say it, but it’s a let-down. We put in all this work and no one really recognizes it,” Pep Club member and senior Krya LaMotte said. “Then again, if I wasn’t in Pep Club, I wouldn’t realize who put the signs up or what the theme was.” With the extensive efforts put

into planning the dance itself, president of Pep Club and senior Sabrina Kingsbury said, “I wish people would stay a little longer and just take a minute to look around the gym. We’re trying to do some new things, and I hope students recognize our efforts.” Homecoming takes Pep Club many hours to plan. With Kingsbury describing the weeks leading up to the dance as an “Incredible Pep Club intensive.” “We usually meet three times a week, but to prepare for homecoming, we meet every day. We come in during free periods to work on signs. We spent the entire Sunday last week decorating the school. We’re also missing school today to work the fes-

tival, and we’re spending our lunch periods selling raffle tickets. After we work the festival all day Friday, we decorate the gyms,” LaMotte said. Kingsbury described Pep Clubs responsibilities leading up to the dance. “We decorate the dance, we choose a theme, we choose spirit week themes, we do all the signs that you see around school, we do the hand-outs, and we decorate the gyms. We basically plan everything that goes into the dance. We also sell raffle tickets, we do the homecoming festival.” Given how much time goes into preparing for the dance, “People don’t pay as much attention as we would hope to the theme and the effort we put into the dance,” Kingsbury said.

Darty: The daytime party

by Tia Rotolo

The end of summer means the end of another “Darty season.” Darties are day-parties. Popular in the summer, students congregate with friends in the sunshine and consume alcoholic beverages. The main difference: the party ends when the sun goes down. A senior girl said, “The prime time for darties is anywhere from 10am to 4pm.” Most darties end early to provide the option for going out at night. However, students agree that the “rally” doesn’t always pull through. “Rallying” is the act of reviving after a long day of drinking and preparing for the night ahead. A junior girl was quick to say that no one ever wants to go out after a long day. “I don’t like darties because it always ruins the night. Everyone is so exhausted from the day,” she said. The only way to recover from a Darty? A senior boy says don’t stop. “If you just keep drinking, you’ll be able to keep going from morning to night,” he said. But binge-drinking affects the teenage brain. While it’s still developing, drinking in excess leads to a loss in white matter, according to Dr. Brittany Allen, a pediatrician at UW Health University Station. Kristine Hummel, the Student Activities Coordinator, referenced Frances Jensen’s “The Teenage Brain,” explaining that “Alcohol directly impacts our synapses work, especially with memory in adolescents. It has been shown to affect the size and efficiency of areas in the brain that are vital to learning and memory.” Students were divided in preference over darties or regular nighttime parties. A sophomore boy believes nighttime parties are better. “No one wants to be hungover at five pm,” he said.

Talking with Social Worker Dan Hibey, hangovers come from excess binge drinking. The reason for “worse hangovers” during the day comes from a prolonged time drinking. Darties tend to last longer than parties because curfews aren’t considered. This means that students are drinking for longer periods of time and the brain is reacting. These hangovers are caused by the swelling of blood vessels in the brain. They typically result in headache, dehydration, redness of eyes, and light sensitivity. They can be extremely detrimental to a brains development if they become a frequent occurrence. Most students believe the hangover accompanied by darties are much worse than night parties. “You can’t sleep it off,” A senior girl said, “You just have to live through it.” According to a junior girl, the environmental factors are very important to the darty experience. “If you don’t have a pool, don’t bother having a Darty,” She said. “It has to be outside when the weather’s nice. There’s no point day drinking in someone’s basement.” There are a few substantial differences between darties and night parties. Darties tend to be more intimate. “Darties are usually just your close group of friends. They’re easier to control,” a senior boy said. Generally, darties are so enticing because they’re easier to pull off than regular parties. A junior boy said, “If it’s during the week, your parents won’t be home. If it’s during the day, your neighbors will probably be out of the house. Cops aren’t usually on the lookout for parties during the day.” Hummel references “The Teenage Brain,” once again when she described the negatives darties can bring. Hummel said, “Novelty-seeking, poor judgement, and risk taking behavior are partly to blame for binge drinking.”

Kids note that the drinks differ too. Instead of cheap beer the drinks tend to be lighter depending on where you go. “Usually darties have Summer Shandy. Lighter, fruitier beverages are more common,” a senior girl said. Since the parties are kept small, students choose to indulge in more expensive drinks For a while, darties were purely a college thing. Either as pregames to football games or pool parties at frat houses, college life nearly always entails a degree of Darty-ing. “I think high school students should experience darties before college,” a junior boy said. “They need to understand their limits of day drinking before the circumstances get too serious.” Though Darty conditions tend to be better in the summer, they’re not reduced to the summer season alone. “You can have them in the winter, summer, outdoor, indoor. They’re extremely versatile,” a sophomore boy said. A senior boy prefers them overall. “I love darties because there’s something really special about connecting with nature while drinking with friends,” he said. Darties tended to be well liked among all students. As a reminder of the summer season, students reflect over the afternoons spent with friends. “Darties are the essence of summer,” a senior girl said. “It’s when you’re truly embracing the warm weather and being in the moment with your friends. But in making habits out of day drinking, students become more susceptible to biological effects. Discussing Jensen’s book, Hummel analyzes the negative effects of drinking in excess. “Jensen states the teenage brain with alcohol can have less inhibition and greater tolerance which becomes an incentive to keep drinking,” Hummel said.

Sub-URBAN DICTIONARY

Darty
/därdê/: A party that happens during the day; often has alcohol
Ex: Darty at Maggie’s house at 1pm!

Ruit
/root/: Synonymous with beer pong
Ex: Hey wanna be my ruit partner for the next match?

Smash
/smaSH/: Verb used to describe having sexual relations with someone
Ex: Sarah and I totally smashed at Brian’s house last night.

Sausage party
/sòsij ‘părdê/: A party in which all of the guests are biologically male
Ex: No girls showed up to Jim’s house, it was a complete sausage party

Sober season
/sòber ‘sēzen/: Refraining from alcohol consumption at parties while participating in athletics or other highly scrutinized extracurricular activities
Ex: I’m not drinking today, I’m in sober season.

Death pong
/deTH pòNG/: When “hard” alcohol, often vodka, is substituted for beer in a game similar to beer bong
Ex: I passed out last night after two games of death pong.

Brick
/brik/: Synonymous with a case of beers; doesn’t refer to a specific amount
Ex: Let’s get eighteen bricks for the homecoming after party.

Russian Roulette
/’reSHen roo’let/: A game similar to beer pong, where half of the cups are filled with vodka and the other half with water. Players remain unsure which one they will be drinking, as the liquids are uniform in color
Ex: During Russian Roulette, I thought I was downing a cup of water, but it turned out to be Sved.

Handle
/’handl/: The term for a commonly purchased size of vodka; holds 1.75 liters
Ex: You can only come to the party if you bring at least a handle.

Puke and Rally
/pyook (e)n ‘ralê/: Throwing up in an effort to recuperate from and continue with alcohol consumption
Ex: I thought I was done during the pregame, but once I puked and rallied I was ready to go hard at the party.

Chaser
/CHäser/: A predominantly non-alcoholic drink consumed immediately after drinking hard alcohol to quickly counter its taste
Ex: My favorite chaser is lemonade, but in a few dark times, I’ve used water.

Designated driver
/’deziz.nätid ‘driver/
A person who refrains from drinking in order to drive their respective group of friends home that night
Ex: I feel like I end up as the DD every night since all my friends end up drinking too much.