## THE NEW TRIER EXAMINER



#### by Faith Coladarci

"Cheater, cheater, pumpkin eater....," an old refrain we've heard since childhood is still relevant to this day.

In childhood, cheating in a card game might've brought shame from your friends. Now, cheating on a significant other can bring shame from your friends, your significant other's friends and seemingly the entire school accompanied by a great deal of heartbreak.

Relationships among high schoolers often have blurred lines pertaining to commitment, and what qualifies as cheating.

One anonymous sophomore girl said, "If my boyfriend sends nudes to another girl, sexts another girl, or hooks up with another girl, I consider it cheating. One of my friends is in an open relationship. She only counts sex as cheating; everything else goes including hookups without sex."

The general consensus is that in a committed relationship, hooking up with other people is definitely out of bounds.

Reasons why people cheat in their relationships differ from person to person. Many people will cheat in their relationships if they're unhappy or dissatisfied.

Senior Rabel Kapadia said, "People cheat because they're not happy in their relationship and they're scared that if they leave them, they might do something drastic."

Many times, avoiding conflict and a messy breakup appeals to a lot of people, as does preserving the security and comfort that a companion can provide.

One anonymous senior explained that he and his long term girlfriend would be going to college soon enough and wouldn't stay together, but a breakup now would spoil senior prom for them.

Although he admits to cheating, he stated, "We've basically been together for the majority of high school. She's my best friend, and we have the same friend group. We're planning on going to Lollapalooza together. If we broke up now, our friend group would be torn. We wouldn't have prom dates, and she'd be so upset. It's honestly just easier all around that I have other girls on the side, so she doesn't need to know anything."

While some people may cheat to avoid conflict, others cheat out of impulsivity. One anonymous junior boy said, "I feel like kids are so young and so immature that like they see something that they like and they want to go for it. They don't necessarily take into consideration the other person's thoughts or feelings."

Incidents of cheating often occur at parties after a night of drinking or after a big fight.

Senior Frankie Valencia said, "Being in an altered state of mind increases the likelihood of cheating, when you don't know what you're doing and you might do something that you wouldn't normally do."

Sometimes, people are merely restless in their long-term relationship and need someone new to preoccupy themselves with. Senior Anna Jessup said, "People cheat when they're bored."

Boredom that accompanies monogamy can make some people restless. Kapadia believes that emotional attachment is devoid in any cheating situation.

"I think it's all sexual pleasure." An anonymous senior boy believed cheating in his case was purely sexual. He said, "The reason people cheat is because whoever you're cheating on, you know, doesn't give you what you want, let's say sexually, so you'll find someone who does."

New Trier social worker, Amy Offenbach, said there are many factors that lead teens to cheat. Offenbach said, "I think not getting what you want whether it's emotionally or physically. You may look elsewhere for it. I also think sometimes the attention is something that students really like and so finding it in different places- whether they're healthy avenues or notcan be attractive."

Senior Melissa Bischoff sees a relationship having two defining points when people are most likely to cheat. Bischoff said, "People either cheat in the beginning when things aren't very serious yet or after a while, like over a year, when things start to get boring."

Relationships typically turn boring for teenagers when their relationship feels too routine or predictable.

Offenbach noted that the aftermath from cheating is almost always negative. She said, "Usually there's a lot of guilt a lot of anger. From stories that I've heard from students, it usually doesn't end well for either student."

Cheating can cause, if not worsen, a toxic relationship. The majority of people felt they wouldn't stay with a cheater in order to avoid a toxic relationship. Junior Dorrie Mbuyi said, "Once a cheater, always a cheater."





# High school sweethearts reflect on their 67 years

### by Helen Fagan and Marie O'Connor

It's hard to find a more Nicholas Sparks-esque love story than that of Margaret and Bill Sethness.

In a culture that now reveres instant communication over faceto-face interaction with apps like Snapchat or Tinder, it's hard to come across a couple as picture-perfect as these two books?' I know, how old fashioned!" 92-year-old Bill still remembers this first time he spoke to his future wife.

Bill took lead on the most of the stories, turning to Margaret every once and a while with a "right honey?" However, their first exchanged words were clear to her, even if the rest was a bit blurry. She interjected into the conversation with her response to Bill's question, "I said, 'What? Excuse me?' How do you reto secretarial school, which required that she get all dressed up. And this doll appeared in the doorway, and it was this girl I knew who sat down in the chair in front of me."

Even after 67 years of marriage, Jeff blushed and giggled like a schoolgirl when her husband recalled, "This doll got on the train." Her tiny frame sunk into her enormous armchair, and she whispered, "Oh come on."

ne whispered, "Oh come on." Bill replied, "That's all I can say secret to the success of his relationship, and he credited its longevity to his mother. "My mother always told me to be tolerant to



edged that it would be the last one. Everybody kind of ran out of gas, it was nothing like the ones after the war- everyone was so joyous and young, so happy to be alive."

> Bill and Jeff have no desire to return to their high school, though they take great

these tho.

With changes coming quickly to New Trier, a sense of nostalgia seems to be everywhere, from the tribute given by the cast of Lagniappe, to the pictures lining the halls outside administration offices of the old campus.

The world is a much different place than it was in 1942, during WWII, when Bill and Margaret met in the halls of New Trier.

"In our senior year, we were in a class called Voice and Diction, which was in the high red tower of the old building, before they put the modern thing on there," Bill said. "She was sort of cute and pretty and I was a little rambunctious because I was a cheerleader."

Their story started out as many high school romances do: the outgoing boy spots a pretty girl from across the classroom and she catches his eye. "As we came down from Voice and Diction a few days after it started, I said, 'May I carry your spond to something like that?"

Bill and Margaret (who goes by Jeff, a nickname based on her maiden name Jeffreys) graduated from New Trier in 1942. The two started dating during their senior year, when the world was in the midst of the utter turmoil of World War II.

Despite the fact that more than 70 years have gone by, the details of their life together seem to be as vivid as if they met just yesterday.

"So that was the beginning of the big chase," Bill said, who was not discouraged by the rejection.

After graduating in 1942, Bill was drafted into the Navy, and the two split. Upon his return, as if fate knew they were destined to be together, the two coincidentally reconnected.

"We got back together after World War II. I was in my second or third year at Roosevelt College," Bill said. "It was a commuter school, so I took the train. And she was going dear," glancing over at Jeff and grinning with pride as he looked at her.

He continued to recount their love story, as if the already adorable tale of how they met wasn't enough. "That summer we had several dates, and one of them, well the one I remember the most, was the first real date. Marguerite and William, my sister and her boyfriend, offered to take us to the movies, to drive to the movies was big deal. So we went. So he picked us up in Winnetka and drove us over to Jeff's house."

It was almost impossible to keep composure when he talked about the moment he saw his date for the evening walk out of her house.

"We got down there and she came out and she was beautiful. She was dressed up in a hat, red fingernails, and jewelry, gosh, to go to the movies. All dressed up, and God I'll never let her forget it. That's when she hooked me."

Bill teared up when asked the

### girls- to realize they

were different from me. They have different sensitivities- something you might say in passing could really bother somebody else." Bill snuck a loving stare at his wife when he recounted this, showing his profound love for her, even after all these years.

He described the reunions he attended as ones with much joy and fond memories. "They were all great, but by the 70's we kind of acknowl-

pride in the New Trier community. "It's a wonderful school, no question about it. This town is full of young people who are just so nice to us."

Jeff believes it's wholly possible for teenagers of our generation to have a relationship

as long and successful as hers. She matter-of-factly said, "Why not? I mean we're so perfect."

Even with our ever-evolving times and the drastic renovations currently going on at New Trier, Bill and Jeff Sethness have proven that some things just never change.