

Students create new post-party transportation plans

by Connor Josellis

Since the departure of Safe Rides, students have been finding new ways to safely get home from parties like Uber and designated drivers.

Safe Rides was convenient for many reasons. It was free. Safe Rides had been popular among many New Trier students because it offered easy transportation home, as well as being a social opportunity.

According to junior Nate Carlton, “It was a great program because it saved people from making really dumb decisions.”

As popular as Safe Rides had always been, some students didn’t feel the need to use it.

Senior Billy Loveman said, “I feel like I never noticed Safe Rides, but I heard about them. I think Uber got to be more popular than Safe Rides because students wanted to remain anonymous to their friends.”

Although Safe Rides was an anonymous service, meaning that the

student drivers weren’t allowed to talk about who they picked up, some riders got nervous about being seen by their peers.

The absence of Safe Rides has made it harder for some students to get home on time. Senior Ben Higgins said, “I used Safe Rides last year, and it’s been hard to find rides home, so sometimes that makes me get home past curfew.”

Higgins also said that now he usually bikes or finds a ride to and from parties because he cannot use popular ride-sharing apps like Uber.

Another popular way of getting home is assigning a designated driver. A designated driver is someone who decided not to participate in typical party activities and drive for the group of friends he or she is with.

Senior John Paul Sheridan said, “It’s good to have a designated driver, a lot of people don’t like to DD, but it is very important to have one just in case.”

Loveman agreed saying, “I think DD-ing is the safest way because you can risk things with your Uber driver,

but as long as your designated driver keeps his promise, that is the best option.”

Junior Frances Lafontant expressed that there can be dangers in riding with a designated driver: “If you know the person it’s okay, but if you do not, it’s not safe because they could have drank, you just never know.”

However, Uber seems to have the share of this market. According to senior Dylan Horivitz, Uber is the safest and most reliable option because there are always Ubers out there and you don’t need cash.

With Uber all you need to do is download that app and connect a card. Often times, the card is your parents’, so the student doesn’t even spend their own money by ordering one.

It is very popular among seniors like Sam Urban who said: “Uber is my main source of transportation after parties and also my siblings drive sometimes.”

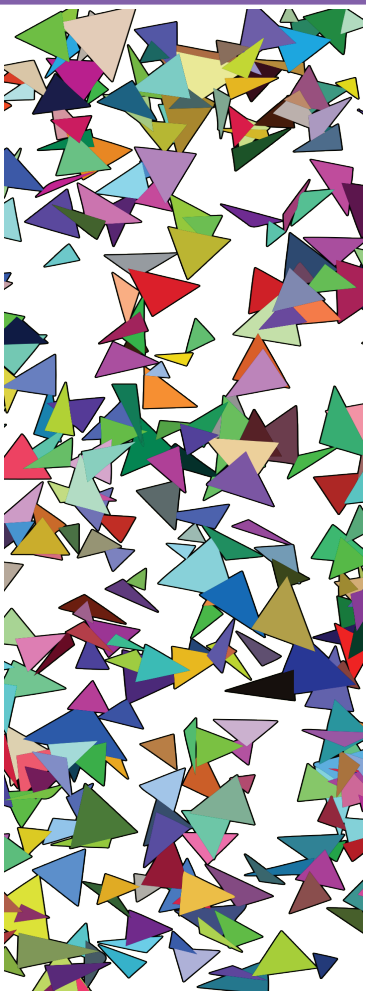
However, Urban said that a friend is the most reliable mode of

transportation because, “you know whose car you’re getting into and they will take you where you need to be, where Uber can sometimes be more dangerous.”

Ubers can be dangerous because one is climbing into a strangers car and trusting they take you to your intended destination. This has been perpetuated by reports Uber drivers that have sexually assaulted girls and even killed their passengers.

In one conversation with an Uber driver, the driver said that there is a lot of business here and many drivers are coming down to the North Shore from the city during the week-ends because of the surplus of rides available.

Which ever way a student gets home from a party senior Caroline Keehn said, “It’s important to make sure you have a plan so you are not stuck at a party and don’t have a ride home, so that’s why you always should have a plan.”



Party-goers and parents face consequences

by Emily Challenger and Faith Coladarci

Ever wonder what happens if you get caught drinking at a party? Do you go to jail, get a ticket, does the school find out? Or worse, what if you weren’t drinking while attending a weekend bash?

The epitome of all high school movies and stories are the raging parties that the student body attends. Growing up watching movies like “Project X”, “Animal House”, and “Mean girls” we’ve been conditioned to think of these outrageous parties as being the highlight of our high school years. But that’s only if you don’t get caught.

Normally these parties take place during holiday weekends, after dances or on special days, but every so often the opportunity to throw a party on a Saturday night presents itself. Students go to these parties hoping to live the stereotype portrayed by movies, but rarely do students think about what happens if things go wrong.

Sergeant Landon Girard of the Wilmette Police department explained that, “Parties are discovered through anonymous complaints (noise, neighbors, dog walkers, etc.)” We’re clearly not as sneaky as we think.

When the police show up to what attendees believe is a low-key, consequence free party the kids present will be punished regardless of if they have used any substances or not.

Students are automatically guilty by being in the presence of illegal substances. Sergeant Girard added, “Minors or adults, it doesn’t make a difference if you’re under 21.”

Even if there were sober designated drivers there, he explained, “[Sober] Students will still be punished if present at a party through suspension from school and being banned from sports.”

Officer Perez, Police Liaison at New Trier, explained, “Schools and the state say that everything must be reported to the student’s school.” Even if the kids get caught with no alcohol in their system but were present when the cops came, he adds, “They put themselves in a bad situation. What would happen to them, I don’t know. The school may keep that in-



formation or reach out. If it isn’t put in a record, it’s reported for their safety and rehabilitation.”

Often unknown to students hosting parties, not only could they face criminal charges but their parents could as well. Their parents may be totally unaware of minors drinking in their own house, but they are still held responsible criminally and civilly under the Parental Responsibility Law of Illinois.

Parents are deemed negligent if their children are found drinking (or abusing other laws) while they may have the knowledge that their child could act unwisely.

If parents leave their children home alone for the weekend resulting in the kids throwing a party with alcohol, the parents are still deemed liable because they were negligent in failing to take preventative measures against their children breaking the law.

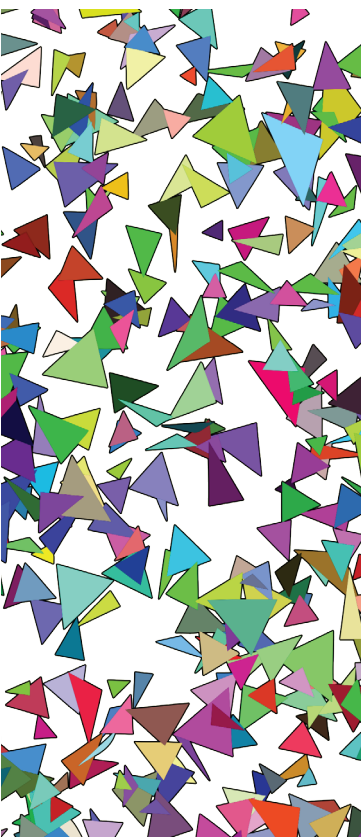
Officer Perez said, “Anytime I talk to a juvenile who is caught throwing a party, we have to talk to the parents. If they’re involved, they’re charged too”

As for parents who knowingly provide and serve alcohol at student parties, they are held responsible under the criminal charge of Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor.

What makes the difference between Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor and Parental Respon-

sibility is that often when a parent is charged with Parental Responsibility, they were unaware that they were breaking a law in the first place by negligence or ignorance.

If a student is hurt at a party or leaving from a party as a result of drinking, the parents of the host can be found liable as well.



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

(when the party goes wrong)

Symptoms of alcohol poisoning:

- Excessive vomiting
- Seizures
- Hypothermia
- Loss of consciousness
- Slow breathing (<8 breaths per minute)

****IF ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS ARE OBSERVED, CALL 911. FAILURE TO ALERT EMERGENCY SERVICES CAN RESULT IN DEATH****

NEVER try to resolve alcohol poisoning by:

- Leaving a friend to “sleep it off”. If a friend is suspected of having alcohol poisoning, they need to be constantly monitored
- Ingesting caffeine. Caffeine does not counter the effects of alcohol. Alcohol dehydrates the body, and caffeine only furthers this dehydration (which can lead to brain damage).
- Taking a cold shower. This could shock the body and lower its temperature to dangerous levels (think hypothermia)

If you do drink, you can stay safe:

- Never drink on an empty stomach
- Pace yourself (don’t chug it all at once)
- Stay hydrated before and while drinking (H2O is everyone’s preferred drink)
- DO NOT BE AFRAID OF 911!!

DID YOU KNOW??

If 911 services are required, the individual who requires treatment, and the individual who calls are immune under the “Good Samaritan” law.