

Five days, five ways to get to school



by Carly Travis

I like being organized in almost all aspects of my life. My morning routine is one of them, but more importantly, the way in which I arrive to school.

Every day, one of my parents drives me to school and drops me off in the same spot around the same time.

When everything goes smoothly, I find that my morning is much better than the contrary. Feeling rushed, angry, and uncomfortable has never been my preferred wake up call, so I try to avoid that scenario as much as possible.

It recently dawned on me that for the entire duration of the school year, I've been traveling to school the exact same way every day; the monotony was starting to itch. Hence, I decided that for five days I would get to school five different ways.

Monday April 11, 2016

Today ran like normal and my dad drove me. I closed the car door at around 7:35 am and we were off in mostly silence. The monotone NPR voice was humming in the background, and my dad's car was littered with a rogue sock, Starbucks napkins, and surfing gear from my brother's latest beach excursion.

Every time my parents drive me, I can't help but feel bad for those kids standing on the corner waiting for the bus or walking sulking to school. A

rush of guilt runs through me and I feel incredibly spoiled to have a personal chauffeur provide door-to-door service every morning.

Tuesday April 12, 2016

I used to be a loyal Pace Bus rider sophomore year. The over crowdedness, noisiness, and general carelessness of other riders always turned me off. Despite my dislike, I obliged to ride it for the sake of this article.

To my surprise, it was actually pleasant. I took the earlier one and arrived to school in a matter of minutes, with enough time to finish homework assignments from the night before.

Taking the Pace saved my mom the hassle of sitting in traffic, although I did miss our morning tradition of listening to Howard Stern on Sirius XM.

Wednesday April 13, 2016

This morning, I took the metra, which meant leaving the house at 7:00 am as opposed to my usual 7:35 am departure.

The \$1.50 I had to pay for a 50 second ride annoys me but otherwise, having the train adjacent to school is a big convenience. It's unlikely that I'll ever take it again because I live far from the station, but next year I know I'll have to rely on it every day to get to and from classes.

Thursday April 14, 2016

What's difficult about mornings is that they're cold. I wanted to walk to school today but since I live more than three miles away, it would mean I'd have to spend a little more than an hour of time walking, with a backpack on no less.

Alternatively, I had my dad drop me off at a friends house and I walked from there. If the temperature was 20 degrees warmer it would have been more doable. The sun was a nice perk.

Monday April 17, 2016

On Friday I wimped out and didn't ride my bike to school like I had intended. Instead, I rode on Monday, a half day. That meant that my backpack was lighter and I also didn't have to bring a lunch.

I recently purchased a new bike and intend on bringing it to college and riding everywhere. With that in mind, I figured now would be a good time to practice that mentality.

Biking means having to consider the functionality of everything: your outfit, hair, and schedule are all factors that determine your ride.

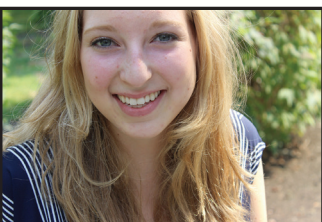
Besides the organization of it all, the ride is really enjoyable. I personally love getting up and moving first thing in the morning.

For a while I went to a spin class in the morning, but that meant waking up at 4:30 am. It was okay for a while, but I think biking [outside] is the better way to go.

It's easy to get stuck in a rut, especially in the mornings, and as someone who likes routine, I admit that it can be boring. Not only that, trying out different modes of transportation for a week stimulated what it will be like in college, living in a big city and having to take public transportation everywhere.

It's unlikely that I'll take the pace or the train again this year, but if I have to, I won't complain.

There's been a shift in the dating world



by Camille Baer

The lines defining relationships have grown fainter and fainter. Has the growing disinterest towards long-term relationships become part of our culture, or have they just naturally evolved over time?

"People have lost the romantic essence in their relationships because they think it's better to hook up with someone instead of having something potentially more special," said junior Billy Loveman, commenting on the lack of relationships in high school.

"I see relationships as a much stronger bond than just hooking up with someone," said Loveman.

What seems to be a common thought is that, unlike in the past when men used to 'court' women to be in a long-term relationship, the end-goal has changed. This doesn't mean that dating is gone per say, it's

just different.

Girls' views on relationships have evolved over time as well. "I feel like a lot of guys want to hookup at first, so if they think that the girl wants more than that, or doesn't want to hook up yet, they'll just move on," said an anonymous junior. The misconception is that nowadays, not every girl wants to be in a relationship, and it's dated to assume so.

"I think the term 'dating' has changed drastically from the past. A lot of relationships start from a hookup, and from there people decide if they want to be exclusive," said junior Donna Kang.

It's normal in high school to hook up with people and have no strings attached. "The act of going out on a date is not completely dead," said Kang, "but I think people love the 'chase' more than the real thing. Once they get what they want, it turns out the 'chase' was more fun."

People are afraid of the commitment that comes with a relationship because labels have the tendency to apply unwanted pressure.

Technology also plays a major role in terms of getting to know a

crush as well.

"Technology has made dating to get to know someone better pretty obsolete," said junior Andrew Phillips. "Personally, I'd want to get to know the person before asking them out."

Relationships tend to get a bad rep though, which is interesting when most agree that they probably would like being in one themselves.

In terms of 'getting the girl,' guys view girls who play harder to get as more attractive as opposed to 'easy.'

"Frankly, it's way more attractive when a girl shows she's confident in my opinion," said an anonymous senior.

Age also seems to matter more in high school, because there's a greater difference between the maturity levels of a sophomore versus a senior.

"Looking into the future, I wouldn't be so quick as to jump out of a relationship because I'm not as scared of the commitment it brings anymore," said senior Sam Roggekamp.

"Certain people just prefer commitment, and I don't think that will ever simply go away," said Phillips.

Editorial

Traveling should be a learning experience, not a luxury

Freshman year, one of my friends went to Hawaii with her family over summer vacation. Their first stop was the Big Island, home of Pearl Harbor and some of the islands' best museums of Hawaiian and Polynesian culture. They then island-hopped to Kauai, which boasts some of the most extreme topographical features in America.

When they returned from the trip, I eagerly awaited hearing about all the fascinating things they did during their two weeks. But, I was met with a shrug. She said, "Oh you know, the usual. Laid by the pool, swam a bit, went out to eat." I pressed for more details, asking whether they went to Pearl Harbor or any museums. Did they at least see the most active volcano in the world? No. They did none of this.

On the Big Island, they stayed at an all-inclusive resort the entire time. On Kauai, her family did leave the hotel for one afternoon to zip line. There they were, in a beautiful, culture-rich state for the first time, however they kept to their 5-star luxury bubble and came back with no new experiences except for a tan.

Though traveling is a wonderful break from the everyday, it shouldn't be all about luxury and relaxation. While this can be a major part of any good vacation, you do not come back a better, more cultured version of yourself.

The best vacations are approached as learning opportunities. With this mentality, you will consistently get the most out of a trip and will always return home feeling fulfilled.

I have nothing against zip lining, I've enjoyed zip lining on vacation before. However, if you return from a trip not being able to cite one interesting fact about the place you just spent your time, you haven't done it right. I zip lined at the Utah Olympic Park, home of several events from the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. My fun fact? This was the Olympic debut of women's bobsled, which the USA won. No one says, "Let's go to Park City to learn!" We went there to ski and just happened to learn a thing along the way.

One great way to make your vacation a fulfilling experience is to participate in a variety of travel abroad programs. While there may not be too many opportunities in high school, outlets can be found, whether it's the French exchange program, summer trip to China, or studying Shakespeare at Oxford. New Trier offers these opportunities to go abroad, but none are solely about the travel. All of these trips, and travel abroad programs in general, offer valuable opportunities to grow and learn as an individual while enjoying a new country.

In college especially, you will have tons of opportunities to study abroad, in virtually any country for any major. A family friend of mine travelled around Italy and Spain drinking wine and studying how the soil composition affected the taste, all for his Chemistry major. He isn't interested in any aspect of wine or agriculture, but just wanted the opportunity to travel. So, he created a project that he thought sounded interesting and somewhat relevant, and then spent a quarter in Europe with fine wine.

If travelling through a program isn't your thing, visit a place that interests you. Yes, it can be beautiful, have crystal clear waters and a five star hotel, but you can still learn in places like this. Take Bora Bora, for example. The hotels are infamous for the beautiful suites connected by a wooden boardwalk over turquoise water. However, while there, hike to the base of Mount Otemanu. Along the way, you'll find altars from its indigenous past and US cannons left over from World War II. History and opportunities to learn can be found in even the most tropical and relaxing of places.

In regards to the language barrier, if you've taken a language in school, don't shy away from the opportunity to finally speak it where it counts. After sophomore year my family was passing through France for the day and we stopped for lunch in the town of Strasbourg. At a little creperie, we sat at a wrought iron table on the patio, taking in the view of a magnificent cathedral. I chose my crepe- Nutella, a classic.

When the waitress came to our table, I shyly asked in English while pointing to the crepe on the menu. At that point, I had taken French for four years and knew perfectly well how to order in French. The opportunity presented itself, and I got too scared. I haven't forgiven myself.

We are fortunate to live in the North Shore, a place with many luxuries, but it is rare that we get the chance to experience people and places different than here. When offered the chance, we should take advantage of the opportunity and get to know the culture, learn the history, experience the authentic version of the place you are visiting. This doesn't mean you have to forego the hotel and rent out a local's second bedroom. Just make an effort to actually experience a location, instead of approaching it as a Trip Advisor itinerary. And whatever you do, don't just lay around and tan.

The New Trier News

Published Fridays during the school year by the students of New Trier Township High School, 385 Winnetka Avenue, Illinois 60093.

Correspondence may be directed to the New Trier News Office, Room 011, or by calling (847) 784-2278.

All letters to the editors are welcome, though we will not print anonymous letters. Direct these and other inquiries to our email at ntnews@newtrier.k12.il.us.

The Staff Editorial is written by the editors-in-chief, not adult faculty.

Editors-in-Chief.....	Elizabeth Byrne, Emma Willcocks
News Editors.....	Anna Ferguson, Sarah Zhang
Opinion Editors.....	Camille Baer, Carly Travis
Features Editors.....	Michael Blickstein, Melanie Mandell
Sports Editors.....	Rachel Melancon, Adam Sheffield
Photo Editor.....	Henry Scherman
Editorial Adviser.....	Carlo Trovato
Assistant Editorial Adviser.....	Sarah Gompers