

# Staff Editorial

## Give credit where credit's due

Over the summer, the treatment of LGBTQ students was put in the spotlight by a letter published in various local papers, and while we agree in spirit that everybody should be treated equally, we feel that New Trier is an inclusive institution. Particularly in the last few years, the administration has made strides to improve. As part of every class syllabus, students agree to respect others students not just on account of race or nationality, but also of sexual orientations and genders. Teachers, coaches, club sponsors, and advisors have been overwhelmingly proactive to shut down homophobic or transphobic slurs. Our health curriculum is nationally leading in its inclusion of gender identity; students spend several days and usually have a quiz on these topics. This year especially, it was not uncommon for students to be asked to introduce themselves with their preferred pronouns on the first day of class. Foreign Language teachers have accepted the usage of non-gendered terms such as the Spanish "Latinx". And the latest construction resulted in the addition of several unisex bathrooms. Students are occasionally dissatisfied with the administration's slow response to certain issues, but the school has rarely made an action that did not protect and serve the diverse needs of the student body. A seminar day of lectures on LGBTQ issues, as proposed by some, will not only have low attendance, like the first MLK seminar day, but it will be ineffectual at changing minds. Day of Silence is already a major effort of LGBTQ activism and is honored by almost all teachers, and many students. A mandatory day of observation or celebration of LGBTQ issues will only polarize the student body. Those who seek to generalize the LGBTQ experience will point to a select few students who profess these bigoted beliefs, ignoring the dozens more that decry them. The school must juggle a duty to respect students' political and religious beliefs while also protecting those of the LGBTQ. We commend the administration's robust response to the concerns of the LGBTQ community. Transgender students are free to be part of an advisery in accordance with their gender identity. This is not a defense of the school as being infallible. Coaches and advisors in particular must remain ever vigilant for the homophobic and transphobic banter that can come out in the "safe" environment of the advisory or a locker room. Staff cannot possibly be everywhere all the time and the student body must take it upon themselves to self-regulate. Together, students have to vocally stand up to bigotry. But for a school of its size and diversity, perfection is impossible. The student community is a largely a progressive, accepting place. With the combined efforts of the administration, faculty, and students, New Trier fosters a safe place for all. Because of the ongoing dialogue between student activists and the administration, New Trier remains on the forefront of LGBTQ issues in education. We on the editorial staff support New Trier's ongoing efforts to make our school a safe and accepting place for all.

# Lucky us, procrastination is in style this season

by Mia Sherin



Raise your hand if you are one of the millions of victims affected by sugar lips, silly bands, and of course, acid wash jeans. Don't worry, this is a safe space. You can come clean. All of these unfortunate trends found themselves in the hands of almost all 6th grade girls, but quickly landed a spot in the back of a drawer, forgotten immediately once they went out of style.

Just as certain trends go in and out of style, so do personalities. Now, let me explain myself by starting with a very accurate timeline, created solely based on my personal knowledge of chick flicks and intimidating 5th graders.

When our generation was younger, it was cool to be mean. The TV shows and movies put in front of us always showed the mean, popular students strutting down the hallways in slow motion, as all the others swooned and wished to be in their position. If you tell me that you've never practiced your dramatic strut down the New Trier hallways, you are lying. Unless that's just me, in which case we can move on. Let's just say, if you see me in the hallways with my hips swaying from side-to-side, you'll know why. Mean Girls was released in

2004, right around the same time we began watching TV. Although a movie like this showed our protagonist as seeing the flaws in the "Plastics", we still saw these mean characters as the ones with the most popularity. That resonated with the audience, and many girls cannot deny wishing to be in Regina George's shoes at least once while watching the movie.

However, once the initial hype of this movie began to die down, the trends in personality took a turn for the better: it was now trending to be nice. I remember when I was in 5th grade, and the most popular, well-liked girl in our school was the one who was always close friends with our peers who had disabilities. It was "cool" to be tolerant, accepting, and genuinely nice.

Jumping ahead a few years, our timeline now reaches the start of our high school career. Around this time, feminism burst open and was a driving force in our culture. Our society now entered what I like to call the "Boss Ass Bitch phase." Being a "savage", having sass, and being very goal-oriented was the new trend. Basically, it was cool to be a boss ass bitch. This trend is still one that is present in our society, and I am definitely not mad about it. I believe that this has had many benefits, such as driving girls to be empowered, speak their mind, and be more involved in feminism.

Unfortunately, a new personality trend is taking over our generation, and it has proven to be much less beneficial. In the age of netflix and scrolling

through numerous memes, it has become somewhat of a competition to see who can be the greatest procrastinator. Being a procrastinator, being lazy, and being unambitious is now the new cool.

It's no longer embarrassing to say that you were at home bingeing The Office on a Saturday night. It is no longer frowned upon to laugh as you admit you did the entire project in one night. And it far from unheard of to overhear friends jokingly contemplate dropping out of school, just because studying for the math final feels like too much.

What does this say about our society, that the new trend is to basically be a lazy pig who half-heartedly scrapes by? I can answer that question for you. It's not good. Of course, I am far from above this, and can definitely attest to committing many frightening methods of procrastination. On one very late night, I made an elaborate music video with multiple outfit changes, applied to be an extra on empire, and choreographed a dance to "The Boys are Back" from High School Musical 3. So I get it. But it's still not good.

Although we may not be able to do anything about this now, I encourage you all to hold onto any last ounce of motivation and ambition you have. And who knows, maybe in a year or two it will be cool to be a super driven vegan who threw out their TV in order to find their inner zen, most likely at a hipster coffee shop. That last ounce of motivation could come in use.

# The stress of four years of comparison

by Michelle Yurovesky



These days, it seems as though everyone is in a rush to grow up. Societal standards are getting harder to live up to, which causes us to start worrying about our futures faster than any preceding generation.

From a young age, most of us are told that we have to go to school, get a good ACT score, get into a great college, and become successful.

Honestly, I can say that I do not remember the last time I did not compare myself to someone else.

Whether it's about academics, extracurriculars, or even appearance, most of the time I feel obligated to compare myself to my peers to make sure I am in line with New Trier's "standards."

We live in a world that emphasizes success. Quite frankly, our whole culture, especially at New Trier, revolves around competing for success. It is absolutely bewildering that, today, children are taught to count and read before they can even walk.

I recall that during sophomore year, some of my peers were talking about how they started ACT preparation as early as 5th grade.

The anxiety that engulfs most

of the students at New Trier is a major contributor to the stress its students experience.

I was not even thinking about testing going into sophomore year, but when I heard about so many kids already starting their preparation it made me feel like I was falling behind.

This environment of always having someone better than you constantly pressures you to be a better version of yourself.

Most of the time if you ask a senior about which year they thought was the most difficult, they would say junior year.

If someone were to ask me, I would agree, but probably for different reasons... Yes you get more homework junior year, and yes, you have to worry about junior theme. However, to me, there was nothing worse than hearing everybody ask each other about test scores and where they were going to apply to college.

These conversations would come up virtually out of nowhere. Before you know it, you're being interrogated about numbers, how many AP's you are taking, and what you're going to major in.

I took part in these conversations, but afterwards I felt very nervous, almost inferior.

Looking back on junior year the best advice I can give to any underclassmen is honestly, "you do you."

It sounds simple, but trying to change your whole perspective on school is much harder than it seems.

At the end of the day, the only

thing you need to worry about is yourself.

Aside from academics, New Trier students strongly value how they present themselves and strive to fit in with the latest clothing trends. Many girls wear makeup on a daily basis and carefully pick out their outfits. I'm sure that boys also feel the pressure to look their best when they come to school.

If you're someone who enjoys getting your glam on, by all means go for it. If you're like me and enjoy wearing casual clothes such as hoodies and sweats, then do it. Do what makes you happy and feel comfortable. You don't have to dress a certain way, or buy Stan Smith's to fit in at our school.

You don't always need to know everything about everyone. Sometimes being selfish is a good thing.

I'm not telling you to be arrogant junior year and drop all your friends. All I am saying is just because your peers are in level fours or taking multiple AP's does not mean that you also need to.

Focus on yourself and do the best that you can do. That's all you can ask of yourself anyways. Avoid trying to live up to standards that are unrealistic, and work on setting reasonable goals for yourself without using the success of others to determine them for you.

Just remember to take a minute to breathe, and slow your roll there, tiger.



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