

Student Views

We asked Trevians about the first snow this winter, here’s what they said.....



**Wilson Mcritchie, Junior**  
“I thought the snow would be bad for the triship tree sale, but we had a wonderful time.”



**Lilly Long, Senior**  
“The first thing I thought was I have to stop wearing shoes with holes, and bring out the bulky clothes.”



**Therese Cooney, Senior**  
“I was super excited because the snow came so late, it felt like a miricle.”



**Luke Marren, Senior**  
“The snow is pretty for the first day, then it just becomes a nuisance.”



**Bri Perez, Sophomore**  
“I think the snow is really pretty. I love winter so I was really excited.”

The danger of safe spaces

by Logan Etherage

Fundamentally, liberals seek full acceptance and understanding when they raise their picket signs and share Facebook petition links to aid the end of social inequality. This is a noble and consuming cause that has laced itself into the pages of history and sparked controversies as small as newspaper headlines and incidents as big as civil wars. And how do all these incidents start? Through every staged lawv suit and street protest, social rights advocates their voices as a platform for louder battle cries, and the hope that the protests so consume the media that government has no choice but to hear their pleas and draft policy change. For the most part, this media-control tactic has led to significant results.

*The trend of hushing inappropriate terms is destroying the very movement fighting for the respect and understanding of minorities.*

Perhaps most famously, media attention is how Martin Luther King Jr. justified peaceful protests over more immediate, violent actions. It’s how the violence of the Vietnam War ignited the sympathies of the 60s flower children; it’s even how those original liberal rebels- the Founding Fathers- sparked outrage against the laws of the British. Perhaps it will even be how this generation of liberal millennials wins their war against sexism, racism, and every other –ism they take issue with. Yet it’s possible this media craze ends with millennials.

Ironically, this end would be the result of the liberal movement itself, and its frankly obnoxious insistence on safe spaces. That’s right, safe spaces, the overhyped weapon of choice by every liberal activist. Whether it’s demanding them in schools, friend groups, or government, safe spaces will prove to be the double edged sword of modern social activists. It’s one thing to recognize changing idioms and an evolving language, but it’s another to slap a “bigot” label onto any poor soul who forgets to ask every person they meet their preferred gender (even though Pew Research Center reports only .3% of Americans identify as transgender). Quite frankly, the trend of hushing inappropriate terms is destroying the very movement fighting for the respect and understanding of minorities. By hastily shaming anyone who misuses the incredibly new and rapidly changing adjectives to describe minorities, activists are hushing a conversation that is vital to the growth of their movement. Further, the willingness to bend to the whims and comforts of minorities should be alarming for anyone with a sense of civil rights. By forcing people into safe spaces—into areas with no room for mistakes or questions about why activists are fighting for what they are—people, typically older people, find themselves swept in a whirlwind of change with little context and a lot of fear about where they’ll fit into this new, progressive America. On top of that, they find themselves questioning the authenticity of these liberals: who despite their preaching on social rights, 40% are okay with “limiting speech offensive to minorities” through legal regulations, according to Pew Research Center. Without an open platform for

conversation between confused conservatives and progressive liberals, activists end up shunning a substantive population of both conservative and moderate people who aren’t inherently malicious or bigoted, just in the dark about why previously okay terms and assumptions are suddenly not okay.



This miscommunication, rather than encouraging people to research, forces them into a position of shame, with liberals harshly labeling them as uneducated oppressors. It should be no surprise, then, that these uninformed people grow to hate social activists and begin to long for the conservative days of old—where they weren’t viewed as sexist bigots for assuming their daughter wants a Barbie doll instead of a toy truck. Of course, there is value in building communities in which everyone feels accounted for and heard, but to fight for the silence of conservatives and traditionalists in order to accommodate minorities is a battle for hypocrites. America was founded on free speech and liberty for all people, and while the fight for liberty and equality is an ongoing and necessary one, it is not so righteous, nor is it necessary, to merit the restriction of free speech in its pursuit.

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Outdoor Education, more than just Kinetic Wellness



by Bella Geroulis

When my parents saw third period Outdoor Ed on my schedule, needless to say they were surprised. I’ve never been a particularly athletic person. Sports just aren’t my thing. To say I’m outdoorsy is a stretch. Gym class in particular has always been pretty brutal for me. That’s why I chose to take Outdoor Education as my KW class this year. I’m not gonna lie, at first I was intimidated by all my peers with their Nalgene water bottles and Birkenstocks. I thought that this class would be my way out of having to do the regular, mortifying KW activities like the Pacer Test and volleyball. I would get to just make s’mores and build fires all year, right? Well, no. That’s not exactly how it turned out. The class is one of the hardest classes of my day. Though the activities are not what you would get in regular KW, they are no less difficult or any less embarrassing. Trying to climb up a 40 foot wall in front of your whole class is as scary as trying to solve a math problem in front of a bunch of MIT scholars. Putting yourself out there in the open like that and making yourself vulnerable is always scary, especially when you’re out of your element. Unlike my previous KW classes, Outdoor Ed makes me feel like it’s ok to step outside of my comfort zone and push my boundaries. Two years ago I was so embarrassed to do the swim unit, and now I genuinely get excited to get pushed off the diving board into the pool in

a kayak. Even my fear of heights has diminished, and just recently I took a helicopter ride without a fear in the world. Usually I would be throwing up in the backseat through the entirety of the flight, but I wasn’t. I was able to enjoy my flight over L.A, and even saw Samuel L. Jackson’s house! The confidence that I’ve found inside the classroom has positively impacted the things I do outside of the classroom. To be able to say that I stepped outside of my comfort zone and became a better person because of it is really cool. It’s hard sometimes at this age to balance everything in our lives. When you put yourself in a position that doesn’t allow for change or relaxation, you can almost feel trapped in your own life. Making an effort everyday to do something that makes you happy and makes you a better person isn’t selfish, it’s smart. Outdoor Ed (along with so many other awesome classes New Trier has to offer) give students the chance to explore interests that they otherwise wouldn’t know they even had. I’ve changed my whole outlook on outdoor activities and have even incorporated such activities into what I want in my college career. I hope that if you still have the chance, you choose to take Outdoor Ed. Even if you don’t think that’s your thing, try it out. You won’t grow unless you push yourself, and not just when it comes to Outdoor Ed. Take an art class even if you love math. Take a computer science class even if your passion lies with history. Make an effort to do and experience as much as you can, and even if you hate it at least you can say you tried.