



Once Upon a Mattress

Music by **MARY RODGERS** Lyrics by **MARSHALL BARER**

Book by **JAY THOMPSON, DEAN FULLER & MARSHALL BARER**

at Gaffney Auditorium
 March 8-10, 7PM & March 11, 2PM
 Tickets are \$13 or \$5 for rear balcony seating available at the door or at newtrier.showclix.com

Fifty Shades of not too shabby



by Mia Sherin

This past weekend, my friends and I decided that there was only one respectable way to spend our post-Winter Carnival Friday night: watching "Fifty Shades of Grey."

None of us had ever seen it, which seemed like a crime in itself, so it was essential that we checked it off our bucket list.

Since I was hosting this event, it only made sense to warn my parents of the On Demand purchase that they would later see on their credit card bill. My mom said she was worried I would find it "upsetting" or even "unbearable." Little did she know it would inspire my latest opinions piece.

Before I jump into the magic that is this movie, I have to mention that, yes, I do see and acknowledge the major flaws. It demonstrates an incredibly unhealthy and controlling relationship, depicts women as objects for men's pleasure, and of course, there was this really weird scene where Christian ate a bite of Anastasia's toast without asking. How unsanitary!

However, if there is one strength that I saw in the movie, it is

the way that it positively promotes consent. For example, before entering the Red Room, Christian makes a point to say that Anastasia can leave at any point, emphasizing that, "the helicopter is on standby for whenever you want to go."

The pair also have safe words to verbally express what they are comfortable with, and Anastasia gives her signature to demonstrate her active consent beforehand.

Before signing, the two discuss their boundaries, communicating what they are and are not comfortable with. While they definitely do not have a healthy relationship, that communication sounds pretty healthy to me.

Throughout the movie, we learn that Christian had an abusive past, and therefore is sensitive to certain parts of his body because of his scars. As his way to express what he is comfortable with, he draws physical boundaries on his body, yet again another way to communicate with his partner and facilitate consent.

If we're being honest, I can't remember if this part is from "Fifty Shades of Grey" or "Fifty Shades Darker." I watched them in the same night.

What I have come to realize is that this is the only movie I have ever watched that shows consent being granted and talked about. As a chick flick aficionado who has seen many cringe-worthy moments in rom-coms, this is a big deal. Take a minute and rack your brain for a

movie you have seen that shows consent being verbalized. The numbers are few.

It makes sense that a movie all about sex would be one to introduce consent, but my friends and I were still shocked when we saw this positive side of the movie. We just aren't used to hearing about consent in the movies we watch. It was a pleasant surprise.

While a movie like "Fifty Shades of Grey" may not have appealed to a group like my friends and I, we could not help but cheer and throw our fists in the air anytime we heard, "It's important that you know you can leave at any time." "Heck yeah," we would scream.

If I have suddenly inspired you to go home and watch this movie, please do so at your own risk.

While I do love how it promotes consent, there are some scenes that required the fast forward button.

And of course, as the movie is rated R, do not watch it unless you are seventeen. I wouldn't want any of you breaking that highly monitored law!

I am hoping to go see "Fifty Shades Freed" soon. Spoiler alert, I hear they get married! Maybe there will be domestic issues to discuss. I'll have to bring a pen and paper to take notes.

Senioritis is not what you think



by Michelle Yurovsky

I remember taking my very last final and being so excited to finally be able to, for once, take a breather during the school year.

I've been looking forward to being a second semester senior since sophomore year. I always envied the seniors who walked around with funky backpacks and acted so nonchalant about their workload. Seniors made the year seem so stress-free and easy.

I was so excited to start senior year because I always thought that it was going to be a breeze, since there was no more Junior Theme or standardized testing to worry about.

I underestimated the workload and difficulty of senior year.

I hate to break it to all of you but, at least for me, as of now it seems as though being a second semester senior is no different than any other semester of high school.

The only major difference that I notice is that now, on top of my school work, I have to worry about the stress of hearing back from colleges that I applied to.

You would think that the actual process of applying to schools is the hardest part, but at least for me, the waiting is what worries me the most.

Yet, this year has also been the slowest one yet. It feels like there is so much to look forward to at the end of senior year, like graduation and prom, that I'm just in a rush to

what causes senioritis. What motivates students to keep up their work ethic even though many of their peers are constantly expressing how little motivation they have?

For those of us who do give in, is it because we've worked so long and finally deserve a break?

After looking back on these past few years at New Trier, saying that the course load is demanding is an understatement. Most of us have experienced all-nighters and mental breakdowns.

But somehow we all manage and make it out. We live up to expectations, and we pull ourselves together for whatever task is at hand.

If you're going into senior year with the mentality that you're not going to do much, you need a reality check.

The question is whether or not you are willing to keep pushing yourself while some of your peers begin to dramatically lose their work ethic.

Each and everyone of us has been prepared so well during our high school careers for what is ahead of us.

As difficult as it may be, the most important advice that I could give is to remember how hard you worked to be where you are. Do you really want all of that to go to waste?

Being a second semester senior is no different than any other semester of high school.

finally experience them.

The reality is that things don't always go as planned. The problem with setting the bar so high is that I have become more susceptible to disappointment.

I want to acknowledge that senioritis does exist. But the workload that seniors receive is not necessarily any less than expected. Senioritis manifests itself in students' work ethic.

Even though I wish I weren't in this mindset, I find it hard to keep up with so much demand now that working for grades matters less.

It is hard to motivate myself when I don't even know if these grades will make a difference in my college admissions process.

I began to ask myself about



 @NewTrier_News

 @NewTrierNews

 NewTrierNews.org

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@nth.net

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

Editors-in-Chief.....MacClement Guthrie, Rebecca Lee
News Editors.....Claudia Levens, Jasmine Gonzalez, May Paddor
Opinion Editors.....Arjun Thakkar, Mia Sherin, Michelle Yurovsky
Features Editors.....Eleanor Kaplan, Katie Kim, Jesse McCauley
Sports Editors.....Alyssa Pak, David Heiman, Lexi Shoup
Photo Editor.....Victor Pearlman
Online Editor.....Darcie Kim, Stephanie Kim
Editorial Adviser.....Carlo Trovato
Assistant Editorial Adviser.....Sarah Gompers