

# Staff Editorial

## It’s time to stop ignoring immigration

Immigration is not often talked about here at NT. IGSS had a unit on it, and some Sophomore English classes read “Enrique’s Journey” telling the story of an immigrant’s experience. But beyond sporadic instances, immigration is never the subject of a larger schoolwide conversation.

We had two Seminar Days on race in the past few years, and Day of Silence is an annual event here. Obviously, both of these issues deserve much more time and thoughtful discussion than just one day once a year. But we do discuss race and gender and sexuality some, while immigration seems to be left out.

Our country was founded on the theory that conversation, and therefore disagreement, is not just inevitable, but necessary. In defending the US constitution for ratification, James Madison argues that a multitude of competing voices and ideas-- “factions” as he calls them-- would be an ideal model for the new country.

And while Madison definitely wasn’t referring to a high schools’ discussion of immigration, experience cultivates ideas, so for these moral and social debates to occur, our government must contain people with all different backgrounds. On a smaller, more manageable level, these differences, whether experiential or ideological, need to be acknowledged on a more intimate scale--by us students.

It’s easy to ignore what may not seem to directly affect us, but that’s all the more reason to talk about it. The immigrant experience is often a silent one. People who are affected most by the issue of immigration are incentivized to stay the quietest because they face threats to the lives they’ve built, and their safety. But the immigrant experience exists for people at NT just as it does for people all around the country.

We may feel isolated from certain issues because they appear to be removed from us; we often hear of the Northshore bubble which separates us from the rest of the world. But as we hope we’ve shown through our spread on pages 4 and 5, many students here are first, second, and third generation members of this country.

Maybe our grandmothers immigrated from Russia to escape the pogroms. Maybe we’re first generation from Cambodia. Either way, our ancestors came here from somewhere. We all have a connection to immigration somehow.

But the only way in which we can have meaningful discussions about immigration is by hearing the voices of those who went through the experience.

Relating to people who are similar to us is easy: just have a quick chat about basketball or last night’s episode of “The Bachelor.” When we get comfortable, however, we stop growing. It’s hard at first to talk to people with which you seemingly have little in common. How can someone who grew up in Wilmette be able to relate to someone who immigrated here from Syria?

Discussions with people that we’re not sure how to relate to may start off as slightly awkward, almost forced. But there will be a point at which we pass from all this discomfort. After all, we all take part in the human experience.

## Take “The Hunting Ground” seriously



by Danielle Kurensky

Last week during the long advisory, all seniors began viewing or discussing “The Hunting Ground.”

“The Hunting Ground” is a documentary that discusses and investigates sexual assault on highly regarded college campuses. While there are still two more extended advisories dedicated to “The Hunting Ground,” I want to respond to criticisms I’ve heard so far and explain why we need to take it seriously.

First I want to get one thing out of the way: I am aware that these discussions aren’t pleasant or easy. I would be lying if I said I was excited last Friday, after two snow days, to start my morning off by talking about sexual assault. But the discomfort around the topic doesn’t make it less valuable or necessary to discuss. In fact, I would be concerned if there wasn’t any degree of discomfort during a conversation about sexual assault.

Next year, seniors will all embark on a new journey, and the majority of us will be going to college, where there is an elevated rate of sexual assault. According to

RAINN, The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, 23.1% of females and 5.4% of males will experience sexual assault during their undergraduate years. Statistically speaking, one in every five women and one in every 20 men will be sexually assaulted during college.

While sexual assault can affect all people regardless of age, gender or ethnicity, it is more likely to occur during these four years than at any other period in one’s life. Discussing and breaking apart the current atmosphere on college campuses is the only way we can expect genuine change.

One major complaint I have heard from both guys and girls is that the documentary is depressing. For girls, I understand how difficult it might be to view. Hearing the statistics can make the future appear bleak and out of our control. But it’s important to have an accurate understanding of the situation we are about to enter.

While I haven’t seen the documentary yet, if it is as somber as people are claiming, that is exactly the reason guys need to view it. Throughout high school, I’ve realized that the majority of guys are unaware of the female experience, and I’ve been suprised that many guys don’t understand how scary the female experience can be.

There are things girls do instinctively to protect themselves, things that often never cross guys’ minds.

This is best summed up by

a social experiment done by Dr. Jackson Katz. Katz, founder of Mentors in Violence Protection, one of the first gender violence organizations, conducted a social experiment where he divided men and women into two separate sides of the room. He asked the men what they do on a regular basis to keep themselves safe. After some awkward mumbling and a joke about staying out of prison, one guy finally admitted that he doesn’t regularly think about ways to stay safe.

Katz then asked women what they do regularly to stay safe. Immediately, women began sharing their daily habits. While the answers varied from carrying their keys in their hands while walking to having a male voice on their answering machine, one thing was clear: women do something every single day to keep themselves safe.

That is why watching “The Hunting Ground” and participating in the discussions around it are important.

For guys to learn about the female experience, for everyone to learn that victim blaming is a part of rape culture, and for everyone to be able to identify signs of sexual assault-- that’s why we need to watch this.

So please, although it will be difficult, take this seriously and try to learn; this is the main way we can all try to reduce and eliminate college sexual assault.

## Are school dances worth all the hype?

by Stephanie Kim

Ah, ’tis the season to be spending exorbitant amounts of money on a glorified, two-hour, school-sanctioned gathering. Other wise known as Trevapalooza.

I’m just joking, kind of. I actually have nothing against Trevapalooza or school dances themselves, but I do keep asking myself if I should’ve taken a leap of faith and gone to a dance or two sometime during my years here.

Alas, I have yet to experience the craze of Homecoming, Trevapalooza, or Prom. Thus far, I haven’t experienced much of a desire to attend school dances, partially due to laziness with buying a dress or a costume or not wanting to contribute to transportation funds, and partly, because of how it seems so unsatisfactory according to friends and general schoolwide chatter.

Every year I hear so much about how the ticket prices are ridiculously inflated, or how a friend group is suffering from so much drama over choosing the afterparty location or over who to include in their group, or sometimes all of the above.

If the dance is so problematic, yet everyone still chooses to go, does that mean there’s something about the dance that’s worth experiencing? Or is it merely social pressure that encourages students to shell out

money for the dance?

I guess if the quality of the dance was vastly improved, students would want to spend more time there. But then that would probably inflate ticket prices again, sending us back into that vicious cycle of grudgingly attending the dance.

From what I can tell, one of the popular (and sometimes cheaper) alternatives to going to Homecoming or Trevapalooza is to spend the night having dinner with friends or heading down to the city, which has always been pretty fail-proof and fantastic, I’d say.

Or you could just host an afterparty and not go to the dance, an idea I’ve heard floating around from time to time.

Or — and I think this perspective is most accurate — I think people might go to the dances not just for the dance, but the memories gained from the dance. The whirlwind of getting ready, preparing the costume / dress / tux, deciding afterparty foods and drinks, chattering with friends filled with anticipation, traveling together in a cramped and damp party bus— as big an event as school dances happen to be, maybe their value is the sum of the wholesome moments that comprise it.

So circling back to my original predicament (because this article is

full of thought loops): should I have gone to these dances just *because*?

Probably. I’m not missing out on much in terms of Homecoming or Trevapalooza itself, but I did lose the chance to experience all the memories associated with the events. That’s what I lament the most.

On the other hand, staying in on those nights or having dinner with just a handful of close friends made for some pretty phenomenal memories, too. While my friends were belting Today’s Top Hits on their party buses, I was sipping a huge mug of much-needed coffee next to a toasty space heater with a gripping novel or watching “Friends” on Netflix. While afterparties were raging late into the night, I was raging to Kane Brown on my way home from a small dinner with companions.

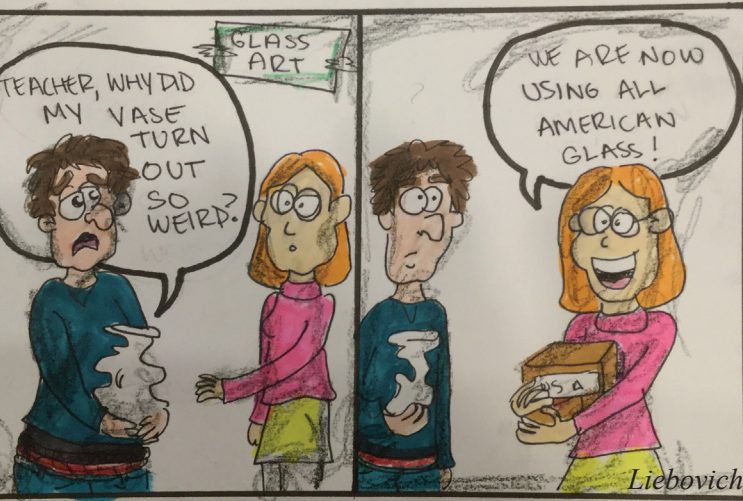
I guess in the end, it doesn’t really matter whether you go to the dance or if you don’t. If you go, you’ll have a great night regardless of how much cash is missing from your pocket the next day. If you don’t, I can attest to having had many satisfying Saturday nights without stepping foot outside my house.

Just make those memories, man. Make something that’s worth remembering.

@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.snet.net](mailto:ntnews@nth.snet.net)

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

Editors-in-Chief.....	Eleanor Kaplan, Claudia Levens
Chief Online Editor.....	Stephanie Kim
News Editors.....	Molly George, Layla Saqibuddin
Opinion Editors.....	Danielle Kurensky, Ezra Wallach
Features Editors.....	Darcie Kim, Alyssa Pak
Sports Editors.....	Jack Soble, Millie Winter
Photo Editor.....	Danielle Towers
Graphic Design Artist.....	Alessia Liebovich
Editorial Adviser.....	Carlo Trovato
Assistant Editorial Adviser.....	Sarah Gompers