

AP test pressure ignored



by Max Minogue

At this point in the year, the senior slump is making it's dreaded revenge on seniors through the upcoming two weeks of AP testing, beginning on May 1.

Like many things in life, actually taking the tests isn't that bad; it's kind of nice to trade the test for a shortened school day. Instead, it's the amount preparation that goes into the tests that makes the process really miserable.

New Trier, does do an incredible job preparing students for AP tests simply by providing such a fantastic education, for which I'm very grateful.

I'm also very grateful that, unlike some other schools, AP classes are more than simply AP test prep, and they teach more than simply how to do well on an isolated standardized test.

While other schools might cram a practice AP down everyone's throats test once a week, New Trier tends to shy away from methods like that. That's how learning should be.

On the other hand, AP tests are finals that are incredibly hard to study for, since in the end, they're all just standardized tests, but there's still an immense pressure to study

for them. Why are they so important, then?

Doing well, or well enough based on each college's system, potentially get's one out of a class in college, or gives credits for the equivalent course.

Doing well on the tests, therefore, translates to thousands of saved dollars, with college being so expensive.

That cost-benefit relationship is the only reason that anybody would pay \$93 to take the test in the first place, since getting out of a class can let one enter their major quicker, make it easier to minor or double major in college, or sometimes even graduate a semester early.

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These practical reasons are also why it's a little frustrating for the days of testing to coincide with unrelated projects and assignments in other classes, sometimes even AP classes.

This leaves students in the position of either studying a little more for their test or finishing a bulky assignment; or worse, having to choose between getting a good night's sleep taking a major L on an assignment, or choosing to stay up the night before and risk thousands

of dollars in saved college fees.

This year, I have a project due the first day of AP testing and tests in several classes the week before, all in AP classes. There's also the normal amount of work piled on that's completely unrelated to the additional workload given to prep for the tests. This all coincides with the end of senior year, which I'd prefer to spend making the most of the little time I have left in this community.

This might all come across as whiny, and that's totally fair. Having too much education thrown at me is a good problem to have. At the same time, right now it seems like AP test days are being ignored by teachers, or thought of as something extra piled on to briefly think about.

Assignments are continuing as usual, or in some cases being piled on more than ever, as it goes near the end of the year. It's all been eating away at the time and energy and most importantly, sleep that I'd rather be using to prepare for the upcoming weeks of testing.

To me and my family, good scores provide one of the few ways to legitimately lower the costs of a college education, or make the most of my next four years by getting out of Gen Ed classes and delving into my major.

The important opportunities that AP tests provide should, at this point in the year, be prioritized over whatever other assignments and pressures seniors and juniors have. Can't we have a break for these two weeks in May?

Lollapalozers go for festival culture rather than music



by Bella Geroulis

When most Trevians think of their summer, I'm sure for a lot of them Lollapalooza is the first thing that comes to mind.

Taking the Metra train down, seeing all of your classmates at Perry's for the first time all summer, and hanging out in "summertime Chi" are just irresistible to us suburban kiddos.

With the passing of the first weekend of Coachella just last week, I got to thinking about music festivals and the culture that surrounds them.

What truly draws people to festivals, and how has the culture changed over the years?

Are festivals about the music, or do festival-goers have that "pics or it didn't happen" mentality when they go?

When Lollapalooza tickets went on sale this year, everyone and their mothers (literally) camped out on the website to ensure a ticket to arguably the best weekend of the summer for many people.

I, however, didn't feel the need to wait to purchase a 4-day ticket. Why? Well, why would I buy a \$400 ticket to a festival when I didn't even know the lineup yet?

Many people were surprised at this lack of enthusiasm for the festival, with one of my friends even going so far as to say that I was "part

of the 1% of students who go for the music."

Now I don't think it's as small of a minority as 1% of students, though I do think that less people go to Lollapalooza for the music than they go for the chance to be parent-free in the city for four days with their friends.

Lollapalooza is a blast. It probably is one of my favorite weekends of summer, and I've made some of my favorite memories of high school there.

But I'm not going this year. I'll be out of town, and despite my mother's offer to let my brother and I come home early to go, the appeal of the festival isn't as strong this year.

The music lineup just isn't doing it for me. The people who I've told this to for the most part seem to understand, but it's the people who are surprised at my absence that have inspired me to write this piece.

Well, why would I buy a \$400 ticket to a festival when I didn't even know the lineup yet?

Why would I leave my vacation with my family to spend hundreds of dollars to see music that to me isn't the best? To me, it's not worth it just so I can see people from my school that if I really wanted to see, I would have hung out with already.

If I'm not going with my closest friends to go see music that I love before we all head off to college a few weeks later, it's not really my scene to be around people who I don't know too well and who don't know me too well either. We all

know how superficial Perry's can be, with everyone asking to take pictures and then never speaking to each other again.

This probably all sounds so elitist. Here I am talking about my lack of interest in attending a globally acclaimed music festival that I know so many people would kill to go to.

I know I'm privileged to have the opportunity to go, and I know I'm even more privileged to be able to say no.

I guess why I'm writing this is because two or three years ago, I would have felt like I had to go to Lollapalooza.

I would have felt a severe sense of FOMO if I had missed it. And I know this isn't going to change anyone's mind about going, because let's get real Lollapalooza is an absolute dream.

However, if you're like me and don't see any point in going other than to have a good time, know that you don't have to. The world will keep spinning if you don't go, you'll be \$400 richer, and you can have equally as fun of a time doing whatever you want to do.

There's definitely a social aspect to music festivals, and in part that's what makes them so fun. At New Trier, there's a huge social pressure to go to Lollapalooza. It's like if you don't go, you're missing some huge party or New Trier event.

You see all the stories, all the Instagram pictures, and you feel like you missed out. You didn't. Yeah those people are having fun, but as long as you're with people you love doing things you love, you'll have fun too. I promise.

Staff Editorial

Under the Stars dance a step towards equality

Recently, the Committed to Action club hosted it's second ever Under the Stars dance. This dance's aim was to be a safe dance for LGBTQ+ individuals.

The dance was held at the bottom of the glass staircase in the new wing and was not just for NT students, but also for schools across the area.

School dances can often be daunting for people who identify as LGBTQ+, as most people who go to these dances go with someone of the opposite sex as a couple or with a traditional group.

This dance offered the opportunity for everyone in our community to feel at home no matter their sexual orientation. And built a community between the LGBTQ+ community at New Trier and other schools facing some of the same struggles within the mainstream high school culture.

New Trier has done a lot recently to make all feel welcome to school sponsored dances and events. International Club decided to change the name of 'Turnabout' to 'Trevapalooza' last year in efforts to make the dance more appealing. The change to 'Trevapalooza' was to diminish the sense of obligation for a girl to ask guy in hopes of it being more open to anyone asking anyone.

Another change to be more accepting of the LGTBQ+ community was to loosen the graduation dress requirements. The school now let girls have some choice of what to wear, including jumpsuits and tuxes, instead of a making all girls wear similar white long dresses.

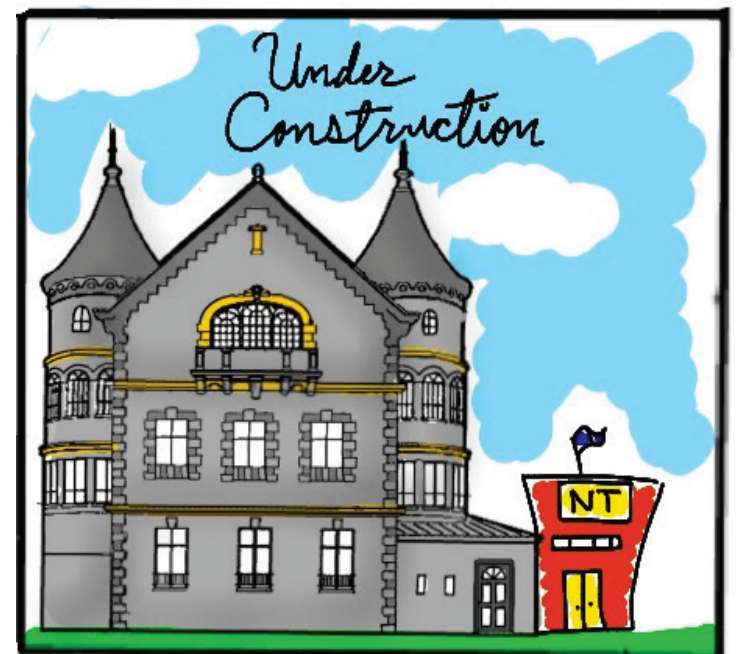
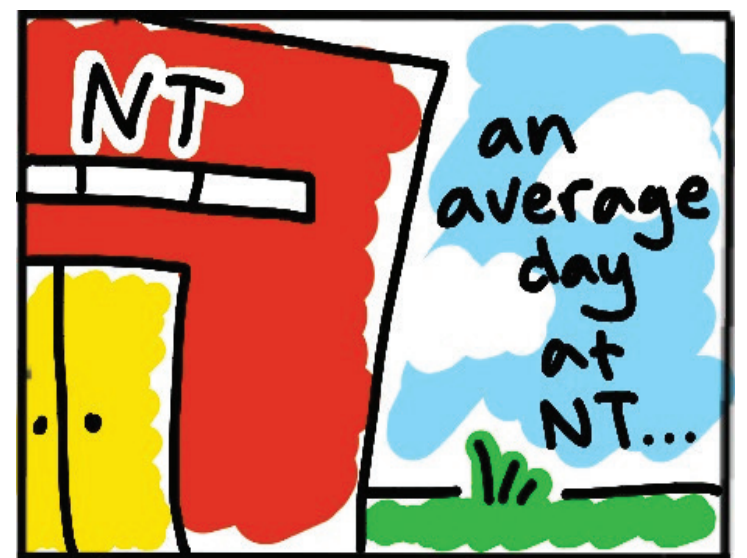
Unlike neighboring counties, the NT administration has been accepting of the transgender community. They have let them be in the advisory they identify with and use the same locker room. And new unisex bathrooms were installed inside the new wing as well.

However, the fact that despite these efforts, we needed to hold a separate dance where members of the community feel comfortable is disappointing.

There needs to be a major culture shift here so that everyone, no matter their sexual orientation or gender, can feel comfortable going to social gatherings meant for fun and to meet new people. They need to feel included as they should be. Everyone, no matter sexual orientation, race, or gender, are an integral part of this school and we need to be accepting of that fact. This is 2017, and we need to treat people as equals.

The 'Under the Stars' dance is a large leap in gaining that equality. We congratulate and applaud Committed to Action club for taking the initiative. Not only did it offer a safe, fun environment for the LGBTQ+ and for the New Trier community in general, but it created conversation about some of the flaws of the NT dance culture.

We should continue to expand the 'Under the Stars' dance for years to come so that it continues to create awareness and provide a safe space. In the future we hope we will not be counting how many people showed up by the tens, but by the hundreds and the thousands.



by Sam Blanc