

The Bieber Complex



by Sam Blanc

Let the record reflect that I do not intend to pressure anyone into buying any of Justin Bieber's music, nor do I want you to become a die-hard fan.

I myself own only one Justin Bieber song, the result of a middle school faux pas wherein I attempted to impress my peers with a music taste I did not have.

His modern music, in my opinion, isn't necessarily bad. I see the merit of simple, danceable songs, making up for lyrical inadequacies with upbeat rhythms perfect for a stuck-in-traffic jam session with the squad.

At the same time, have any opinion you want of it. Rock out, cover your ears, whatever makes you happy.

So while Bieber Fever remains in full swing among some, the opposite feeling seems to have become even more prevalent. The unreserved hatred of Justin Bieber as well as other celebrities has become out of control.

As a proud member of the New Trier News *opinions* page, I am all for speaking your mind and getting your point of view out there.

"Justin Bieber's songs are too heavily affected for my taste" or "I just don't see the depth in his lyrics that I generally seek in my music" or

"I don't like his new haircut" Those are all completely valid opinions to have. There is one opinion of "The Biebs," however, that makes me angry for no

particularly good reason and that is the proclamation that "I hate Justin Bieber."

I've heard this just about everywhere from almost every demographic. I know six year olds who say it solely because they know it's not 'cool' to like him.

Teenage boys may say it to feel even slightly more secure in their masculinity. Teenage girls say it out of fear that anything less than detestation makes them 'basic.'

But where I drew the line was at my aunt Sue's sixty-something boyfriend proclaiming that Bieber deserves to be killed.

That's an adult man sentencing a 20-something to death, and for what? Peeing in a bucket and making music he didn't like?

Of course I can only speak for myself, but I just don't know Justin Bieber well enough to hate him as a person, and you--probably a high-school student from Winnetka, Illinois--more than likely don't know him any better.

Everyone should have the freedom to feel comfortable expressing their love for any song or artist or passion.

He's done stupid stuff for sure. Peeing in buckets, mouthing off to fans, even more serious offences like DUI, but it's important to remember that he's just a stupid 22-year old kid. Lots of guys his age do stupid stuff, and I doubt too many others' have to deal with not only punishment by the law, but petitions to deport him back to Canada.

Honestly, I feel kind of bad for him. While I'm sure he's had some very interesting conversations with fans, most of what I've seen

of interactions from YouTube and TV segments is just screaming and crying.

It's not their fault either; he's something of an idol to them, but I think, even if it is with good intentions, being met with constant screaming and crying would become pretty tedious pretty quickly.

Maybe even after all this, you're still brimming with hatred.

Maybe you tell all your friends you wish he would die. Maybe you take to twitter and instagram @-ing him with apoplectic fury.

But just remember, Bieber is probably soaking up the sun in some tropical location, or playing to huge arenas of adoring fans, all with his net worth of \$200 million dollars. i.e. 140 characters from a north shore teen probably has little effect on his confidence.

You know who it might affect, though? Your fellow students.

When someone feels passionate about something--whether that be the presidential election, pineapple on pizza, or Justin Bieber--it's hard to hear that thing bad mouthed, especially when the criticism is a blanket statement with no explanation.

Nothing hampers a good debate like the exclamation that one person is not only wrong, but stupid for believing their own subjective side of the argument.

And no one should think less of themselves over something as petty as a Justin Bieber argument.

So whatever your opinion, don't hate. Trust me, Justin Bieber does not care. The only people you're hurting are your peers, shaming them for something they like. And everyone should have the freedom to feel comfortable expressing their love for any song or artist or passion.

Staff Editorial

Charitable traditions, a defining factor of New Trier

New Trier is very much an institution of tradition. It has a rich history of excellence since its founding in 1901. To this day we still hold onto many traditions. For example, we still call field trips "excursions," gym class "KW," and spell adviser with an "e."

Tradition has an important role in high schools and other institutions as it leaves an important foundation for generations to hold onto.

As a part of the many New Trier traditions recurring every year, the senior class comes together to put on the annual Winter Carnival. It's a night filled with games and blow-up obstacle courses that raise money for Habitat for Humanity.

New Trier has been supporting Habitat for 17 years. Each year the senior class sponsors a home in the Chicagoland area and in the Philippines. Each year the class, raises money, plans fundraising events and, helps build the house with their own hands in the spring.

Habitat for Humanity is a vital organization and raising money and lending human bodies to help build a house for someone represents the very values we stand for. The event not only helps an important organization, but it leaves a footprint at New Trier and gives back to the community.

The Winter Carnival is the pinnacle of New Trier Habitat fundraising and the highlight of many middle school and elementary school children's year. The Carnival has been an annual event for 23 years. This day encourages seniors to interact with younger kids and also learn valuable lessons of working with others, planning and initiating a booth, and raising money for a good cause.

Winter Carnival is where the outgoing students of New Trier repay the community for everything they have done to make their high school experience a success. It is not just for the parents and teachers of New Trier, but for the kids that are the future of New Trier.

A culture of respect, community, and service outlined in our very school motto. This tradition doesn't just serve as a fun day for seniors and kids alike, it is a sort of farewell to the community and a thank you. It is a time for students, parents, teachers, kids, and other community members to have fun and laugh.

Traditions like the Winter Carnival are something vital to the culture of New Trier. Even if we do have a dictionary full of weird high school terminology, these are traditions that are unique to our school and are what make New Trier, New Trier.

The Winter Carnival wasn't a burden to anyone's Friday night plans, it was their Friday night plans.

A call for education equality

by May Paddor

Walking through Kelvyn Park High School, I realized how different our high school experience at New Trier is to students of a CPS school. Education is something we take for granted, but getting an education equal to New Trier's standards at Kelvyn Park is hard.

Through a project called The Metropolitan Community Project (MCP), I have been able to meet students and faculty at Kelvyn Park High School and discuss the unequal opportunities offered between our schools.

Kelvyn Park High School is a CPS school for grades 7-12 in the Hermosa neighborhood of Chicago, near Logan Square.

Their class sizes have been dropping recently because of the amount of kids who have been going to charter schools instead.

This has significantly decreased their funding because there aren't enough students to support the school.

I never thought about a lot of the things that are offered at our school, which aren't at other schools.

Yes, I'm aware that a lot of other schools don't offer sushi, or a coffee bar, or the latest technology.

But at Kelvyn Park, they didn't even have a full-time nurse due to budget cuts. If a student gets hurt, the teacher is the one who is responsible and has to care for them.

According to New Trier Metropolitan Community Project faculty sponsor, Spiro Bolos, there is less than \$11,500 spent per student in operational spending.

This cost includes teacher's salaries, school supplies, coordinating student activities, and all the operations relating to the school district.

That is compared to the \$23,571 spent per student at New Trier, according to our state's "official source for information about public schools," the Illinois Report Card.

Students are less likely to succeed because their school cannot supply them with the resources they need. They don't have the college counselors or tutors to help students.

Whether you go to the Math Resource Room or Reading and Writing Center, it's still there if you need it.

The students that I met through the Metropolitan Community Project want a better education. They want the opportunity and resources to challenge themselves. And why shouldn't they get it?

Education isn't a guarantee for success or a bright future, but with hard work and dedication it can be.

Distribution of education by wealth is unfair. It's like assuming that everyone who can't "afford" this education doesn't want it or wouldn't take advantage of it.

It feeds into this cycle of wealth that is hard for kids to break out of.

Not everyone will work hard

and be motivated, but it's not fair to take that chance away from people who are willing to put forth the effort of the chance to grow.

It's like assuming everyone is guilty until proven innocent.

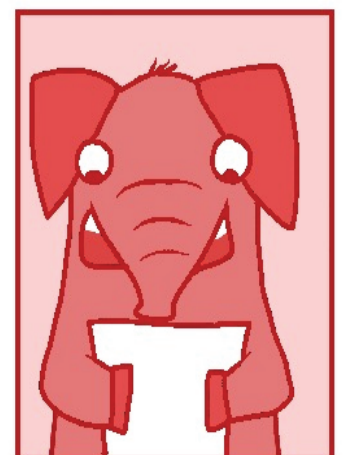
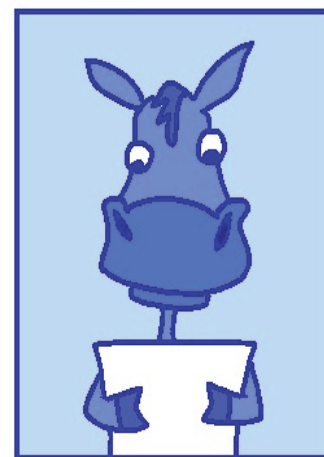
The Metropolitan Community Project advocates for more equitable funding plans among public schools by taking students from the schools and coming together at each school to witness the changes in environment.

Assuming that everyone who can't "afford" this education wouldn't take advantage of it [is unfair].

After meeting at each school, the students and representatives meet with state legislatures to talk about making more equitable funding plans.

The MCP is a project run by teachers from Kelvyn Park, New Trier, formerly Richard T. Crane Medical Prep High School, Logan Square community organizer Juliet de Jesus Alejandre, and sociology professor Dr. Cynthia Taines at Northwestern.

The availability of an equal education should be an opportunity that every child is presented because education gives people opportunities.



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