

It's a celebration, not an excuse

by Abby Burton

If you're a high schooler and live anywhere near the city, going to events like the dying of the Chicago River for St. Patrick's Day, Lollapalooza, and even the Pride Parade is almost required if you want to live the true "Chicago experience."

Well, maybe not, but these are the type of events that result in days of Facebook photos and Instagram posts, and this is true for students at New Trier as well.

Luckily, our community is so conveniently located that we have access to all of these exciting events.

My issue, though, is that too many get caught up in the hype of these celebrations. They either don't understand the meaning of the event or are just attending for the wrong reasons.

It's not solely the teenagers who are out of control, but even adults just don't know how to handle themselves appropriately.

These people make for good stories, I guess.

This past Saturday, I attended the St. Patrick's Day Parade for the first time. I was excited not only because I'm 50% Irish, but also because I thought this was an event that I had to attend before I leave for college.

Before I left, my mom told me about the wild characters that I should expect to see downtown, but I wasn't

prepared for some of the things that I saw.

From afar, I saw a young man with blood running down the side of his head. I'm not sure how this happened, but I was concerned.

I also read on the Chicago St. Patrick's Day police blotter that there were people passed out in many different public places like restrooms and even on street corners.

Before I left, my mom told me about the wild characters that I should expect to see downtown, but I wasn't prepared for some of the things that I saw.

For people of age, drinking on St. Patrick's Day seems inevitable; I just didn't realize the extent to which people do it.

The holiday of St. Patrick's Day honors the traditional death of Saint Patrick who is the patron saint of Ireland.

Obviously, I knew that this holiday was considered one of the rowdier ones, but it's a little discouraging seeing so many people make the trek down to Michigan Avenue just to party.

I know not everyone is Irish, but

going down just to see the green river or floats in the parade is respectable compared to the people who enjoy the drinking more than the holiday.

The same goes for Lollapalooza and the Pride Parade. Both of these events involve content that some people are very passionate about, excited for, and even proud of.

Lollapalooza hosts around one hundred artists and bands. Many people buy the expensive tickets because they get the opportunity to experience some of their favorite performances live. On the other hand, some use it as a nonstop, three day party.

Then there's the Pride Parade which is an important event for anyone who supports the LGBTQ community.

I've never been to this parade myself, but I've heard that the audience there is wild as well.

Some may argue that this is because the parade itself is provocative, but the point of this parade is to send a message of being proud of who you are and that gives no reason to be out of control.

It's just disappointing that some people have other motives when attending these events.

People should celebrate and experience events for the right reasons.

There's no shame in having fun, but why does it have to involve out of control behavior?

Staff editorial: This is madness

It's that time of year again; that time when everyone is a resident bracketologist; that time when Cinderella's glass slipper always fits; that time when basketball floods the screens of laptops, phones, and televisions across the country.

Of course we're talking about March Madness, or the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball tournament.

With the rampant basketball craze that sweeps the nation each and every March, entire companies seemingly shut down during the three week tournament as employees' eyes are glued to their various screens.

New Trier is no different. If one were to examine the iPads of students across the school over the next few weeks, odds are you will find college basketball on the screen.

However, does the Spring college basketball craze simply perpetuate student distraction during a critical third quarter stretch?

Sports fans across America make March Madness one of the most exciting spectacles in all of sports. It's hard to argue against the thrills the tournament has to offer.

It combines the excitement of sport, the lovability of a great Cinderella story (we're looking at you, Butler and George Mason), and the tradition and passion school pride promotes, into a three week basketball extravaganza that cannot be rivaled.

This year's tournament is particularly interesting as Kentucky and its platoon system look to go 40-0 on the season, the first team to run the table and win a national title since the 1975 Bob Knight led Indiana Hoosiers.

In anticipation of the excitement each March has to offer, Americans flock to websites like ESPN.com and CBSSports.com to fill out their March Madness brackets, often times with money and pride on the line.

The bracket craze is nothing short of fantasy football on steroids. Last year, ESPN.com had 11 million brackets published, a number that doesn't include brackets posted on other websites and, for those who don't want to sign up for websites, good old paper brackets. And let's

not forget billionaire Warren Buffet offered \$1 billion to anyone who could correctly predict a perfect bracket (no one was able to do so last year).

So while March Madness is truly a spectacle, this excitement comes at a cost.

As millions of people continue to eagerly fill out their brackets, companies are projected to lose an estimated \$134 million in wages over the course of the tournament, according to Josh Sanburn of Time Magazine. In addition, Sanburn reports that employees are projected to watch the tournament for an average of one to three hours at work, while two-thirds will spend at least some time following the tournament during work hours.

People's disinterest in productivity is not reserved to just the business world. For those who wander through the New Trier cafeteria or library over the next few weeks, odds are you will find countless students watching the NCAA tournament unfold on their iPads and phones.

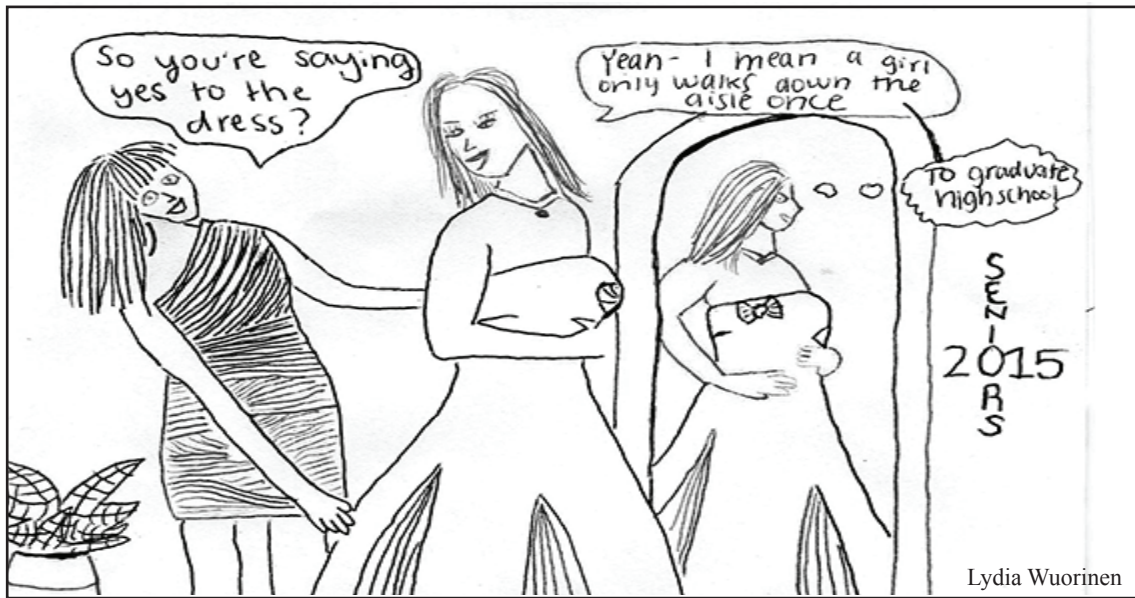
Likewise, students constantly watch games during classes, providing a fantastic distractor for classmates. The same students are entering the final stretch of third quarter, when classes have grade-determining tests, quizzes, and papers due.

For those watching games during class, recognize you are not only breaking New Trier's acceptable use policy, but also distracting classmates who, despite what you may think, are trying to learn.

School is designed as a place to learn, yet, during these weeks every spring, students sometimes lose sight of that.

Now none of this is to say students should not enjoy all that March Madness has to offer. The tournament is one of the most exciting events in sports, and students should be able to take that in.

The obsession with March Madness is, understandably, real. Yet the downside to this craze should be acknowledged. If you are going to watch the madness unfold this week, just wait until after class.



Lydia Wuorinen

Take the Golden Rule seriously

by Leah Pearlman

Imagine you're a waiter at a busy restaurant and an obnoxious guy walks in demanding he be served right away. The man barks orders at you; he scoffs when you reply that the kitchen is out of guacamole, and argues that you didn't tell him certain toppings were extra. He is a total jerk.

As the person in a position of power, what would you do? Continue to serve him with a smile? Or delay his order and pass by his table when refilling water glasses?

So imagine that you are in the opposite position. A while ago I was planning a scavenger hunt where I had to ask multiple businesses to help by holding clues for me, and for nothing in return.

I started out this adventure with a negative attitude; I was told my idea would get shot down. While walking through the mall to my first destination, I was just hoping the person wouldn't say "no."

My doubts made me very pessimistic about my plan and when I asked the man, I almost commanded him to help me with what I needed. I thought that since he'd say "no," I

should be demanding.

Not at all to my surprise, he did say "no."

Because I was aggressive and rude to the person, I didn't end up getting what I wanted. I made the decision to act this way towards him because I was scared of getting rejected.

And in the end, I still received a "no."

Asking someone you don't know for something is a please-do-this-for-me-out-of-the-kindness-of-your-heart ask. And I put emphasis on please because after all, people do not have to help you. No one is required to be helpful.

I see people everywhere getting mad at others for no reason, thinking that the easiest way to get what they want is to yell and act mean to others.

When you venture on this route, not only are you stuck feeling angry and upset, but you also don't have what you wanted in the first place.

I continued my trip that day asking store employees to keep my clues for my scavenger hunt. However, after my first experience, I asked politely.

My answers from then on were all 'yes.'

When I asked nicely the people were willing to help me.

So when it comes down to it, I cannot tell you how much farther you will get in life if you are nice to people when asking for help.

The lesson I learned that day is if I'm polite when asking for help this world will be a friendlier, nicer place.

And as cheesy as that sounds, it holds so much truth. It is so easy to make the decision to be nice to people when asking for help.

The other day I was taking the purple line to downtown. I was dealing with a broken ticket machine when I started to get very frustrated. I was already late, my friend kept calling me, and I was wearing inappropriate clothing for the weather (don't tell my mom, she told me to bring a coat.) On the verge of a Leah outburst, I remembered my ~*FaNcY*~ life hack. I asked the man working, who by the way seemed very angry, to please help me with my situation. What do ya know? He smiled and opened the gate for me to walk through to the train.

"Really?" I smiled, "Thank you SO much."

"No problem. Have a good day," he answered waving.

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