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Students reflect on Holocaust Remembrance Day

Lack of discussion of the Holocaust alarms students

by Alex Rubinstein

International Holocaust Remembrance Day was on Jan. 27, but it was not discussed at school.

Students took to Instagram to express their disappointment. Many wanted the administration to at least acknowledge that the day was happening, and that many students are directly related to survivors and victims.

Junior Eva Goren said, “No one mentioning Holocaust Memorial day really threw me off. The holocaust is still relevant in people’s lives.”

Some language classes have done a unit on the Holocaust, but there was no school-wide announcement.

“I’m doing a unit in French class right now on the Holocaust, and we are getting a lot done in terms of talking about it. It’s unfortunate that we aren’t recognizing one of the biggest events of tragedy in the world especially because we recognize and celebrate so many other events,” said Junior Ali Carolus.

Senior Emma Friedman agreed that a simple PA announcement would have sufficed .

“Nobody wants to sit in a classroom for 40 minutes and receive a lesson on it, and I don’t think that’s what students were asking for. I think the issue here is acknowledgement. I think the Jewish people as a whole fear that the world will forget what they did to us.”

Junior Max Russo said that it would be healthy to talk about the



Photos of Holocaust victims frame the ceiling of the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. It is a memorial to each and every Jew who perished in the Holocaust | **White House photo by Chris Greenberg**

Holocaust because of the amount of students that it would apply to.

He said “It was a little disappointing that the administration didn’t discuss it, but I’m sure they will bounce back and do something in the future.”

While the school has such a large Jewish population, many students feel a need to suppress that aspect of their identities.

“I guess I don’t walk into NT holding my Jewish identity that close to my heart, because nobody really talks about it; I don’t associate NT as a “Jewish place” so I switch my gears into a rather agnostic mindset,” said Friedman.

On a national level, the indifference to the day made many feel that the suffering that their reatives endured was invalidated.

“Many kids in the Jewish

community (including me) have grown up hearing stories from survivors, specifically relatives. By not talking about it I felt but that part of history is starting to become erased and the administration thinks it’s no longer relevant to high schoolers,” said Goren.

“I know that they took my family in the middle of the night and killed them. I’ve seen the pictures from Auschwitz, and I know that my grandfather had a number tattooed on his arm. That stuff is burned in my mind. I know that I won’t forget—but many people, I’d say the average person, doesn’t think twice about it,” said Friedman.

According to the U.S. Department of State, “Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards them. Specifically, rhetorical and

physical manifestations of Anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

Six million Jews including 1.5 million children were murdered during the Holocaust, and not talking about it allows history to repeat itself.

Anti-Semitism is currently on the rise accross the U.S. The Anti-Defamation League’s most recent Audit of Anti-Semitic incidents in the United States recorded 1,879 acts in 2018, and cited a dramatic increase in physical assaults, including the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history.

According to the league’s website, “A wave of Anti-Semitic robocalls targeted Jewish schools, JCCs and synagogues, and a

significant number of incidents occurred at K-12 schools and on college campuses.”

There have also been blatant displays of Anti-Semitism at New Trier. In 2018, Swastikaa were etched onto a toilet paper roll in an NT bathroom. Incidents such as these are why it is especially important that we school talk about the harm that spreading hate causes.

Only 11 states, including Illinois, require the Holocaust to be taught. This is problematic considering the number of shootings and instances of Anti-Semitism that have occurred in the U.S.

“With more and more survivors dying every day because of old age, the first hand accounts of the horrors of the Holocaust are becoming less accessible. You have to teach The Holocaust because as soon as we start forgetting, history will repeat itself. The liberation of Auschwitz marked the end of a terrible genocide but not the end of the suffering that would follow,” said Goren.

The only way to combat ignorance and prevent further genocide is to talk about the mistakes that were made in the past.

Friedman said, “The reason why it is important to talk about this disgusting tragedy is the same reason why it’s important to talk about slavery. Or the Japanese internment camps. Or any other horrific event where hatred and ignorance had reigned supreme. If we stop reminding people what those before us have done, then the ones after us will make the same tragic mistake. All of that pain, suffering, and trauma will have been in vain.”

How does New Trier handle disciplining hate?

Rather than zero tolerance, NT takes a growth model approach

by Hope Talbot

It’s been three months since administration released the N-word presentation to both students and staff. While the four-day advisory seminar reflected on the N-word’s violent history as well as administrations’ stance against the slur, specific consequences for its use were not discussed.

This absence of a printed disciplinary policy regarding this slur is not unique to the N-word presentation. As of the 2019-2020 version of the Student Guidebook, the only line referencing disciplinary measures for hate speech is under the language section of expectations for student behavior, “Students who fail to exercise care over their choice of language or who degrade the dignity of others through their use of language will be disciplined.”

Assistant Principal Scott Williams explained that the school does not have defined steps in dealing with slur offenders, as administration aims to follow a growth model of discipline when dealing with any

kind of student infraction.

“We have a graduated approach to detention. It’s a somewhat flexible approach and punishment really depends on the severity of the offense,” said Williams.

Williams stressed that while administration takes any form of discipline is not predetermined for a student who uses the slur until further evaluation by administrators.

I think there should be more clear-cut consequences for any kind of hate speech. The less objective the discipline the better

“There is not a set consequence. After an incident like this has happened, we look at the totality of what was said or written. Through that investigation, we try and determine what would be an appropriate consequence or follow-up,” stated Williams.

For some students, however, the school’s application of the growth model when disciplining slurs has left them feeling frustrated.

“As a student who identifies as gay, I think that the way the school disciplines any kind of slur is really

important,” said Junior Annie Thorton. “I’m aware of a student who said a racial slur and only received one day of in-school detention. I think the punishment for vaping is seven in-school detentions.”

According to Williams, seven- in school detentions is not the disciplinary measure applied to vaping, but Thorton’s statement highlights an important concern shared among some students.

Thorton said she believes consequences for using any kind of slur should be greater than for something like vaping, as you not only affect yourself but the community at large with this language.

Senior Raghav Gupta also expressed worries about the subjective nature of the school’s tailor-made discipline process.

“I think there should be more clear-cut consequences for any kind of hate speech. The less subjective the discipline is, the better,” said Gupta.

Williams responded to these student concerns by stating that much of the disciplinary process with students who use used a slur goes unseen by students.

“Although there might be some perception that the consequence in situations like these were not given or not hard enough, I’d like for there to be some trust that there is way more



Beofre and after school detention is held in room 240, pictured above | **Towers**

going on besides just that one-time consequence. There’s more work occurring through conversations, resources, and reflection components in this process,” said Williams.

While Williams said he feels traditional consequences like detention are important when dealing with this issue, he would feel uncomfortable having a set of predetermined consequences for an offender without context.

“I think it’s difficult to say if you use this phrase it equals that. With anybody’s use of language that could

be hurtful, there is more to the story than just the use of that language,” explained Williams.

“We want to consider why this student did that. Was it in response to something that was said to them? Was it just their own viewpoint or opinion, or was it even a reactionary response,” said Williams.

While the consequences may be in dispute by students, both sides agree on one thing, as Raghav Gupta summed it up, “People need to know it’s not okay.”

Large class sizes prove a concern for many

Complex schedule plans create larger than usual class sizes

by Leah Schmidt

Registration is just around the corner, and with that comes a long list of decisions not only for students but also the administration. The most important being class size.

After students register in February, the Assistant Superintendent, Assistant Principal, and Freshman Coordinators meet with each department chair and decide how many sections each course will get and how big the classes will be.

“It’s probably one of the most complicated things I have ever been involved in,” Assistant Principal Michael Lee said.

In the case of an awkward enrollment number, such as when a course is too big for one section but too small for two, waitlists are created. This mainly happens for summer school or early bird classes, but waitlists sometimes have to be made for classes during the day.

“For instance, this year in AP Physics 1 the enrollment was really

tight, so we had to make a judgment call; do we want two really tight sections or three sections where they’re all small classes, and we chose to run two really full classes,” explained Science Department Chair Jason English. “We want to give every student the classes they want to take, but sometimes it just can’t happen.”

Junior Zarine Gidwaney experienced this first hand as one of the people put on the AP Physics 1 waitlist. She applied for a level change slightly late, near the end of February, but after finishing the paperwork she was told there were no spots left.

“I was kind of sad, because I really wanted to get in. I would check in every month, and then even going into summer I was still on the waitlist,” Gidwaney said. “They told me maybe a week or two into school someone will drop out and I can get a seat. So the entire summer it was in the back of my mind and I was anxious.”

A student dropped the class before school started, and Gidwaney was able to take their seat.

“I remember going on Canvas at 11 p.m. and seeing a new ‘Barrett - AP Physics’, and I was so happy that I got in,” she said.

Students are not the only ones



Sussman

affected by these administrative decisions. With the school working to get every student in the classes they want, the burden to manage difficult class sizes often falls on teachers.

Within a single language class there might be students at multiple levels because there are not enough four-level students to create their own class.

“It complicates things to teach that class, because as a teacher I’ve got to figure out a way to either differentiate my teaching between levels or use some of those more experienced students to help the other kids out,” Lee said.

Other problems such as being unable to write letters of recommendation, or having enough time for every, student persist. Some teachers are worried.

“It’s feeling like we’re getting to the point where the class sizes are having a negative effect on teaching here. We’re not at the breaking point, of course,” Todd Maxman, a Social Studies teacher, said. “Our class sizes seem really good compared to Chicago Public Schools, but taking advantage of the talent of the teachers here can push people over the top and then they’re not doing their best.”

Maxman’s worries aren’t

unfounded. While New Trier’s average class size has hovered around 22 for the last four years, the majority of classes are above this, with a few classes in single digits.

According to the 2019 Class Size report, there are 320 classes with over 24 students, not including KW, 16 of which have 30 students. On the flip side, there are 35 classes with 15 or fewer students, the lowest class size being an English 2E class of 7.

“You can look at an average and say it looks good, but then look deeper and find a 4th period class may have 30 people. My head explodes just thinking about teaching that class,” Maxman said.

These large numbers aren’t going unnoticed by the student population either. When Gidwaney first entered her AP Physics class, “it seemed like the class was completely full already and they just added a seat,” making it a 27 kid class.

“Just coming from a level 3 to an AP is really intimidating. Even though they’re nice kids, it’s still intimidating and sometimes I’m scared to ask questions,” Gidwaney explained. “And then on top of that there’s a lot of them, so I’m even more worried.”

Hall of Honor inducts Second Class

The Hall celebrates distinguished former athletic faculty

by Michael Howie

On Jan. 24, the Athletic Department inducted the second class of former New Trier faculty into the Hall of Honor.

Between the Girls and Boys Basketball games against Evanston, five more distinguished individuals were recognized for their achievements as New Trier coaches, assistant coaches, administrators, or “at-large” faculty.

The inductees this year include the school’s longest standing football coach who coached from 1923-1965 Walter Aschenbach, and football and basketball coach, the first African-American teacher at the Winnetka campus, and a key player in helping the school understand issues of race and diversity.

Also included are 21 year head coach, two-time boys soccer state champion, and Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame Inductee Craig Fairbairn, five-sport coach, pioneer of Title IX, and advocate for girls sports in the 1970s Jane “Miss Mac” McNamara, and legendary swim coach and seven-time state champion Mark Onstott.

New Trier Athletic Director and Hall of Honor Chairman Augie Fontanetta highlighted the different eras and sports that are covered by this year’s inductees.

“We want the Hall of Honor to represent all the different coaches that embody the mission statement and the motto of the athletic department and school,” Fontanetta said. “We’re trying to capture and depict the history of a school and athletic program that is over 100 years old.”

A committee comprised of Fontanetta and several coaches voted on all submitted nominations. Applications can be found on the



Five former NT coaches are honored in the second round of inductees | Nagel

New Trier Athletic Department website and anyone can nominate former faculty. To be eligible for nomination as a coach, the individual must have served at New Trier, either for 10 years as a head coach or 25 years as an assistant.

“There are minimum requirements to be considered as a Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Administrator, or At-Large candidate,” Fontanetta said. “We look at years of service, contributions to their sport, as well as to New Trier Athletics as a whole.”

The wall holding the plaques, located near the Essex Road student entrance, will be added to from left to right with this year’s inductees. The backdrop of the wall represents historic locations on both campuses including the Winnetka Pool, Gates Gymnasium and Robert Naughton Stadium at the Northfield Campus.

“As the years go on, we’ll have less people inducted. Last year we had eight, and it was a big year because we wanted to kick it off.

The next class will be inducted in 2022, and Fontanetta says the inductions will continue biennially with three to four inductions in each class.

Nominations last for five years. Those nominated but not inducted last year were up for induction again this year, and those not inducted this year can still be inducted in 2022.

Fontanetta explained that the Hall of Honor is not the same as the Hall of Fame.

“Hall of Honor is more appropriate because we honor those who really committed their lives and career to New Trier,” he said. “The Hall of Fame is more related to professional sports and college athletics.”

“[The Hall of Honor] is a great way to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of those who have dedicated their careers to help develop student-athletes at NT.”

North Shore Car Theft

Theft of unlocked cars is common throughout the area

by Grace Yoon

Even with public service announcements warning local residents of car burglaries, many can’t seem to learn to lock their cars.

According to Wilmette Police Commander Michael McGarry, North Shore vehicle burglaries doubled in recent years from 55 cases in 2015 to 108 cases in 2018.

“As far as we know most of them are [non local]. They usually come in other stolen vehicles and they’ll come in, and go around not only Winnetka, but in the entire North Shore, Highland Park, all over the place,” said New Trier Officer Gerardo Sarabia.

According to Officer Sarabia, car thieves target the North Shore because residents often leave expensive cars unlocked.

“They will go down the block and check every single door on every single car that is parked in the driveway and actually try to open the doors,” said Sarabia.

Thieves tend to take cars with a door open and the fob in. Officer Sarabia explained that thieves will usually rummage through the glove box and center console, and take whatever is valuable if they cannot get the car started.

“Electronics, they really don’t target that much because you can track them. So mostly it’s just cash and whatever is loose and easy,” he said.

According to the Wilmette Police Department, vehicle burglaries are typically committed at night by a group of people.

“We accidentally left our car unlocked and they just stole change from me. The same night, about 10 other cars in our neighborhood were broken into,” said Glenview resident Gretchen Conlon.

Winnetka resident Jennifer Stricklin realized her car had been

stolen when it disappeared from her driveway one morning. Luckily, the police located the car soon after she reported its theft.

“We always lock our cars, but we’re human, and humans make mistakes. We live in a nice neighborhood but you can never be too cautious,” said Stricklin. “Lock your car and take the keys with you. Seems obvious but it’s a huge problem in Winnetka.”

Some North Shore residents find it frustrating that their neighbors are careless about locking their cars. Glencoe resident Alan Buchman said that those who leave their cars unlocked should be charged for using police time and expenses.

“Given all the police warnings and web postings, I am upset that at this point, both police time and taxpayer money goes into these investigations. It is not fair that I have to pay for someone else’s stupidity,” said Buchman.

Like Buchman, Wilmette resident Dave Lundy believes that locking cars is a simple task.

“We are blessed to live in a relatively safe area but that doesn’t mean it’s Mayberry. The police routinely warn residents and residents routinely ignore police. Residents are not helping themselves or their neighbors when they leave their cars or houses unlocked,” said Lundy.

To prevent vehicle burglaries, police officers walk through parking lots and if they see a vehicle unlocked with a valuable item on the front seat, they leave notes saying, “Please be vigilant and lock your doors and don’t leave anything in plain view,” said Officer Sarabia.

According to the Winnetka Police Department, the number of vehicle burglaries could be significantly reduced if people just locked their cars.

“We do public service announcements saying please lock your doors, but it’s up to them whether they will choose to or not. The bottom line is if you lock your doors, nothing is going to happen,” said Officer Sarabia.

Staff Editorial

Genocide is not a thing of the past

As the staff of the New Trier News, we want to acknowledge the importance and gravity of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, on Monday, January 27th.

This day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly, and marks the anniversary of the Auschwitz-Birkenau liberation.

“On this annual day of commemoration, the UN urges every member state to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism,” said the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

However, as we recognize the atrocity and tragedy of the Holocaust, we must also remember that genocide isn’t something that only happened once, approximately 75 years ago. Genocide is a still very much alive in the 21st century.

The Nuer in South Sudan, Christians and Yazidis in Iraq and Syria, Christians and Muslims in the Central African Republic, Darfuris in Sudan, and the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar are all current or recent victims of violence because of their nationality, ethnicity, race, or religion.

Though not all of these instances have been officially deemed a genocide, violent actions against the aforementioned groups most definitely meet some of the UN’s genocide criteria. And these atrocities should not require the official “genocide” label in order for intervention to be warranted, especially since by the time this retroactive label is applied, too many have already lost their lives.

Cultural genocide--the destruction of the political and social institutions of a targeted group--is also a prevalent phenomenon. China’s mass incarceration of more than a million Uighurs, Kazakhs, and other Muslims is one such example.

But besides prompting a handful of news articles, it seems as though these events have been largely ignored or minimized. The Coronavirus seems to have garnered much more international media attention than China’s re-education camps.

And the few articles that have been written have failed to prompt an impactful response from the global community.

Of course we acknowledge that every episode of mass murder has unique social, economic, military, and political obstacles that can make intervention challenging. But the recurrence of such atrocities, ignored by powerful people, nations, and the general public, calls for a more sinister explanation. People are reluctant to discuss or fully acknowledge such an uncomfortable topic, so they choose the easiest path--to be a bystander.

It’s not that these events are completely ignored. Sanctions are often the go-to method for the U.S. government to deal with these situations. In 2007, President Bush announced tightening of existing economic sanctions on Sudan. In 2019, the Trump administration placed sanctions on some of the government and business organizations enabling and executing China’s incarceration campaign.

But sanctions do not directly address the issue, and they will not halt a genocide. Also, it is hypocritical to pass sanctions when other actions, such as barring refugees from seeking shelter in the U.S., are helping to enable genocide.

On Friday Jan. 31, President Trump added six countries to his Travel Ban: Nigeria, Myanmar, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan and Tanzania. “The expansion of the restrictions, which already affected more than 135 million people in seven countries, is likely to hinder more than 12,300 potential immigrants in the next year from resettling, finding work or reuniting with their families in the United States,” stated a New York Times article.

These restrictions are alarmingly similar to actions taken by the U.S. government during the Holocaust. When European Jews tried to seek asylum in the U.S., the government turned away thousands.

But we have a duty to hold our government accountable and let them know that denying asylum to people fleeing violence is not something that we stand for. Closing our borders leaves refugees without a safe place to go and violates their human rights.

It is naive to believe that genocide is a thing of the past. This attitude perpetuates a lack of accountability and promotes a bystander mentality.

And as an educational institution, New Trier has a duty to teach students about genocide, even though it is an uncomfortable subject. Our school needs to do better in terms of how it addresses and educates students on the topic of genocide, and it can start by acknowledging International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Because one of the most powerful ways to work towards preventing genocide is to hold perpetrators accountable and make sure that past victims are never forgotten.

The politics of school dances



by Emma Mansour

School tends to be very cyclical. We do the same thing every day, five days a week, for at least 12 years. For the most part, it’s mundane, not particularly painful but also not all that fun. But that one aspect of the cycle that actively causes an immense amount of tension and stress are school dances.

If you weren’t aware, three times a year New Trier hosts a dance. There’s Homecoming, Turnabout, and Prom. Theoretically, they should be a lot of fun. Just a bunch of kids dressing up and partying in a sweaty gym. Good vibes.

Spoiler alert: they’re not.

I think we can all agree that the way dances work is kind of wack. The whole finding a group, taking a party bus, and wearing a costume is not how typical high school dances work. Not surprising considering New Trier does most things differently, but I digress.

You have to admit that it’s weird. And more than just being weird, I’ve noticed that dances really seem to bring out the worst in everyone.

The comparison that best captures the intense culture around dances is that of a military strategy. It’s a numbers game, and there are

those who survive, and those who are less fortunate.

The whole process is definitively outside the realm of what a high school dance should be. Students aren’t planning a dance, they’re planning a war.

I think that this is best exemplified in the process of figuring out groups. For some, this is an easy process; you have the perfect number of people without having to combine, having a date or not doesn’t matter, and someone can host. Easy. But let’s be honest, has it ever worked out that perfectly for anyone?

More often than not, there are issues with who can or can’t be in a group. And this is almost always based on numbers, a utilitarian calculation that doesn’t care about who’s in or out.

Most people aren’t trying to be mean or exclusive when deciding who can or can’t be in the group. I mean they might be, but I don’t think that’s what’s usually going on. They’re trying to make it work based on numbers.

Based on ratio of boys to girls. Based on who could host an after party. Based on how many people can fit on a bus without it being too expensive.

But then what if the group splits? Or groups combine? Or a couple switches groups? I’m not great at math, but that seems like a lot of factors to put into an equation.

In essence, people turn into numbers. Soldiers on a battlefield.

Though ridiculous, you can’t exactly blame people for adopting such a calculating mindset

considering how much we over complicate the whole endeavor. It’s hard not to when everyone else is doing the same thing and has been for years. New Trier is nothing if not complicated and obsessed with tradition.

I’ve been making a comparison to war, but there is one significant difference: after the dance is over, everyone survives. But as with so much of what goes on in high school, it never feels like we’re going to make it out alive. We’re all so wrapped up in it that we can’t see the absurdity of it all. That’s just high school.

Everything we do seems significant, as if it’s magnified to the point that everyone cares, as if it’s the most important thing in the world. An obscured version of reality that’s inescapable for our four years. But then it ends, and we don’t care.

Everything we do seems significant, as if it’s magnified to the point that everyone cares, as if it’s the most important thing in the world.

At the end of the day, after the months of worrying, stressing, and probably lots of tears, it’s just a dance. Take pictures, go to the actual dance for a few minutes, and then go to the after party. Survive the war. Then do it all over again.

Making memes about World War III exemplifies the extent of our privilege



by Eva Roytburg

Let’s rewind, say, three weeks in breaking news for the United States.

Before the Iowa caucus, the Superbowl, Kobe Bryant’s death, Coronavirus, the “March for Life”, the Senate impeachment trial, the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, the Ukrainian plane being shot down, getting closer... anti-Semitic attacks in Brooklyn, earthquakes in Puerto Rico, wild bush-fires in Australia, the assassination of Qasem Soleimani, commander of the Iranian Quds forces, killed by a U.S airstrike.

Stop there.

We are in the age of information overload. There are billions of things happening in the world and many of them will be alerted on your phone screen, with headlines created to make every event seem pressing, life-threatening, earth-shattering.

Every notable event has been streamlined through a marketing machine designed to make the reader concerned enough to “click”.

The effect of this phenomenon, in my observation, amounts to widespread desensitization and ignorance.

I notice this with myself; instead of feeling flooded with anxiety every time I hear an alert, I subconsciously reduce the importance of most pieces of news until I forget it completely. I

only remembered those events from January because I scrolled through NPR’s January archive.

Every notable event has been streamlined through a marketing machine designed to make the reader concerned enough to

To forget those events is a privilege. To be able to remove myself so completely from human tragedy as it is announced on my phone exemplifies my whiteness and my wealth because it exemplifies pure apathy. I don’t have to take Australian wild-fires or disease in China seriously because it doesn’t affect me, chilling in Glencoe.

The day after Qasem Soleimani was killed, hashtags #WWIII and #TheDraft were trending on major social media platforms such as Twitter and TikTok.

Largely stemming from young adults, this was not a hub of discussion but a flood of memes, jokes, and parodies. The posts ranged from creative means of dodging the (currently nonexistent) draft to gags about trying to play dead on an Iranian battlefield and getting shot.

They all had a common denominator; cool, sheer apathy to the actual lives affected by the United States’ decision to, once again, engage with conflict in the Middle East.

Somewhere in our descent towards Internet addiction, quite a few of us have forgotten how to react to terrible events without either

making it about ourselves or spinning it into performative comedy.

Many of us are so far removed from the horrors of war that when the threat enters into our sphere, we feel that we don’t have to take it seriously. It won’t actually involve us, and we know it.

Some will cry that these jokes are coping mechanisms for the powerless, impending threats of the world.

First of all, war in the Middle East isn’t our trauma to cope with. The lasting result of U.S imperialism in the Middle East has been the terrorization of Iraqi and Afghani citizens, not Americans. There is no reason to believe that a war with Iran would be any different.

To quote a Twitter user, “I live with daily f***ing PTSD from the trauma and I left Iraq 15 years ago... There are real lives on the line and you idiots are making jokes.”

Let’s be honest with ourselves. These jokes aren’t a coping mechanism for real fear of war. They are attempts to use a well-known situation for comedy, a narcissistic use of disengaged empathy as humor. It is a privilege to make jokes about a potential war. It is a privilege not to have to take it seriously.

We have to fight our instinct to dissociate from our humanity. Instead of creating more dead noise, we should utilize our radical instincts for compassion; talk about the conflict, donate to victims of the decade-old Afghanistani war, vote for .

We can’t let ourselves fall victim to information overload. We have a voice that matters, and laughing at dumb jokes about a potential war is a waste of our breath.

Don’t forget to follow us on Twitter and Instagram!



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Student Views

What is your groups’ theme for Trevapalooza?



Emilia Zientara, Senior
“My theme is World War 3”



Ethan VanGosen, Junior
“Our theme is retro 70s”



Hannah Burns, Junior
“My theme is Jesus Take the Wheel”



Lank Peterson, Junior
“My theme is the Bible”



Sawyer Harris, Senior
“My theme is Drip or Drown”

What do we know about the middle class at New Trier?



by Sofia Papakos

I feel like we all know the New Trier stereotype at this point. If you’re rich and white you’re pretty much the poster child for it. But aside from that, like most stereotypes, it puts a gross generalization that everyone is the same.

There’s nothing wrong with being rich and white, that’s not the issue, but the structure marginalizes everyone else who isn’t.

When I was in Girls Club we solicited catalogs to raise money for girls scholarships. My friend and I stopped at the house of a middle aged man.

Before he screamed at us to get off his property and threatened to call the police, he asked me why I was selling the catalogs. I told him it was for girls scholarships. He looked me in the eye and said, “There is no one at New Trier poor enough for a scholarship.”

He went on a rant that we were trying to con him and that he knows for a fact New Trier is only made up of white, privileged kids.

The situation was laughable, the guy looked like someone sketchy from American Horror Story. But I thought about what he said.

Through the years, I’ve heard

students, even teachers, reinforce the stereotype themselves.

It perpetuates a cycle that validates false stereotypes.

Take the recent Habitat for Humanity presentation. It raised a lot of important issues that I feel we tend to ignore. The presentation geared toward the economic gap we see in big cities like New York or Chicago. There’s obvious economic inequity that’s perpetuated through a combination of inheritance of wealth and eras of systemic racism. Those who tend to suffer are a part of the working and middle class, a demographic that’s been shrinking in the last couple of years.

If you live in a wealthy area your whole life, you don’t recognize it as privilege. It takes someone from the outside, or for you to travel outside the “bubble” and compare how you live to everyone else who is lower income.

The same can be said for people living in lower income communities. It becomes a part of their daily lives. The majority of people you know are in the same situation you are in, so it becomes “normal.”

I know from my experiences living in lower income areas that I didn’t really see it as lower income. It was my daily life, my normal.

I know from my experiences living in lower income areas that I didn’t really see it as lower income. It was my daily life, my normal.

After moving from the city in fifth grade, the North Shore still

doesn’t feel like home.

The stereotype that everyone here is white and privileged with a trust fund to fall back on ignores the percentage not only of minorities, but also people who are first or second generation immigrants.

Not everyone here is rich or snobby. I can say the majority of people I know are a part of the middle class, even the working class.

It’s not unheard of that a good percentage of students receive financial aid. I know quite a few that receive financial help for lunch, textbooks, and even tickets to school dances.

For some of my friends, they often feel uncomfortable, embarrassed even that they can’t afford a lot of the materials their friend groups can.

I remember from prom last year, that there was a lot of disconnect between which restaurant to eat at, or if there should be a party bus.

I’m not saying to completely avoid going to fancy restaurants or going shopping every weekend because one or more people can’t afford to do so. It’s courteous, but not a necessity.

However, I think it’s important that we’re mindful that people from New Trier come from all walks of life.

There isn’t just one type of person that goes here, and I think we should celebrate that, instead of continuously commenting on how we don’t value diversity here.

We just happen to go to a school where the majority of people are white and affluent. It’s the result of years of systemic racism, it’s not New Trier’s doing.

From the Archives: February 6, 1981

LOVE CONQUERS ALL??

Give gifts of love to enemies

About this time every respectable newspaper prints their suggestions of original ways to express special Valentine messages to loved ones.

In keeping with this great tradition, the New Trier News has decided to print its own list. However, this one is directed not to the young and in love but rather to the young, bitter, and out of love, since they have even greater need to express themselves.

FIRST, AS every student knows, a brother or a sister can be more deserving of frustrated hatred than of sibling devotion. For all those blessed with (cursed with) obnoxious sisters or brutal brothers, our list extends beyond the obvious harassments to the realm of subtle tortures.

1. Plant a dozen or so alarm clocks around their bedrooms set to go off at different times during the night.
2. Put UFO's (not necessarily flying but definitely foreign) in their beds.
3. Spike their milk.
4. Switch the keys on the typewriter the night before a term paper is due.
5. Rearrange the bedroom some night when they are out drinking.

EVERY STUDENT can call to mind teachers who have over the years shown a certain propensity for the art of sadomasochism. At this time the News would like to suggest appropriate responses.

1. For those teachers who like to indulge their acting abilities (often questionable) on their unsuspecting classes, we suggest substituting Shakespeare's latest with Springsteen's latest. The students will enjoy it more, and the teacher will not notice.
2. Glue the chalk and erasers to the chalk rail.
3. Send R2D2 and C3PO in

to consumer seminar to explain the merits of free enterprise and the strength of the Force of a united consumer group.

4. Send repeated urgent phone messages with the number of Dial-a-Prayer or the Predictor hotline. (What should I do if I'm pregnant...)

5. List the teacher as the opposite sex in the New Trier News.

FOR ALL those who think that bean is a four letter word, the following suggestions might release some of the hostility springing from a bitter break-up.

1. Since flowers are the traditional gift on Valentine's Day, send your old buddy dead (really dead) flowers just to let him know you have not forgotten.
2. Candy is also a Valentine's day favorite. Fanny May's laced with arsenic or other delectable delights would be a nice touch to make his last day special.
3. Really cute people send chocolate letters to each other on this day. Well, in tribute to you past relationship, send the beloved one Ex-Lax chocolate flavored letters spelling out "I loved you."
4. Spread ugly rumors that he has a fetish for shrubberies (nice ones).
5. Commit the ultimate torture — send him four years of incomplete career modules.
6. Stake out LINKS; when he visits with his new girlfriend, take incriminating pictures and tack them up all over school.

For further ideas, watch the Brady Bunch — they always have some cute ones.

The New Trier News

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Students debate prevalence of bullying, harassment at NT

Bullying has been statistically decreasing at NT throughout the past few years
by Nadia Jaikaran

The privilege with living in the North Shore comes with a statistically more peaceful area of living, a lower poverty rate, and an above-average high school education thanks to the income-level taxes the North Shore receives.

However, like many high schools, bullying is an unfortunate occurrence that can have a significant impact on the victims.

Senior India Glennon weighed in on witnessing bullying, adding that she believes New Trier does not work hard enough to alleviate the issue.

“I have seen bullying. Though people make an effort to be subtle, it is clearly obvious. I have known others, including myself, that have experienced harsh or rude treatment from peers. I don’t think New Trier is doing enough to aid those who need help, and I don’t think that bringing it up via intervention will suffice.”

Glennon added that the recent derogatory language presentation shown to advisories added to incidents of bullying.

“The way racial issues were brought up was a terrible idea, and I’m afraid that if they do something along the same lines with bullying, it will just come across as a joke to the

students,” stated Glennon.

In contrast to Glennon’s experience, senior Laura Lien added that she had never experienced bullying.

“In my four years at New Trier, I’m grateful I’ve never experienced bullying. As for my circle of friends, I’ve never heard of them being bullied and I have never witnessed it. As for programs to combat bullying at New Trier, I can’t really think of any.”

As for the work New Trier has implemented to combat bullying, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Timothy Hayes weighed in on national programs losing effectiveness in high school due to lack of specificity.

“The work that we’re doing around equity is very much tied to our anti-bullying work. [Other] programs loose effectiveness in high school because you need to be a little more nuanced in talking through how does [bullying] actually happens. What is the difference between someone being mean and someone being a bully?”

The New Trier 2019-2020 Guidebook defines bullying as “When a student asserts or attempts to assert physical or psychological power over, or is cruel to, another student who is perceived to be weaker.”

The guidebook goes on to list examples of behavior that is perceived as bullying as intolerable and subject to disciplinary action.

Regarding disciplinary action for bullying, Hayes offered a form of action that helps students realize others’ perspective.

“A lot of our disciplinary work has been that we’re really looking into the restorative justice practices [which] are really helpful for a situation where there may be bullying happening between two students or a group of students. [We ask] how do you restore a positive relationship in those incidents and I think these practices have a lot of promise for how we can resolve conflicts that may lead to bullying in the school.”

Adding on to Hayes’ comment regarding the practice, Assistant Principal for Student Services Scott Williams stated, “Restorative justices are things like trying to understand both sides of [the situation] and having both parties trying to understand each other. We have not purposely used the phrase ‘restorative justice,’ but we’ve been using those types of skills for years.”

According to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, on-school property bullying decreased from 25% in 2012 to 18% in 2019, as well as cyber-bullying from 17% in 2012 to 15% in 2019.

“The national average is built on a larger scale, from across the country from different geographical regions—urban, suburban, and rural— and many different schools,” said Hayes.

“What we want, of course, is that [school] number to be zero,”



| Wikimedia

Hayes added.

While restorative justice practices are being used to resolve bullying, senior Rosie Kyriakopoulos encourages anti-bullying programs to be enforced.

“In order for New Trier to be the community it strives to be, they should make helpful programs more [visible]. An [anti-bullying] program may exist, but if it doesn’t make itself known, then how useful can it be. With such a big school, we need to make sure everyone’s needs are met, even the ones we tend to keep hush-hush.”

Regarding the decrease in bullying at New Trier, Hayes stated the survey would not tell the administration if there is a specific reason.

However, his guess is one of the numbers of things implemented at the school.

“One [guess] is the conversations we’ve had about how students treat

one another and [that] bullying has evolved over that time period.”

He added that to combat bullying and raise awareness, the school created the Names Project, which has evolved into the Identity Project, for freshman.

“We’ve been running the Identity Project for more than six years. We started to talk about what it means to be different in our school and how we treat one another. We [ask] how do we make our school a more welcoming place?” stated Hayes.

Within recent years, the school paired with an organization called CASEL to help promote positive behaviors within the student body.

“CASEL, the [Collaborative] for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning talks about social-emotional skills as different domains and how to learn and drill down into them. What would it mean to start to be very intentional about teaching those skills? And those skills have to do with self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills, social awareness.”

Hayes added that such important skills will allow students to have more positive relationships with each other, and that the program can also help adults.

“Talking more about that and being more intentional about [it] will also help students avoid getting into those situations where it feels like one student is bullying another person,” said Hayes.

Ski and snowboard club venture into Granite Peak for weekend trip

Ski club takes various trips and allow students to experience winter sports

by Caroline Bewely

This past weekend, the Ski and Snowboard Club made the four-hour trip to Wisconsin resort Granite Peak, where the members enjoyed a few days of fun on the slopes.

The club, which goes on two overnight trips and six day trips a year, is open to all levels of ski and snowboarding experience and is a fun way to step out of one’s comfort zone to try something new.

According to sponsor Ian Duell, buses left New Trier early on Saturday morning, and the club was able to get in about five hours of skiing or snowboarding before reconvening for dinner.

“The conditions were great since we had just gotten some fresh snow,” said Duell. “Last year, it was 20 below, but the temperatures were in the 30s this year.”

Freshman Maggie Kruse attended the trip and explained that going with friends contributed to the fun.

“I loved spending time with my friends and becoming closer with them,” she said. “It was great having the independence to do one of my favorite things: skiing.”

Marcus Buccellato, also a freshman, echoed Kruse’s sentiment that the Granite Peak trip helped deepen friendships and that having autonomy made the trip more exciting.

Students are allowed to ski or snowboard without an adult, and can walk to nearby restaurants for dinner.

Kruse said that she started skiing when she was two years old,



Henry Gilson on his way to Granite Peak in Wisconsin | Gilson

while Buccellato began when he was six. While the two are seasoned skiers, Duell emphasized that the Ski and Snowboard Club encourages beginners to attend the outings.

“If you’ve never skied or snowboarded before, this is a great time to try it. Mr Atwell and I will help you with your rental, what to bring and what to wear, getting your ticket, etc. Like anything new, it can be a bit daunting, but there are always people you can buddy up with.”

Most skiers and snowboarders bring their own equipment, but Duell said that about a third of the club rent. For overnight trips, members are encouraged to rent at a local sports shop and bring the skis or snowboards with as renting at the resort can take time.

According to Kruse, getting involved with Ski and Snowboard Club was easy, “This was my first trip with the club, and I started by joining the Remind to get all of the updates.”

Duell said that anyone interested in joining Ski and Snowboard Club can talk to him or co-sponsor Jamie Atwell and then join the club’s Remind group, an

app that allows teachers to send announcements to students.

“The week before any outing, we go over the details because it’s an off-campus excursion--we need to make sure all of the waivers are signed and parents are aware of the logistics. The Remind lets all of the members know when these meetings are happening.”

On Feb. 8, Ski and Snowboard Club is planning on taking a day trip to Cascade, a resort in Portage, Wisconsin.

“We have upwards of seventy students in our Remind group, but we can only take twenty-seven on each outing,” said Duell. “For the Granite Peak trip, we actually had to turn some kids away, so we encourage skiers and snowboarders to sign up as early as possible.”

Though a tentative plan, the club may attempt to go out West in the future.

“We talked about going out West at the end of last year, but it requires a lot of planning that hasn’t gotten done. Currently, Granite Peak is the furthest place we go, but that may change.”

Disney’s new “High School Musical” series takes off

TV show successfully replicates nostalgia of High School Musical
by Amelia Jacobson

“High School Musical: The Musical: The Series” may have one of the worst names in TV history, but the show surprisingly slaps.

The show is set in the same location as the original High School Musical and focuses on the students of East High as they put on a production of High School Musical. Hence the name.

While the main focus of the series is the production, the plot also follows the rekindling romance between Ricky and Nina, played by Joshua Bassett and Olivia Rodrigo, and their personal lives dealing with anything from parents divorce to struggling to feeling good enough.

Almost all the actors have great singing voices and the soundtrack makes great background music for studying.

Nina and Ricky’s voices mesh very well and songs like ‘Just for a Moment’ and ‘Wondering’ became instant bops.

These songs have also become very popular on TikTok due to the lines being relatable and catchy.

My main problem with the show is rooted in my dislike of the character E.J., who is played by Matt Cornett. The boy cannot sing. His song ‘A Billion Sorrys’ is an automatic skip on any playlist.

On the other hand, Joshua Bassett, 19, and Olivia Rodrigo, 16, are both great singers that embody teenage talent.

Often, studios shy away from hiring teenagers to play teenagers due to child acting laws that prevent long hours. It is always great seeing

teenagers play teenagers even as it becomes more mainstream. For this reason, the character E.J. also fell flat because Cornett is 21.

Also, the TV show is written by people aged between 39-68 years old and this is clear in the writing. They try to place ‘hip’ terms and often the jokes fall flat and come off as cringey like when Ms. Jen, the drama teacher, was “shocked, inspired, and triggered as a millennial.”

Still, the TV show is better written than most Disney shows from the 2010s like Bizaardvark or Bunk’d.

The style of filming is also a weak point of the show. Part of it is filmed in a mockumentary style, where the students talk to the camera about the production, but they also include scenes where the characters do not know there is a camera present. This inconsistency is a tad annoying.

It was nice that the performance that the students put on is a realistic expectation on what a school could put on. The errors that happen make the show feel more homey.

The main draw to the show is that it feels targeted towards kids who grew up with the movie. The classic songs and impromptu cafeteria dancing and singing reminded me of the High School Musical of my childhood.

If you liked the High School Musical films, you will most likely enjoy this television series. But, if you are looking for an intellectual masterpiece, this show is a skip.

All things considered, I absolutely loved the show—even though it did make me feel a little old.

Gap year: more options after high school

Gap year fair allows students to explore post-high school options

by Carsten Sheehan

On Jan. 25, New Trier hosted the 2020 USA Gap Year Fair which introduced seniors to other post-high school options besides going straight to college.

In the US, gap years have garnered the reputation of being a time when high school grads waste their time and money traveling, but several organizations have sought to change this. They seek to guide students as they mature, choose a major, or build memorable experiences.

Senior Julian Hansen is among those who are curious what other possible avenues lie ahead besides immediately becoming a college freshman.

“I just wanted to explore options for next year, decide if I want to go to college or take a gap year” said Hansen.

Though the student’s interest in a gap year is important, parents’ support also plays an important role. While things like scholarships and cheaper gap years do exist, it isn’t free to have a company plan out your schedule for an entire year, something parents undoubtedly must take into



The New Trier gap fair hosted parents and students from the Chicagoland area on Saturday, Jan. 25 | Stauder

account.

“My parents wanted me to come [to the Gap Year Fair] because we were talking about taking a gap year before I start college” said junior Kelly Sheridan.

Post-high school counselor Gretchen Stauder emphasized that not all gap years are expensive, despite that being a common turn-off for parents.

“Parents and family have to be on board, and I think the biggest misconception is that gap years must

cost a lot of money,” said Stauder.

Only about 1.5% of students who graduate from New Trier will take a gap year, a diminutive amount considering the amount of people who are not completely sure about their path forward. Thus, New Trier’s post-high school counseling service is supportive of the idea.

“I think it would be a great opportunity for any student. I’ve never had a student in my career who has come back and said ‘I wish that I hadn’t taken a gap year,’” claimed

Stauder.

Acknowledging the fact that not every student will be open to taking a gap year, the range of people that can benefit from it is broad. Anyone who simply wants to do something different or go off the established path would benefit from a gap year, according to Stauder.

While post-high school experiences are generally positive, alumni who have taken gap years are more detailed about why many claim gap years to be valuable.

Alum Drew Beasley, currently a sophomore at DePaul, spent his gap year travelling around the world. He attributes a successful gap year to having the motivation to make it successful.

“I made real human connections with the people I travelled with, and the locals I met along the way,” said Beasley.

Another facet of gap years, not as regaled as the growth and self-discovery aspect, is the way that they can be used to aid those with a different experience in finding the best way to adjust to independent life.

“We think that when you graduate, you’re young, and you might not be sure if you’re ready for four years of college or the workforce,” said Brittney Howell, a representative of Soar, a program that caters to youth and young adults with ADHD or other learning disorders.

While the school’s opinion on gap years is supportive of the option, there is still doubt among parents and students about its validity. With this in mind, those who have taken a gap year tend to report that they end up happy with their choice.

“Your gap year isn’t going to be the adventure of a lifetime, it’s going to be the first step to making your life an adventure” said Beasley.

Oscar nominations spark discussions about diversity

White men dominate the award show nominations causing upset among movie goers and hollywood

by Belah Ratowitz

At this year’s Oscars, many were angry at the lack of diversity in the nominations. Women and people of color weren’t nominated for many awards, leaving many people upset.

These controversies aren’t anything new, there have been many before.

In 2015, April Reign created #Oscarssowhite after all actors nominated for lead and supporting acting categories were white. The hashtag took off and was revived the following year when the situation was repeated.

This year, many were disappointed in the lack of people of color and women who were nominated for important categories.

At the Golden Globes, many were upset over how many white men filled most of the nominations, leaving out women and people of color.

The lists for Best Director consists of Quentin Tarantino, Todd Phillips, Bong Joon-ho, Martin Scorsese, and Sma Mendes. Best Cinematography has Robert Richardson, Rodrigo Prieto, Roger Deakins, Harin Blashe, and Lawrence Sher. Almost all of these awards are dominated by white men.

To some, the nominations of Cynthia Erivo for her work in “Harriet” and Boon Joon-ho in his work in “Parasite” barley seem to avoid a repeat of #Oscarssowhite.

Sophomore Rebecca Miller



Winners from the 2019 Academy Awards accepting their award | Oscars

said, “When I look at the Oscar nominations, there were a lot of white men nominated for things, even though there are plenty of other movies made by people of color, women, and people of all sorts of sexualities. They’re all made and produced, some of them are not even indie movies, and yet the Joker still got nominated 11 times.”

There are only men nominated for the Best Director category, despite the success of many women in their field.

Only five women have ever been nominated for this category, and only one, Kathryn Bigelow, has ever

won it.

“I know on the Academy, 17 people didn’t watch Parasite just because it didn’t have subtitles. Sometimes you just gotta read the subtitles to be fully immersed in the experience, because that’s what the director would have wanted. It’s not far to judge a movie because it’s in a foreign language,” stated Miller.

“I feel, as a woman who would like to work in the industry, that I am put at a disadvantage and I have to work 100 times harder than my male peers just because of my gender.”

Teachers break convention with innovative new finals

Alternative methods to the traditional 90 minute final have become increasingly popular in recent years among NT teachers

by Simren Dadwani

Over, time the concept of finals has developed from traditional tests into more creative ways to test students on the concepts they have learned all semester.

However, many teachers still do the typical multiple choice test with a scantron and a part for short answers.

“I feel as though there is little variety in finals in every department and it is fairly similar every year” said junior Halle Fink.

However some teachers make their final a project or an essay which seem to make it easier for students.

“Most of my finals have been multiple choice, but some of them have been essays, short answers, or projects” said junior Amelia Senior.

Essays seem to be super convenient for students because it gives them the opportunity to express their ideas.

Finals, although most remain traditional, have been changing and conforming to what students prefer, such as projects and essays

“My favorite type of final is

the English final. This year we were able to write an essay about our independent reading book and it was so great because I was actually interested in what I was writing” said junior Meghan Surico.

Some teachers go out of the box and have students take the final or work on the final before the actual day of the final.

“For my math final, I had the test over three days. It was super convenient because it spread the test out and it wasn’t as stressful as a regular final” said Surico.

Although MCL classes normally don’t have finals, most classes take LPA’s to test students’ understanding of the language in reading, writing, and listening.

“For my Spanish class this year, we did interpretive speaking and listening with an art project” said junior Karsten Kabak.

When it comes to finals, many students get stressed trying to study for multiple subjects in a short time period.

“My finals have always consistently been my course classes and were the average 90 minutes. I have taken Biology, Chemistry, History, and Physics finals thus far and have thought that they were a lot easier than I made them out to be,” said Kabak.

Some teachers include notecards for students to use as a helpful tool during the final.

“One of my finals allowed a notecard cut in half in a triangle shape” said

Finals, although most remain traditional, have been changing and conforming to how students would rather prefer, such as projects and essays rather than regular multiple choice and short answer tests.

NT wins 101st annual ETHS meet to end their season

Trevians win 113 to 73 at senior night meet
by Cleo Pool

On Jan. 31 New Trier took down Evanston, 113 to 73, in a high intensity meet. This was the 101st annual meet against the well known rival, and is one of the longest running meets in Illinois.

Head coach Joshua Runkle is proud of the work his team has put in. This meet was the last dual meet before the championship season, and the varsity team finished this season with only one loss.

“It was the last CSL dual and we finished with only 1 loss. So now we head into championship season,” said Runkle.

Senior Evan Rittner has noticed that over the years the Trevians have typically won the dual meet. But compared to when the teams were neck and neck, the energy and intensity has yet to change.

“It’s been a good rivalry for a long time. The past few years, though, it’s gotten a bit one-sided, but it’s still a point in the season a lot of us look forward to,” said Rittner.

This win is still a big success for the team. As the championship season approaches, the team is hoping to avoid all obstacles. This meet, the team was forced to overcome some of these obstacles.

“We’ve been recovering from



Members of the team during a practice after the Evanston meet, they will soon begin preparing for state [Nagel]

a tough week of practices, and some sickness going around, but despite that there were some good performances,” said Rittner.

Fellow senior Pearce Bailey saw some great swims as well. He noted two sophomores in particular.

“Joe Dienstag has a great 100 backstroke and Edward O’Bara had a fast split on the 400 freestyle relay,” said Bailey.

The meet tends to draw more people than usual because alumni come to visit. This year it was also

senior night so many families and friends came to cheer on the Trevs.

“It was still an important meet though because it was Senior Night for us, and because of that there was a bigger crowd than usual,” said Bailey.

Runkle said the crowds help bring up the excitement of the meet. It’s hard to tell if it hurts or helps the boys swim, but it seems to pump them up.

“It definitely makes it more exciting,” said Runkle

The team is looking forward to the championship season and state at the end of February. They are hoping to rebound after finishing in a three way tie for 18th last year. Rittner thinks this year will be more triumphant due to a new found focus.

“Individually, we each have our things to work on, but I think a goal of ours as a team this season has been focus and discipline, especially since we, as a whole, are relatively young,” said Rittner.

Bowling takes on state after 4 years

Trevians finish 18th after record breaking season
by Conner Caserio

On Jan. 31-Feb. 1, boys bowling competed at state for the first time since 2016, placing 18th overall in the tournament held in Fairview Heights, IL.

On Friday, the Trevians failed to make the cut to continue on. To move forward they had to place in the top 12 teams, but their performance at state was still a resounding success.

With a total of 5,867 pins, the team had their highest-scoring performance of the season, and their 18th place finish is the second best in New Trier history.

“We were able to improve on our score from sectionals and bowl our best game of the season, which was awesome,” said Senior Christian Franke. “We would’ve liked to make it to the second day, but being able to say we have the second highest state placement in New Trier [history] is amazing.”

Individually, the team also did well, with a number of bowlers hitting their personal bests during the tournament.

Junior Matt Booden had an especially strong tournament, finishing 11th in the state with a two day average of 218.5 pins which made him the first Trevian bowler to ever be named All State.

“Matt really put together a spectacular performance. He needed to string together strike-after-strike to be able to compete with some record-setting IHSA performances,” said head coach Andrew Juedes.

Getting to state was a roller coaster. After the Elmhurst sectional, they thought that they had fallen out of the top six finish needed to qualify for state. But, when final scores were announced, the team found themselves in 5th place, narrowly



The bowling team after a successful run at state in southern IL [Instagram]

defeating Lake Park (6th).

“We edged out GBN, one of our rivals, and were one of only two teams from our conference to qualify for state,” said Junior Nick Henner.

Last year, the team placed 8th at sectionals, just falling short of state. Throughout this entire season, they surpassed the performances of both last year’s team and nearly every team in team history.

“I am incredibly proud of their [the team’s] collective performance this season,” said Juedes.

He added that the Trevs are at a slight disadvantage when facing teams where competitive bowling is a much bigger deal. To Juedes, this makes the strong performance this season becomes even more impressive.

“We compete against athletes that have been bowling competitively since the 2nd grade. Most of our bowlers start bowling [competitively] for the first time their freshman/sophomore year,” he said.

Moving forward, though, the Trevians seem poised to close the experience gap. This year’s state roster featured Matt Booden (Captain-Jr), Nick Henner (Captain-Jr) Max Blake (Captain-Jr), Jack Eadie (Jr), Christian Franke (Sr), Jack Kelly (Sr), Sam Wolf (Jr), and

David Gormanous (Jr).

“This year, six of the bowlers at state were juniors, and if all of us can improve our average by about 15 pins we are capable of placing top five or even winning state,” said Henner.

Next year, the team knows what they need to get to work and execute their plan of improvement.

“Looking ahead to next year, I would like to set a goal of making it to the second day of the tournament as a team,” said Eadie. “I know what we need to work on for next year, and it is exciting.”

Beyond next year, the Trevians look to become stronger over at next few seasons. The class of 2023 is the team’s best freshman class, and, if they put in the work, they could take the program to new heights.

“We set records for highest tryout scores and end of season scores with this group from the class of 2023. We are very excited about the future,” said Juedes.

After their strong performance at state, the team has a lot to celebrate and look forward to moving ahead.

“I’m so excited for next year and the off-season. This season, we finished as the 2nd best bowling team in New Trier history, and next year we should be the best team in New Trier history,” said Henner.

Sailing team reflects on another strong season

The club team looks to keep growing and learning for spring season
by Mary Elizabeth Parks

The club sailing team is not heard about often. Still, the 30 members say that the team holds a significant place in their life.

On Jan. 5, New Trier’s Sailing Team competed in the annual Rose Bowl Regatta held at the University of Southern California in Long Beach, California.

Flying off to the West Coast meant their competition was about to get a lot more intense than what they are usually up against.

Senior Ted Lutton is one of the two varsity captains who said the warm weather in California gave the team a disadvantage as they can’t practice during the cold months.

“We didn’t do that well because all the Californians get to sail the whole year and are sailing against each other and sailing on the water there. But it was good to be able to go to California in January,” said Lutton.

Unlike any other sport, sailing requires its participants to be aware of their ever-changing court. The sailors adapt to whatever wind and weather there is.

Many sailors, like senior Sammy Stoeber, love sailing for the freedom and excitement that she feels on the water, especially in times when the conditions are thrilling.

“There are days when we go out there when nobody would think that it would be safe, and it’s probably not, but you have to be strong and brave and you have to

‘It’s been a good rivalry for a long time. The past few years, though, it’s gotten a bit one-sided’

Bailey has seen the team grow under this new mindset. They have improved physically but also come together to work as one team despite the age range.

“Our team is still fairly young compared to two years ago, but we’ve definitely grown both physically and mentally since last year and even just since the beginning of this season,” said Bailey

To prepare for state, the team focuses on the mental aspect of the sport. They refine their focus by lessening the intensity of practices and shaving their heads to get all the advantage they can.

“We’re really buckling down and focusing on the small details for the rest of the season. Of course at the very end of the season right before our big meet we’ll be shaving our heads for that extra little bit of speed and the mental edge,” said Bailey.

No matter how the season ends, the team looks for areas to grow.

“Every team is different, and every year is different, but as always, we’re each trying to do the best for the team at the end of the season,” said Rittner.

trust yourself,” said Stoeber. “I just think that for me it is all about the experience and I just love it so much and I’m just happy to be there,” said Stoeber.

Even on days when the wind is ruthless and the rain is torrential, the conditions don’t prevent the team getting out on the water. Their sport is learning how to navigate the waters despite the waves, wind, or weather.

“It’s unique in that you’re playing the same sport but your mindset is different. The hockey rink isn’t moving around like that. Your court is always changing so you have to keep your head in the game,” said Lutton.

This past fall season, the team was fairly pleased with their performance.

“I think recently, especially in this last fall season our team has excelled. There was less disappointment and a lot of joy and celebration because we really kicked butt in our fall season and we were able to go to some really great events that we were able to qualify for.”

Sailing is a sport of constant growth and learning. The team likes to take advantage of this.

“Our youngest sailors are learning how to race and learning the ropes and learning how to work with other people,” said Lutton. “And our seniors are nine times out of ten the best people on the team because most people on sailing don’t have prior sailboat racing experience,” he said.

Many of the sailors, like senior Anna McBride have grown a connection to the sport of sailing and see it as having a part in their future.

“It’s such a lifelong sport, like you can sail when you’re in a wheelchair and just sit there, so I think I will keep it in my life forever,”

NBA legend Kobe Bryant dies in helicopter crash

NT students mourn Bryant’s death and reflect on his legacy
by Matt Murray

The global community was shaken to its core on the morning of Jan. 26 when former Los Angeles Lakers shooting guard Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna were among nine people killed in a helicopter crash in Casabanas, CA.

The tragic death of the 41-year-old Bryant prompted a series of impromptu tributes by the sports community.

Halftime of the NFL’s Pro Bowl (which kicked off just minutes after news of Bryant’s death broke) featured a moment of silence in his honor, several NBA teams took ceremonial 24-second shot clock violations in the ensuing days, and millions of fans took to social media to grieve.

“Once it was confirmed, it was hard to process that such an amazing sports icon and my personal role model was gone,” said junior Tyler Hardin.

“Finding out that his daughter Gigi and seven others were with him made it almost impossible to comprehend.”

In his 20-year career with the Lakers, Bryant compiled a staggering list of individual accomplishments: 18 All-Star selections, 15 All-NBA selections, the 2008 NBA MVP, and two NBA Finals MVPs to go along

with his five NBA championships.

The self-proclaimed “Black Mamba” defined basketball in the time between the dominant eras of Michael Jordan and LeBron James, helping to extend the global reach of both the NBA and fledgling WNBA in the process.

“I was devastated by the news. Kobe was a big part of why I play basketball and my work ethic,” said junior Will Geis.

“He was actually the first jersey that I got when I was a kid, and my dad always told me about the Mamba Mentality, which I continue to use in my basketball game.”

While Bryant’s accolades and on-court dominance will surely earn him a place in the Basketball Hall of Fame this August, his greatest legacy will be left in the work ethic he made famous.

The success that Bryant enjoyed using his “Mamba Mentality” led to widespread subscription to his methods, creating a generation of athletes and sports fans who have embraced the hard work and relentless pursuit of perfection needed to overcome adversity and achieve success.

“His competitiveness and his drive to be the best is something that is ingrained in me whether I’m on or off the [football] field,” said Hardin.

“The passion and emotion he played with to be a winner will forever stick with me throughout my athletic career.”

Bryant’s willingness to push



Bryant with 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, who also passed in the crash | AP

his physical and mental limits not only earned him a vast collection of hardware that includes an Oscar award for his short film Dear Basketball, but also the admiration of even his harshest critics.

Although most current New Trier students were not old enough to witness Bryant’s athletic peak nor his most notable accomplishments, his performance during the Lakers’ late-season playoff push in 2013 gave them a lasting memory to associate with his toughness and tenacity.

“My favorite on-court memory of Kobe would have to be the free throws that he made after tearing his Achilles [against the Warriors in

2013],” said senior Brian Joseph.

“That was insane to me, and it really showed true dedication to his craft and his willingness to persevere through adversity.”

While Bryant’s on-court legacy will be defined by his undisputable excellence, his personal legacy is far more complicated.

Bryant was accused of sexual assault by an employee at a resort in Eagle, CO during the summer of 2003, and although the charges were eventually dismissed 14 months later, the legal proceedings, which revealed an adulterous relationship between him and the employee, left a permanent stain on his reputation.

However, Bryant’s familial reputation was partly repaired in retirement as he dedicated himself to being a loyal and supportive father to his four daughters, notably providing athletic and moral guidance to his eldest daughter Natalia and the late Gianna.

“Based on the news reports that I’ve seen and also watching him in the past, Kobe has been a wonderful family man [in retirement],” said Joseph.

“He has been a very dedicated father, which I really respect, and it’s something I’d like to emulate when I’m older.”

Although Bryant will no longer be around to spread his wisdom, his impact on both the game of basketball and the lives of the millions of people who idolized him will ensure that he is not forgotten.

Between the extra practices by athletes, the pushes through personal adversity by Mamba Mentality disciples, and even the imitations of his fade-away when disposing of garbage, there will be numerous daily reminders of what made Kobe Bryant special.

“Kobe Bryant will carry an immortal legacy. He was overwhelmingly talented, but was also an extreme influence mentally to everyone involved in sports,” said senior Cat Flood.

“He was always the best possible version of himself, and I know personally that it makes me want to do the same.”

Gymnastics shines at CSL meet

Murdock wins final regular season meet with score of 37.675
by Mattea Carberry

In their last competition of the regular season, the gymnastics team came in second place in their CSL conference meet held at Glenbrook South High School on Jan. 31.

They competed against Maine South, Niles West, Glenbrook South, Glenbrook North, and Evanston where they came away with a season-high score of 146.7, while Glenbrook South took first place with a score of 147.0. Glenbrook North placed third with a score of 136.15.

Senior Maeve Murdock was the overall winner of the conference with a score of 37.675, including first place finishes in bars and floor.

Junior Kate Gorney identified the energy of this conference meet surpassed that of their previous competitions and noted their high score was rewarding.

“Our team had some of the most energy we’ve had all season with lots and lots of really loud cheering,” said Gorney.

“We got one of our higher team scores of the year which is exciting because it shows off all the hard work the team has been putting in to these last and most important meets of the year.”

Junior Amelia Montgomery said the team started out strong with vault and bars, getting all 9s in the latter.

“On bars, three of our girls finished top three; Maeve Murdock being first, Rachel Zun being second and [myself] being third,” she said.

Head coach Jen Pistorius added that this meet showed a true culmination of the team’s efforts and abilities.

“We did well on all events, but all five of our girls who competed bars medaled in the top eight. It was a true team effort as everyone



The team celebrates after an invite on Jan. 25 | NT Athletics Twitter

contributed and we scored our highest team score, even having to count two falls and a few missed connections,” said Pistorius.

Murdock acknowledged that while this conference doesn’t matter as they head into the postseason, it was beneficial to have the opportunity to face off against some of their competition.

“[Glenbrook South] is our biggest opponent in both the conference and one of the biggest opponents at state so it was fun to see them and compete against them before that starts,” Murdock said.

Despite falling short of first place, senior Avery Faulkner still views this conference as a success for their team.

“Even though we got second we know that three-tenths doesn’t really show who had better gymnastics because that is something as silly as a few steps so we really took this meet as a success,” said Faulkner.

Gorney said continuing to refine the smaller aspects of their routines is something the team is hoping to work on.

“I think overall everyone is trying to improve on the things they may not focus on as much, like the little things that add up in their routines and deduct points that may be needed in our end total,” Gorney

Fencing dominates at conference tournament

Interl improvement yields top 3 finishes for both men’s and women’s teams
by Graham Ambrose

New Trier’s fencing season came to a powerful close as both the women’s and men’s teams finished in the top 3 at the Great Lakes Conference Championship at Adlai Stevenson High School on Feb. 1.

The women’s team rode first place finishes by their epee and sabre team and a 2nd place individual sabre finish by junior Grace Jeon to the women’s conference title; and the men’s team took home third place overall behind third place finishes from their sabre and foil teams.

Since this tournament marks the end of an entire season, many fencers on the team felt as though they were pitted against athletes that employed incredibly tough strategies.

“They had good off-the-line strategies, they were great with bladework, and parried a lot during the matchups,” Jeon admitted.

“I think we’re all strong fencers on our own, and I don’t think we have much of an advantage because all schools bring their A-game when it comes to tournaments like these.”

Senior and sabre team captain Alex Nagel has been fencing for three years and believed his personality led him to choose sabre as his discipline.

He experienced a lot of ups and downs alongside his team this season, but felt confident entering the tournament.

“I think that sabres’ greatest achievement this season was when two of our fencers took top four at the Catholic Memorial Invitational,” Nagel recounts.

“Even though I don’t feel like we had any major advantages going

into this tournament, I still feel like we’re one of the better teams here, and we’ll win big.”

Thomas Criswell, a senior and the current captain of Men’s epee didn’t have an individual memory to call a favorite, but rather something more important for a captain to see in their team: improvement.

“The real benefit of this season was just everyone improving this year even though we haven’t blown anyone out of the water,” said Criswell. “I’m hoping to leave epee better than I found it, and we’ve got some great epee fencers that are climbing the ranks.”

In contrast, sophomore Men’s foil fencer Ty Burnett, who finished eighth in the men’s individual foil, had a favorite season memory to associate with the team’s improvement this season.

“I’d say my favorite moment was last week when we got third in the Great Lakes conference, and our dual meet record was a whopping 15-1,” said Burnett. “But our greatest achievement is without a doubt working together as a unit.”

Of course, none of the fencers would get to where they are now without a mentor figure pushing them forward, making the presence of head coach Colby Vargas that much more valuable.

Vargas, like Nagel, felt optimistic about both the chances of both the men’s and women’s teams entering the conference tournament.

“This is a very tough tournament with tough fencers, but I know we have a shot at it,” said Vargas. “Especially since the women’s team has won several buildup championship matches prior to this.”

With plenty of achievements this season and a championship filled with milestones, the future is bright for New Trier’s Fencing Team.