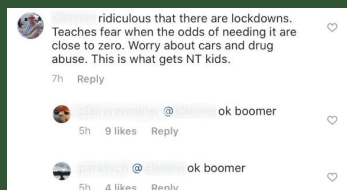




No shave November

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...Ok Boomer

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Field hockey wins state title

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# Accidental lockdown leaves student body shocked

## False alarm led to fear of real threat at Winnetka

by Hannah Sussman

At approximately 1:59 p.m. last Friday, the lockdown alarm rang through the Winnetka Campus alerting students that they needed to get to a classroom as quickly as possible. Unlike previous lockdown drills, this alarm sounded during a passing period.

Lasting for 18 minutes, the lockdown was later revealed to have been falsely activated by a teacher simply attempting to leave the school building.

Adding to the confusion, the PA system was not properly turned off and the sounds of someone apologizing and static could be heard throughout the school.

Senior Tess Stetter described feeling a certain numbness when the alarm first went off. She and many other students initially believed it was simply a planned drill.

“It wasn’t a surprise, it was more like a ‘oh, here we go again’ type of thing. Because from what it seemed, it’s probably not a great mindset, but I was like ‘it’s not that urgent,’” Stetter said.

However, many students quickly gained the sinking feeling that the lockdown had not been planned.

For Junior Iris Ely, the crackle of the speaker coming in and out made her realize the lockdown was real.

“Then the PA came on, and it wasn’t really clear and there was that

part where we heard the voice saying ‘I’m sorry’ and there was a lot of static,” Ely explained. “That’s when it hit me, this is real.”

The weight of the situation was heightened by the increase of school shootings across America. According to Maeve McConnell, a Junior, the thought of other schools that experienced gun violence made her class’s fear even more intense.

“The whole situation with everything that has been going on, with all of the school shootings and stuff like that, definitely got to us,” said McConnell. “I really thought the worst thing possible would happen. I thought I was going to die.”

Overall, lockdown procedure was implemented swiftly once the alarms sounded. Within two minutes, the hallways were clear. Within three minutes, Winnetka police were on campus to sweep the building. Amid the chaos and confusion, many students looked to their teachers to understand what was going on.

For junior, Mila Cutler, the actions their teacher took during the drill simultaneously increased the gravity of the situation while also creating a sense of security.

“What really hurt to watch was seeing my teacher stand in front of the door. Knowing that she was ready to sacrifice herself for us was something really intense that I wasn’t ready to see,” said Cutler.

Students had a wide variety of experiences depending on the room they were in. Sophomore, Blair Weiss, described how people in their room all reacted strongly.

“It was really scary and [the teacher] was crying, and since the

teacher was crying a lot of the kids were crying,” said Weiss.

Junior Sadie Bard managed to reach the safety of the gym locker rooms, but getting there proved to be an independently scary experience.

“On the way to the gym, I remember just getting chased by like ten people screaming ‘go to the locker room.’ There were 70 of us lined up against the back wall, and teachers kept telling us ‘we don’t know what it is, we are just praying it is a drill,’” said Bard.

From the locker rooms, the PA system was only heard faintly. This made staying updated more difficult, amplifying the stress of the lockdown.

Other problems that occurred throughout the school were indirectly caused by Lit Fest being that day. Lit Fest is an opportunity for students in writing classes to attend seminars run by several writers, authors, and musicians. As a result, several classes had substitutes who were unfamiliar with lockdown procedures, and many students were in different classrooms.

“I have friends who because it was Lit fest, they might have ended up in the wrong room, and there were no subs to show up, and they didn’t have a key to lock the door” Ely explained.

Other problems arose because the lockdown took place during a passing period. Scheduled drills have always happened during class periods to ensure every class has a teacher.

Junior Eyllah Babbitt was with her English class during the lockdown. Her teacher had not yet arrived, and the students had no way to lock their door.

“My teacher hadn’t shown up

yet, so we were just in there without a teacher and the door was unlocked. This guy stacked the desks, and we all flipped over the desks. We sat there and we waited and we didn’t have a teacher in the room. We broke a meter stick in half so we had a weapon,” Babbitt said.

In a statement sent to parents, Superintendent Paul Sally recognized that several procedural problems had become apparent during the lockdown that the administration could now address. Students were given the opportunity to discuss these concerns during advisory and at the beginning of several classes.

“While many parts of the lockdown went well, we know we have improvements to make. Our top priority is to ensure that we never have another accidental lockdown activation. We are also gathering information from students and staff about places where the PA announcements could not be heard and doors could not be locked, among a number of other items,” Sally wrote.

Sally also praised students and staff for their quick reaction and patience during the lockdown.

“I am proud of their response under such significant stress, and I know some of them may continue to reflect on these events over the weekend and beyond,” Sally wrote.

After the lockdown had been called off, students’ experiences varied dramatically. For junior, Olivia San Jose, her experience was very positive.

“Afterward, teachers were very sensitive which I appreciated, I think it was good that the traumatizing

effects of it were acknowledged,” San Jose reflected.

Unfortunately, not all students shared the same comfort from teachers as San Jose.

“My next class, [the teacher] didn’t talk about it at all, he just went on with the class as if nothing happened,” explained junior Elie Zieserl.

The following Monday, advisory period was dedicated to discussion of students’ experiences and what specifically went wrong during the drill. Many students appreciated this opportunity to process what had happened and specifically address what changes were needed.

“During advisory we talked about not just what happened with us, but also what we think needs to be addressed or changed. That really helped us feel like we had our voices heard,” said Zieserl.

Ely agreed it is essential for students to be continuously involved and informed of changes going forward.

“The administration is overseeing some changes to the system and students should be a part of this process and notified,” said Ely.

Though the lockdown only lasted for 17 minutes, students may continue to feel its impacts.

“What makes me the most mad is that a lot of kids felt like their feelings on the event weren’t valid since it was a false alarm,” said Cutler.

“Ultimately, even though the threat in the lockdown wasn’t real, the fear and anxiety students felt was,” said Junior Tatum Richardson.

# Students outraged by earlier registration date for AP tests

## Change in deadline could boost revenue at student expense

by Caroline Bewley

Garnering mixed reactions from staff and students, the College Board has moved the Advanced Placement test registration deadline up months earlier and has added new fees to testing.

Previously, students had until March to sign up for the AP test. Now, registration must be completed by Nov. 15 to avoid incurring a \$40 late fee. If the student does not take the test after signing up, an additional \$40 will be charged.

These changes were announced by the College Board in February after being piloted by a group of 400,000 students from the 2017-2018 school year. They went into effect nationally in August to, as put by the College Board, ensure that AP students “stay engaged in class and tackle challenging topics head-on.”

But Chimille Dillard, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at New Trier, questioned the relevancy the College Board’s rationale has to New Trier.

“Having students register by Nov. 15 isn’t going to motivate them anymore to prepare because New



College Board CEO David Coleman (left), and College Board President Jeremy Singer (right) | College Board

Trier has students that work hard and prepare regardless.”

For Dillard, the College Board’s changes were not made solely with the best interests of the students at heart.

“The College Board is still a business, and the tests have to be paid for. [Early registration] secures a lot of people by Nov. 15—to me, it’s just a business decision.”

Senior Beth Fisher echoed Dillard’s sentiment, and said she believes that the deadline was really changed so the College Board could profit monetarily.

Since 2018, a petition for the reversal of the exam costs and deadlines has gathered more than 120,000 virtual signatures. New Richmond High school counselor

Jennifer Wander, the creator of the petition, cited financial reasons for her position. “Let’s face it—the College Board says they’re a nonprofit, but they are all about money. They are going to make at least \$40 million more every year with this new policy.”

Katie Baakkonen, a junior, voiced another concern against the AP test revisions: the difficulty to predict how one will perform on the test.

“I think it’s bad,” said Baakkonen. “People shouldn’t have to pay so far in advance for the AP test when they don’t know how they’re going to do in the class.”

As a sophomore, Baakkonen took the Human Geography AP test while being enrolled in World

Geography, a non-AP class.

“I registered for the test in February,” said Baakkonen. “If the deadline had been earlier, I would have talked to my parents about the possibility of registering but not taking the test if it looked like I wouldn’t be prepared in May.”

According to junior Rory McKeough, the new deadline puts added pressure on parents.

“They have to be on top of signing their kid up since the date is so much earlier than it used to be, and that can be stressful,” explained McKeough.

Peg Stevens, Testing Coordinator at New Trier’s Winnetka campus, said that, besides the date and fees, the actual registration process was revised. In previous years, students only had to register

and pay for the AP test through RevTrak. Now, however, the College Board asks that students join their online system, as well.

“I was not that enthusiastic about it in the beginning,” said Stevens. “I think it’s going well now, though. Students and teachers were having a bit of a disconnect about registering on RevTrak and registering for the class on the College Board, but that’s been resolved.”

In defense of the new registration program, the College Board reported that administrators saw an increase of scores of three or higher across multiple groups in its 2017-2018 fall registration pilot program compared to 2016-2017 scores. AP tests are graded on a one to five score, with five being the highest.

In addition to the new cutoff and costs, the College Board now offers students resources that will help them to prepare for the AP test in May. Such additions include unit guides and a bank of former AP test questions.

According to McKeough, her AP teachers have had her sign up for access to materials on the College Board website, but haven’t begun utilizing them. “They could be helpful—keep that if it helps students,” said McKeough.

# Sports journalist K.C. Johnson talks Bulls at Lit Fest

Johnson brings charisma, knowledge to discussion on sports and literature

by Grant Feldman

For the second year in a row, well-known Chicago Bulls journalist K.C. Johnson spoke at the New Trier Literary Festival.

This year marked the 16th annual Lit Fest, where students in senior writing classes participate in workshops and listen to speakers.

An Evanston native, Johnson was the Bulls beat writer at the Chicago Tribune for 29 years before joining NBC Sports Chicago this fall.

His talk encapsulated his journey from playing basketball at ETHS and Beloit College to becoming the Bulls Insider for NBC's website and TV station. He gave students first-hand insight into the world of professional sports and journalism.

"My favorite part of journalism is you never know what will happen every day," said Johnson. "The day [former Bulls point guard] Jay Williams crashed his motorcycle [resulting in a leg injury which nearly required amputation], I was out having dinner. Things can change so quickly, and that's what makes it so exciting."

Johnson also enjoys the opportunity to travel across the nation to NBA games, and around the



Johnson touched on a range of subjects, from his upbringing to his current position at NBC Sports | Feldman

globe to events such as the Olympics. He emphasized the importance of forming relationships in the sports journalism field, where connections can make or break a career.

"Journalism lets you meet people and relate to them through life experiences," said Johnson. "[Bulls guard Tomáš Satoransky] is from the Czech Republic, and when I was in Europe I visited near there. So I could use that as a jumping off point when I first talked to him... when you have a good relationship with people

you cover, you get information they won't tell anybody else."

Johnson elaborated on some of his most memorable experiences, like the time he went to White Hall, Alabama to write a story on Ben Wallace, who had just signed a \$60 million deal with the Bulls in 2006. White Hall was in one of the poorest counties in the U.S. at the time, and Johnson expected to write a feel-good story on Wallace's rise from being raised by a single mother with his 11 siblings to the NBA. He was

surprised, though, when a portion of the town spoke of Wallace's neglect after he made it out.

"I went in with the idea of a rags-to-riches story, but there was a very strong undercurrent that people were angry with him — he didn't give back to the community enough. Ben tried to buy his family homes elsewhere, and they didn't want to move," said Johnson.

Johnson's deep investment in that story led him to some unique encounters, such as the time he

drank moonshine with a man who marched alongside Martin Luther King, Jr., and meeting Wallace's near-identical brother while visiting his childhood home.

"You go where the story takes you," said Johnson. "As a reporter you gotta trust your instincts. That comes with experience — your writing voice develops over time. Make sure you don't have an agenda or bias, and be open to new information. I met Ben's whole family before I met him, and he didn't like me at first. He said, 'you're the guy who wrote that story,' but now we have a really good relationship... it's really fun to sit down with somebody and get information. I love putting research into developing good thoughts and ideas, which all goes back to writing and letting the interview go off to areas you would not expect."

As for his parting thoughts, Johnson left the audience with career advice that extends beyond sports journalism.

"The biggest thing I learned was getting comfortable in my own skin. Early in my career I interviewed Michael Jordan, and I thought to myself, 'Oh my God, I'm interviewing Michael Jordan!' Over the years I've gotten comfortable with my voice by watching a lot of people interview on TV and putting a lot of work in to be prepared for interviews. I love interviewing and writing, which is a good combination for being a sportswriter."

## I'm not just: a New Trier student

Senior is not only a student but also an entrepreneur

by Nadia Jaikaran

At New Trier, many students face the issue of balancing academics and extracurriculars. For some, academics takes up a significant percentage of their day, resulting in less time to participate in activities students may be passionate about.

For senior and WNTH host Andrew Moerschel, balancing academics and extracurriculars is tricky, but results in a worthwhile outcome.

Many Americans perceive radio as an outlet for entertainment and news, but for Moerschel, it travels deeper.

"Radio embodies the birth of modern media that dominates pop culture today," he began, "its emphasis on the spoken word, its immediacy in everyday life and the ability to send information to an audience that can stretch from coast to coast has been a major source of inspiration in my constant drive to become a better communicator."

Another source of inspiration for Moerschel stemmed from radio's power to bring people of different backgrounds together. To move beyond WNTH, Moerschel landed various gigs on his way towards pursuing his dream.

"I've interned with WCGO 1590AM and 95.9FM, and [now] I've been hired to produce three programs as a Multimedia Producer. As of June 2019, I was hired as an audio producer for the nationally-syndicated political talk program Beyond the Beltway with Bruce DuMont."

While work life and academics take up a large portion of Moerschel's time, he admits it can be difficult.



Moerschel's passion for radio has landed him spots | andrewmoerschel.com

"One of the largest costs of starting a career is losing time and will-power to reconnect with those I love," he said.

He emphasizes the importance of taking up hobbies outside of work-related passions.

"It has become a dedicated activity of mine to assemble a full-service, multi-faceted brewing station [for my tea]," Moerschel said, "I spend a significant amount of effort, much to the laughter of my family and friends, exploring high-end loose leaf tea from many parts of the world."

To balance academics, Moerschel says communicating with his teachers helps ensure academic sustainability.

"I try my best to get sleep, keep track of my assignments and make sure I have a clear communication line to my teachers when I need them to assist me. Having strong relationships helps me achieve a clearer picture of [my goals]."

In school, Moerschel enjoys courses where he can study works with his peers and teachers.

"My favorite course is English. I enjoy analyzing literature and delving deep into the symbolism of art. There is something about experiencing a

piece of work alongside a group of people my age or older that is truly unifying," Moerschel stated.

Career-wise, Moerschel adds that his journey might be a difficult one, but with time and effort, it can be achievable.

"I am in the process of developing my own content for television, radio, podcasting and social media. Within the next few months, I intend to expand my focus to include more live television production and eventually explore documentary filmmaking."

"I would advise to anyone who wants to embark upon a career at this age to make it a routine to ask themselves if they are truly gaining satisfaction from what they are doing," Moerschel stated, "Seek out moments to breathe and sit back in appreciation of your efforts. Learn to take constructive criticism and develop close relationships with those around you."

Moerschel embodies the idea that students at New Trier aren't just "students"— they can fulfill their aspirations by balancing academics and extracurriculars to fulfill their dreams. To Moerschel, he's not just a student, rather he prefers the term entrepreneur.

## Movember returns to NT

Juniors Matt Booden and Ben Yoder rally a group to benefit men's health

by Cleo Pool

This November, juniors Ben Yoder and Matt Booden are taking part in No Shave November for the second year in a row.

No Shave November also known as Movember is a charity that supports prostate cancer, mental health, and testicular cancer. To take part in this movement, one can run or walk 60 miles, host a fundraiser to collect money, and of course not shave.

Booden and Yoder have again made the decision to ditch the razors, but this year they have a team of members rallying behind them. Last year the two alone raised \$180 but this year, they have a new plan.

"This being our second time, and having a lot more people partaking we set a goal of \$500," said Yoder.

This year the boys came to November with a different approach. After last year, the movement picked up some traction around the school, so this year they have a team known as the New Trier Beard Team.

The money the team will raise will go to funding many projects that support men's health. According to the Movember site, this charity has funded over 1,250 projects since 2003.

Booden decided to join this movement after watching his brother and now he follows in his footsteps.

"My older brother whose done it for the past 5 years, he did it in college a lot and he would grow out this huge mustache every year," said Booden

As for Yoder, he followed in Matt's footsteps. He was attached to this cause because of the simplicity.



Donate to the NT Beard Team!

"I hadn't heard about Movember until Booden had told me about it last year, and I found the idea appealing just because it's so easy to do. It takes zero effort to not shave, and raising money for men's health awareness is just an added bonus," said Yoder.

It hasn't been easy for the boys to create a large following. They reached out to students and staff members but many didn't want to grow facial hair.

"The biggest challenge is getting people on board. A lot of people I talked to said 'I can't grow anything', 'I don't wanna look weird', and a lot of male staff members said, 'My wife is gonna kill me' or 'I have parent teacher conferences coming up,'" said Booden.

Not only has it been difficult to grow their team but also spreading awareness hasn't been easy. The No Shave movement has often been overlooked. But Yoder and Booden see it as their duty to spread awareness for the charity and men's health.

"Not a lot of other people are aware of this fundraiser, so that's why Booden and I are trying to use the New Trier News to spread awareness," said Yoder.

"The point is that it is gonna look weird, I don't really like the way that this looks typically, but it's supposed to look weird, it's supposed to look quirky, and it's supposed to promote a discussion," said Booden.

# Staff Editorial

## The lockdown needs to be a wake up call

The false alarm lockdown last Friday was unnerving, or even traumatic, for almost everyone at the Winnetka campus. For nearly fifteen minutes it seemed as though everyone's worst fear had been realized--an active shooter had entered our school.

Frantic group text messages bombarded phones of students and staff. The in-and-out mumbling over the loudspeaker only amplified the chaos.

Students were in locked classrooms with the lights turned off, the door barricaded with desks, and people crying or texting their parents to say goodbye. Any noise made the entire room flinch, each person straining to hear gunshots that thankfully never came.

School shootings are statistically extremely unlikely. We were all surprised by the lockdown. But during those 15 minutes when we didn't know what was going on, there was almost a sense that a shooting had been bound to happen at our school.

Thankfully, New Trier has several safety mechanisms in place, and most of them functioned exactly as they should. We have one lockdown drill every year, and as a result everyone was able to act swiftly once the siren sounded.

Within a minute, most classrooms were locked, barricaded, and silent as per protocol. Police were on campus within three minutes of the alarm. The security staff, teachers, and administrators did a great job under remarkably stressful circumstances.

If anything good came out of the false alarm, it was knowledge of what exactly needs to be changed or improved in the event of a real emergency. Some doors could not lock, and there were a few rooms where the PA system could not be heard.

If there ever was a legitimate lockdown at New Trier, staff now know exactly how to handle the situation.

However, the distress the lockdown created among students and staff serves as a painful reminder of the threat posed by school shootings.

It is disgraceful that in 2019, American students and teachers fear being shot and killed at school. The fact that in-depth security scanning systems, check-in vestibules, shatter-proof film over windows, and lockdown drills are necessary is problematic.

Our country's legislators have failed to enact reasonable gun-control laws, and schools around the country have been forced to pick up the slack.

NT has taken a lot of steps to ensure student safety, and this was shown when the lockdown last Friday went relatively smoothly. Many schools throughout the country do not have the resources to ensure the same level of preparedness.

Universal background checks and other "common sense" gun reform have widespread bipartisan support. According to an ABC poll from September 9, 89 percent of Americans believe background checks should be required for all gun buyers, and 86 percent agree that police should have the power to take guns from people deemed dangerous by a judge.

Despite such pervasive agreement, Congress has been unwilling to implement these basic reforms. The prominence of pro-gun donors for national campaigns has made it nearly impossible to create any sort of change. The cost of these campaign contributions is being paid in the lives taken by gun violence throughout this country everyday.

As students, we need to demand change from our legislators. Regardless of your party, ideology, or politics, most can agree that small steps can be taken to make it more difficult for guns to get into the wrong hands.

If politicians refuse to make even minor changes, they should be fearful of losing their seats in Congress come the next election. More and more students are coming of voting age, and we likely won't vote for candidates who lack the conviction to do the right thing.

On March 14, 2018, students across the country, including hundreds from NT, walked out of class to demand legislation that would limit the accessibility of guns and the likelihood of school shootings after the Parkland massacre. Since that walkout, what has changed?

We were lucky it was only a false alarm last Friday, but this needs to serve as a wake-up call. This is not normal, the fight is not over, and we cannot become complacent.

# The New Trier News

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All letters to the editors are welcome, though we will not print anonymous letters. Direct these and other inquiries to our email at ntnews@nthn.net

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# Teachers need to stop using the N-word



by Eva Roytburg

New Trier has a racial slur problem. In 2018, a student was caught after writing a racial slur, the "N-word", on a bathroom stall. There were several copycat incidents afterwards.

This week, advisors are discussing the N-word and the use of it at school. The school hopes that these conversations will inform students about why it is bad to use slurs and will produce a safer environment among students.

Yet in an environment in which the use of the N-word is treated with proper hostility, the issue of teachers reading the word out-loud to students hasn't been fully addressed. The sophomore English curriculum includes books such as "The Other Wes Moore" by Wes Moore and "The Intuitionist" by Colson Whitehead, both books which contain the slur. There have been several instances accounted by students of white English teachers at New Trier reading this slur to their students.

This is an injustice to the black

students who attend New Trier and could be sitting in those rooms. The word is not from the teacher's craft, but the act of reading it out loud realizes strong imagery of violence which could severely damage student's safety in the classroom.

Though the English department has recently asked teachers not to read the word out loud, they have not gone far enough. Non-black teachers must be banned from reading it.

Gabby Manna, a black student at a college in Connecticut, describes the issue eloquently. In her essay, "To the Lecturer Who Read the N-Word Aloud in Class", she exclaims, "You forced these students, without warning, to hear a word stirring up memories of slavery, violence, murder, rape -- the history of violent racism that continues today for black people in this country... speaking it out loud is performance. It is the intentional act of making that word heard -- of stirring up a violent past and present that is not only directly harmful to your students but could be putting their lives in immediate danger. When the word is on the page, it has no owner -- you wanted to own that word."

There is very little educational value in reading the word out loud. I am not suggesting the abolition of teaching all works of literature which contain it but teachers do not lose anything from simply skipping

over it or replacing it with N-word.

But there is much that is suggested by a teacher in class reading it out loud. It suggests that it's okay to say the word if it's not their own words. By this logic, that means it's okay for non-Black individuals to use it when singing songs which contain the word, or when reading out loud a Twitter post to their friends.

Those practices are not acceptable. When a non-black person uses the word today, it is ridden in a context of hatred and violence. The fact that some black people use it doesn't mean white people can.

The teachers who have used this word in school likely do not have malicious intent. By teaching books that contain historical situations using the word, they invoke important conversations about race writ large.

But they still have a commitment to their rainbow-colored safe space posters on the wall, and by using the word, they can make the classroom an unwelcome area for students of color.

In a school where 83% of students and 90% of teachers are white, teachers must foster discussions of the N-word and other slurs. In order to best realize an educational environment that is safe for all, non-black teachers must set a good example for their students and not speak the word.

# Ok boomer



by Katy Pickens

Following the panic and confusion caused by the lockdown on the Winnetka campus last Friday, many students looked to @newtrier203 on Instagram for an explanation.

The same note Paul Sally had sent to parents was the caption of a photo that read "A message to New Trier families." While the caption was helpful, the comment section was easily the most fascinating and entertaining component of the post.

An older gentleman had left a comment on the photo that rubbed most students the wrong way.

"Ridiculous that there are lockdowns. Teaches fear when the odds of needing it are close to zero. Worry about cars and drug abuse. This is what gets NT kids," he wrote in his comment.

Given the traumatic events just hours before this post, the comment was tactless. Though school shootings are super unlikely, practicing procedure in the event of a lockdown saves lives. NT also spends a lot of time talking about drugs, and I cannot be sure of exactly what he meant about "cars."

It was not clear who this man was or why he had the authority to make these claims, but that didn't matter. His profile picture showed his white hair, beige suit, and baby blue tie - he was a certified Boomer™.

Beneath his comment were nearly 30 replies that all said the same thing: "ok boomer" (and one "boomer ok").

Honestly, I laughed. It felt good to see a hurtful comment shut down.

While generational warfare is

nothing new, the "ok boomer" meme has become a way for Generation Z to fire back at Baby Boomers (or really, any adult) who make offensive remarks or display disdain for young people.

In this instance, the Boomer's comment triggered this response because it demonstrated a lack of empathy for what the lockdown was like and why lockdown procedures exist in the first place.

This is especially interesting considering that when Baby Boomers were our age, they had to hide under desks during H-bomb drills, while today we similarly practice hiding from active shooters.

In fact, there are several similarities between Gen Z and the Baby Boomers.

Boomers marched on Washington D.C. to protest the Vietnam War, demanded Liberation for women, and fought for the Civil Rights Movement to expand equality. Today, Gen Z marches on Washington to demand gun reform, fights for justice for the LGBTQIA+ community, and advocates for the preservation of our planet.

When Baby Boomers were young, they believed that previous generations had created a heap of problems that they needed to solve. Now that their position has been reversed, some Baby Boomers display an unwillingness to sympathize with young people or listen to our ideas.

Obviously, not all Baby Boomers are uncaring or uncompromising. In fact, most of them aren't. However, enough Boomers are so unwilling to listen that there is cause for concern.

As Greta Thunberg (my queen) said in her speech to the UN, "We are in the beginning of a mass extinction and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth - how dare you!"

This comment perfectly encapsulates Gen Z's outrage with the Baby Boomers. We are called entitled, lazy and naive simply for pointing out the problems we face

and demanding solutions. But the world cannot afford to forestall until all the callous Boomers retire.

This anger has been channeled into a comeback made of the best tools we have -- sarcasm and memes.

The only reason we say "ok Boomer" at all is because it is an efficient way to fight back when we are shut down for doing something that older generations may not understand.

However, I must admit it is difficult for young people to empathize with Boomers as well.

Right now I am 17. Becoming a sixty-something-year-old feels almost impossible. I do not yet have the experiences to understand the Baby Boomer generation. I imagine it can be scary to see today's kids shirk tradition and challenge authority while seeing the world change a hundred times over in the span of a single life time.

I know that Gen Z will eventually get old (unless climate change screws us all over). The youth of the future will begin doing things and voicing ideas entirely unimaginable to us now. I wonder if our generation is doomed to acquire the same lack of empathy and refusal to listen that have fueled thousands of Boomer memes.

My only hope is that as a generation, despite the mistakes that we are bound to make in the future, we are able to maintain a stronger sense of open mindedness.

As I live in new places, meet new people, and grow older, I believe it is critical that I maintain an openness to other perspectives. If I reread this when I am 67, even if I can't exactly remember how it felt to be 17, I hope that I remember the frustration of not being heard.

We say "Ok Boomer" because otherwise there's a chance that we won't be listened to at all, or that we'll be lectured about our laziness or naivete. My generation wants change, dialogue and progress, and we're willing to work to make it happen - we simply need adults to listen.

# Field hockey repeats as state champions with OT win

Team claims 14th state title with 4-2 victory over Lake Forest

by *Mattea Carberry*

On Nov. 2, the girls field hockey team closed out the season strong with a 4-2 state championship win over Lake Forest, sealing the win with overtime goals from senior Kate McLaughlin and senior Grace Harris.

The 2-2 score at the end of the game prompted an overtime, in which the game continued with seven players from each team, instead of the standard eleven, for up to two 10 minute periods.

Head coach Stephanie Nykaza felt that overtime was the most exciting part of the game.

"It went right down to the end that we ended up in a tie so it was definitely a nail-biter of a game," said Nykaza. "We went into overtime and we scored two goals; [it's] pretty amazing that we did that."

Junior Hillary Cox agreed and noted the euphoric feeling that overwhelmed the team when the second overtime goal was scored by Harris.

"After the second overtime

goal, all the players ran and hugged each other because we knew at this point that we were gonna win," she said.

Senior Amy Griffin added that she thought the first goal of the game played a significant role in how the rest of the game would pan out.

"[The first goal] really set the tone and we actually got our second goal soon after," said Griffin.

Cox said practicing their 7v7 play during practices aided them in being able to seal the win in the end.

"We practiced a lot of 7v7 play we do for overtime, which is really tiring to do at the end of practice, but it really paid off during the state game," said Cox.

Harris thought that another aspect that helped contribute to their victory was their aggressiveness.

"In this game, we were very intense by going to the ball right away without hesitation," said Harris. "In past games we had difficulty with stepping up right away."

Senior Evie Lake added that their increased unity as a team helped put them in the right mindset to win the game.

"[We worked] as a team to play team offense and defense. We didn't play as individually as we have in past games," Lake said. "I also think that we came together even more as



The field hockey team poses with their first-place trophy after the state final on Nov. 2 | **Bisonette**

a team because we knew what we needed to do to win the game."

The girls finished the season with a state championship and a record of 29-2-1. Nykaza emphasized how the team's effort was critical in fostering such a rewarding season.

"With a pretty rigorous schedule, we ended up number one seat going into the [state] tournament and we ended up first place. That's a pretty difficult thing to do; for twenty-two players to keep it together since August," said Nykaza. "They got tired, but they stuck with it."

Griffin also noted how the team's ability to push through those

rough spots of exhaustion set them up for success later on in the season.

"There is always a point in the season where people start to feel burnt out and there are cracks in the team, but I think how you handle that is more important," she said. "Luckily, our team rebounded very well and were able to reconnect and gear up for the postseason."

Reflecting back on the season, Lake felt unity they developed over the season was a notable achievement.

"I think a point of growth was being able to support each other, no matter if you were on the bench," said Lake.

Cox agreed that the strong chemistry developed over the course of the season played a crucial role in the team's success.

"The team has gotten so close since the beginning, and I think that is just as important as the skills we have improved on," said Cox.

With a strong record and even stronger finish at state, the girls could have hardly achieved a much better season.

"I couldn't have asked for a better way to end the season or a better team to do it with," Griffin said.

## Girls tennis claims bronze medal at state

Retooled lineup records team's best finish in four years

by *Matt Murray*

The girls tennis team placed in the top three at state for the first time since 2015, finishing with a score of 26 points over the course of the three-day tournament held from Oct. 24 to Oct. 26.

Despite their score falling short of the 39 and 33 point performances by Lake Forest and Hinsdale Central respectively, the team finished eight points ahead of fourth-place finisher Glenbard West.

"Before the season, I thought that getting third would be a really good achievement for this team," said head coach Jerry Morse-Karzen.

"I knew that there were a few teams in front of us like Lake Forest and Hinsdale Central who were really strong, so getting third and fending off the teams that also had an opportunity to do so was quite good."

The team's third-place finish was a particularly fulfilling accomplishment considering their and senior Ali Benedetto's misfortune during the 2018 state tournament.

Trailing third place Stevenson by one point going into the final day of last year's tournament, Benedetto's singles match in the consolation bracket semifinals was rained out, costing the team an opportunity to erase the deficit and end their medal drought.

"Last year, we [the team] were really disappointed that state got cancelled because we were on track to get third, but this year we all did well and played our best to make sure we got [third place]," said Benedetto.

Benedetto, who won all but three matches this season, tallied 11 of the team's points during the state tournament, capping off her New Trier career with two-set victory against Hinsdale Central freshman Nicole Hu in the third place game.

"Finishing third [at state] was definitely a highlight for me and the team," said Benedetto. "It's exciting to end my tennis career at New Trier



The team celebrates after state on Oct. 26 | **NT Athletics Twitter** on a win."

While Benedetto's dominant run to the state semifinals accounted for nearly half of the Trevians' total points, she was not alone in her success at state.

Freshman Julia Ross upset Quincy senior Olivia Clayton in the first round of the singles tournament, and the doubles tandem of sophomore Ashtin Hara and freshman Monika Glueck reached the state quarterfinals, ultimately tallying eight points on their way to a sixth-place finish.

"During state, since pressure is high and everyone is trying to play their best, I think it truly brings the best out of everyone," said Hara.

"My partner [Monika] and I performed extremely well during the regular season, and then during state we played even better. I'm very proud of how we played and how much we contributed to the 3rd place finish this year."

After reaching last year's state doubles quarterfinals with junior Macy Zaban, who picked up three points in this year's state tournament alongside senior Emily Rhee, Hara repeated the feat as Glueck's partner this season, helping her freshman teammate become more acclimated to the spotlight along the way.

"As a freshman [this year], I didn't have much experience playing doubles, but I thought that, throughout the season, I improved a lot in my doubles game," said Glueck.

"By the time my partner [Ashtin] and I got to state, I felt more comfortable at the net and more willing to go for my volleys."

Hara and Glueck's impressive performance at state was preceded by a first place finish at sectionals on Oct. 19, securing the doubles title with a victory over Rhee and Zaban in the final.

Those results combined with Benedetto's second straight singles championship propelled the team to its 11th straight sectional title, a streak that has been sustained because of the consistent depth on the 24-player roster.

"I wish our entire team were given the chance to play at state because I truly miss them when we don't all get to play together like we do before conference, sectionals, and state," said Hara. "The other players on our team, even though they [didn't play] at state, still contributed so much to getting us there, from the practices to the cheering."

Although the team will certainly lose Benedetto and Rhee next season, there is a high likelihood that the other two-thirds of their state lineup will be back for a run at a 9th state title in 2020.

"We do have four players [from our state lineup] who could be returning, and they're going to have to make that call if they want to come back; but we've been very fortunate to have most come back in the past," said Morse-Karzen.

## Boys cross country places 10th at state tournament

Team finishes in top 10 at state for the first time since 2015

by *Cleo Pool*

The boys cross country team finished 10th overall at state on Nov. 9.

After a long and successful season that included a first place finish at conference, the team was hoping to place top five at state. But compared to last year's 12th place finish, this is an improvement for the boys.

New Trier fell in the 3A class when competing for state. In the 3A class, first went to St. Charles East.

Overall the team was not thrilled about their placement. Senior Felix Boeing felt as if the team could have placed better, but not every day is a good day.

"I think obviously we worked hard and would have liked to and probably deserved to place higher but the truth is we just didn't have a good day but that's how it is sometimes in racing," said Boeing.

Junior Andrew Flynn agreed. The boys did the best they could but the competition was stronger than the team expected.

"State was bitter sweet. All of us gave it our best in the race, however it wasn't enough. The pool of talent at State was enormous," said Flynn.

Head coach David Wisner agreed with Flynn and Boeing. In the end, the competition was tough and it wasn't an easy race.

"We were hoping for top five and we had to run really well to be top five, but we didn't have our best day at state, we had a tremendous season, but not the best day at state," said Wisner.

Despite the disappointing placement, the boys still performed well in Boeing's opinion.

"Standout races were our sophomore Nick Falk who ran a 14:51, Andrew Flynn was our second

man in 15:02 and George Cahill, another sophomore stepped in and ran 15:38 which was impressive from my point of view" said Boeing.

Wisner agreed. He saw a great improvement in the team over the season. He was very impressed by the perseverance of the boys because it hasn't been an easy season.

"Thinking about the guys on varsity, almost every single one of them improved and most improved significantly in terms of their time, which was a hard feat this year because we are running in mud almost every weekend, so I think you have to look at the whole season," said Wisner.

Flynn sees this as an opportunity to motivate the team to do better next year and he is confident in the team's success from here on.

"Coming off an 'alright' performance as an individual but also for the team at state only add fuel to the fire for us. We're here to compete and make a statement in Illinois," said Flynn.

The team had a successful season nonetheless. They finished first in the Palatine Invite which is one of the most competitive meets prior to state.

Moving forward, the team is confident in the future. They have a bit of an advantage due to the number of young runners they have. Out of the top seven runners, six plan on returning for the next season.

"In our top seven we will have six out of the seven returning. Most teams will usually have three maybe four returners," said Flynn.

Regardless of a rocky end, the boys are proud of adding another successful season to the books. The team came together this season like never before, making this one count.

"As a senior I think this was our best year yet and it was impressive to see and be a part of. The whole mentality and focus of the team seemed to change starting in the summer and we all did what we had to do to be great," said Boeing.