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Lake Michigan at highest water level since 1986

Climate change could be a factor, according to experts

by Grant Feldman

Just six years after reaching its lowest point ever recorded, Lake Michigan has risen to its highest water levels since 1986, and local residents are feeling the effects.

Lake Michigan is not the only lake facing high water levels. According to the Detroit Free Press all five Great Lakes are at least 15 inches above their long-term October averages, with Lake Michigan 35 inches above its average.

“Experts are attributing the water level rises to particularly wet springs in the Midwest over the past few years,” said environmental science teacher Cole Lanham.

Water levels fluctuate over time, but this dramatic rise could be partially attributed to climate change.

“Water levels in the Great Lakes have complex contributing factors, including seasonal rain, summer temperatures that drive evaporation, [and] water drawn from the system for human use. Climate change probably plays a role indirectly, but it is likely very hard to measure this,” added Lanham. “While climate change may contribute to changes in precipitation over the long run, the current peak water levels are more likely an aberration caused by a few especially rainy years in a row.”

Go Green Wilmette employee Maria Dabrowski agrees that while the high water levels are part of a cycle, they are accentuated



Rising water levels have caused local beaches to shrink, such as Tower Beach in Winnetka. | Towers

by climate change as well.

“It’s important to remember that environmental changes are cyclical, but it’s unprecedented how fast the water levels are rising,” said Dabrowski. “It’s not really following the general pattern that meteorologists know. What’s happening is definitely still part of the cycle, but it’s happening at a much faster rate, which I think is due to climate change.”

Lakeside towns have had to contemplate possible courses of action if the lake were to rise to dangerous levels. Wilmette, aside from monitoring swim conditions, has not yet acted on the issue.

“We have not done anything yet. Are we going to in the future? That is a question for someone much bigger than me,” said Wilmette Park District official Holly Specht. “[Lake Michigan] has the highest rate of drowning of any of the Great Lakes. This year we had a lot more closures for high surf and rip currents, [to protect] the public.”

In response, Chicago city officials have installed barriers along the lakefront to prevent flooding in vulnerable locations, such as along Lake Shore Drive.

“We know that this threat isn’t new to our city,” Mayor Lori Lightfoot said in a statement. “In

fact, high lake levels have been an ongoing issue that historically have caused serious damage to our lakefront infrastructure and beaches while also posing a continuous threat to pedestrian and traffic safety. We are constantly monitoring the lake’s water levels and creating solutions for potential flooding.”

Another consequence of elevated water levels is erosion, which could cause great damage if the lake continues to rise.

“[Erosion] impacts our dunes, which are natural barriers between the lake and a lot of property, especially since a lot of communities in the North Shore have houses right on the

lake,” explained Dabrowski. “That’s going to increase property damage. Dunes also help protect against a lot of the destruction that waves and wind cause during storms.”

Dozens of area beaches have been shrinking as the lake rises, and some, such as Langdon Beach in Wilmette, have disappeared completely. Gillson Beach in Wilmette is one of the few beaches that hasn’t been severely affected, though it has still shrunk significantly.

“Gillson Beach is about half the size it was in 2013, so we are still open for business, unlike some of our neighbors that have very little beach,” said Specht. “We have a deep enough beach to be able to keep it open, unlike the Winnetka beaches, Glencoe beaches, Highland Park beaches... those communities have the same issues we’re having at Langdon, so that eventually the lake is flooded whereas [at] Gillson, we have a lot of parkland connected to it, so I don’t see Gillson closing.”

Senior Katie Merk, who was a lifeguard at Gillson Beach over the summer, was taken aback by the lake’s drastic rise.

“This year, it wasn’t even possible to walk from Gillson to Langdon without having to get wet or swim, which is something I had never seen before,” said Merk. “At the time they closed Langdon Beach [in May], there was enough beach left that my coworkers and I did not believe it to be the right time to close it. It did become unsafe as the summer progressed, though, and the high water levels [became] a safety hazard.”

Girls club receives no revenue from school dances

Ticket sales used for Tri-Ship for scholarships, student activities

by Alex Rubinstein

Every year, the money raised from homecoming ticket sales is given to Tri-ship for the boys scholarship fund. However, Girls Club does not receive money from any school dances, creating a disparity between the size of the girls’ scholarship versus the boys’.

This discrepancy is viewed as unfair by several members of Girls Club. They believed that if the boy’s scholarship fund received proceeds from school dances, then the girls should as well.

“To my knowledge Girls Club does not get any money from school dances. I think it’s unfair that Tri-Ship gets some of the money when Girls Club doesn’t have the same opportunity,” said senior and Girls Club member, Claire Mooney.

Mooney also added that Girls Club would be happy to help with organizing one of the dances if it meant that they would have the opportunity to give more female students scholarship funding.

“I think to change it, Girls Club



Students at the homecoming dance Oct. 5: Upperclassmen in costume, Sophomores in formal attire | Stuart Rogers

should be offered the opportunity to contribute to a dance or other school related activity because we are more than willing to help,” said Mooney. “In the long run, it would mean more students overall being able to receive scholarships.”

Currently, the profits from homecoming ticket sales are split between Tri-ship and Student Alliance. The profits from Trevapalooza go to Global Exchange

Club. Girls Club President and senior Regina Fernandez said, “I wish that Girls Club got the opportunity to share the profits or do the same with turnabout.”

“I know we would be willing to help decorate or do something to help organize the dances in order to get some of the profits as well,” added Fernandez.

Tri-ship originally got the profits

from homecoming because they were in charge of selling the tickets for the dance. However, now that ticket sales are usually done through Revtrak online, Tri-ship no longer sells tickets.

They do however help to plan the pep rally, and organize some parts of the dance.

Senior and Tri-Ship member Sean McNeely was the leader of the homecoming committee for the club.

“Our role for the dance was setting up the gym, putting decorations around the school, and selling tickets with Ms. Kolack last minute because she was on a time crunch,” said McNeely.

Tri-ship member, Kyler White, added that Tri-ship was in charge of some of the smaller details in addition to setting up for the dance.

“We’d come up with ideas for the school to implement like the Gatorade or the ice cream sandwiches. Nothing on a huge scale because we leave that to the adult planners, but the small stuff for the students that make the dance more enjoyable is what we did.”

Girls Club would like to compromise and to share profits from one of the dances with another club.

“I think we should change this by compromising on either sharing the profits of homecoming or sharing the profits of turnabout with the club that gets the profits from turnabout,” said Fernandez.

“We would be willing to help out if that’s what we need to do to get some profits as well. New Trier girls scholarships are just as important as any other fundraiser done by the other club, so we should get the opportunity to be able to be part of this.”

NT reflects on impeachment proceedings

Students see the recent impeachment inquiry as justified.

by Julia Nagel

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi announced a formal impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump on Sept. 24, an action that students have been following closely.

The inquiry will investigate the potential constitutional violations that Trump committed when he pressured the Ukrainian President to investigate Joe Biden and son Hunter Biden.

Many students from across the political spectrum have stated that the inquiry is justified.

"If he tried to cover up in the first place, then clearly he knows what he's doing is wrong," said senior Caitlin Carr-Smith.

Junior David Tabarez-Cisneros, head of the Republican club, agreed.

"I think these proceedings are justified and any president should be held accountable if they break the law, regardless of party or affiliation. I also think that Trump should be given a fair trial," said Tabarez-Cisneros.

Tabarez-Cisneros added that Biden should also be investigated.

"I think Joe Biden should also be investigated alongside Trump due to [Biden's] withholding of funds to Ukraine during 2015-2016," said Tabarez-Cisneros.

Though junior Gavin Tian, secretary of the Republican club, agreed that the proceedings could be justified if a crime is determined, he worried that the inquiry might simply be a way for the Democrats to target Trump ahead of the 2020 elections.

"I think this is really overhyped and it can potentially go in the direction of the Mueller probe, where a link wasn't really found," said Tian. To Tian, the outcome of the investigation will likely determine how he votes in the upcoming election.

"If the investigation turns out to lead to nothing it would make me a bit inclined to vote for Trump. But if the investigation leads to something big, I don't think I'll vote," said Tian. Currently, six House committees are tasked with investigating Trump. They will determine whether there is sufficient evidence to recommend a full House vote on articles of impeachment.

If the House committees determine that there is sufficient evidence to proceed with the impeachment process, Trump's impeachment would require a majority vote in the House. If this were to happen, Trump's removal from office would still require a two-thirds vote in the Senate.

Historically, only 2 presidents have been formally impeached--Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998. However, neither President was removed from office.

Because of these factors, although many students predict that Trump will be impeached, few believe the President will actually be removed from office--especially since the 2020 election might come along before a decision has been reached.

Senior Charlotte Cleary, who identifies as Independent, doesn't believe the investigation will amount to anything.

"I don't know what will happen, but sadly I don't think much honestly. Every time the FBI has said they found the 'smoking gun' nothing happens; it's just gets swept under the rug," said Cleary.

Junior Ethan VanGosen, who is co-head of Non-Partisans Club, agreed that the proceedings will likely not have much of an impact on the President; he believes that the Republican controlled Senate is an insurmountable obstacle.

"I don't believe that the Senate, which is controlled by the Republicans, will vote to remove President Trump from office," said VanGosen.

The belief that Senate Republicans would never vote to remove Trump from office had previously discouraged Democrats from pursuing impeachment. However, the first whistleblower's report pushed many, including Speaker Pelosi and many moderate Democrats, to change their minds.

"The actions of the Trump presidency have revealed the dishonorable fact of the president's betrayal of his oath of office, betrayal of our national security, and betrayal of the integrity of our elections," said Pelosi in a statement to the press on Sept. 24.

The President has denied these allegations and refused to cooperate with the inquiry.

"The White House declared war on the House impeachment inquiry on Tuesday [Oct. 8], announcing that it would not cooperate with what it called an illegitimate effort 'to overturn the results of the 2016 election' and setting the stage for a constitutional clash with far-reaching consequences," stated a New York Times article.

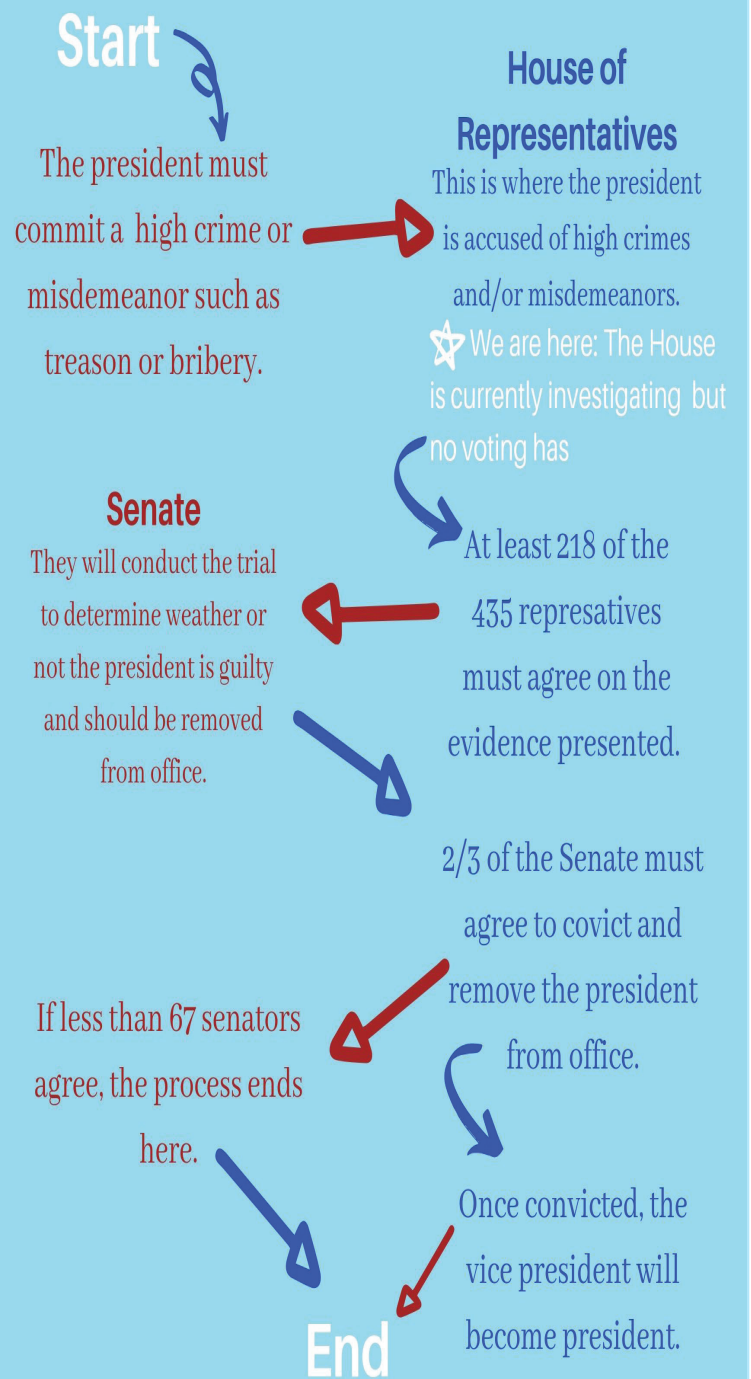
Junior Antigone Zervas, who supports the Democratic party, believes the investigation will exacerbate the polarization of American politics.

"I don't think anything will be achieved. I feel that this will divide the country more. In my opinion, there is no political benefit for the [Democrats] to attempt to impeach the President," said Zervas.

Despite the potential for partisan controversy, VanGosen believes the issues raised by the impeachment inquiry are important for all people, regardless of party affiliation, to consider.

"The American people deserve a leader that is transparent and acts on the will of the people. A good president should not use their power to accomplish personal interests," said VanGosen.

How impeachment works:



From the Archives: In order to fully understand the current impeachment proceedings, it can be helpful to look at what the process was for the most recent president to be impeach: Bill Clinton. The article below, originally printed in 1999, highlights students' opinions on Clinton's never-ending impeachment scandal.

Besides the sentiment from students that the proceedings are merely symbolic, the Clinton's impeachments and current investigations of Trump are very different. While Clinton was accused of perjury for lying about his affair, Trump has been accused of abusing power and soliciting foreign help in the 2020 election.

Current events we wish weren't current anymore

by Andrew Pacelli

In 1974 during the congressional investigation of President Richard Nixon, the nation was glued to the television set, feeling betrayed by the criminal actions of their leader.

Flash forward 25 years to 1999. Last week the Senate initiated the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton. Around the nation and here at New Trier, people have grown weary of scandal, and simply wish the whole issue would go away.

"I don't even care about it anymore," said junior Brian Rady. "I'm so sick of hearing about Linda Tripp and Monica."

Indeed apathy and resignation reflect the consensus among students and faculty. People feel the whole impeachment process has gone on too long and is unnecessary.

Mr. Bill Stewart, a social studies teacher who began teaching in 1966 and taught during the Watergate scandal, speculates that one of the reasons people are not as moved and driven to protest by the actions of Clinton is that Watergate occurred in the context of the conclusion of the Vietnam War.

Mr. Stewart explained that at the time, there was a high level of suspicion about any government organization or program; he added that distrust of politicians ran very high.

Now of course, life seems good in America, due to the healthy economy, so there is an overall acceptance of

what goes on in Washington and an attitude that the government should keep up the good work.

The other reason Mr. Stewart believes the interest in the Nixon impeachment was so much stronger is that in 1974 the issues dealt with the political life of the nation rather than the personal life of the president. This is the greatest difference. In 1974, according to Mr. Stewart, people were saying, "this is my business," whereas now people are saying, "O.K., the president was messing around," but they don't want any part in it.

Rady put it this way: "So great, he had an affair, but that's none of the American people's business." Janitor Michael Copland had a similar opinion saying, "It's kind of wrong that a man would be impeached for something he did in his personal life." He went on to add that a president's personal life has nothing to do with his ability to run the country.

Yet some disagree. Freshman Rebecca Felsenthal believes Clinton should be convicted. She feels that a president's moral actions affect his political actions.

Others, like junior Robert Kerr, feel that the Senate is conducting the impeachment trial for the wrong reasons. This seems to be an opinion among students and faculty.

"The evidence they're using, the case of perjury, is just not something I think he could really be impeached for," Kerr commented. But he quickly points out, "If Clinton had been caught for lying

about something that had to do with foreign affairs or the Whitewater scandal, those things I think he should be impeached for."

Sophomore Jared Abrams agrees. According to Abrams, the Republicans won't be able to provide enough evidence to support an impeachment conviction "seeing as the definition of impeachment is for high crimes.

"I don't think perjury is an impeachable offense, but I do think he should

"I don't think perjury is an impeachable offense, but I do think he should be censured because what he did was wrong."

be censured because what he did was wrong," said senior Judy Tompkins

In the opinion of Mr. Stewart, the impeachment proceeding shouldn't have occurred in the first place because the lies Clinton perjured himself with were answers to questions that shouldn't have been asked. "I grew up with the saying 'don't kiss and tell,'" Mr. Stewart observed. "So for a person to cover something that is sort of an illicit relationship is the cultural expectation." But the conflict that the nation is struggling with is that "the law

on the other hand says that you don't lie before a grand jury," he added. The net result is a conflict between the cultural expectation and the law.

So what is the future for Clinton and the American's view of politics? Most people don't think Clinton will be convicted because, as Mr. Stewart put it, "there has never been a conviction, and they probably don't want to convict on these grounds."

Commenting on whether or not his view of politics has been soured by the whole impeachment process, Kerr said, "I personally wouldn't want to be in politics. There is too much underhandedness, you have to go with a certain team. If you're a Democrat you have to vote against impeachment, and if you're a Republican you have to want to impeach him. It's too partisan."

As the country works through this domestic skirmish, the United States is faced with a far greater, recurring problem in the Middle East. A number of days ago, Iraqi president Saddam Hussein boldly ordered Iraqi jets to fly deep into the southern no-fly zone, almost to the border of Kuwait. The two no-fly zones were set up by the United Nations after the Gulf War to protect Iraqi minority groups from Hussein's military forces.

Like the Clinton scandal, almost everyone is tired of the Iraqi controversy. But unlike the Clinton scandal students and faculty seem

frustrated not with the system but by Hussein himself. As Felsenthal put it, "Just because he thinks he's king of the world doesn't mean he can violate the United Nations."

According to students, removing UN sanctions is out of the question even though the Iraqi people are suffering.

"He needs to have his lesson taught, and although it is the people of Iraq who are punished for that, I don't think there's any way around it," said Tompkins.

One consensus among students and staff is that we should continue with the bombings.

Mr. Copland felt that "seeing his [Saddam's] country destroyed like this will eventually make him want to reason."

However, there are those who feel more decisive action should take place. Senior Scott La Boda is convinced that the United States should "go hard line on Iraq." He added, "I think we should support an uprising along with U.S. military support to overthrow Saddam Hussein, to eliminate him, to assassinate him."

While this could be just the beginning of the air strikes in Iraq, the NBA strike is definitely over. Americans have given the NBA lockout just as much attention as any of the other current events--none. There appears to be a lack of sympathy for players who sometimes sign 100 million dollar contracts.

"All the sports players get paid too much. It's outrageous," noted Rady, expressing the feelings of many New Trier students.

Staff Editorial

Body shaming has no place in sports

Disqualifying swimmers due to a minor wardrobe malfunction is unfair and ridiculous. When initially hearing about this ruling, it was clear that this penalty was punishment for things simply beyond a swimmer's control: the fit of a swimsuit on different body types and suits hiking up during a race.

During any type of athletic activity, fabric is going to ride up. It may be uncomfortable, but it is the way of the world.

Breckynn Willis, a high-school swimmer in Alaska, won her race but was disqualified after the fact because her suit was deemed too revealing because it showed too much of her backside.

NBC News reported that the referee that made the call said her suit "was so far up, I could see butt cheek touching butt cheek."

However, the swimmer was wearing her team-issued swimsuit and had no disqualifications when wearing it during other races and meets.

It seemed that rather than the cut of the suit being the problem, the referee took issue with the fit of the swimsuit on her curvier body type. The swimmer had not hiked up her suit to gain some sort of microscopic hydrodynamic advantage. This call was closer to body shaming than any legitimate rule enforcement.

Thankfully, the Alaska School Activities Association decided to overturn this decision, taking a positive step in recognizing the discrimination that people with curvier or larger body types may face. Discrimination or judgement based on body type extends well beyond the scope of swim meets, and women tend to be the targets of this prejudice.

We commend the governing body for high school sports in Alaska because they listened to their athletes, coaches, and the outcry from countless others.

Swimming specifically lends itself to unfortunate clothing mishaps; many races begin in a crouching position, and swimmers have to kick aggressively to propel themselves forward. There isn't much fabric being worn to begin with. Wedgies are practically unavoidable.

Men can obviously be shamed for the way their bodies look, but rules regulating appropriate attire are often aimed at women.

High school dress codes throughout the country systematically punish teen girls that are bustier or have curves, especially considering the neckline of tops or the length of shorts and skirts.

In the workplace, larger women are often called unprofessional or distracting for wearing clothes that would not raise eyebrows if worn by a slimmer woman.

Even back at the swimming pool, it is safe to say that the Speedos boys wear for swimming and diving do not leave much to the imagination. In comparison, a minor swimsuit mishap for a female swimmer should not seem like a huge deal.

Penalizing swimmers for the way the fabric of their suits shift around during a race allows a large amount of subjectivity wherein only certain types of bodies are punished. Reversal of this decision in the Alaska case was undoubtedly the right thing to do.

Progress can only be made by admitting, learning from, and taking action to remedy mistakes.

Body shaming teenage girls allows for continued intolerance and judgement based on appearances later on in life. While a high school swim meet may seem unimportant, it demonstrates how deeply prejudices based on appearance run in our society. The reversal of the decision creates hope that women will continue to successfully fight wrong decisions, bad calls, and bias.

Women should not be punished for the way their bodies look. Athletic skill and hard work should determine your performance, not the size of your suit or the shape of your body.

Having a wedgie throughout the entirety of a race is uncomfortable enough - there does not need to be an additional penalty.

Seniors and (some) juniors will be able to vote in the next election. So vote.



by Emma Mansour

A lot of people are turning 18 this year. I guess that's what happens when you're a Senior. Anyway, when you turn 18 you get to do a lot of things. Go to jail, get a tattoo, change your name, and perhaps the most exciting of all, being able to vote!

Personally, I'm pretty excited to vote. It's kind of cool to finally have a say in the government.

One thing I've noticed, however, is that not everyone is as excited as me to vote. Further than that, some people just don't want to go vote at all, despite their ability to register and vote in the next election.

Personally, I don't think most things are outright stupid. I think that everyone is entitled to their own opinion, and every opinion has some value even if I don't agree with it.

But me disagreeing with something usually doesn't make me think it's stupid.

That being said, I think that choosing not to vote is outright stupid.

I just don't get it. What bothers me a lot is that voting is a privilege,

not something that everyone gets to do.

Obviously, we don't really think about it like that, but that doesn't change the fact that voting is something a lot of people wish they could do but never will be able to.

You get the luxury to help to choose how your country works. If you have the ability to do that, I really think you should.

And honestly, I think that you should vote even if you really don't like one nominee.

There's never going to be a perfect candidate, but chances are, there's someone you agree with more. Or at least their values are more aligned with yours than the other. Idk.

I would just find it hard to believe that in any given election, each person running holds the same value for an individual.

Because even if you feel like one person is bad, at least one will be less bad than the other.

That sounds questionable, but that's sort of how our democracy works. Choose the lesser of two evils.

I've also heard people say in regards to justifying not voting is that they don't agree with the electoral college or political parties or whatever. Which is fine. I too disagree with the electoral college, but that wouldn't stop me from voting.

I doubt the Electoral College is going to change under the current

administration. Just saying.

If you really want to change something, you have to vote to change it. That's sort of the point of voting.

If you really want to change something, you have to vote to change it. That's sort of the point of voting.

Like it or not, structural change doesn't come about as a result of complaining. Believe me, I've tried that. The only way to really try to make that kind of change is by choosing legislators that want the same changes you do.

Or you can run for office, but that seems a lot harder than filling out some forms. To each their own, I guess.

There are a lot of bad things happening in our country right now. People will disagree with me about what exactly is bad, but that's besides the point. No matter what you think, inaction is complacency; if you don't try to change something, you're essentially saying that you're okay with it.

What matters is that as we get closer to the 2020 elections, it's more important than ever that we exercise our right to vote, even if it seems pointless.

The future is (sort of) in our hands. Let's try not to screw it up.

Everyone has a Green Team sweatshirt, but Green Team isn't for everyone



by Eva Roytburg

"With 35 interscholastic sports, more than 150 student clubs, a strong intramural program, and performing arts opportunities throughout the school year, New Trier truly offers something for everyone" is the abstract written on our school's webpage for extracurriculars.

And it's not wrong: We have a cereal club, a fishing team, a radio station, even a club dedicated to Super Smash Brothers. To encompass the diversity of our senior student body, we have a nickname: Green Team.

Green Team was created in 2004 by then-assistant football coach Brian Doll as a way to unify the senior body in an effort to encourage more students to go to athletic events. When Doll left New Trier, however, it became an exclusive group for seniors based on social status.

Though Green Team has been revamped since then, the Captains are still chosen on a very selective basis and usually follow the same pattern; they are well-known seniors who play well-known sports such as basketball, football, or hockey.

The only way to be elected as a Green Team captain is to be nominated by former Green Team captains, thus there is an endless



| Pickens

cycle of the same type of person being chosen to represent this large student body.

Many New Trier seniors play popular sports, but we also have fencers, bowlers, debaters, musicians, artists. Those students deserve to be celebrated and represented just like kids on the football team are -- they are part of the Green Team too. They wear the same sweatshirt every Friday, they have performances and exhibitions that should be attended as an athletic event is.

Thus, there must be a change in the practice of choosing a Green Team Captain. Instead of allowing former captains to choose new captains, there should be a way for every upcoming senior to be able to apply, with a Google Forum or something.

These students could be interviewed or evaluated further by the former Captains or faculty to establish the leadership for the next year. But the ones that are chosen should represent more activities than just the largest sports, so Green

Team can better accomplish its goal of increasing student participation in school events.

The Green Team Captains class of 2018 was the first one to have females on it, and I think it's great that Green Team has made strides to become more inclusive. But the only way to truly change the composition of the Green Team Captains is to change the way that students are elected.

If you want more students to attend school events, they need to feel represented within the leadership that governs them. They cannot be represented if they do not even have a chance to be elected due to a system where friends nominate friends.

Green Team could be an excellent way to spur more school spirit, but it requires strong changes in the system. New Trier has a population of kids with a large variety of interests, and that ought to be celebrated.



Renee Zhou 2019

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Hate speech can't be answered with silence



by Katy Pickens

In 1997, four New Trier students were charged with hate crimes after spray-painting swastikas on a Northfield synagogue. A 21-year-old man had attempted to create a neo-Nazi group on the North Shore, recruiting many students, many of whom were sophomores. The students charged agreed to go into counseling through the school.

Scarcely two years later, the Chicago Tribune reported that a 15-year-old boy was suspended after he called his classmate a racial slur, and that he and his friends had been wearing badges to school that bore symbols supporting white supremacy.

More than twenty years later, as a community we are still grappling with white-nationalism and neo-Nazi sentiments. Specifically, we are seeing these slurs and symbols in the form of bathroom stall graffiti.

Throughout my time at the Winnetka campus, there have been four separate instances of racist or anti-Semitic graffiti found on school property.

The first was the week of November 27, 2017 when a freshman wrote the n-word in a bathroom at the Northfield campus. The second incident occurred only weeks later at the Winnetka campus. The third report of graffiti containing a racial slur was in April of 2018.

There was another announcement of anti-Semitic graffiti in a bathroom on Thursday, October 25, 2018. A swastika had been carved into a roll of toilet paper.

The regularity of these hateful acts desensitizes us to the history and hate of these symbols. However, this past week I found myself shocked at the report of another instance of alt-right vandalism. This time, it was at Wilmette Junior High School, where I attended.

Last week the Wilmette Beacon reported that a racist Instagram post with implications of violent threats had been reported to the Highcrest Middle School. The next day, a swastika was found behind a toilet paper roll in a bathroom at Wilmette Junior High.

Two things struck me about this incident. I was obviously horrified that this behavior was happening in a school full of 11, 12, and 13-year-olds. The second thing I thought (perhaps inappropriately) was that it was a really weird location for a swastika.

Behind a toilet roll? Really? You have to work to find that. An entire roll of toilet paper would need to be used up for anyone to even see it.

Certain subsets of our community have embraced hate and bigotry for decades. However, unlike the outward displays of neo-Nazism in the late 90's, when people feel compelled to draw swastikas or write the n-word today, they tend to do it where they think they won't get caught.

I have always wondered if people go into the bathroom with the intention of creating some subtle neo-Nazi vandalism, or if they are simply struck by inexplicable and irresistible alt-right inspiration while sitting on the toilet. Regardless, it is always done when the door is closed, and it always disgusts me that people feel emboldened to do so.

Every single graffiti incident throughout my time at NT has been in bathrooms. Clearly, these vandalizers do not want to be seen while they commit an act of hate. They also do not want to sign their

names on their work.

These symbols and slurs are put in subtle places because they are meant to serve as subtle reminders - hatred and bigotry are alive and well, whether or not you can see it or feel it.

I can't speak for every Jewish person who lives on the North Shore, but I have never experienced anti-Semitism in all of high school. In fact, I can only recall a single time I have experienced any form of anti-Semitism firsthand.

When I was nine or ten years old, I went on a play-date at a friend's house. Her older brother was playing a video game, where he was busy building a mansion or house of some sort. As he created the basement he said, "This is where I'll keep all the Jews."

I didn't properly understand the sentiment behind his words, and I am not sure that he did either. I told him that I was Jewish, and then he was suddenly rather apologetic.

People are fine with being racist, anti-Semitic or prejudiced until they're called out for it.

Similarly, if people who create messages like these need to be hidden away in a bathroom in order to do it, they know it is wrong.

Racism and intolerance need to be exposed. The people who hold these reprehensible beliefs understand that their bigotry is unacceptable. This is a persistent but relatively quiet component of our community, and has been for decades. The hope is that the more we denounce this behavior, the less likely it will be to occur.

There needs to be a more active conversation about what these symbols and slurs represent so that we can encourage tolerance, progress, and empathy rather than blind hatred. Thoughtful dialogue is never going to happen in the stall of a bathroom.

From the Archives: The article below was originally printed September 19, 1997 after the arrest of Patrick Langball. Langball had recruited students aged 13 to 17 to the White War Commission, a neo-Nazi group that had been connected with spray-painting swastikas and racists slogans at a synagogue and multiple businesses. Four of the youths in this group were attending New Trier at the time, and another had graduated that past May. Following these hate crimes, NT gave these four students the chance to get help from school social workers. All four of these students agreed to go into counseling.

New Trier responding to Neo-Nazi influence

by Kate Knowles

A national group that helps communities deal with hate crimes met with New Trier school officials to devise a plan to prevent any further student involvement in hate groups following the recent charges of hate crimes against four New Trier students.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) came to the school Tuesday and talked with several school officials, including Principal Wesley Baumann.

The ADL suggested that the school look into holding a town meeting about extremism and hate groups that would involve clergy and other local groups.

Mr. Baumann proposed that Students Together Opposing Prejudice (STOP) may want to organize an optional awareness day for the entire student body.

The fall institute day for teachers will be focused on school climate and will include some speakers from the ADL to help the school confront what has happened.

"I don't feel the school has ignored issues, but we feel we need to do more about a variety of things," commented Mr. Baumann.

NT has reacted to four of its students being charged with hate crimes by offering the students counseling.

All four families of the involved youths agreed to accept counseling for the students.

Ms. Judy Brinton, Dean of Students, explained, "It was truly voluntary on the part of the families and the students. I'm pleased to say they have all accepted, and I think that speaks to the strength of these families. They see this as a healthy resolution to the problem. I also think it speaks to the fact that these kids, I truly feel, didn't know what they were getting involved in."

The counseling was also a voluntary effort on behalf of New Trier High School.

"This really was never a school discipline issue. So, the school's involvement in this was really to further our piece, which is education, and to help the kids gain from the experience through social work contact," explained Dean Brinton.

Counseling for the students will be conducted through the New Trier Social Work Department.

"I think the healthy thing about NT is that counseling is generally regarded as an okay thing to do — to get that kind of help and find an adult you can talk to. It's a pretty acceptable form of education for kids," commented the dean.

The way we talk about bullying hasn't been working



by Sofia Papakos

I remember in 7th grade we had an in-depth presentation that focused on gossiping and its ripple effects. They divided us by genders. The video they showed us touched on different girls' stories, from teenage pregnancy to cyber bullying. The morals of the stories were the same, don't bully and love each other. I misjudged it at first, pegging it as another repetitive anti-bullying video. But it really affected all of us. I mean 6 years later, I'm still referencing it.

I swear for at least a day, people were extra nice to one another. I remember people wrote notes to one another, acknowledging the issues

they had with each other and made amends. I was guilty of it too. I tried to make up for all the times I talked bad about my ex best friend, lowkey hoping that some good karma would make its way into my life.

I got a couple of notes and sent a few. It was really healing. For the next couple of days, I saw people who I knew at one point extremely disliked each other, embrace the other person. It was the weirdest thing. For the first time, I felt peace resonate with everyone at WJHS.

To be honest, I thought all hell was going to break loose, like the one "Means Girls" scene when Regina George exposed the Burn Book pages. But for the first time, our school system actually did us right.

I'm not saying to repeat the whole program here, but I feel like we should use the idea. Instead of having middle aged people preach the detrimental effects of bullying which we just ignore, we should have people our own age openly talk about it.

I know it's a sensitive issue and it's hard for some people to admit,

but if we want real change we actually need to have a conversation with people our own age. The Identity Project is a good start. Although I don't remember much of the details from freshman year, I know the bigger picture was to represent that regardless of our backgrounds and reputations, we all face similar struggles that are often magnified by social media.

Because the majority of us have some kind of social media, almost everything we do or say is online. It's an open line of communication and it's inevitable that someone will abuse it. We aren't living in an era where the majority of bullies body-slam someone into a locker and demand lunch money.

The older generation tends to project the idea that it's our civic duty to stand up for the kid getting teased on the playground, and while we should, it's an outdated scenario of bullying. Nowadays, bullying is more likely to happen online or behind the victim's back.

A girl in one of my classes recently reached out to me and told

me she'd been humiliated on social media. People she didn't know well would record her and post it on private Snapchat stories and the New Trier geo-stories. She kept reiterating that there was nothing she could do about it, which was the worst part. That she had to watch the photos and videos spread, while the administration scrambled to take down everything.

Perhaps social media isn't to blame completely. I think it's simply a platform where the insecurities we all have get the better of us. No matter how many comment restrictions or blocking suggestions Instagram enforces, it doesn't change someone's instinct to want to hurt someone else.

Online, a simple username or profile picture enables a person to say whatever they want to whoever they want. You can't really confront someone from social media in person, or at least it's difficult to. So in a way, it enables us to build a wall from one another and dissociate ourselves from any guilt.

From what I've noticed, people

won't directly tell you in-person that they have a problem with you. They resort to gossiping with their friends or spreading it online. There's obviously a lack of courage when you can't look someone into their eyes and tell them straight-up you have a problem with them.

Even though we've all been through the repetitive seminars and the assemblies about bullying and a lot of effort gets put into them with the best intent, the efforts are inefficient. It's hard to fully empathize with the issue when it's the same, cliché ideas being repeated.

We should implement more of these programs for 9th-12th graders. They clearly sparked conversation because we were forced to be vulnerable. It offered us an opportunity to be honest and empathetic.

The Identity Project and the assembly I did in 7th grade exposed the source of the bullying problem: us. We are the one's who continue the cycle; we are the ones who gossip or hit 'send' on a nasty message; but we're the one's who have to change it.

The New Trier News

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Suit guidelines open debate about sexism, body shaming

NFHS releases memo to crack down on suit violations

by Hannah Sussman

As the new swim season begins rules over appropriate and inappropriate swim-wear have been pushed to the forefront of national discussions over body-shaming and sexism.

This issue was spotlighted after a female swimmer from Alaska was disqualified for her suit riding up during a race.

According to an August memo released from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) these rules were emphasized in response to a growing number of students, both male and female, rolling up their swimsuits “in such a way as to expose the athlete’s buttocks.”

Though the ruling to disqualify the Alaska swimmer was overturned after harsh criticism of the call, the incident still raised questions about the role that body shaming and sexism plays in sports.

While the rules are consistent between both girls and boys swimming, many feel that such regulations are directed more towards girls.

Robert Guy, the girls swimming head coach at new trier, described this rule as yet another restriction

aimed towards women.

“Historically the people who are the focus of dress code have been women. Though the IHSA has framed this policy in a way that refers to an issue for both male and female athletes, it feels as if it is designed more explicitly for female students in mind,” explained Guy.

Lidia Orta, a junior on the swim team, highlighted that regardless of the rule’s purpose it created more problems than it has solved.

“Even if the rule was created with good intentions to help create a comfortable environment, enforcement of any kind just seems to go against its purpose in the first place, possibly making the entire situation more uncomfortable for swimmers and spectators,” said Orta.

Junior Jenna Mydlach, emphasized the discomfort that comes not only from the rule, but also from those who would be enforcing it.

“I don’t feel comfortable having people look at my ‘swimsuit’ and decide if I’m displaying too much. nine times of ten it’s an old man refereeing and the fact that an old man has to look at my middle area and judge it is just disgusting,” said Mydlach.

For many individuals, the rule takes already sensitive issues of body-shaming, and makes them exponentially worse.

To Guy, it is this issue in particular that separates this rule from the overall goals of swimming.



Disqualified swimmer sparks reform on swimwear protocol | Twitter

“Within an educational institution, it doesn’t emphasize the values that we want to emphasize in terms of tolerance and inclusivity,” said Guy.

In particular, rules attempting to define well-fitted suits, tend to target girls with different body types, telling them that the way standardized suits fit them is incorrect.

“Even without enforcement, girls with certain body shapes can feel targeted by this type of rule. It brings attention to already uncomfortable topics, such as body image, and now sets a rule against certain coverage can be detrimental to girls’ self-esteem and mental health,” said Orta.

Senior Caroline Swanson said such rules can result in negative ramifications, echoing Orta.

“This regulation has caused female swimmers to be even more

self-conscious in their skintight uniforms, promoting more body shaming in sports and society,” added Swanson.

According to Guy, New Trier has worked to mitigate this problem by providing multiple variations of the same suit that may better meet each swimmer’s needs.

The school in Alaska that initially implemented this rule has since decided that all team-issued suits will now be automatically assumed as legal.

However, even with multiple suits available swimmers can still find themselves unintentionally ‘breaking’ the rules.

Piper Dooley, a sophomore, explained that even with multiple options, suit styles are still too limited to be able to fairly enforce any type of rule.

“There are a few options that

have different amounts of back covered, and while most team members have the ‘average’ body type, not all do. It’s important to recognize that when making rules,” said Dooley.

Mike Leissner, a boys and girls swim coach, added that multiple factors can impact how well a suit fits as well as the swimmer’s comfort level.

“The coverage and what shows is so vastly different depending on your length, your width, shape and maturity. People are just more comfortable in a size that fits or doesn’t fit properly,” said Leissner.

Mydlach explained that beyond potentially targeting swimmers with different body types, the rule also distracts swimmers from the actual competition.

“For every race, to get up on the blocks, and think about whether or not I will get disqualified because of my suit showing my butt too much, it really is a negative thing. The only thing that should be going through my mind is how I’m gonna win that race,” said Mydlach.

Mila Cutler, a junior, pointed out that in addition to distracting swimmers from the competition, it also distracts judges from what they should be focusing on.

“How a suit fits on someone’s body shouldn’t have anything to do with her event, and how she swims should be what referees are focusing on in the water, not what the suit looks like on her body,” said Cutler.

“We don’t even go here”- Mean Girls not based on NT

“Mean Girls” and other classic high school movies not actually inspired by New Trier

by Alex Rubinstein

New Trier—the high school that is the inspiration for movies such as “Mean Girls,” and “The Breakfast Club,” right? Wrong.

Many of the movies that we pride ourselves on actually had little connection to New Trier.

On Oct. 3, New Trier celebrated the movie “Mean Girls” with a Snapchat filter that was specifically for New Trier High School, but Tina Fey, the woman who wrote mean girls, went to school at, and based the movie on Evanston Township High School (ETHS).

So if New Trier was not the real basis for “Mean Girls,” how did we get the impression that New Trier was the basis for North Shore High (the fictional high school used in the movie)?

The theory may have originated from Evanston itself. Some of the students who attend ETHS argue that the movie, although it is based on Evanston, seems more like New Trier.

“Are North Shore high schools ruled by ruthless queen bees who crush the spirits of their classmates under the toes of \$150 shearling Ugg boots? Kids at Evanston Township High School, where the movie was set, say no and point their fingers north,” according to the Chicago Tribune.

New Trier isn’t actually the inspiration for “Mean Girls,” and we also aren’t the basis of so many of the John Hughes movies. Sorry to burst

your bubble.

While parts of “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” were filmed in the New Trier Township, the movie is actually based on Glenbrook North High School since Hughes grew up in Northbrook and went to school at GBN.

“16 Candles” was filmed around the North Shore, but it was primarily filmed in and around Evanston, Skokie, and Highland Park.

Other than the name (which is based on the nickname New Trier had for morning detention), “The Breakfast Club” really doesn’t have much to do with New Trier either.

The fictional town of Shermer, which is featured in a few of John Hughes’ movies, is based on Shermer Road in Northbrook.

“Glenbrook North, on Shermer Road is the inspiration for the fictional Chicago suburb where so many of his movies took place: Shermer, IL,” said the New York Times.

Brace yourselves, “The Breakfast Club” isn’t filmed at New Trier either. “The Breakfast Club” was filmed at both Maine North (which closed in 1981), and GBN.

Even the fist bump scene (where Judd Nelson raises his fist on the football field at the end of “The Breakfast Club”) that we pride ourselves on is actually filmed at Maine North.

Students were surprised that the movies were not based upon New Trier.

Senior Tyler Gilley said, “I’m a little bit surprised because I’ve heard from so many people that Mean Girls is based off New Trier.”

This, however, did not change students’ opinions on the movies.

Senior Mina Seals added that “I guess it makes them a little less relevant to me, but it doesn’t really change my perception of the movies.”

States rename Columbus Day to recognize the victims of Native American genocide

At least five states push to change Oct. 14 to Indigenous People’s Day

by Hope Talbot

This year, the schools’ fall break did not include one of our nation’s most controversial federal holidays—Columbus Day. October 14th marks the observation of Christopher Columbus’s landing in the Bahamas leading to the eventual colonization of the United States.

Although a seemingly innocent celebration of the explorer with his famous hat, leaders within the Native American community have urged people for years not to forget the heinous acts of violence against their people led in part by Columbus.

At least five states, including Alaska, Vermont, Maine, New Mexico, and North Carolina passed legislation to change Columbus Day to Indigenous People’s Day as of this October in honor of those who lost their lives.

Shannon Speed, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and director of the UCLA American Indian Studies Center stressed the importance of remembering this history in a recent interview with NPR.

“Today we understand that while Columbus was an explorer and is credited with being one of the first Europeans to arrive in the Americas, we now know a great deal about the history and the way that he and his people behaved when they came to this continent which included pillaging, raping and generally setting in motion a genocide of the people who were already there,” said Shannon.

While nobody wants to celebrate genocide, some Italian Americans find the holiday name change to be a point of contention.



Native American Leader celebrates culture on Indigenous People’s Day | AP

Despite sailing under the Spanish flag, Columbus was in fact Italian. In 2017 a Columbus statue in New York’s Central Park was vandalized causing many Italian Americans to be outraged.

In addition to calling the controversial conquistador a “great explorer, whose courage, skill, and drive for discovery are at the core of the American spirit,” President Trump argued that Columbus Day should be a celebration of Italian heritage.

“While Columbus sailed from the port of Palos under the Spanish flag, he took pride in the fact that he was a citizen of Genoa, Italy. The celebration of Columbus Day is, therefore, an appropriate opportunity to recognize the more than 16 million Americans who claim Italian heritage and to carry forth the legacy of generations of Italian Americans who helped shape our nation,” Trump said.

While Wisconsin celebrates both holidays simultaneously, most students are unconvinced that Columbus Day is an “appropriate opportunity” to celebrate being Italian.

“I think the school should give us a day off without calling it Columbus Day,” said junior Calvin

Deutsch. “I don’t think we should be celebrating a murderer though.”

The credibility of the day is also questionable as Columbus didn’t technically discover the U.S.

“I think there’s mixed reviews if he should get credit for discovering America. I think what happened with the genocides was obviously really wrong so I get why people are upset about the holiday,” said junior Mia Melchior.

While New Trier did not have the holiday off due to scheduling, Principle Denise Dubravek stressed the importance of not sanitizing history.

“The history of Europeans colonizing the Americas is incomplete without understanding the displacement and oppression of the indigenous people who already lived in the Americas,” said Dubravek.

A statement made by New Mexico representative Derrick J. Lente (D) seemed to sum up the sentiment of the majority of legislators and Native People alike. “The shift to Indigenous Peoples’ Day sends a strong message to the descendants of the people who once were sought to be extinguished that there’s a renewed appreciation for their resiliency and contribution to our great state.”

Senior entrepreneurs create and sell new game

“Barrier Battles” promises to be a game of wit and skill according to creators

by Amelia Jacobson

There are many barriers to coming up with an original game, but seniors Bobby Becker and Kyle Levy have stepped up to the plate to take these battles head on.

Becker and Levy, who have been friends since preschool, invented Barrier Battles in 5th grade. Since then the play and materials have been fine tuned many times.

Becker brought the current version of Barrier Battles to his summer camp, North Star, in 2018. In May 2019, Becker decided to ask Levy to help pursue selling Barrier Battles in the market.

“I introduced it to kids in my summer camp and they were absolutely in love with it. And then I introduced it to kids in my advisory and they liked it a lot,” Becker said.

The game sales are off to a good start, with around 50 presales online and 15 sold around the school. Becker and Levy are manufacturing 1,500 sets with LongPack Games that are expected to be released in Dec. 2019.

Due to the popularity of this game at New Trier, the two boys have decided to start a Barrier Battles club.



Buyers of Barrier Battles will receive a complete set containing instructions and multi-colored pieces | @barrierbattles

The club will meet on Tuesdays with Business Department Chair Kevin Kansler as the sponsor.

“A club meeting will be in a tournament structure so whoever comes are either allowed to free play with other people or you could choose to be in a tournament,” Levy said.

Becker thinks that people have such a positive response to the game because of its easy rules and gameplay.

Barrier Battles is a melding between Levy’s interest in building and architecture and Becker’s interest in strategy and puzzle solving.

“It has been a culmination of two things we really enjoy,” Levy said.

The point of the game is to protect

your king, while simultaneously trying to hit your opponents king with your pieces.

Barrier Battles is a dexterity game and is somewhat similar to Jenga, Pool, Chess, and Flick em’ Up. The game also relies on strategy in that it has two parts: the building and the battling.

“I wouldn’t say the whole game is based on flicking, it’s a lot of strategy with building your base and how the pieces are positioned. You can kind of win or lose the game from before the game has begun,” Levy said.

The first step of building consists of moving the blocks to create a base to protect their king piece. There is plenty of flexibility in the design stage which allows

for strategy and imagination of the player.

“I have seen a lot of different things they have done, the made battle ramps that fire, they have made little cannons, little ramps to shoot their pieces,” Becker said.

Then the battle begins as the player flicks their pieces to eliminate the other team’s pieces. Because of the simple rules of the game, it allows for a vast array of strategies and very different game plays.

“No two games [of Barrier battles] are quite alike,” Becker said.

The game is popular with high school students, but also appeals to a wide range of ages from grandparents to children.

“Some eight year olds can play while some eight year olds are really

destructive and can’t seem to grasp the idea. But on our box we mention all ages because we don’t want to restrict. You can get a four-year-old who’s a lot more mature for his age and kind of play,” Levy said.

While the two seniors have enjoyed creating the game, they are not looking to becoming the next Parker Brothers as a career choice.

“We aren’t really board gamers ourselves, we aren’t probably going to make new original games. We would probably make alterations of Barrier Battles, different game modes, different pieces, and sizing, Becker said.

As more of their classmates and friends have played the game and provided input, the game creators have been developing new game modes.

“We are also planning on playing in different alternate game modes, like game modes where the king is a mystery or game modes where pieces don’t get out unless they get knocked off the board. So there is a lot of versatility to the basic structure,” Becker said.

From those first days in 5th grade playing with coins, rocks and other miscellaneous materials to creating the prototypes on the 3D printer, Levy was a believer in Becker’s game vision. He expressed this belief on the game’s website.

“From the first time I played Barrier Battles, I felt there was something unique, and even revolutionary about the about the game; I knew I had to join the battle,” Levy wrote.

Advanced Health Class for upperclassmen

New class gives juniors and seniors chance to explore various health topics

by Simren Dadwani

After completing the sophomore health class that is required for all students, many kids decide to take advanced health which goes into more depth about the physical, emotional, and well-being of people.

This class gives students more information about different health topics, and is usually only taken by those who have a real interest in a variety of health issues.

“It’s definitely more in depth and students have to have more interest in it to take it. But it’s more strenuous than a regular health class,” said senior KW leader Brian Joseph.

Joseph decided to take on this class because his teachers recommended it to him after he took the KW leaders class as a junior.

“I took it mainly because of my leadership skills and interest in topics like psychology and well being and fitness and all those things,” said Joseph.

Although this particular health class goes more in depth about health, it seems to be a more relaxed, rather

than a tougher one.

“It is definitely not any harder than a regular health class. In fact, I would say it’s much easier because it’s a lot more laid back and you can take it in any direction you want to. It’s a good fit for me,” said Chloe Karabas, senior.

This particular class allows students to explore their own interests in the subject of health. It also allows them to find their health interests in an informal way.

“I think the purpose of the class is to provide students with opportunities for a more self-driven curriculum where they can explore topics that they’re truly interested in,” said Karabas. “It’s a great class for anyone who is considering a health related career or just wants to learn more about wellness.”

Many of the students who take this advanced health class are interested in a career in health, whether it be nursing or medicine.

“I decided to take the class because I’m really interested in exploring different health topics, and as I’m getting ready to go to college, I am considering a career in nursing, so it’s a really great option for me,” said Karabas.

Many of the days, the advanced health classes will take a walk to the beach, or do some workouts in the fieldhouse as a way to experience

physical well-being. It is also teaches students how to relieve stress.

“On Wednesdays we have to change for gym and we do fitness activities mostly in the fieldhouse. We also go on walks to the beach. And then we also have mini projects every single day that we’ll work on,” said senior Kate Sheldon.

The teachers of the class seem to be very into the class as well, and really encourage the students to learn more about their mental health and their own personal well-being.

“They [the teachers] really want you to get to know yourself more and just understand your mental health and well-being. We talk a lot about our future and just our interests and stuff like that which is nice,” said Sheldon.

This class is just for juniors and seniors who are interested in the topic of health. Some students choose to take this class because they don’t have to change for KW, however since there are only two advanced health classes being offered, you would possibly take the class with your friends if they are interested as well.

“I think it is really fun. I would recommend it to juniors and seniors for taking it. I think there are only two classes so you can do it with your friends,” said Sheldon.

Ten Questions with security guard Dimitri Martinez



| Nagel

by Simren Dadwani

What is your NT job position?

My position at NT is being a campus security.

Where were you born?

I was born in Los Angeles, California.

What is your favorite time of the year?

My favorite time of the year is summer.

What is your fondest childhood memory?

My favorite childhood memory is hanging out with my friends.

What’s your favorite NT memory?

My favorite NT memory is getting to interact with a bunch of different people. I graduated high school

recently too so it kind of brings me back.

How long have you been at NT?

I have been at New Trier since the beginning of 2019.

What type of music do you enjoy listening to?

My favorite music is Rock and EDM.

What is your favorite type of food?

My favorite food is pizza.

What’s something about you that surprises people?

I play a lot of video games at a high level. I participate in video game tournaments and stuff.

What was your favorite subject in school?

My favorite subject at school was math.



The Senior Habitat Board’s annual Lunch on the Lawn is **today** during **4th, 5th, and 6th** period on Trevian way! Join us for raffles, music, and food from The Fat Shallot, Cheesies, La Concinita, Beaver’s Donuts, & Marcellos



Boys soccer battles to tie Warren Township

After slow first half, team falls short of win

by Connor Caserio

On Friday, Oct. 4, varsity boys soccer tied the Warren Township Blue Devils 1-1 on homecoming night at Northfield Stadium.

Coming off a dominant CSL South title-clinching victory over Evanston on Oct. 1, the Trevians played uncharacteristically poor soccer against Warren. Over the course of the game, the boys in green and blue struggled to ever get it going as a team.

"To be honest, we were below our standard," said head coach Matthew Ravenscraft. "We came out slow, and it just took us some time to grow into the game."

The first half was a back and forth affair, with neither team gaining the upper hand. A goal by junior midfielder Jake Krueger capped a strong Trevian run to start the second half, but the Blue Devils tied the game with nine minutes left on the clock.

Coach Ravenscraft and the Trevians' players agreed that they lacked their usual intensity and focus against Warren Township. In general,

senior defender Julio Mora felt both that he and the team played mediocre soccer.

"There were times when I felt sloppy on the ball, but there were other times where I was getting stuck into tackles very well," said Mora.

Overall, the Trevians felt that their sluggish play was most likely due to a combination of two factors—an unusual game time and other distractions.

Sophomore defender James Paden explained that the 5 PM starting time against Warren Township was abnormal for the Trevians, and as a result, their body clocks were off during the game.

"The team on the whole started slowly," said Paden. "[Maybe] it was the time of the game and not having enough time to prepare."

According to Ravenscraft, in addition to the abnormal game time, the homecoming festivities, which included a teacher appreciation ceremony prior to the game, also played a role in the team's sluggish start.

"I think we didn't manage the occasion very well," he said. "I think we lost our focus."

While these distractions and body clock issues are somewhat understandable, the Trevians expressed frustration about their



The team gathers before the game for teacher appreciation ceremony | Twitter

subpar performance.

According to MaxPreps.com, the Trevians are the best 3A boys soccer team in Illinois. Warren Township, on the other hand, is ranked 23rd in 3A.

"People expect more out of us and have high standards for us. We have to exceed those standards," said Mora.

In taking advantage of the Trevians' subpar play, Warren Township turned out a strong performance. Ravenscraft and his players were all impressed by how the Blue Devils played.

"They were a very strong side," said Paden. "They were able to defend very compactly and force us

to have great composure on the ball as well as creativity in our movement off the ball in order to break them down."

Though he was disappointed with his team's overall performance, Ravenscraft did draw some positives from the game. He pointed to senior captain Jeffrey Urban's return to the field after missing five weeks with a high ankle sprain and Paden's pass to James Krueger for the Trevians' lone goal as bright spots.

"Jake Krueger's run to create space and then his finish for the goal was fantastic, and James Paden also had a great assist there," said Ravenscraft.

Paden's assist and Krueger's

goal capped a period at the beginning of the second half during which the Trevians' played like they have all season—intense, focused, and as a team.

Looking ahead, the team will have to continue playing like they did during this portion of the game if they want to achieve their lofty goals for the season.

"Our goal is state, period," said Paden.

The Trevians still have a way to go before winning a state title, but they clearly have the talent and skill to compete for it.

If anything, a sluggish performance like that against Warren Township is a good learning experience in preparation for tough games later in the season.

Keeping this in mind, Paden made certain to clarify, "However, in order to achieve that [state], we need to take it one practice at a time and one game at a time."

The Trevians will have to avoid more sluggish performances like against Warren Township if they want to win a state championship this season.

"We need to reclaim our sharpness and we have big goals," said Ravenscraft. "It's time for us to take that step forward."

New Trier alum Alex Vlasic drafted by the Blackhawks

Vlasic consistently inspired by family in his hockey career

by Frank Zawrazky

Wilmette native and former New Trier student Alex Vlasic will not have to go far to start his professional hockey career. This past June, he was drafted by the Chicago Blackhawks in the second round of the 2019 NHL Draft.

He was ecstatic at the possibility of joining the Chicago Blackhawks.

"The hometown team is something you can't really beat," Vlasic told the Chicago Tribune. "In the future it would be so special to see my friends and family up in the stands rooting for me in my hometown. Playing for the Hawks would be crazy."

Hockey wasn't always Vlasic's passion. In fact, in an exclusive interview with the United States National Team Development (USNTDP) media, Vlasic said that he was a reluctant beginner.

"I started skating when I was three as my mom and dad got me into it," he said. "I have been told by them that at first I didn't like it. I refused to go on the ice but eventually, I got on and wanted to skate and then play hockey."

A USNTDP graduate, Vlasic transferred from New Trier his junior year to a Michigan-based hockey boarding school.

During his two years at USNTDP, Vlasic earned comparisons to NHL superstars such as Brandon Carlo and Zdeno Chara of the Boston Bruins given his 6'5", 198-pound frame as a defenseman.

In terms of his time at New Trier, Vlasic's former adviser Robert Bollweg described him as "hard working, friendly and sincere in advisery."

Vlasic will not play for the



Alex Vlasic was drafted by the Chicago Blackhawks in 2019 | Blackhawks

Chicago Blackhawks this coming season. He will start his NCAA career with the Boston University Terriers this fall and make his pro debut sometime in the next couple seasons.

Vlasic is not the only one in his family to make it to the NHL. His cousin Marc-Édouard Vlasic, was drafted by San Jose Sharks 35th overall in the 2005 NHL Draft and has spent his entire career there, making it to the 2016 Stanley Cup Finals before they were defeated by the Pittsburgh Penguins.

In addition to Marc-Édouard, Vlasic's sister, Emma, a forward at Yale, was his inspiration and role model.

"[Emma] is very serious about hockey. I train with her and workout with her in the summer," he said to the USNTDP. "She definitely takes it seriously. She has been a great role model and has set a good example for me."

It also appears that the Blackhawks are just as excited to have Vlasic as he is to be a part of the team. In an interview with the Chicago Sun Times, General Manager Stan Bowman said the defenseman is what the team was looking for.

"He makes it look really easy. He covers so much ground, he's

a very good skater and he's a big, big guy, long reach, really good defensive instincts. It's hard to get by him," Bowman said.

Vlasic started his hockey career at the age of 3 and played for many notable Chicago area hockey teams, including the Wilmette Braves and the prestigious Chicago Mission.

The Mission has produced impressive NHL alumni including Vinnie Hinostroza, Ryan Hartman, Nick Schmaltz and Dustin Byfuglien.

In terms of this coming fall, Vlasic joins a very talented Boston University Terriers team that is a perennial contender in both the Hockey East Conference and NCAA Tournaments, winning their last Hockey East Championship in 2018, and NCAA Tournament in 2009.

But Vlasic will not be far from home in January when he and the Terriers take on his former USNTDP in an exhibition game in Plymouth, Michigan on Jan. 3 at 7pm EST.

While he plays on the East Coast with the Terriers, both fans and staff of the Blackhawks, along with the North Shore community, will anxiously await his contributions to the Chicago Blackhawks defensive core.

Girls place 6th at cross country invite

A week of tough practices reaped a strong finish despite having fewer runners

by Cleo Pool

On Oct. 12th New Trier varsity girls cross country came in 6th at their annual invitational in Wheeling.

Despite having a long weekend and fewer runners than they anticipated, the team was still able to have a successful weekend. The top seven varsity runners didn't race, allowing a lineup of younger runners to take charge.

One of these young varsity runners is sophomore, Colleen Charcut. She was very proud of the 6th place finish for the team.

"New Trier placed 6th, which was really good considering our top seven runners didn't run in the meet," said Charcut. "It was really cool to see some girls step up to the plate of a varsity race."

Not only was this invite a success for varsity runners, but junior varsity got 1st and the freshmen team got 3rd. Overall, the team has had a very good season due to the hard work they put towards their practices.

This invitational was challenging, and many girls had to dig deep to be successful. The team ran hills during the practices leading up to the meet in order to build endurance. The Wheeling invite is held at Heritage Park which has a large hill that put this endurance to the test.

The temperature added to the difficulty of the meet as well. Saturday's high in Wheeling was a frigid 55 degrees which forced the team to make some adjustments.

"The cold mainly affected our mindsets, just because we haven't faced that type of weather yet but we

adjusted our race plans so we always had someone by us to stay positive," said Charcut.

Sophomore Anna Mathy noticed that the cold affected how the girls dressed and prepared for their races. The typical track uniform does not cover much, so the girls had to wear additional clothes.

"Because it was cold, many people wore Under Armour under their uniforms which may have caused their times to be slower than had they not had to wear extra clothes. It was also hard to stay warm in between races," said Mathy.

The team saw this invite as an opportunity to prepare for their Central Suburban League Conference which is this Saturday Oct. 19. Last season, the girls finished first in their conference, regional, and sectional invites.

As of right now, the team is focused on upcoming state in early November. The team finished 7th at state in 2018 and haven't finished 1st since 2011, so the team has really put an emphasis on harder workouts this year.

"For state the team has been focusing on cutting down our times during the workouts to prepare for post season races," said Charcut.

Freshman Clare Finnagan agrees that the team has been working hard to prepare for state. Along with more intense workouts throughout the week, the team has also been setting goals to get in the mindset for the competition.

"We have been working extra hard in our workouts and setting goals on how we want to perform when State comes around," said Finnagan. "The New Trier cross country team is a very positive environment and our goal is to get better taking it on one week at a time."

Varsity football snaps four game skid with 50-0 win over Niles West

Homecoming win keeps team's playoff hopes alive

by Matt Murray

In desperate need of a victory, the varsity football team trounced the winless Niles West Wolves 50-0 in their homecoming game on Oct. 4.

After scoring just 36 points in their first five games of the season, the Trevians' offense exploded for 50 in the first half against the Wolves, matching their season point total after a 23-yard touchdown catch by senior wide receiver PJ Sitzer to open the second quarter.

"We worked hard in practice all week, so I was expecting a pretty big win. Obviously, going up 50-0 before halftime is never something anyone can predict, but we'll definitely take it," said senior cornerback James Hemmer.

The team's drastic uptick in offensive production was sparked by the position change of junior Tyler Hardin.

Hardin spent the first month of the season as a wide receiver, but was switched to quarterback by the offensive staff due to his capabilities as both a runner and passer.

After seeing limited playing time in a 16-7 loss at Glenbrook South, Hardin was given the start against Niles West, running for nearly 100 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

His abilities as a runner also opened up running lanes for junior running back Brody Roth, who scored an electrifying 55-yard touchdown midway through the first quarter.

"In weeks two through five, we were struggling to score points, and [against Niles West] we didn't struggle to score points, so that was a welcomed change in our offensive production," said head coach Brian Doll.

"I think Tyler gave us the opportunity to open things up

differently and forced the defense to have to defend more of the run game."

Despite Hardin supplanting him as the starter against the Wolves, sophomore quarterback Nevan Cremascoli played outstanding in relief.

Cremascoli was on the throwing end of the aforementioned Sitzer touchdown and connected with junior wide receiver Avery Chatterton on a 43-yard touchdown as well.

With the athletic Hardin and pocket-passing Cremascoli at their disposal, Doll and the offensive staff have chosen to split playing time between the two, looking to keep their opponents off-balance.

"We're in a situation where [Hardin and Cremascoli] both have strengths and areas where they can get better, so my job, along with the other offensive coaches, is how to negotiate their playing time without being too obvious about [our strategy]," said Doll.

However, while the offense stole the show with their outstanding performance, the Trevians' defense and special teams played a dominant, mistake-free game as well.

Hemmer led the team with seven tackles as part of a defensive unit that shut down the Wolves' offense, and the special teams' efforts were highlighted by an array of touchbacks and lengthy punt returns from senior kicker Ryan Novosel and senior return specialist Drew Robinson respectively.

Robinson even scored a two-point conversion on a fake extra point attempt following Roth's touchdown run.

"We started working on [the fake extra point] in practice that week and thought it would work in the game, and it ended up working out for us," said Robinson.

Although the coaching decisions and flawless execution of the game plan played a major role in the victory, the growing trust and cohesion



The team shut out Niles West for the second straight season, beating them 52-0 in last year's matchup | Murray

between the players proved to be the secret ingredient in the team's recipe for success, particularly for Hardin in his new role as quarterback.

"I think our greatest improvement for this team is how we have molded together throughout the season. We all have built great relationships with each other, which makes playing on the field easier when you know you can trust the guy next to you," said Hardin.

The newfound chemistry between the players will be critical as the season comes to a close. The team's winless September put them

on the brink of elimination, meaning that their playoffs began with their victory over Niles West.

"The team has played a really tough schedule and they've gotten through it, so they showed some resiliency by getting a win [against Niles West]," said Doll. "I do like the feeling that I'm getting from them about wanting to finish the season with three more wins and the focus they have on that."

With their 31-7 victory over Evanston on Oct. 11, the team now needs just two wins to make the playoffs, but they will need victories

over conference rivals Glenbrook North and Maine South in order to qualify.

However, with their newfound success in all three phases of the game, the team's confidence in their abilities has grown immensely, and it could be enough to propel them to a seventeenth straight playoff berth.

"In order to make the playoffs, we'll have to win out, which is a tall task because of how competitive our conference is; but I think we're really starting to play at a high level and I'm really looking forward to these upcoming games," said Hemmer.

Girls volleyball avenges early-season loss to Niles West

Team's progress on full display in two set victory

by Mattea Carberry

After losing to Niles West earlier in the season, the girls volleyball team battled it out for a second time on Oct. 7, emerging victorious with a two-set win.

The girls sealed the win in two sets with scores of 25-22 and 25-18.

Having lost in three sets to Niles West previously, their recent two-set win should bode well for them as they continue through the rest of the season.

"We lost to them in three sets earlier in the season and now beat them in two," said senior Katie Merk. "Technically speaking we should come out with a higher ranking than them, providing us with an easier opponent [in playoffs]."

Junior Rose McDermott also stressed the importance of this game in relation to the team's potential later in the season.

"We wanted to win this one so we can still have a chance at conference champions at the end of conference play," she said.

Head coach Hannah Hsieh noted that their performance in this game also helped measure their improvement as a team.

"This game is important because it is the second round of

conference," said Hsieh. "We lost to them in the first round and we have goals to improve our performance in the second round."

McDermott credits their strong performance to aggressive play.

"One of our goals was to win in two sets and we did that with being aggressive at the service line and net," said McDermott.

Senior Maggie Bodman added that consistency also played a key factor in the team's success.

"We stayed aggressive, but also consistent," said Bodman. "[Consistency is] something we've definitely had trouble with in the past but continue to focus and improve upon every day."

Merk thought competing in the McAuley Tournament the previous weekend helped the team when they faced Niles West.

"We had a little bit of a rough start, but this past weekend, playing in the McAuley Tournament really advanced our play," said Merk. "[It] helped put us back in the right mindsets, playing as a unit again."

Merk noted how the team adjusted to Niles West's gameplay better than in the first game.

"[Niles West] put up a really solid block that we did not adjust to in the first match, but we finally figured out how to work with it and hit around it in this most recent match which allowed us to end rallies faster and earn a win against a good, solid team," she said.



The team huddles before their game with Maine South on Oct. 2 | NT Athletics Twitter

Bodman recognized similar improvements which she said helped them take more control of the game.

"This time around, we played our game instead of theirs," Bodman said. "We had consistent serving, aggressive attacks and scrappy defense, all of which were not really present the first time around playing Niles West."

McDermott also attributed improvement from their initial encounter with Niles West to the

team's unity.

"This game was definitely more clean; we made less unforced errors," McDermott said. "We also played better as a whole. I feel like our team chemistry improved so much from the start of the season and it showed in this match."

Merk believes this unity is partly due to many relationships formed on past teams.

"We all have known each other for quite awhile now, playing at the

same club for many years, so our connection is really solid overall," she said.

As they progress through the season, McDermott said communication is crucial in establishing a sense of cohesiveness throughout the team.

"Our whole team contributes to our success and we just need to keep working hard to side out points and communicate with one another on the court," said McDermott.