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Coming to Mooresville

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ANY HIGH SCHOOL students define a fun weekend by not remembering what they did. They get so drunk or high that they cannot even remember what they said, did or did not do. While what students do for fun off of school grounds is their concern, when they bring it on school grounds it becomes the school’s problem.

Some students seem to think it is a grand idea to come to athletic or school events drunk or high. Even though both of these are not legal and the students know that it is against the rules, they still do it. In the agendas that were given out at the beginning of the year, it clearly states the school’s drug and alcohol policy. This policy is written on page A-19 at the bottom of the page, and it says: “Students are prohibited from possessing, using, transmitting, selling, or being under the influence of any of the following: alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, prescription medications, or any over the counter substances. Students are prohibited from possessing, using, transmitting, or selling drug paraphernalia or counterfeit drugs.” This statement is not confusing; it is pretty clear and up front. There are no corners to cut, no rules to bend or ways around it. The people who are in charge of students at the games such as administrators and police have all been around the block and know all the tricks. While the person might think he/she is being sneaky, if the whole student section can tell that certain someone is drunk, the people in charge will be able to. Why bother taking the chance of getting caught when the feeling from the drugs and alcohol is not worth the punishment?

Continuing on the page from the agenda, it goes on to say: “Any violation of this policy AND the medication policy will be reported to law enforcement. Any tips or information reported to school personnel will be investigated as potential violation of this policy.” The punishment for having possession of drugs, being under the influence of drugs, selling, transmitting or distributing drugs is 10 days out of school suspension, with recommendation for exclusions from the rest of the school year. The next question that feels fit to be asked is: Is it really worth it? Is it really worth throwing away the entire high school career, which the student has worked so hard for, on one little high achieved for about an hour feeling something different? Is it that necessary for one to do that, can it not wait a couple hours? Even though no one should be doing that in the first place, if someone is going to be stupid at least try to be smart within the stupidity. Do not get in a car and drink and drive, and do not go to a school event where there is a possibility of expulsion just to seem “cool,” because it honestly is not “cool” at all. It is annoying to the people around the person, and it is another thing that can easily be prevented added to the list of things to do for administrators.

What a student does off of school grounds, again, is that student’s business. Do not bring certain illegal things on the school grounds, though. It is in no way beneficial in any way to anyone or anything there.
Habitat for Humanity is coming to Mooresville. The non-profit organization, famous for building homes for low-income citizens, is opening a new Restore in the old Staples building, directly behind Wendy’s on Highway 150, with a tentative opening date planned for late October.

**Habitat in Cornelius**

The current Habitat Restore is located in Cornelius, and is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. The store is wildly successful, with over $1 million in sales for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Because of its financial success, the affiliate has been to finance and construct 184 homes in Mooresville, Huntersville, Cornelius, and Davidson as of September 2010. Globally, the affiliate has served 894 families in Guatemala, and 15 in Sri Lanka. Unfortunately, a common myth about Habitat homeowners is that the homes are “giveaway homes.” In reality, homeowners must put down a down payment, and a monthly mortgage payment. They also put in hours of their own labor—in the form of sweat equity that comes from building their home. Other homeowners must put down a down payment, and put in hours of their own labor, in the form of sweat equity that comes from building their home. Other homeowners also put in hours of their own labor, in the form of sweat equity that comes from building their home.

**Management Optimistic**

The management at the Cornelius store is hoping that the Mooresville store can experience the success and accomplishments that the Cornelius store has. However, there are many issues that need to be worked through and tasks to complete; the Mooresville store is 25% larger than the Cornelius Habitat and is still set up much like a traditional store. Connie Evans, a longtime volunteer at the Cornelius Habitat for Humanity, says that she and a group of people worked at the new store on September 17th all day. Their task was to remove price tags from the shelves and chart out areas for merchandising. Individually, Evans saw that she accomplished removing price tags from two rows. Another task looming over the volunteers heads is bringing out and distributing the donations for the Mooresville store: the items are currently stored in a warehouse and have not yet been priced or sorted. The staff also faces the task of setting up the store sections, such as linens, electronics, and books.

Once the Mooresville store is open for business, the profits earned will go towards constructing one of the four townhomes that are planned on Mills Avenue in Mooresville, behind the former Burlington Mills. Until then, Our Towns Habitat for Humanity Restore in Cornelius encourages people to stop by and find some great deals. For more info, call 704-896-8957 (ext. 1107) or visit ourtownshabitatforhumanity.org.

Donations a key to success

Like volunteers, donations are an important factor in the success of Habitat. The store accepts almost all items, but does not take computers, clothing, cell phones, hair dryers, curling irons, electric razors or anything with frayed cords. These items are donated to battered woman’s shelters. Excluding those items, Habitat sells a multitude of items with phenomenal prices and deals: hard-cover books are $1.00, magazines are $1.00, purses are $1.00, furniture and appliances are often less than $100, and household items are usually less than $20. To donate items to the Cornelius Restore, drive to the back of the store and a team of volunteers or staff will help you unload your donations. Habitat also offers free pickups for large items such as refrigerators, washing machines, and large furniture within their pickup area.

Volunteering Opportunities

Habitat for Humanity is primarily run by volunteers. At the restore, volunteers do tasks such as pricing donations that come in, cashing, distributing priced items, and helping customers with their purchases. One stand-out volunteer is Jack Hart, 92. Jack began volunteering a few years ago, and has been ever since. (continued on next page)
Local Tragedy Gets National Spotlight

Rachel Spraker

Police chief’s daughter found dead; suspect in case arrested

In the early morning hours of September 15th, a 23-year-old woman left a bar with a man she had met that night. They went back to the man’s apartment where the woman called one of her friends, asking her to join them. This was the last time anyone heard from young Valerie Hamilton, and it was the last time the girl she called would ever speak to her beloved friend.

Hamilton had gone out that night to celebrate her friend Kathryn Foster’s 21st birthday. They, along with about a half dozen others, had gone to the Thomas Street Tavern in Charlotte. The group left the bar around 1 a.m., but Hamilton stayed behind to finish her drink. At 3 a.m. she was seen leaving the bar with a man who police later learned was one Michael Harvey.

On September 19th, the body of Valerie Hamilton was found in a storage unit near Harvey’s apartment. Police say her body was wrapped when they recovered it, but they would not give any further details. In the following few hours a nation-wide manhunt began for Michael Harvey. He was the last person seen with Hamilton and was the number one suspect in the suspected murder.

The following day Valerie’s father, Concord Police Chief Merl Hamilton, appeared on “Good Morning America.” In a plea, he called on his fellow law enforcement officers around the country to help find Harvey.

On GMA, in clear distress, he said, “They took my daughter guys. Play it right, play it by the rules. You all get out there and find this guy for me. When it gets back my way, I’ll pay you back.”

Harvey has quite an extensive criminal history. Police have arrested the suspect several times for things such as breaking and entering, heroin possession and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Harvey is also a registered sex offender.

All of this leads Valerie’s father to suggest that the justice system’s failure to keep him behind bars led to his daughter’s death. Though not completely sure of what happened, Hamilton’s father firmly believes if she had not met him that night, Valerie would still be alive and healthy today.

Merl Hamilton says, “I think he should have been behind bars. Most people deserve a second chance, but you shouldn’t have him to begin with.”

When police discovered Hamilton’s body, there was evidence of drug use. Preliminary results do not indicate any sign of physical trauma to her body. This means there were no obvious wounds, strangulation marks, etc.

The mere suggestion that she willingly took drugs and that the drugs killed her frustrates Valerie’s friends. She was a swim coach that worked with children and an aspiring special needs teacher. She was also training for a triathlon. Hamilton simply did not meet the status quo of a young woman who would die from a self-inflicted drug overdose.

On the night of September 20th, the family of Valerie Hamilton held a candlelight vigil in Concord. Hundreds attended and witnessed her police chief father double over in grief. The two were extremely close and talked on the phone several times a day. As Merl Hamilton rose to speak about his daughter, “Time After Time” began to play in the background.

He explained through tears, “That was our song. And I look to you in heaven. Time after time, baby.”

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Features

NEWS: THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Teens Texting while Driving: A Major Issue?

As technology grows, the things that teenagers attempt do while driving may put them in danger.

Nina Mastandrea

Driving, a privilege that many take for granted; most notably teens. In the state of North Carolina at the age of 14 ½ you begin the journey to receive your permit, and furthermore your license. Many will say that a 14 year old is still a very young individual, not fully grown, not fully educated. So when a teen from any age from 14 to 19 gets into a car, they then take it one step further by texting, the end result can be life changing. So it can now be concluded to say that not only is driving being taken for granted, but a human life as well.

As Americans we can most definitely give ourselves credit for being able to multitask. We seem to never just focus on one thing at one particular time. But that's okay, with the way technology has grown over the past years, the ability to send emails while jogging on the treadmill, or even create presentations 3 miles in the sky. We may never be able to get away from technology, but one place that most people agree that full concentration must be applied is a place that we almost always encounter. Our cars. Take a look while your out on the roads, and you may be surprised what people are willing to do while they drive. In the morning commute many will be shaving, doing their makeup or even trying to cough down their breakfast. Shockingly when asked, 41% of drivers have answered yes to eating a meal while driving as well as 31% have fixed their hair or applied their make-up while the vehicle was moving; but most shocking compared to those who have daydreamed while driving.

With such shocking evidence being brought to the table, some attention will follow, and now that the ability to text is easier than ever, teens have also grasped the idea of multitasking while driving. “It worries me that not only is the life of my child in danger, but other people who may be close by”, a lake Norman high school mom, who’s child does a daily commute to school as well as work. She would be right, your ability to do an accurate job at a task when asked to do something else at the same exact time, impairs you to do the main task by up to 45%. That’s almost half, half of your ability, half a chance that you can do something not only risk you life behind the wheel, but others on the road. Now, not all teenagers' text while they drive, and that’s great, but over the years the numbers have slowly began to decrease in those who actually stay focused. “Its so easy”, one mother says it only takes about 3 seconds to take out your phone and reply ‘k’, but what people don’t know is that if your driving at 45 miles per hour, you only have about half a second to act if you were to be in an accident, and that’s the danger of it all. In studies, it is shown that for the human brain to take in information, process the information, and tell the body how to react how to act can only take about an eighth of a second, “but when you are star-struck by the events that are about to happen, the ability to react and take action may take much longer”, a researcher at Harvard University reported in an article. Talking on a cell phone while driving can make a young driver’s reaction time as slow as that of a 70-year-old.

So now, the real question isn’t what it can do to a driver who multitasks, as well as how many people do it, but how we can inform the youth as well as older drivers about the dangers of texting and driving as well as multitasking. Thankfully federal law has stepped in, in the past few months 2 laws were passed to help drivers stay focused. One banning the use of cell phones to bus drivers as well and truck drivers, the second one banning the use of cell phones in rail operation. But, most will say that doesn’t even come close to stopping the nation wide issue. Parents, the body of Americans who are most worried about texting and driving are being directed to, “take action”, and “talk with your kids, discuss how much they really text while driving, and the consequences”, said David Melton director of transportation consulting services for the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety. “Do they know how much their kids are texting now a day?” he says that parents should look at their teens bills and bring the issue up whenever parents feel like it’s becoming a problem.

The things that families and friends can most do to prevent future drivers from texting while driving as well as driving while multi tasking is setting an example. Don’t do anything that you wouldn’t want your close family and friends to do. Keep in mind; is your life worth sending the letter, ‘k’?

Running the Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Count/Statistic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>the fatality risk of drivers aged 16-17 years higher when they are driving with passengers</td>
</tr>
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<td>2,739</td>
<td>drivers between the ages of 15 and 20 died in motor vehicle crashes in 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>a national survey conducted in, nearly three out of ten teens reported that, within the previous month, they had ridden with a driver who had been multi-tasking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>out of every five 16 year olds will be in a car crash</td>
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<td>9:00</td>
<td>The per mile crash rate for teenaged drivers is 3 times higher after 9:00 pm during the day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>teens die every year in car crashes of multiple variables, from drinking, to not paying attention, to not wearing seat-belts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>16 year olds have a higher crash rates then drivers of any other ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>times more likely to get into a car crash if you are texting or talking on the phone while driving</td>
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</tbody>
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Google Images
LAKE NORMAN HIGH SCHOOL has never been very strict on dress code enforcement, that is, until this year. There seem to be many issues with dress code at LNHS this year. Some LNHS staff members are enforcing the dress code policy more than others. Students are complaining about it being too strict. Others are arguing that one student will get a dress code violation, while someone else wearing the same thing will not. LNHS is looking at different ways to solve these problems.

"The dress code is appropriate," Kimberly Gantt, the assistant principal said when asked if she thought the dress code policy was too strict.

Gantt agrees that there is a problem with some teachers enforcing the dress code more than others and some students getting a dress code violation while others do not. The school staff has discussed these issues at staff meetings and communications. They are currently working on ways to fix the problems.

"This is true with any rule or policy at any school," Gantt said.

Gantt mentions that these have always been issues with the faculty, and there is not a bigger problem than there was last year. It could seem to be a bigger issue now because of the new principal.

Although, many students disagree with Gantt, it could be true. The dress code seems to be a bigger topic of discussion this year than it has ever been. Some teachers seem to be too strict with it, by over analyzing the policy. For example, the dress code states that a student must have a sleeve. Sophomore Mackenzie Newell received a dress code violation because her sleeve was "not long enough." Other teachers seem to be more lenient with the

LNHS staff members are supposed to give out dress code violations whenever or wherever they see it, but many teachers are only giving violations to students in their classrooms, simply because they do not have time. This causes inconsistency in dress code violations, making unfair to the students for LNHS.

The fact that there are so many students at LNHS also makes it very difficult to enforce the dress code, because there would be a numerous amount of violations. Loner garments will be provided for the first offense of dress code. With all of the students receiving dress code infringements, would it be possible to loan all of these students’ garments?

One way to solve all of these issues with the enforcement of the dress code policy is to have the students of LNHS wear uniforms. Many students and staff members have been hearing about the possibility of uniforms in LNHS’s future. When asked on whether these rumors are true, Gantt did not comment.

"On one hand, it would be easier because I would not have to waste my time picking out what I want to wear to school everyday. But on the other hand, I would hate it because 99% of school uniforms are ugly, and I am really not up for wearing ugly stuff all the time." Shelby Bailey, a Sophomore, said when asked about her feelings on school uniforms.

Another way to solve the problems with dress code enforcement is to make a less strict dress code policy. More students are likely to follow some of these rules. If they could make compromises, therefore reducing the number of people that would receive dress code. These negotiations could greatly reduce the inconsistency in dress code enforcement because students are more likely to follow the dress code policy.

Many students would agree that some of the dress code rules are less essential than others. One example is that sunglasses cannot be worn inside the building. The dress code states that "Students need to come to school in a safe non-distracting attire." Sunglasses are neither hazardous nor distracting for the students. Other examples of attire that is not allowed but not explained by the dress code: no bedroom slippers and no bandanas.

Issues can also arise for girls that have a bigger bust-line than others. The dress code says that a shirt worn must not reveal cleavage. This means a girl with a smaller bust can wear a low-cut shirt with out receiving a dress code violation, while a bigger busted girl might receive a dress code. This is not fair, and many students believe there should be a distinct rule about where the neckline on a shirt should be.

LNHS appears to have many issues that need a resolution with the dress code this year, whether that means making students wear uniforms or having a less strict dress code policy. There are many options, but those are only a few. LNHS’s dress code policy has a good start, but the staff needs to figure out how to effectively enforce the dress code.

**Dress Code**: Students need to come to school in safe non-distracting attire. The dress code applies during the school day and on all field trips.
- All shirts/blouses/dresses must have a distinct sleeve with a shoulder seam, and the shirt must be able to be tucked in even when hands are extended above the student’s head, and have either a collar or a neckline that does not reveal cleavage.
- T-shirts are not to have any advertising/promotion of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products.
- T-shirts are not to have any sexually suggestive, obscene, violent or offensive material (implied or otherwise).
- No spandex or other tightly fitting pants or skirts may be worn.
- No bedroom slippers
- Shorts are to be within six inches of the top of the knee cap, or at least have a six inch inseam.
- Skirts are to be within six inches of the top of the knee cap or the bend of the knee in the back regardless of whether leggings or tights are worn.
- All appropriate undergarments are to be worn. No undergarments are to be visible.
- No hats, bandanas, head wraps, hoods or other head coverings may be worn on your person in the building.
- No sunglasses or other eyewear, unless prescription, may be worn in the building.
- No wallet chains or jewelry which poses a safety hazard.
- Sheer or see-through clothing can be worn only over clothes that meet dress code
- No holes in pants and skirts above the knee.

**Consequences**: Students are extended above the student’s head, and have

1st offense: student is unable to correct problem immediately*  2nd offense: 90 minute detention will be assigned and loaner garments will be assigned and loaner garments will be worn if student is unable to correct problem immediately*  3rd offense: Saturday School will be assigned and loaner garments will be worn if student is unable to correct problem immediately*  4th offense: student will be sent home until parent conference  5th offense: See Major Offense consequences *All loaner garments must be signed for at the time of receipt. Students are responsible for a signature sheet that the student will present to each period teacher for a signature. The completed sheet will be returned the following day with the loaner garments. Students may not return to school until loaner garments are returned.

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*All loaner garments must be signed for at the time of receipt. Students are responsible for a signature sheet that the student will present to each period teacher for a signature. The completed sheet will be returned the following day with the loaner garments. Students may not return to school until loaner garments are returned.
Photography Club

Kick-Off

This Years Photography Club Is Destined For Success

Photography Club had its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 21st. Presidents Alec Castillo and Connor Mikita lead the meeting. They shared some of their personal photographs that they have captured over the years and discussed ideas of places to visit as a club.

Taylor Dickerson, club secretary, logged all of the topics discussed at the meeting. This document will be on the clubs webpage after each meeting for those who were unable to attend and for those who are interested in the club and want to know what goes on at meetings. You can also find this document outside Ms. Christie’s room, a white sheet in a black box on the wall.

The club plans to meet every other Tuesday of each month to discuss ideas of places to go and take photographs. The club can come to the next meeting if you want to know what goes on at meetings. This document will be on the clubs webpage after each meeting for those who have a passion and love for photography and even those who are new to it and are just now getting started, Photography Club has open arms for all.

For those who have a passion and love for photography and even those who are new to it and are just now getting started, Photography Club has open arms for all. No fancy cameras are needed; disposables and digitals will do just fine. If someone does not own a camera, one can be provided for them when they go on trips with the club.

Photography club has a joining fee of ten dollars. This money will be used as gas money for when their organization goes to Asheville, Boone and the other places they are planning on visiting.

To keep attendance regular, you are required to attend at least one meeting per month. Anyone interested in joining the club can come to the next meeting on October 19th.

The Ground Zero Mosque

Many Americans are against the building of an Islamic culture centre near the fallen twin towers.

Near the site of the terrorist attack, a plan is underway to build a mosque. This proposal has caused many Americans to be against the idea of building a mosque near the site of the attack.

President Obama recently defended the mosque plan during a White House dinner, saying, “To oppose them would be un-American.” I agree with this statement. I think it is worse to deny a group of people one of their rights than the fact that the building is within walking-distance of the 9-year-old Ground Zero. Although the alleged religious center will cost an estimated $100 million, of which they are planning raise from supporters, costs an estimated $100 million, of which they are planning raise from supporters.

Although the alleged religious center will cost an estimated $100 million, of which they are planning raise from supporters, I do not believe it is right to build a place near the spot terrorists killed thousands in which those very people can practice their religion. Now, are all Islamic-faith terrorists?

Those who took part in September 11th were extremists. The people of the proposed Mosque just want the right to practice their religion as they please. They do have that right. Freedom of religion is one of our 10 amendments of Americans. News channels and reporters forget to mention that the planned area for the mosque is full of many races including Muslim; so they should not be worried about the population. Also, there is a 150 year-old mosque even closer to Ground Zero.

Obama recently defended the mosque plan during a White House dinner, saying, “To oppose them would be un-American.” I agree with this statement. I think it is worse to deny a group of people one of their rights than the fact that the building is within walking-distance of the 9-year-old Ground Zero. Although the alleged religious center will cost an estimated $100 million, of which they are planning raise from supporters, etc.” This is America, and our commitment to religious freedom must be unshakeable,” - President Barack Obama.

Nationalism: The Lack of Pride in Ones Country?

Americans lost a sense of Nationalism over the last decade.

Ashley Geraffo

I watch the news in the mornings, I assemble into school, I observe fellow peers, and I notice the Nation’s loss of nationalism in America.

Overall, our nation has gone from supporting wars by creating Meatless Mondays and victory gardens in WWI to moving to Canada in order to avoid Viet Nam. Our country’s nationalism has steadily decreased over time, yet it is picked up again after the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001. The day the world watched the Twin Towers tumble down, America decided to rise up against a bigger force. As time drew on, the number of yellow ribbons around big, strong oak trees dwindled away and faded into nothingness. Nowadays, less Americans support the idea of a war that they wanted to fight mere years before.

“You, I think our society has a lost a sense of nationalism,” right after 9-11 everyone united, and when we decided to go to war, everyone backed out and drifted apart,” says one LNHS senior.

America no longer stands united, it tends to divide. Among the polls, among the issues, among each other, among anything, among everything, we divide. Instead of embracing each other and the difference of opinions amongst issues, Americans shut each other out and scrutinize every diminutive detail. As issues about controversial topics emerge, society nit picks at the opposing side instead of considering working together to achieve a common ground. They tend to overlook the bigger picture.

As a society Americans remain opinionated, thinking they can run a country better than the new President. Within Obama’s first weeks in office, American citizens made it known that his approval rate was already low. We focus on the negative instead of putting in perspective the positives we have in a country. Instead of slamming on our President, why not honor the principle that we, as a country, had a say in our governmental leader? Americans shut each other out and scrutinize every diminutive detail. As issues about controversial topics emerge, society nit picks at the opposing side instead of considering working together to achieve a common ground. They tend to overlook the bigger picture.

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A year ago four female students decided that it was time to give a voice to the voiceless. They founded a club called Overlooked, which dedicates itself to raising awareness and funds for local and worldwide issues. Seniors Kelsey Peterson, Morgan McMahon, Corinne Goudreault and Courtney Sanders brought the national foundation to Lake Norman High School last year in order to get word out about certain concerns that go overlooked on a daily basis. These issues include human trafficking, malaria prevention and aftercare, water purification, and local poverty.

The common definition for human trafficking is the illegal trade of human being for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor. Malaria comes from infectious mosquitoes and a simple mosquito net can save thousands of lives. One luxury that several people take for granted is the possession of clean water, yet many go without it. Poverty is a serious issue that not only affects the entire world, but also local areas all over.

Every other Friday morning Overlooked meets in room 510 (Roseman) and the officers begin to deliver their message of hope. The co-presidents present videos that inspire their members to take action. Some may ask how a group of high school students could possibly impact the world. By working closely with organizations such as Malaria No More, Love 146, Stop the Traffik, Threads of Hope, Life Straws and the Mooresville Christian Mission, this small group of students can raise funds and directly benefit the associated causes. Last year Overlooked sold wristbands and t-shirts for their various organizations and hosted a canned food drive against Mooresville High School last year in order to get word out about certain issues that go overlooked on a daily basis. These statistics can be remarkable eye openers. For example, not many people are aware of the fact that a child dies every 30 seconds from malaria and it only costs ten dollars to save them. Becoming aware of worldwide issues is only half of the battle that Overlooked is trying to win. Being a part of such a great cause is as easy as showing up to a meeting. Overlooked is currently accepting new members and encourages any eager students to make a difference by joining.

Corinne Goudreault believes that “it is unacceptable to let these issues continue to happen when we know about them,” and by promoting these causes through the club she hopes that others will feel the same way. As strange as it may seem, the co-presidents hope to upset the LNHS student body with these heartbreaking statistics in order for them to truly feel inspired by a greater cause.

“We just want people to be aware of what they don’t see,” says Goudreault.

Another thing that high school students do not see is local poverty. People spend most of their energy focusing on poverty around the world, but the main focus should be their own community. 8.6% of Mooresville residents rest below the poverty level as of 2009. Becoming aware of local poverty is a must.

“We also want to show students how local poverty relates to the rest of the world,” says Peterson. “Many people are unaware of the fact that many issues are linked to one another.”

Overlooked is a club for everyone. Many members are not local to Lake Norman and others have not heard of the club before. “We have students who have never heard of Overlooked before,” says Goudreault. “Some people may not be ready to jump in right away, but they will get there. We understand and want everyone to join.”

The goal of Overlooked is to change things for the better. “One think I really enjoy is how the club brings people together,” says Sanders. “After a meeting, students come up to me and talk about what they just learned. It is great to see students share something they care about so much.”

Corinne Goudreault and Courtney Sanders conduct the first Overlooked meeting.
North Carolina: the New ‘New York’?

Why are so many people moving from New York to North Carolina?

By: Taylor Torcasso

North Carolina has grown immensely in the past couple of years. Although people have moved here from all over the United States, most people come from New York. In fact, from 1995 to 2000, the migration flow from New York to North Carolina was 100,727 and the reverse flow was very low, making it the second most efficient migration exchange between states in the United States. It is rare to see a classroom at Lake Norman High without someone who is originally from New York. There are hundreds of reasons why New Yorkers, or “Yankees,” move to North Carolina: good schools, better weather, cheaper lifestyles and the list goes on and on.

COST OF LIVING IS CHEAPER

One of the biggest reasons people decide to leave New York and make a life in North Carolina is because it costs more to live up north. In North Carolina, you can get a lot more for your money than you can in New York. “My house back in New York had a square footage of 1500 and sold for around $450,000, while the house I bought in North Carolina was brand new, more than double the square footage, much nicer, and only about $300,000,” says a local New Yorker who recently relocated to North Carolina. Houses are not the only things that are cheaper in North Carolina than New York; North Carolina’s cheap taxes lower the cost of living significantly. While someone in New York may pay as much as $8,500 on property taxes, a North Carolinian pays as low as only $1,000.

hot summers and not too cold winters. The east coast offers warm and relaxing beaches for vacations during the summer. When the summers get too hot, there’s always the opportunity to take a trip to the western part of North Carolina to see the mountains and enjoy the coolness. North Carolina’s lakes also provide a break from the heat, whether you are wakeboarding, tubing, riding a jet ski, or relaxing on a boat. The mountains allow skiing and snowboarding in the wintertime. During the fall, the beautiful colors of the trees make bike rides or jogs around the neighborhood enjoyable.

“North Carolina has a little bit of everything when it comes to weather. I like it a lot more than New York because in New York there was only the ocean and here we have the lake, mountains, and ocean,” says Olivia Lademann, a Lake Norman Student who moved here from New York when she was 10.

BETTER ACADEMICS

What family would not like moving to a state with great academics for their children? High schools in North Carolina also have a tendency to be better academically. Statistics show that North Carolina’s SAT scores are one of the highest in the nation and continue to rise as the years go on. There are also many great colleges located in North Carolina: NC State in Raleigh specializing in engineering, Duke in Durham specializing in medical research, and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill specializing in physics and biology. College sports are a big part of people’s lifestyles, whether it is cheering for their favorite team at the games or watching them at home.

WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE

Another advantage of moving to North Carolina is that people who decide to move here do not have to waste money on plane tickets to visit their home state. With only a twelve hour drive, visits are quick and easy. “Living in North Carolina is good because whenever my mom and I want to go home and visit our family, we can just drive up there on the weekends. The twelve hour drives aren’t even that bad if you stop and take a break every once in a while,” says Adrianna Giardini, a Lake Norman student who moved to North Carolina from New York last year.

CALMER, CLEANER, AND FRIENDLIER

Some New Yorkers get sick of the loud and fast state they call home and want to be somewhere slower-paced, like North Carolina. The streets of North Carolina are very calm and quiet. Being the complete opposite of New York, nobody ever honks their horns. Generally, all North Carolinians are very friendly and nice to everyone they meet.
What Happened to Meaning in Music?

Mic Fortuna

With the amount of music out there, should it not be easy to find some songs with meaning, taste and originality?

There once was a time when vulgarity and innuendo held purpose in songwriting. There once was a time when popular music represented something more—messages of generations rebelling against restrictive principles to find something true about themselves, expressions of emotions, and sentiments about beliefs. There now is a time when everything has at least one f-bomb and some kind of sexual utterance.

Meaning in music is not completely gone, but songs with quality, originality and taste are not exactly commonplace. So, what happened? Did musicians lose their creative edge, or did they just lose their conviction?

Whatever occurred, exactly, is irrelevant. What matters is the fact that trendy music today tends to be laden with crassness or glorifications of shallow topics.

Is the amount of dirty language found in modern music really necessary? There is a multitude of other words in the English language that can easily supplant all the trashy language in current music. It is not that all vulgarity should be removed from music—far from it, really. Artists, or whatever can pass for them today, should simply learn when to appropriately use inappropriate words. Profanities have their place in music; however, this role should not merely be a lyrical placeholder. Swear words should be included to convey some type of emotion.

It is pretty ridiculous that edited, or censored, versions of most songs barely have any substance left when played on the radio.

It is not that all vulgarity should be removed from music; party music with a backdrop of a heavy pop beat sells, and musicians are riding that train as if their lives depended on it. The most recent examples of this come from Ke$ha and Katy Perry. “Tik Tok” and “California Gurls” share a mysteriously similar sound.The simple fact is that they are no different, and Lukasz Gottwald and Benjamin Levin, the men who wrote both hits, were aware that they essentially copied and pasted music. However, it really did not matter because both songs perched themselves in the Billboard Top 100, and there they remain, unrelentingly, with other songs.</p>

New Product Introduced to Mooresville

FreshBerry introduces frozen yogurt to Mooresville.

Rachel Spraker

This past summer a new product was introduced to the Mooresville area. On July 21st, FreshBerry Frozen Yogurt Café opened on the corner of Highway 150 and Williamson Road. It is the only store that offers frozen yogurt in the area. This is one of the many reasons the store has become an instant success, drawing in customers of all ages.

When customers walk into FreshBerry, they are greeted with bright colors and a very strong family fun vibe. Guests can always expect a friendly staff and cleanliness as they decide on what product to order. The variety of combinations available is endless and able to satisfy even the pickiest taste buds.

FreshBerry Frozen Yogurt Café offers three types of products: frozen yogurt, smoothies and fresh pops. Every guest is welcome to sample any of the frozen yogurt flavors. There are six available at a time. These include the company’s two signature flavors; the FreshBerry Tart and the Decadent Dark Chocolate. The Classic Strawberry and Vanilla are also available each day. Once the customer decides on their flavor, or flavor combination, they also have their choice of toppings. The toppings bar includes everything from gummy bears and candies. Another product that FreshBerry customers have access to are the smoothies. These are made with the FreshBerry Tart base and come with the customer’s choice of two fruits. However, it is possible to order smoothies with unlimited fruit additions and even selections from the store’s endless toppings bar. FreshBerry also offers its customers the option of purchasing a fresh pop which are all made in-house. These come in a variety of fruit flavors as well. Clearly, one has endless options when looking at FreshBerry’s menu. The fact that nearly all products are fat-free as well does not hurt.

The FreshBerry brand has expanded from its minimal store’s endless toppings bar. FreshBerry also offers its customers the option of purchasing a fresh pop which are all made in-house. These come in a variety of fruit flavors as well. Clearly, one has endless options when looking at FreshBerry’s menu. The fact that nearly all products are fat-free as well does not hurt.

The FreshBerry brand has expanded from its minimal locations out west to dozens of locations around the world. The store’s Mooresville owner, Matthew Ganis, believed in the FreshBerry Frozen Yogurt Café concept enough to bring it here.

Ganis says, “My family and I are always trying to eat healthy and FreshBerry was a perfect fit for what I was looking for. I like to call it ‘Happiness in a Cup’; it’s similar to Starbucks and your other ice cream places, but it has a little bit more of a healthy spin on it.”

Clearly, he made the right choice as several locals have fallen in love with the store. The store is open until 9pm Sunday-Thursday and till 10pm on Friday and Saturday nights. In addition, the store is staying open until 11pm on Friday nights when there is a home football game. If one is looking for a healthy treat after the game, FreshBerry is definitely the place to go.
With her Monster Ball Tour reaching Charlotte on September 18, 2010, Gaga’s fans poured into Time Warner Cable Arena, filling it with 15,000 energetic screams and applause. At the concert, her influence over her fans was clear—particularly those in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community. Living in an age where homosexuality and its associated rights (or lack thereof) are major political issues, Lady Gaga gives her fervent support to gays as well as anyone who breaks social norms.

The star took advantage of her time off from the Monster Ball Tour to speak to a crowd of over 2,000 people (as the New York Times reports) to implore congress to repeal the Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy. This policy, which remained intact regardless of her pleas, allows gays to serve in the army as long as they do not conduct homosexual acts or reveal their sexual orientation while enlisting. As Gaga stated at her concert, her surge of fame was largely due to her fan base in the homosexual community: To show her gratitude, she made gay rights her primary goal. Although her first efforts proved fruitless, Gaga seems relentless in her steadfast support of the LGBT community.

Obviously, in a generation of Americans weaning out of an intolerant age, her political stance and abstract nature garner some resistance. For instance, in Charlotte, pockets of religious protesters pleaded with concert goers to save themselves from Lady Gaga and called her fans followers of Satan, who are being controlled by the pop artist. Clearly, this is a pretty extreme example of people assailing the lifestyle the singer represents; however, there are many people, even among the open minds of teenagers, who scorn her aberrant style.

Enter the life of a 16 year old guy, who has a thing for awesome pop music. Basically every week, he wears at least one t-shirt with the pop idol’s image plastered on it. As you can imagine, he receives a well-tuned mixture of compliments, laughter and straight up contempt from his peers, but it does not really matter to him. Like Gaga, he too rests firmly upon the belief that people should be themselves. Above all, this seems to be the general theme of Lady Gaga’s political belief—expression of one’s true being and acceptance of anyone, regardless of what makes them different. This, above all, is the most important influence she can have in an age of conformity and loss of individuality.

Even solely in terms of music, Lady Gaga boasts one of the most impressive popularity runs in recent times. As opposed to the countless one-hit wonders that pop up every once in a while, Gaga remains consistent with hit records. Another key feature of her music is that she combines older pop with the heavy-techno beats of today’s brand of pop. The intro to “Dance in the Dark” has a particularly 80’s intro. Even so, it injects elements like heavy bass and synthesized vocal stabs (random interjections of recorded voices)—both of which are commonly heard in post 2000 pop music. Also, Gaga’s song “Boys, Boys, Boys” is a mash-up inspired by “TNT” by AC/DC and Mötley Crüe’s “Girls, Girls, Girls” (as claimed by her profile on www.contractmusic.com, a music news information site). Clearly, the artist is aware of what has succeeded in the past, as she derives many aspects of both her style and music from Michael Jackson, Madonna, Queen and other past great musicians.

Arguably the most noticeable feature of Lady Gaga is her wardrobe. Unlike many artists who focus on looking cool, grungy or whatever else fits the trends, she focuses on personal expression and chooses artistic clothes typically seen only on runways. Part showmanship and part preference, her regalia of clothing immediately characterized Lady Gaga. Some publications, like The Washington Post, claim that she is famous mainly because of her “outlandish” outfits. This statement is absolutely applicable to her impact on fashion, however, before most people even got a glimpse of what Gaga looked like, they heard her music played on the radio and instantly praised it. Even so, the pop star does make a great poster child for artistic fashion.

Being that Lady Gaga is already a huge star at the young age of 24, she seems destined to have a fame-filled career in the future. With her ambitious Monster Ball Tour, her musical background, her several hit singles, her two chart-topping albums, and her well defined profile, she seems to be on the same track as the same great stars whom she idolizes. Regardless of any opinions of her, Lady Gaga has clearly established herself as an influential musician, a political rights activist and an impressive stage performer. I
TO MOST PEOPLE around school, 16 year old Alec Castillo is your typical high school junior. He plays lacrosse, hangs out with friends, and is focusing on getting into college. To me, he is my recently converted skater-turned-artist brother, who I never see without his camera.

During Castillo’s freshman year, he underwent a huge chest surgery that kept him home from school for months and off of his skateboard for an entire year. Skateboarding was his life, and without it he was lost. He had nothing to focus his energy and passion towards, until my grandpa visited with a box of his old things. In that box contained an old broken camera that had no hope of ever working again, but Castillo decided that he would not stop working on it until it was as good as new. One month later, the camera worked perfectly, and it was out with ‘Alec the skater’ and in with ‘Alec the photographer’.

The first things Castillo took pictures of were the flowers in the gardens around our basketball court and in the woods surrounding our property. His favorite things to take pictures of were all of the leaves that had changed colors during the fall. He liked to focus mainly on nature by using a few of the techniques that he knew, such as zooming in tightly on a subject. As he became more experienced, his subjects grew from flowers and trees to people, specifically our

“Photography is my passion. It changed who I am and who I will be.”
Castillo finds the inspiration for his photos everywhere. He looks at magazines, mainly National Geographic, for ideas. One of his biggest inspirations is his art teacher, Mrs. Summers.

“All last year she would critique my work and show me things from her point of view that I might not have seen, and would give me advice on how to improve. She always supported me with all types of art, not just photography. Without her, I definitely wouldn’t be the photographer I am today.”

Although Castillo can find things to take pictures of anywhere he goes, taking pictures of Mooresville got boring after two years, so he traveled to France with his best friend Connor Mikita. He believes that experience changed him as a photographer.

“There was so much to take pictures of in France. The culture was completely different there than in North Carolina. It was amazing, just everything: the buildings, the people, the every day, normal surroundings. I loved taking pictures there because I not only got to capture a completely different way of life, but I was able to share my experiences with everyone back home. Going there helped me better myself as a photographer and expanded my knowledge about what looks cool with which lenses, the light, and all the other stuff that’s involved with taking good pictures.”

When he got back from France, his photography started to reflect everything he learned while there.

Local businesses as events began to hire him to take pictures for them. He started out at small events like the Lakeshore fall festival and talent show, and worked his way up to taking pictures of the high school state championship basketball game. At that game he received a press pass and was able to be on the side of the court with all of the professional photographers and news crews. He says it was one of the most stressful situations he has been put in.

“When you’re taking pictures of a live game, if you miss a shot by one second then it’s over and you can’t go back to take it again. It’s not like with a flower or a tree where nothing changes. Everyone is constantly moving and the most important things happen in a split second.”

One job he was hired for was taking pictures of the Icy Waves wakeboard team on Lake Norman. He has also taken pictures of the Johnson and Wales ice hockey team. Castillo and his best friend Connor have both been asked to be the presidents of the photography club this year.

While last year’s photography club was good, they plan on making some improvements for this year. They want the members to be more involved and to be able to learn while having fun.

He says, “We definitely plan on taking more trips than we did last year. We want to keep the same trips like going to downtown Mooresville and LKN State Park to take pictures. This year, though we are going to expand our trips and get out of Mooresville. We are going to travel down to Charlotte at night. Connor and I have done it four or five times, so we know our way around there pretty well. The nightlife in Charlotte is awesome. We’ve also gotten a request for an underwater shoot, so if we can pull it off it’d be pretty sick.”

Castillo enjoys teaching other people what he has learned so far about photography, but he still has a long way to go. He is looking into going to SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design), which has an amazing photography program. While he is not yet sure if he wants to pursue photography as his career, he knows it will always be a huge part of his life.
As the 2010 season approaches, high expectations are set for Lake Norman's mens soccer team.

2006 and 2007 were indescribable years for the soccer program at Lake Norman High. After back-to-back 3A state championship seasons and an impressive 56 game win streak, Lake Norman soccer became a model for soccer programs all over the state. Since then, Lake Norman has failed to replicate their dominance. In 2008, Lake Norman lost to Charlotte Catholic in the semi finals of the 3A State playoffs.
Last year was not only a rebuilding year for Lake Norman, but also the first year of the jump to 4A competition. It ended in tears from a last minute goal by Olympic High School that sent the Wildcats packing in only the second round of the state playoffs. However, signs of the old Lake Norman legacy are starting to show. Only two starting seniors were lost, and new talent is available to step into the lost positions.

This year’s team is focuses itself around a strong defense and a hard-working midfield. Coach Jon Mertes has made it apparent that he plans to focus on using his defense to not only stop goals but also produce them. Getting everyone involved in the attack is a necessity for Mertes’s team. He wants scoring not only from key players, but also spread out across the team. From top to bottom the roster for the 2010 team looks promising.

Senior captain Nick Hensley returns as goalie. He allowed only 16 goals in 19 games last season and should be even better in 2010 with the entire back line also returning. He describes the new Lake Norman team as “one of the most hard working teams he has ever been a part of.”

Competition will not be light this year for the Wildcats. Undoubtedly one of the toughest conferences top to bottom in North Carolina, the I-Meck conference offers a variety of strong teams that will be facing the Wildcats two times each this season. Defending conference champions North Meck and long-time rival Mooresville High both stand in the way of the Wildcats.

Coach Jon Mertes expressed his beliefs on the competition for this year’s team: “There’s not an easy game in our conference this year,” Mertes said. “There’s a lot of parity, so you don’t take any game lightly.”

Freshman Austin Stevens is a great new addition to the team, offering blistering speed and great one-on-one footwork skills to the scoring arsenal of the Wildcats, which was a weak point for previous teams. He is a very versatile and skilled player on the club level and can hopefully contribute on the high school level respectively.

“Austin can play nearly anywhere on the field. Wherever we need him he can step up and play,” Mertes stated. “Austin is going to get his goals, but we have about seven guys who are consistently going to score for us.”

The Wildcats boast some offensive firepower with forward Morgan Myśliński, who moves up top from midfield, where he scored a team-high 12 goals last year.

Leadership is not a problem for the Wildcats as senior captain and UNC Charlotte signee, Nick Hensley returns as goalie. He allowed only 16 goals in 19 games last season and should be even better in 2010 with the entire back line also returning.

The events that took place at the ZMAX drag way stadium in Charlotte North Carolina were anything but the average. From Friday September the 17th to Sunday September the 19th the season opened at the drag way, and the returning champions came back once again to battle out 4 half mile tracks hold center stage within the already appalling 125 acres that the stadium calls home. But more amazing then that, is the pure significance of a four lane speed way. A feature shared with only two other facilities on the NHRA POWERade drag racing series circuit, being: Texas Motorplex in Ennis, Texas and Bandimere Speedway in Morrison, Colorado.

The races, sponsored by O’Reilly Auto Parts welcomed many racers including Jeg Coughlin Jr., Mike Edwards, as well as Greg Stanfield who ended up winning the first round of races. But after 3 days of racing Mike Edwards took the gold with 180 points. “The weather held up good”, said Edwards “A little hot, but what can you do”. Holding an average temperature of 89 degrees, bystanders tried to take shelter when possible due to the heat. “The stands had no covering, so when possible you tried to take shelter when possible due to the heat.“

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All in all, the events that took place this past weekend were ones that created many memories for those who attended. And most, if asked, would be willing to come right back to do it all over again.
As Cross Country Season Takes Off, Safety Is Questioned

Sports and events flood student’s to-do lists, but really how safe are they?

Nina Mastandrea

The 2010-2011 school year is taking off, and the events clearly most anticipated for are the Football, Soccer, Cross Country and Wrestling games. With the schools ability increasing within each sport, as the years progressed an exponential amount of people are showing up to the events. With popularity growing, the need for security not only for the students attending, but also the friends, family as well as the players, is finding itself to the table of discussion.

The Truth is that no matter where you are, their will always be danger, whether or not its right in front of you, or looming in the far distance. Fear, as well as danger goes hand in hand, therefore, if you prevent the danger you will decrease the fear. Who better to talk to but the Resource Officers. I was able to interview Officer Sigmon and Officer Maple of the Lake Norman High School, about the things we can do to address a possible dangerous situation and what to do when faced with a conflict. “First off”, Officer Maple answered, “you must be highly aware of your surroundings.” Officer Sigmon made it clear that when you know what going around you, you will be more able to do something about the changing situation. Security can be found in numbers as well, Officer Sigmon went on informing me, “We have a minimal of six deputies on hand at all times, as well as three to four security guards”. Thankfully, as humans we can sense when fear is present pretty well, but just don’t leave it up to the subliminal senses, using your ability to look for danger can help you out in the long run. “Having experience and keeping your eyes peeled”, Officer Maple replied. One time or another we have been in a dangerous situation, so if you have a gut feeling that something is not right, “tell one of us immediately, or report it to the closest officer”, some quick advice Officer Sigmon shared, “make sure that you keep track of all your belongings”, Officer Maple added in, as well as, “respecting the rules set forth by the school”. When you and your piers are safe, it can make a huge difference. Here at Lake Norman, though, we do have the privilege of recognizing that the games and public events are safe.

Though, it would most likely startle the average American of some of the statistics having related to school campus violence and safety: Nation-wide, 6.0% of students had not gone to school on 1 or more days of the last 30 days because they felt they would be unsafe at school or on their way to or from school. 2005 CDC Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Or that between 1994 and 1999, there were 220 school associated violent events resulting in 253 deaths. Even more surprising than the already shocking statistics, was the replies given by the Lake Norman High School Students. During lunch I asked them, ‘If you attended a public event here at Lake Norman, and you have reason to believe that their was a dangerous situation would you take action?” Stunnningly enough, 1 in 5 students* here at Lake Norman High School said that they would take action, leaving out the other 4 who said that they wouldn’t do anything at all.

So now, with the real numbers in hand, maybe it inset just what we can do to protect the student body here at Lake Norman, but how the student body can protect itself. A few of the ways you can do that and make a difference is to keep track of your belongings as Officer Sigmon stated earlier, obey the schools rules and regulations, and if you feel like you or any other of the students here at Lake Norman are at danger, let your closest teacher or Officer know.

* - A survey taken out of 30 students, 15 being female, and 15 being made from all grades.

Cats Start The Season With Lights

As Lake Norman’s Cross Country Team starts a new season, things are looking bright

Nina Mastandrea

This past September 2nd, the Lake Norman High School Cross Country Team started their season off at the Ashbrook High School Luminary 5k in Gaston County. About a hour away from Lake Norman High School, the festivities began at Six O’clock with a live singer rehearsing the National Anthem. On the schedule first was the Lake Norman JV girls at Six Fifteen, then the JV boys gun going off at Six forty five. The promise of a real luminary run held its promise as the sun set the Varsity girls walked up to the starting line. At Seven Fifteen the varsity girls took off, having run that race, I witnessed the course having lit with paper bag lanterns and strung lights leading the trail. And not to long after the girls finished, the Varsity boys took off at Seven Forty-Five. As the last men rolled in and crossed the finish line I was able to receive some quick words of opinion from some of the runners: “Great.” “Lots of fun!” The lights really made it exciting” and “ running in the dark made it feel like you were flying, very cool”, were some of the responses to the event. The festival ended at approximately Eight O’clock and the tired looks from all the athletes led the Ashbrook Luminary 5k...
WILDCATS PREPARE FOR 2ND SEASON

With a 1-3 record in the past, the Wildcat football players look to step up their play for the upcoming conference games.

Zack McGee

The Wildcats have completed their non-conference portion of the schedule and are now looking forward to the second part of the season after a shaky 1-3 start. The second half of the Wildcats schedule consists of all the teams in the I-Meck conference. These teams include North Meck, Mallard Creek, Hopewell, Vance, West Charlotte, Hough, and Mooresville. This provides an opportunity for the Wildcats to show what they are really made of.

This conference if full of great teams that will surely put the Wildcats to the test. As Mallard Creek and West Charlotte have shown to be the toughest teams so far, but the other teams also provide a lot of competition. In the Massey high school football ratings in the state of North Carolina, Mallard Creek and West Charlotte are making their presence felt. Mallard Creek sits ranked at #2 just behind Butler. West Charlotte is also on the list ranked at #13.

The first challenge for the Wildcats was the Vikings of North Meck. The Wildcats came out strong in the first half, but the Vikings proved to be too much as they won the game 22-10. Their first two games ended up in a loss to Providence and Audrey Kell, but, the Vikings are coming off a 34-7 win over Myers Park. Even though the Vikings lost a number of seniors from a year ago, they are a team nobody should overlook. North Meck has a great program and always reloads with talent.

After North Meck the Wildcats will traveled to Mallard Creek to take on the Mavericks. The Mavericks showed how tough they really are by beating the Wildcats 55-7. The Mavericks ranked to take the I-Meck conference for a second consecutive year. Besides the Massey rankings, MaxPrep.com also has the Mavericks ranked at the number 25 spot in all of America. Behind a great offensive line and a five star Quarterback Marquise Williams, the Mavericks have a very high powered offense that has scored 209 points in only five games. That’s an average of 25 points a game. If the Mavericks keep playing the way they are, it will take a very tough and good football team to slow them down.

Williams is being heavily recruited by division 1 football programs and has committed to the University of North Carolina.

As the season progressed, the Wildcats faced the Titans of Hopewell. The Wildcats came out strong once again vs Hopewell, but Hopewell showed that they are a great 2nd half team. In the 2nd half, Hopewell put up 32 points and beat the Wildcats 51-13. Along with many teams in this conference, Hopewell has lost many key seniors from last season. The Titans open their conference schedule with the West Charlotte Lions on September 29th. The Titans look for revenge this season as the Wildcats got the better of them last season.

Next for the Wildcats comes the Hough Huskies from the Huskies’ first season. Hough has posted a record of 2-4 and they are coming off a loss to Garinger High with a score of 35-34. Nobody is truly sure about what to think of the Huskies, except the fact that they are not a team to overlook either. They have come out playing hard in all their games, with two of the three of them being wins. If the Huskies continue to play hard and tough, they will continue to be victorious. Although they are a brand new High School their students came from several of the other schools in the conference so many of the players are very familiar with the I-Meck.

The last game on the schedule for the Wildcats is the Blue Devils of Mooresville. This game will be very important for both teams, regardless of what the records will be at the season’s end. This rivalry has been brewing since Lake Norman opened in 2002. The Blue Devils have gotten the best of the Wildcats every year Lake Norman existed until the last two meetings. In 2008 the Wildcats pulled off the first victory 17-7 at the Wildcats den. Last season, the Wildcats beat the Devils 12-10 in Mooresville. Last season, the Wildcats topped off the Devils defeated season making them 0-11. The Devils and Wildcats will clash again this season at Lake Norman. This game is all about bragging rights for the next year and the Wildcats have had that the past two seasons. Mooresville has plenty of talent ready to do battle with the Wildcats.

This season for the Wildcats should be an interesting one as they have a lot of young talent with not a lot of experience. It will also be very interesting on how the Wildcats will respond coming off a 1-3 record. The young and somewhat experienced talent the Wildcats have will definitely be put to the test as the I-Meck conference gets tougher. The competition they will face will be a great test for them.
Head coach Chris Scheimer started out fall ball's season on September 19th, pushing the girls to get into the lacrosse swing of things.

Since the new lacrosse season has started there have been couple practices. The practices and games will only be on Sundays, and that is why fall ball is less of a club team and more of a pre-season for the actual spring season. Fall ball is not run through the school, and the practices are held at the new indoor sports center named Benchwarmers. There are about twenty girls on the team and more are going to sign up. Returning players and new players are about even in population on the team. All of the girls seem to be getting along and are working well together, for being new to each others skill levels. There are also new coaching styles that some of the girls have to adjust to.

As mentioned earlier the head coach is Chris Scheimer. Coach Scheimer may be new, but he seems to be ecstatic for his new team and the opportunity to coach women's lacrosse for the first time. He has previously coached men's lacrosse, and will soon find out that it is very different from women's. Scheimer found out about the coaching opportunity because his daughter, Roseanna, is joining the team.

Another new coach on the team is Roger Lademann, who also has a daughter on the team, Olivia. Lademann used to be a spectator for the team last year, but this year he decided to be a part of the coaching staff.

There is one returning coach though and his name is Ernst Koehler. He was a coach for the women's varsity and junior varsity team for Lake Norman High School last year. As well as the other two coaches he has a daughter on the team, her name is Elizabeth. Koehler has worked with the returning players, so he has a past with women's lacrosse and will be helpful to the new players.

With three male coaches and an all girls team, this season will be different. Lisa Stiles describes the first couple practices by saying, "I think that we are good, but just like last year it is new people coming together for the first time. So we will only get better with more practice once we all get to know each other and play lacrosse together." If all the teammates have an outlook like Lisa's, then the team will be unbeatable.

Last spring season of lacrosse was the first official year Lake Norman acknowledged women's lacrosse as a school run sport. They had a varsity and junior varsity team that worked hard to be the best. For a new team varsity made eleventh in the state and had, Catherine Savage, who was first in the state as goalie. Savage will be playing in the spring, as well as fall ball. Now Savage will be returning, but the previous seniors have graduated and will not be returning to the lacrosse field. These ladies are Kayla Bynum, Lauren Deservose, Samantha Hendrickson, Cindy Conrad, Alexa Gallo, Esmi Morgan and Anya Rosenrotter. Almost all of them were starters and have left huge shoes to fill. This season a completely new defense is going to be chosen, as well as other positions, seeing as how two out of the three coaches have to figure out each girl's skill level and position.

Scheimer and Lademann are taking over the coaching positions that were possessed by Dave Walla (head coach) and Betty Economou (assistant coach). Walla moved out of the district so he had to resign from the position as head coach. Economou stepped down for family reasons, but has made it known that she plans to attend some practices and games. Catherine Savages opinion on last year's team is, "Last year I loved the seniors and will miss them. Last year's team felt like a family on and off the field." If all the teammates have an outlook like Lisa’s, then the team will be unbeatable.

With the spring season is approaching, the team feels fall ball is the training for the actual school season. In hopes that the team will learn to work together and really become a team that is in sync. In retrospect they are doing well, but in order to be victorious the team needs what fall ball has to offer. Fall ball will only have one team, but the decision of making two teams for spring (varsity and junior varsity) is still up in the air. It will depend on how many girls will continue with lacrosse, and if there will be a substantial increase or decrease in girls interested in lacrosse. There are also some cases of girls that have no time for fall ball, are already on a club team or their jobs interfere with Sunday practices. So they are not deciding on having either a varsity and a junior varsity team or a conjoined team, until the spring season.

On the topic of the spring season the graduating seniors cannot go without the recognition they deserve. The graduating seniors will be Elizabeth Koehler (midfield), Catherine Savage (goalie), Ericha Hartz (attack/ midfield) and Lisa Stiles (attack/ midfield). All were starters last year, and they are exhilarated to start out another season. Most hope to be the new captains as well. Last year the captains were randomly chosen. With a new coach, the team now has a chance to vote for the captains. It is safe to say the captain's spot is an honor (especially when voted into the position). The captain's position is an honor because as the season goes on the lacrosse team (and any other type of team for that matter) becomes a family.

The spring season still does not begin until February, so the unanswered questions will stay unanswered until then. All Lake Norman students can hope for is that fall ball will help your wildcat lacrosse girls destroy all competition.
Thursday was without a doubt the best spirit day because everyone was pumped up for some intense competition between the classes. The seniors rocked the tea party in the commons with their fine wonderland china and costumes. It was a nice surprise for students to see when walking into the school. This may be a good indicator that the seniors will have good pranks this year. All of the hallways this year turned out awesome. Usually underclassmen do not manage to live up to the developmental experience of the seniors, but everyone did really well. Several people started crashing throughout the day due to staying up all night for hall decorating. Overall, Thursday was not just another day at LNHS. Students and faculty jumped into a world of alternate realities including Pirates of the Caribbean, Shrek, Harry Potter, and Alice in Wonderland. The bonfire did not have a huge turn out, but everyone that came seemed to have a lot of fun. Student council sold food and drinks from Sports Page and the football players played students in capture the flag. Also, Tyler Bryant’s band kept everyone entertained with some good music. Thursday was the ideal night for the bonfire. The varsity football players were stoked.

Friday was like a whirlwind of anticipation and excitement. Students were pumped up all day long for the big homecoming game. It was nice to see students decked out from head to toe in blue, black, and white. After so much competition between the classes throughout the week, everyone seemed to unite as one spirited student body, with the exception of the pep rally. The pep rally had some friendly competition between the classes, of course. The half-time show was awesome, as always. The homecoming kings were recognized at the pep rally and the queens were crowned during halftime. The halftime show was great! The juniors pulled through last minute with their float and the freshmen went all out with their crafty pirate ship. The sophomores had a cute miniature float and the seniors pulled through with a collaboration of artistic pieces from hall decorating. Overall, the week was a huge success; however, it was disappointing that the football team came out with a loss to Hopewell.

Mary Parker