

## NEWS BRIEFS

### PhUn day

Health Careers Investigation Club, Chemistry Club Outreach Program and Applied Medical Research students participated in the annual Physiology Understanding Day on Thursday, May 25.

The purpose of PhUn Day is to provide underprivileged students the opportunity to come to North and experience a day full of education about chemistry and the human body. The event was designed by the American Physiological Society and was first held at North during the 2011-12 school year.

Senior Steven Levick is in Applied Med ran an experiment station about the skeletal system.

"From this activity, I hope I will be able to gain a better understanding with teaching people from different backgrounds," Levick said. "I think the lessons and skills I will learn from this will definitely help me in the future."

### Changing email providers

Starting next year, the district will officially move from Microsoft Exchange, the current email provider, to Google Suite according to Director of Instructional Technology Chris Stanley.

This means teachers will now only have one Gmail account along with Google calendar and contacts. With the exception of specific classes that may need to continue to utilize Microsoft Office, the majority of classes will be shifting to Google Applications.

English teacher Alyssa Sandoval is a firm believer that this change will benefit the staff and students.

"It's going to make my life easier because having two separate accounts is difficult, and I think Gmail has everything built into it," Sandoval said.

### AP exam meetings

During the week of June 5, Advanced Placement teachers will be inviting students to attend informational meetings about AP courses.

Each meeting has its own specific time, place and date and will be held both before and after school.

The teachers who will teach AP classes will present their own focus for the meeting. Some teachers will explain summer projects, others will be discussing the rigors and specifics of the course.

Every meeting will clearly define the expectations students will encounter in a particular class.

"It is important that each and every student gets a 'snapshot' of the AP course that they have registered for and specific information that is related to that course," AP United States History teacher Terri Steimer said. "Exact information is always helpful. Fact is better than rumor."

By Syeda Rizvi

### National German exams

Junior John Huskin along with other students taking German, took the German National Exam.

This online test shows where each student is in their ability and consists of two sections, a reading one and a listening one.

Huskin said that South has been taking the test for years.

"We didn't take it last year or any other year but South has been taking it. My friend he has taken it, Zack Pierce, he is at South," Huskin said. "So I really wanted to take it last year to see how I compared with him, but now I've taken it this year and I tied with him I think. We both got silver, so that was pretty cool."

### North-South combined outdoor concert

The North-South combined outdoor concert will take place on South's soccer field Friday, June 2 at 7 p.m.

Together, the orchestras from both schools will play Howard Hanson's "Symphony No. 3." Concert bands will be playing music from "Fantasia 2000" and music from "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." The band will also play music from the 1991 movie "Robin Hood Prince of Thieves" and a famous Henry Fillmore march called "The Klaxon."

Band teacher David Cleveland said the outdoor concert is a community event, and all are welcome to come.

"It's an annual traditional, end-of-the-year big closer for the school system," Cleveland said. "We combine all the talent from both schools and get a big outdoor concert."

By Katelynn Mulder

## Outbreak of fidget spinners attacks schools

By Giuseppe Parison  
STAFF REPORTER

Over the course of the past several months, classrooms from across the nation have all been obsessed over one thing—fidget spinners.

A fidget spinner's design is relatively simple, generally consisting of two to four wings strutting off a center, weighted in a way that allows the device to spin freely and smoothly with little effort.

These seemingly harmless devices first introduced as a therapeutic remedy for people suffering from ADD, ADHD and other disorders inhibiting focus have gone from a small niche item to an adolescent sensation.

However, as publicity rose, so did controversy. With so many people utilizing these objects as more than toys, many teachers have been fed up.

Some teachers, like environmental science teacher Christopher Skowronski, sees no use in them.

"They're not necessary for the high school student," Skowronski said. "With anything, the person has to police themselves and think 'Is it helping or hurting my distractibility?' If it's helping, I would say maybe have a conversation with

the teacher first and say 'Hey this is helping me do well in class.' If they're not talking to the teacher, it looks like they're just playing a game which may hurt their performance in class.

School psychologist Christine Kuhl has

a similar outlook on fidget spinner, acknowledging their purpose but also condemning their effectiveness. She thinks that rather than having the fidget spinner be used as

something to occupy a person's hands while they attend to other things, it actually becomes the thing they end up paying attention to, which is not a fidget device's purpose.

"I think that there are a lot of fidget tools out there that are a lot less distracting to others and the environment," Kuhl said. "I have seen kids using them and they seem pretty absorbed in them, so to me that's kind of defeating the

purpose. The purpose of the fidget is really to keep your hands active so that you can tune into instruction or sit still!"

Senior Christian Flannery has mixed feelings about the situation, understanding the usefulness of the item but at the same time disliking what it has turned into.

"I mean I understand what they're for, I just don't like why people are using them," Flannery said. "Fidget spinners and the fidget cube, they're meant for people who obviously and (who) can't focus, but everyone's turning it into a trend. You have companies popping up out of nowhere being like 'Hey, they're making money off of this. Let's make this bedazzled one that also lights up and by the way they're 200 dollars.'"

Although it may be a popular trend, Flannery does see the use in fidget objects.

"I'll mess around with them and I could see the feel of it. Having it just sit there kind of rocking back and forth with the spinning motion, it's soothing or calming," Flannery said. "I have ADD and ADHD, so to me that is like sitting on the beach, it feels calming and soothing, but at the same time I hate myself for it because everyone is using it as a trend."

Thirty-seven other brothers were charged in connection with the event after a pledge lost consciousness and died from assault to the head. At least one hazing death a year has occurred from 1969 to 2017—and in many years, multiple deaths have occurred on numerous campuses—in addition to many more injuries caused by hazing. The University of Maryland found that over half of college students are involved in some form of campus hazing. Of those, 95 percent do not report it.

Because some of the tasks can require illegal activities, such as underage alcohol consumption or assault, pledges and fraternity brothers employ a "Code of Silence" and aren't allowed to talk about what happens. In fact, 82 percent of hazing-related deaths involve the use of alcohol.

As other hazing horror stories have been brought to light including the case of a 19-year-old from Pennsylvania State University who died this February because of a hazing-related accident, colleges have begun to crack down on Greek Life regulation. Penn State announced they will be bringing back a policy of issuing "report cards" to sororities and fraternities to help students avoid chapters with a bad reputation.

Social studies teacher Barry Mulso attended Western Michigan University and was president of Phi Sigma Kappa. He said that simply relying on self-regulation for fraternities may not be enough, and in his experiences in Greek Life, some form of school regulation was the norm.

"Fraternities and sororities have never had a completely free hand. There has always been

university regulations and things like that—they govern them. But now, whether or not the university enforces those things frequently is an issue," Mulso said. "One thing that stood out to me about (Phi Sigma Kappa) was that they were really anti-hazing ... it didn't make sense to treat somebody like dirt for an entire semester and after that time period goes by, 'so hey, now you're my buddy.' Yeah, we just found that really hypocritical."

Senior Matt Moores said that although it is appropriate for schools to regulate Greek Life, chapters should also be regulated from the inside. He also thinks the pledges should be proactive in their rushing experience.

"I believe there could be some more regulation, but I don't believe that the school should be super involved in fraternities," Moores said. "Hazing is something that I've thought about when considering rushing, but I feel despite the horror stories we hear on the news it's not all bad. In addition, I feel like the person rushing has some responsibility to know when it's going to far and call it quits."

But despite severe hazing accounts, students are not giving up the opportunity to join a fraternity or sorority. Currently, there are over nine million Greek members nationally. Mulso recalls participating in several philanthropy projects through his fraternity, and both he and Vandoorne appreciate the social aspect of Greek Life.

Apart from all of the negative news that's come out, I would say that (Greek Life) has a strong base, and when you go away to college, like I'm going to Michigan State, there's going to be 40,000 undergrad kids, and I think it's good to have to have a group of people that you can count on and can be there for you and be like 'brothers' in a sense," Vandoorne said. "I'd say that's an upside, and that's probably the reason that I'm going to do it."

## Clearing the

# HAZZ

### Greek Life under fire for recent fatal hazing incidents

By Lindsey Ramsdell & Ritika Sanikomm  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & SENIOR ASSISTANT EDITOR

Although there are more restrictions on fraternities and sororities today, hazing is not a thing of the past. Recent accounts have even proved fatal in some cases, but it doesn't deter senior Alex Vandoorne, who will be rushing at Michigan State University next fall.

Hazing, or ridicule and strenuous tasks that pledges are forced to undergo for initiation into Greek Life, is forbidden by 44 states. However, it is still very much a part of Greek Life, especially in fraternities. Vandoorne said it is important to keep an open mind when hearing about hazing incidents, as only the most extreme cases are shown in the news.

"It is scary and it's obviously appalling that some students would have to go through that," he said. "I think there's bad everywhere and I think it's more so coming out now with the hazing and stuff, but I think if you find the right fraternity, I think it is more positive than negative."

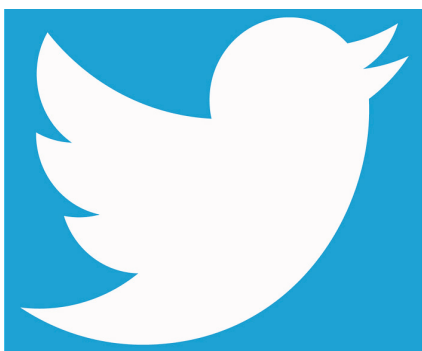
The most current attack against fraternities comes from Baruch College where four former fraternity brothers have just pleaded guilty in the third-degree murder of a pledge.

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