



SPORTS

Cross country coach Scott Cooper congratulates seniors Julia and Sarah Rustmann after a meet on Saturday, Oct. 26.



KRISTEN KALED

Generalized web content filters violate library resources rights

By Colleen Reveley & Sydney Thompson
EDITOR & BUSINESS MANAGER

According to the Library Bill of Rights, it is the library's duty to "... provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues." Library Media Specialist Karen Villegas, though, has discovered that North students' American Library Association (ALA) rights are being violated with the web content filters that are placed on the Internet on school computers.

Though Villegas is in charge of what books go on the shelves in the library, she is not in control of stocking students' media resources on the Internet.

"I operate in loco parentis, which basically means as a parent. I would never put anything on the shelf that is inappropriate. We have a collection policy," Villegas said. "Why doesn't the selection policy for the print material also apply to the electronic materials? See now, when it comes to electronic resources, we purchase databases that are reviewed for accuracy not only appropriateness."

The different media outlets make it complicated for libraries to have a uniform system for filtering media.

"The way our electronics are filtered is not the same as the way our written material is selected. The way I understand it is everything comes through by tags or categories," Villegas said. "It's the reverse of how we have selected other resources in the libraries. I'm not sure all the resources that should be available for kids are being available."

Assistant Principal David Reed-Nordwall said that North administration is aware of consequences that filtering can have. Filters can be too general or completely off topic.

"The thing we have noticed is from the beginning is the second you start filtering, you're gonna catch things

that you don't need to catch," Reed-Nordwall said. "But I think in the digital world, it's how we handle the future. It's an unknown future."

Two things that Reed-Nordwall said the school has yet to face are how to provide the students with the information that they have the right to see and how to prevent situations that could be legally harmful to the student and the school.

"If I have freshman (online) and they just put in a search and it comes up with inappropriate material, the school is liable to be sued," Reed-Nordwall said. "And so we have to kind of pick the lesser of two evils."

Reed-Nordwall has acknowledged the fact that the Internet resources provided by the school are not being filtered in an effective way because of how recently and readily any sort of information is available, and he says he knows creating an efficient web content filter is a process.

"Libraries themselves are working on developing more robust databases and sites that do some collecting for you. There are millions of documents out there that would be helpful in a school setting. That's too much to look through," Reed Nordwall said. "I think one of the things I can't get around is anybody out there, anywhere in the world can write a document, a pseudo-intellectual document and toss it out there. How are you as students verifying that this is a true, credible source and that you are handling it in a way that's not leaving you unprotected against basically misinformation?"

An article from www.ala.org interpreted a section of the Library Bill of Rights as, "the responsibility of the governing board to adopt policies that guarantee students access to a broad range of ideas. These include policies on collection development and procedures for the review of resources about which the concerns have been raised." The "governing board" that decides what is appropriate for students to view in the district is the School Board.

Senior Uribe Beaumont has encountered problems with the filters in terms of completing projects for health class. The web filters have prevented students from searching subjects that may be viewed as mature or controversial, despite providing educational value.

"There have been many times when I've wanted to do a project on something controversial, like marijuana, but I'm narrowed down to a 'safer' topic because we are restricted from seeing the websites that would help me (find) information on that topic," Beaumont said. "There are plenty of reliable medical marijuana websites online that are blocked simply because it's weed."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Common App glitches slow down application process

By Anu Subramaniam
WEB MANGER

Being exited out of the program, having an essay deleted and having to resend an application are just some of the difficulties senior Colleen Maher has experienced while using the Common Application.

"I was so upset. I was furious. I tried rewriting it on a Word doc, there was no way I could remember everything I had written, so I basically had to start over," Maher said.

On Aug. 1 the Common App launched a revised form that is accepted by over 500 colleges nationwide. Along with the changes made in the revised form of the Common Application, the managing server was also changed to Naviance. However, the recent issues are not within the Naviance server itself but the lack of communication between the server and the new form of the Common Application.

"The issues were that the Common App wasn't adequately ready to roll out, so students were having difficulty uploading their transcripts, and Naviance couldn't connect the two together because all the little electrical things were not worked out," counselor Milissa Pierce said.

Mahe isn't the only one experiencing difficulties. Many colleges — such as Northwestern University, Duke University, Boston University and many others — are having to postpone their deadlines because students' transcripts are not properly sending.

"We have gotten multiple email notifications from many colleges saying they have pushed (back) their deadlines probably about a week or more because of the issues with the Common Application," Pierce said.

Despite the issues that many of the seniors are experiencing with the Common Application, the new server has helped in other areas. Naviance enables a word count on essays and makes it possible for students to submit Advanced Placement test scores and standardized test scores with a code to the school of their choice. Naviance also allows students to schedule college visits, search for scholarship opportunities, look at the college's activity calendar, and match up students with schools based on the criteria the student is looking for.

"It gives us a bigger view of where students have applied," Pierce said. "It allows us the opportunity to help students find schools better for themselves with the matching and the applications that the students need."

Because Naviance is a newer software that the district purchased last spring, it is still a learning process for the counselors and graduating class.

The Class of 2013 applied using Docufy, which was later bought by Parchment. Towards the end of the year, however, the Class of 2013 entered the data of where they were attending college into Naviance. The Class of 2014 is the first class to use the new form of the Common Application in the new server, Naviance.

"It just seems like there are a lot of bugs that need to be worked out," Maher said. "The idea of the Common App is good, but it is just a lot of work when you have other applications to fill out."

SAT TESTING

Saturday, Nov. 2 at 8 a.m. in the Cafeteria

POPS & PASTRIES CONCERT

Saturday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the North gym

NO SCHOOL ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, Nov. 5

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE VISIT

Wednesday, Nov. 6 during 2nd hour in the PAC

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Thursday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. in the South gym

FALL SPORTS AWARDS

Monday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. & Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. in the PAC

IDEAS
" THIS
TYPE OF
JOKE
MAY
NOT BE
YOUR
CUP OF
TEA, BUT
LET THE
IDEA
STEEP A
LITTLE
LONGER."
PAGE 3

COPS builds chemistry with U of D Mercy

By Wendy Ishmaku & Emily Martinbianco
ASSISTANT EDITOR & STAFF REPORTER

Flames burst in the palms of hands. Snow appeared in 70-degree weather. The COPS club had arrived. Junior Alicia Brown walked into a classroom full of college-level chemistry students at University of Detroit Mercy (UDM), ready to represent North's Chem Club (COPS).

"We first got there, all the U of D kids were already in there. Maybe 20 or 25, and there was this one girl

who was the head of everything. She knew everything," Brown said. "She was their leader, but she was a student, too."

But that feeling of intimidation soon ignited into excitement when the experiments resulted in explosive, multicolored flames.

"The other fire experiment we did was where these bubbles, and if they were dense enough, then when you shoot the fire out the blowtorch, it would burn. And your hands had to be wet so your hands would burn too, but (they weren't actually) burning," junior Malene Smith, a member of COPS club, said.

"I think I almost burned a kid though," Brown said. "But it's okay

because his hands were wet."

To contrast the flames, the students also produced snow in 70-degree weather. They teamed up with the UDM Chemistry Club to form these flakes with a polymer that absorbs water.

"It's similar to the water absorbents in babies' diapers; just this one flakes into snow," Steven Kos-

mas, science teacher and COPS leader said.

He also helped both chemistry groups conduct these experiments, including the thermite experiment, which he said was his favorite. It was executed by a chemist who held a sparkler under a flower pot, and after the thermite ignited, liquid iron was formed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

"I think I almost burned a kid though, but it's okay because his hands were wet."

Alicia Brown
COPS CLUB MEMBER



COPS teams up with U of D Mercy chemistry club

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“The thermite was done on a larger level. They did it outside, and there was a patch of grass burnt out from that particular reaction, so I thought that was kinda cool,” Kosmas said.

In addition to the thermite, Brown said Kosmas guided and improved the UDM Chemistry Club by contributing to their experiments. He motivated the college students as they were walking the COPS club through their labs.

“They showed us like three or four experiments, and Mr. Kosmas helped them out and made their experiments a lot better,” Brown said.

COPS also represented North by introducing a series of trials the college had not seen before.

“The U of D kids were so fascinated with it. We showed them how to make snow, we showed them this magic sand trick because the water would never get stuck on it,” Brown said. “We showed them a lot of cool stuff, and they really liked it. They were showing their teachers ‘Can we get this? Let’s try this out.’”

By going to U of D, COPS was able to see how a chemistry club was held on a college level.

“They got to see exactly what the college was doing and compared it to what we were doing. The college had some stuff that we wouldn’t normally put into students’ hands, and we had a lot of hands-on stuff that college students didn’t have, so I think that we complemented each other as a good arrangement,” Kosmas said. “We’ve worked together in the past, but we’re trying to build that up so hopefully we will get U of D’s Chem Club to come to North.”

In addition to working with UDM Chemistry Club, COPS is planning on spreading the chemistry to Girl Scouts. The team’s goal is to put together an all-girls panel to visit Girl Scout troops and show them some of the experiments they did with UDM.

“We’re going to do a mentoring program for Girl Scouts so they can get interested in science,” Smith said. “Usually, I think U of D does it, but we’re gonna do it with elementary students and basically teach them about chemistry.”

COPS anticipates taking on this task and others because of their devotion and enthusiasm towards the club.

“I’m pretty sure Mr. Kosmas is gonna have a lot of cool things for us to look forward to,” Brown said. “And then it relates back to class too, which helps, so it’s really beneficial in both ways.”

Web content filters violate rights

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Illegal substances are not the only filtered web pages. Villegas has also had problems with students coming to her for blocked sites on different topics.

“There will be kids that are looking for information on secondhand smoke or a lot of health topics for their health class. Well, secondhand smoke pages are filtered out. So there are pages that are not available to them because of the filter that is put in place,” Villegas said. “I feel like they are just not made accessible.”

Independent companies are hired by the district to do the web filtering. Consumer Reports reviewed the software

used to filter the Internet in schools and found “that while Internet blockers have gotten better at blocking pornography, the best also tend to block many sites they shouldn’t. In addition, Consumer Reports found the software to be less effective at blocking sites promoting hatred, illegal drugs or violence.”

In the 2002 book *Youth, Pornography, and the Internet*, The National Research Council made the point that schools cannot stop students from using the web, but they can teach them how to use it appropriately.

Regarding student Internet use, The Research Council drew this analogy, “Swimming pools can be dangerous for children. To protect them, one can install locks, put up fences and deploy pool alarms. All these measures are helpful, but by far the most important thing that one can do for one’s children is teach them how to swim.”

Link Crew prepares a No Shave November fundraiser for men’s cancer awareness

By Andrea Scapini & Emma Brock
NEWS EDITOR & INTERN

November may be off to a rough start. Link Crew is hosting a No Shave November fundraiser to support men’s cancer awareness.

“We’re going to donate a percentage of what we make in the fundraiser to raise awareness to men’s cancer,” Joe Drouin, a Link Crew adviser, said. “Right now we’re in the process of finding the right charity. We have no funding for Link Crew and lots of things we want to do for Link Crew. We need to find money and this is a way for us to raise money for Link Crew.”

This idea was initially proposed by Assistant Principal David Reed-Nordwall. He wasn’t thinking of it from a fundraising standpoint, however.

“It really started, the No Shave November, from Mr. R.N. joking about getting all the guys together and doing a No Shave November,” Drouin said. “So we joked about it and we were just trying to find a good fundraiser for Link Crew so I threw it out there and we went to the Student Link Conference and L’anse Creuse North (High School) does it.”

Following in L’anse Creuse’s footsteps, the male staff involved in No Shave No-

ember must begin the month clean shaven. Each male teacher involved, the “grower,” has a “hype squad” of at least two Link Crew students. Every week, that male teacher will have fundraisers, like bake sales and can drives. At the end of the week, whichever teacher raises the least money must shave, and is eliminated.

“It’s not about who can grow the best beard, it’s about who can raise the most money and get the most support,” Drouin said. “I know I’m excited and I know Mr. Bandfield was excited because he said that any excuse not to shave is a good thing to do. We’ll have some fun and I think it will be a little camaraderie amongst the staff and among the students, too, because granted, this is the first time we’re kind of pinning teacher against teacher.”

Athletic Director Ben Bandfield said he’s looking forward to the event.

“It’s a cool idea, I think it’s for a great cause and it’s going to save me some time in the morning,”

Bandfield said. “It’s going to be a cool thing for North. The kids and teachers and all the staff will come together and it’s going to be a neat thing for everybody and once again it’s for a good cause.”

Drouin expects the fundraiser to have a positive impact on North’s overall atmosphere.

“It’s a really good thing and plus it gives a chance for the

staff to have fun with the students,” Drouin said. “So many of the students see us in an instructional world where we’re in front of a class room and we’re an authority figure. This kind of gives them a chance to back us and go for a cause and see that we’re going for the same thing.”

Bandfield wants the first-place honor and trophy prize at the end of the month.

“Go Team Bandfield,” Bandfield said. “We’re actually Team Geico: This contest is going to be so easy a caveman could win it.”

Official Link Crew No Shave November: The Rules of the Beard

1. Everyone must shave on October 31st.
2. Shaving and trimming the beard hairs are not allowed.
3. If rule 2 is violated, the participant may donate \$20 to get back in. (However, this will not count towards their total.)
4. Stray hairs may be groomed. The original length must be maintained.

UDM Visit Day—Sat., Oct. 5 or Sat., Dec. 7
RSVP at admissions.events@udmercy.edu or
call 800-635-5020.

Announcing the Commerce Scholarship for exceptional business majors.

Another reason why our business degrees add value(s).

The UDM Commerce Scholarship is a renewable \$25,000 scholarship for outstanding freshmen entering as business majors. You can learn more about it, as well as our five-year B.S./MBA program, at an upcoming UDM Visit Day.

You’ll also learn how our business administration degree gives you everything you need to get started in your career—the latest in accounting, law, finance, marketing, management, information systems, international business—as well as a lifelong ethical perspective that you can only get from a Jesuit and Mercy institution.

UDM business majors take advantage of internships at major companies, mentoring from corporate executives, and service-learning courses that bring a hands-on approach to real-world issues. And our AACSB accreditation means you are attending an elite university where teaching matters as much as research—and accountability reigns.

Come to a Visit Day and learn more.



We want great things for you.

business.udmercy.edu