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Glenbard East High School

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Issue 1

New Year, New Views

By: Areli Rodriguez
Editor-in-Chief

I'm a senior this year and I decided to join newspaper and yearbook, but I wasn't expecting to get my first assignment until our first meeting on Aug. 24th and, to be frank, I was nervous and excited about the opportunity. So on the eve of freshman orientation, I procrastinated like any other human being would do until about 10:30pm and created a very organized chart of questions/observations for my "little" rendezvous in 7 hours.

The next day I got to school with my little brother and waited for my friend Cecilia Guzzo, who agreed to show me around and also allowed me to observe and interview her group of kids. Unfortunately, I got there before she did, so I followed the other mentors and found my other friend Margaret Lopez walking in with her friend Ricardo Sanchez Jr. Margaret and Ricardo helped me understand the whole agenda and made me feel included within the group, which I very much appreciated. I then took a couple of photos of the mentors and even got a couple of interviews before the swarm of freshman arrived.

In my opinion I found the whole process of getting the freshman organized very chaotic and during the call-and-response, I felt like a good majority of the kids weren't really into it and I'm not trying to say that these activities were boring because they weren't. All I'm trying to say is that maybe we should pick activities that their generation would enjoy or even appreciate. I also feel like kids nowadays are growing up too quickly. For example, the group that I observed tried playing the games at first, but later on they got bored and



Link Crew mentors Megan High, Gabrielle Spontak and Erika Hasanaj (photo credit: Areli Rodriguez)

asked why they had to play or even get to know each other. When I was a freshman, I kind of thought the same thing, but it doesn't kill you to try to get to know someone or to participate in something that may be silly. That's kind of how life works, you get put into a situation that you don't want to be apart of, but you just have to get through it sometimes and just man up.

When I was a freshman, I found these same activities somewhat entertaining and it was refreshing to see how many friendly faces there were. For me, freshman orientation helped me begin to adapt to high school.

The only thing I would change about my experience, would be to have a better form of communication with my mentor, because I thought it was a great idea that the mentors asked the freshman for either their social media or their numbers. I actually don't know if the other groups succeeded in getting contact infos, but the group that I observed really didn't like the idea of it and

I found it funny that all of them rejected the idea right away, it's not like they're your parents trying to add you on Facebook, they simply want to be someone that you can talk to when you're having a rough time. I really enjoyed this experience to an extent and I really think that I learned a lot about myself and others. I hope that all of you learned something from my experience and I encourage all of you to go above and beyond.



Link Crew mentors Caedan Cervantes and Mike Allen (photo credit: Areli Rodriguez)

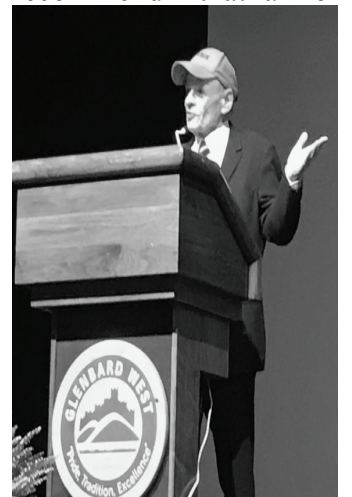
The Power of A Story

By: Areli Rodriguez
Editor-in-Chief

There are at least three different types of people when it comes to reading: passionate bookworms, kids who don't dislike reading but only do it because their teachers make them, and those who can't stand the thought of reading overall. I personally am a mix of all three of them. A good majority of books captivate me while others bore me to death.

I would rather read something that I choose than have someone limit my options. Although a good majority of teachers limit reading choices at times, some teachers actually pick some really interesting selections. For example, my English teacher Mr. Novak got me into Socrates and I normally don't read things about philosophy. The power of not only reading but the power of storytelling is the main message I'm trying to come across to in this article. On Aug. 22, I went to Glenbard West to observe author Tim O'Brien. Before this presentation, I had no idea who Tim O'Brien was nor did I read any of his books, but once he started talking about his book *The Things They Carried* and about his personal experience in Vietnam, I was hooked instantly to this stranger's story. The one thing that stuck out to me the most was how well he told his stories and how believable they were. For example, in the chapter Ambush, he described how haunting it was to tell his daughter how he killed an innocent Vietnamese boy. I believe he said, "I did not hate the young man, I did not see him as the enemy." I also believe that he was trying to hold back his tears and that caused me to choke up a bit. This story caused me to get a little emotional, but you should have seen how shocked I was when Mr. O'Brien admitted that he did not have a daughter nor did he kill a young Vietnamese boy with a grenade! I was utterly baffled by this

claim, but he did give a reasonable explanation for why he would add this to his book. He said that anyone could take responsibility in a story, but in real life it is much harder to do so. O'Brien goes into more depth by giving the background story for Ambush. He remembers going into a rice paddy field for an ambush and then each side started taking shots at each other. Once the attack ended, he said he saw a little girl and a boy about sixteen with his face shot off laying on the floor motionless. These two people symbolize two of his characters in his book. He based the chapter after this event because till this day he does not know if he killed them or not and he doesn't have the authority to do anything about it because he doesn't know if he was the one who ended their young lives. He wrote this book not only to appeal to your heart; he wrote it to somewhat bring closure to his life, which is something not all veterans get after a war. An author's purpose is to help their audience escape from their reality and give them something to look forward to in life. I truly believe that Tim O'Brien accomplished this not only in his book, but also during the presentation. I was so moved by his words that I may actually go read his book, and I highly recommend that all of



Tim O'Brien (photo credit: Gabe Gancarz)

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Don't Forget to follow us @echonewspaperG

ATTENTION SENIORS !!

Prestige Portraits will be returning to
Glenbard East High School !

Senior Yearbook Photo Day
October 11th

10:00am – 3:00pm
Biester Auditorium




*For seniors who have not yet been photographed for the yearbook.
*Come see us during the times above—no appointment needed.
*A yearbook photo will automatically be sent to your school to be included in the yearbook.

By Eva Brooks
Staff Writer

Pictured above: Julia Bell (Photos by Eva Brooks)

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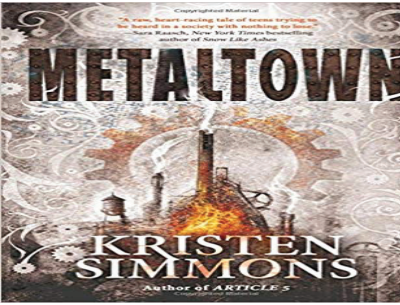
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By Iva Lee Schindler
Managing Editor

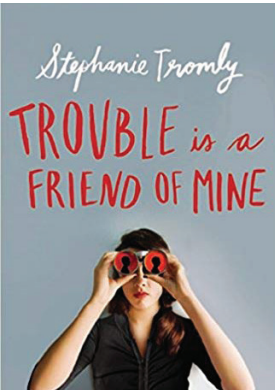
Government Shutdown

By: Marica Szczybura
Staff Writer



Putting today’s problems into a dystopian future perspective, Metaltown by Kristen Simmons addresses the morals of business in a society drastically divided by war and poverty. A little over forty years ago, a series of droughts caused a terrible famine to wreak havoc across the Federation. Hunger and desperation brought out the worst in humanity, and war broke out as the Federation split in two. Among the destruction rose the wealthy Hampton family, owners of the Hampton Ammunition company. Fast forward to present day, where we follow the turbulent lives of three teenagers struggling with resigning to their fate as everyone else has. Lena Hampton wants to show her father she can run the family business, and knows she is much better suited to the job than her lazy brother. So she jumps at the chance to finally visit the Small Parts factory in the Metaltown district of TriCity. Metaltown is a dangerous, gloomy factory district that Ty and best friend Colin call home. Nothing at all like the River District Lena grew up in. Colin is all the family Ty has, since she’s been an orphan as long as she can remember. Colin moved here from Bakerstown, but

By: Afnaan Syed
Staff Writer



Trouble is a Friend of Mine, by Stephanie Tromly, follows Zoe Webster and her new neighbor, Philip Digby. When Zoe first meets Digby, she doesn’t like him at all. He’s rude, arrogant, and treats her like a book he’s already read. But as Zoe spends more time with Digby, she realizes that there’s more to him that meets the eye. Through a series of hilarious and maybe even dangerous situations, all related to the kidnapping of a local teenage girl, a kidnapping that might be related to his own sisters disappearance eight years ago, Digby isn’t the rude jerk she first met anymore. Somehow, she starts finding him odd, brilliant, and weirdly attractive? With the perfect amount of seriousness and witty humor, with a bit of romance mixed in, Trouble is a Friend of Mine, through its quirky characters, presents the idea of family and relationships, and how much they mean to you. Of course, it’s not just family that is meaningful, Trouble is a Friend of Mine portrays the idea that, friendship, no matter how fleeting, can change your life in a way you’d never expect.

is a Metalhead through and through. With a drug addicted brother, it’s up to Colin to pick up his slack. The streets and terrible factory conditions they work in only serve to toughen their personalities. They each long for a different life, something that seems impossible until their three lives become interconnected by a chance meeting. Its then they realize that not only should something be done about the awful conditions Small Parts worker’s face, but something can be done. The stakes are high - they could lose everything by challenging authority. But that’s a risk they’re willing to make if it means saving the child workers of the Small Parts factory from their dismal fate. In general, I found Metaltown to be a captivating read. Detailed descriptions of the factory and the character’s everyday surroundings made me feel as though I was experiencing each heartbreak right along with them. By having each chapter focus on a different character, the book does a thorough job of showing readers how the characters develop over the course of the story. However, some scenes (especially those having to do with injuries) had a tendency of becoming fairly gory and difficult to read. I recommend those who are easily queasy skip these scenes, or if you have a particularly sensitive stomach - skip the book all together. What I really love about Metaltown is that every chapter leads to a new and exciting discovery, whether it be of a character’s past or a revelation about themselves. Metaltown speaks especially to readers who understand the need for our generations’ voice to be heard in a world where it only falls on deaf ears. We have the power to change the future. A tale that creatively intertwines friendship and defiance, Metaltown will have you rooting for the Metalheads and their fight to rewrite destiny.

Above, right: Marching students smile on the practice field before heading to Ryan Field. *Photo by Sofia Logacho*
Bottom: Nine local bands play tunes old and new at halftime. *Photo by Danielle Logacho*

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From High School to Big Ten

The Marching Rams take their talents to Northwestern University

by Sofia Logacho
Staff Writer

On Saturday, September 8th, a swarm of band kids and color guard took over one of the country’s premier colleges. As a part of Northwestern University’s annual High School Band Day, roughly 1,000 students traveled to Evanston -- including our very own Marching Rams -- and performed at halftime along with the Wildcats. This marks the first year in which freshmen in the Intermediate Band attended along with sophomores through seniors, and the general consensus was that the day was a lot of fun. But then again, despite the early meeting time (5:30 am!), there was hardly anything to dislike, from spending time with fellow musicians to getting to show off East’s new marching uniforms to playing on a televised football field. Pictured below are (from left to right) freshmen Katie O’Callaghan, Katie Pruyn, Madeline Pierson, Dahlia Leighton, and Alina Dragovich as the bands pre

pare to head to Ryan Field and watch the Northwestern vs. Duke game. Upon arriving at the campus after a hour-long bus ride, students split up to rehearse in instrument sectionals before congregating with the the Marching Wildcats on a practice field. A run through later and they were seated in the bleachers to watch the first half, including the show-stopper of a performance that the Northwestern marching band gave, complete with elaborate letter and shape formations. But it was at halftime that things really got exciting, as the Rams joined nine other local high school bands on the field to play “Feel it Still” by Portugal. The Man, “Believer” by Imagine Dragons, and “God Bless America” by Irving Berlin, the third which acclaimed Blackhawks anthem singer Jim Cornelison sang along to. These songs have been worked on since even before school began, and thanks to instructors like Mr. Packer, Ms. Cappelletti, and Mr. Arnold, the performance went off without a hitch. In my opinion the experience was, in short, incredible: it’s one thing to play at a high school football game, but quite another to be standing on a Big Ten field knowing that the game is being filmed not by parents, but by professional camera crews.



Paper Pets:

By Winter Crane-Winn
Staff Writer

With this new year of ECHO, we’ve decided to add a new section to our paper: Paper Pets! This will be the section of our paper where we talk about the wonderful pets of Glenbard East. Not only are our pets cute, but some of them have special unknown talents! For this issue, our staff would like to introduce our pets to you!



This fella is Winter’s dog, Tucker! He doesn’t share Winter’s artistic talent, but Tucker can jump three feet in the air for a frisbee! (That is, if he wants to!)



This spotty beauty is Misty, Eva’s cat! She may look shy, but she can howl for food all night!



Manny, Eva’s other cat, is a striped sneak! He’s often found hiding under blankets (like most Glenbard East students Monday morning).

If you want your pet to be featured in the ECHO, please send their name and a talent to 1211040@glenbard.org or DM our twitter @Echonews-paperG!

Ask Annie

By Annie Nonymous
Staff Writer

Question: Dear Annie, How can I balance school, work, my job, and my life? I’m starting to feel overwhelmed, especially in having to add extra-curriculars. Thanks, Stressed Senior.

Answer: Dear Stressed, I’m sorry that you’re starting to feel overwhelmed! That really stinks. The start of the school year is overwhelming for everyone, no matter who they are or what kind of work they have on their plate. Balancing everything can be a process and that process looks different for everybody. You need to find a way that you can feel balanced within yourself and feel good about what you’re doing. What works for me is that I have an agenda that I list all the things I’m doing so I can keep organized, and I schedule myself to make time for a break. I know that that can’t always be possible in all situations, but taking even five minutes just to breathe and make sure that you’re okay with all the stuff on your plate is good! Another way that you can feel more balanced is to make a list of priorities in your life and follow that. Always remember that if things are starting to get overwhelming, that you can talk to your school counselor about how you’re feeling and sort it all out. You’ve got this, Stressed!

Question: Dear Annie, How do I deal with stress? Lately it seems like everything is becoming stressful :(Thanks, Anxious in August

Answer: Dear Anxious, I know how you feel. Dealing with stress is never a fun thing. But first, you should try to find and prioritize what’s stressing you out. School, friends, work, relationships, all of these things, along with others can stress you out a lot. Try to figure out what you can accomplish in the least amount of time. Finish things like school work, even if it’s not the due date yet. Finishing things, no matter how small, can reduce your stress a lot. If you still feel overwhelmed, just forget about the things that are stressing you out for awhile. I’m not saying go on your phone and procrastinate, but do something you love. Read a book, take a walk, soak in the tub for awhile. Relaxing yourself is not only good for stress, it’s good for your health too. You shouldn’t forget to take care of yourself just because of stress. Life is like a race sometimes. Just remember, going ahead doesn’t mean you’re going to get there first. Just take things at your pace, and you’ll get there anyway!

Question: Dear Annie, how do I ask my crush out to homecoming? I’m just so nervous! Thanks, Scared Student

Answer: Dear Scared, to be completely honest, I’d say just go for it! Don’t wait and regret it later. Just take a chance now, and who knows? Maybe it will turn into something more in the future. And even if your crush rejects you, that doesn’t mean you can’t have fun at homecoming. Going to homecoming with your friends can be just as much fun as going out with a significant other. Maybe even more! Take the fear of rejection out of your mind and just go for it! You got this!

(I should probably start following my own advice)

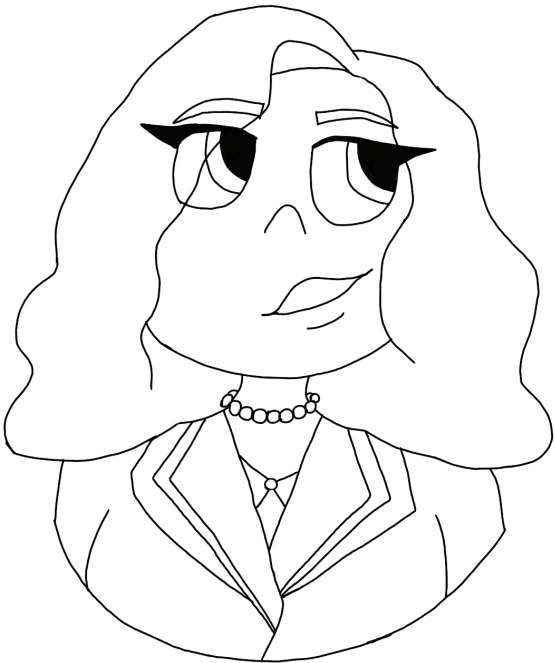
Question: Hey Annie, how do I keep myself from procrastinating? See ya around, Perfect Procrastinator.

Answer: Dear Perfect, I would say to keep in mind all the last-minute rushing that you could be saving yourself from, which, most of the time, also leads to more mistakes in your work. If you do your homework and plan out how much of a project needs to be done everyday, it also saves you from a lot of stress and allows you to focus more on studying. Doing your homework on time also prepares you for what’s being taught in class, and you know what that means! Better quiz and test scores! Try your best to have the most successful academic year! Also, keep yourself away from distractions, such as your phone, television, and interesting

people. Unless you really need it for educational purposes, turn off your WiFi as well and completely isolate yourself from society as you know it! Technology is a big distraction to school work, and you could even say that it plays a role in students procrastinating. For example, JimmyJohn (this name is purely coincidental. For all the JimmyJohns out there, please don’t take any offense) decides he’ll rewatch his favorite movie instead of working on his project. If you are still struggling after receiving these tips, contact your counselor and ask for some advice. Good luck, Perfect!

Coloring Contest!

Color me in and send it to @echonewspaperG on Twitter for a \$5 gift card to Culver’s! You must be following @echonewspaperG to win! Get creative! Add a background! (Drawing by Winter Crane-Winn)



Left- Katie Pruy, Middle- Ruby Voke, Right- Lauren Iwinski, Photographer: Nico Lamb

Mattress Sale a Success!

By Nico Lamb
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, the Glenbard East Music Association (GEMA) had their yearly fundraiser called the Mattress Sale. This is one of the biggest fundraisers for the year, and it benefits all music programs at Glenbard East. I personally was able to attend, and it was a great experience to work. There were multiple students who took signs and stood on the corner of Main St and Wilson Ave, and from there they played music and directed cars to go to the school and to the mattress sale. At the end, the fundraiser made around \$5,000, an excellent job there. The music students will definitely benefit from this fundraiser. Make sure to come out next year and support GEMA as well.