

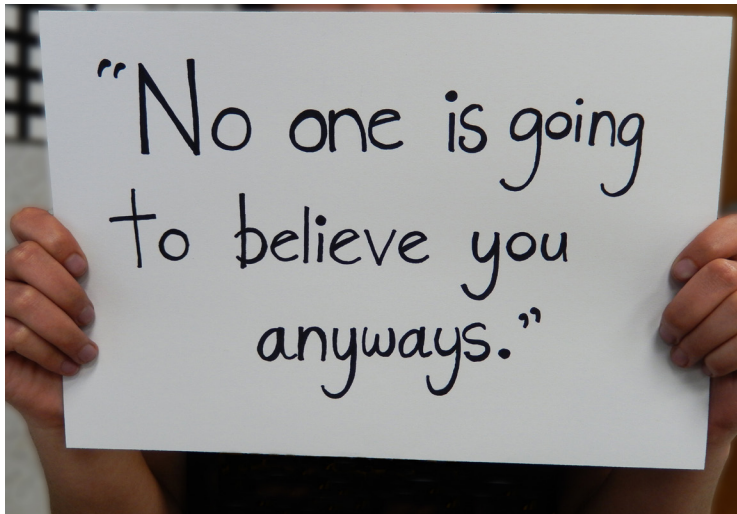
The Warrensburg High School

SPIRIT

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■ @TheWHSspirit

Secondary Rape Victimization: Only Yes Means Yes By Bobbi Gums & Rachel Scott



In this country, the mentality towards rape victims is completely perverse. After the brutal crime occurs, most women are faced with what psychologists are beginning to call secondary victimization, or "the second rape." Secondary victimization is the act of brain washing someone into believing that the horrible crime that has occurred was the fault of the victim. According to rainn.org, a victim's support organization, on average 84% of rape victims feel like the aftercare hurts worse than the actual rape. Victim blaming is a barbaric tradition that modern society has the ability to extinguish.

Citizens, psychological professionals, and police officers are blaming innocent people for rapes, convincing them that they asked for it. Women are called "sluts" and "whores" because they may have been in the wrong place at the wrong time, or are wearing provocative clothing. Children are taught the definition of no at a young age and even though previous generations are the ones promoting this value, they are also the ones blatantly ignoring it. The current generation is being raised to believe that no means no, and by upholding this we can change rape culture.

Generations before us have been brainwashed into the belief that women need to be blamed for the terrible crimes that are being done to them. Today

if a woman is out wearing a mini skirt, heels, and makeup and gets raped, it is her fault because she tempted the man. She made the decision to put herself in a position where a man could possibly be seduced by her; therefore, the woman basically begged to be violated. Prehistoric beliefs make it so women cannot exercise their freedom of expression through clothing, and officials have the option to deny a woman her right to safety.

According to rainn.org, another 237,868 women will be raped this year in the United States. To put that into perspective, The New York Times states that 1 out of every 5 women in the US have been sexually assaulted. If we assume that there are 20,000 people in Warrensburg, and half of them are women, then 1,000 women in Warrensburg have been victims of sexual assault/ rape, based on those statistics. Ironically the average reported number of rapes for Warrensburg (within a 13 year period) is five. That means that about 995 women in this town may have been assaulted but didn't report it. Rainn.org also tells citizens that at least 97% of rapists will never see a day behind bars, and that is because most rapes are not reported. Women are afraid to turn these monsters in for their crime because they know they will be ridiculed for it. On top of the stained reputation that they receive, women also have to jump through serious hoops to prove that a rape was legitimate.

Rape and sexual assault are two sticky situations within our country because the motives are not necessarily understood, and the definition of each can differ within each state. This is one reason why it is so easy to dismiss rape claims. If the definitions of rape and sexual assault overlap in a state, victims are told that what they are feeling isn't relevant. If someone feels they have been hurt, they should not fear that they will be told they are wrong. People should be educated on how to report rapes properly, and how to avoid it entirely.

Warrensburg's Officer Tim Dorman told us that the body language of a woman has a lot to do with how she is perceived by predators. Submissive personalities are more likely to be made into victims than a woman who is strong and confident. "Make eye contact when walking past men," he said. "Avoid having earphones in all the way when walking alone, because you are less aware of your surroundings." Along with these helpful tips, he told us something that restored a little faith in humanity. "We never tell women that the law doesn't agree with what they believe was rape. If she's hurting, something is wrong," said Dorman. See *VICTIMIZED* on page 3

FCCLA Springs Into Leadership Skills at State By Bene Clear

Two WHS students won gold medals at the state level for FCCLA STAR Events held in Columbia on March 31st.

The team of Jodi Pedersen, '16, and Kaci English, '16, received Gold in Sports and Nutrition. "It was fun to win a gold medal at State," says English. "We went up against a lot of great people and projects. It was a nerve-wracking experience."

Receiving the Silver award in Fashion Design was Kayla Woolen, '16, and Katie Schumaker, '16 received Silver in Recycle and Redesign.

"I'm very proud [of the girls]. They all worked hard on their projects," says Nancy Manning, one of the FCCLA sponsors. "It is great to see them advance to a higher level of competition."

Earlier, on February 19th, FCCLA members Kayci Wright, '15, and Rachel Haag, '15, had the opportunity to job shadow political officials in Jefferson City as an FCCLA project.

Wright and Haag worked side by side with officials, getting an inside look into Missouri legislature and integrating their FCCLA knowledge to make the best of their experience, which included a tour of the capitol building and the governor's mansion.



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No Sport for Old Men

By Conor Tenbus

It's 8 o'clock in the morning, and the dew is still fresh. As I grab my clubs, I take a deep breath and smell the freshly cut grass. I walk towards the practice green to join my teammates in a jovial putting session. At 9 o'clock, we tee off, and the masculine display commences.

As I stand on the teebox, I silently judge the other guys in my group. The first guy "grips and rips" and hits the ball a mile. Too bad there's a lake that way, buddy. Hah, what a chump. What did he expect with those ancient Pittsburgh Persimmons? He's not even wearing a glove. No threat whatsoever.

Next up comes the "rich kid." It's obvious from his matching Oakley ensemble and complete set of Titleist clubs that his parents are well off. Despite the thousands of dollars invested in this kid's golfing career, it's clear that he's a modern-day Todd Marinovich, forced into playing a sport in which he's not a natural. This kid will provide a good fight, but he can't finish. The rich ones never can.

Phew. No Tiger Woods in this group, and that leaves the door wide open for me. At this point, having ruled out the other two, I am Bear Grylls, engaged in a two-way fight: me versus nature. I gather my thoughts and set my stance. As I start my backswing, I laugh. Now, my clubs become scalpels, ripping the hearts out of my competition.

Going Beyond This World

By Camoran Romesburg

It's like a war scene on the gym floor. Flags, rifles, sabers, and bodies are flying around. That's what it was like to perform as a member of the Warrensburg Winter Guard team.

The show was beyond this world from the beginning lift of Kalina Jurkowski, '14, to the ending, 6-foot fall of Anna Mori, '16. "The fall was scary, and I almost always managed to hit someone in the face when they (the team) caught me."

The theme, "Beyond this World," depicted the ascent from life to the "non-denominational afterlife" as stated by coach, Jesse Skaar.

The team had a very successful season, ranking third in their division. At the MCCGA Championships in Springfield the competition was tight, but the team managed to win second to Grain Valley by only two points, taking home a shiny silver medal.

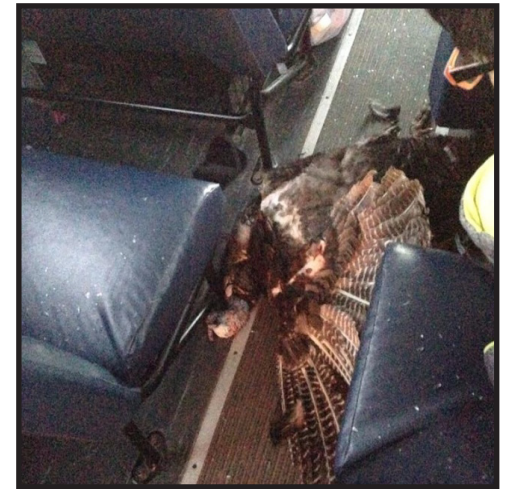
Turkey Catches Bus 6 By Alex Burson

On Tuesday April 1st at approximately 7:00 AM, a turkey flew through the windshield of bus number six while on its morning route. What sounds like a cruel April fool's joke actually happened to a bus full of middle school and high school students. The bus hit the turkey at 55 miles per hour, killing it on contact.

"I heard a loud bang. I looked up at the bus driver and saw his head hanging down. I thought he was dead," said Devin Jernigan, '17, "I looked down and saw a turkey on the floor."

The bus turned onto the next road and stopped where it waited roughly fifteen minutes for a back-up bus to pick up the students.

The impact left a two foot wide hole in the windshield that "hit right in front of the driver," said Jernigan. Luckily, no one was injured in the accident and all the students made it to school safely. They arrived just a little late, though.



State-Bound Musicians By Taylor Lakey

"I was very excited to hear that I got a one rating and would FINALLY be moving on to state. I felt freaking fantastic!", said Leann Hafferkamp, 14'.

Hafferkamp was one of several of our WHS band students that performed in front of judges as soloist or in small ensembles for Districts at State Fair Community College. Many of the students, including Stephen Deyo, '15, and Anna Mori, '16, had been practicing for weeks, making sure to get every note, rhythm, dynamic and tempo change. For Hafferkamp, these two students, and a few others, this constant practice paid off.

Leann Hafferkamp received a one rating on not only the quartet that she had with Deyo and Mori, but also her Baritone saxophone solo. Hafferkamp's solo was a piece that was unaccompanied and used only her musical talents to earn a one rating. This will be Hafferkamp's first year earning a one at districts and advancing to state to perform in front of even tougher judges.

Mori and Deyo each had two saxophone quartets and a solo. Deyo played soprano for one quartet and alto on his solo and his second quartet. Mori played alto for her solo and first quartet and tenor on her second quartet. Both of them received ones on all three of their performances and will be moving onto state.

State solos and ensembles will be held in Columbia, Missouri on Mizzou campus on Thursday May 1st. The students who earned a one rating at districts will be performing once again in front of tough judges who will critique them based off of preparedness, talent and musical ability. Any soloist or ensemble who is rewarded a one rating at State will be performing at the WHS Fine Arts Festival on May 7th.

Victimized: continued from page 1

Both victims were innocent, but in the minds of those around them, they were both to blame.

She was 7 years old the first time she was sexually abused. Both times it was someone she knew and trusted. The first time, her friend's older brother, the second time, her good friend. As a seven year old, she did not understand what had happened and it wasn't until years later, when she was given words and knowledge that she actually told anyone. The adults she told believed her and supported her. "Everyone was livid." However, the second time, at sixteen, when she knew and told immediately, she received a different response. "The guy blamed me and someone very important to me blamed me for it."

"It got hard as I got older," she said. "I didn't talk to people because I felt worthless. I felt like I was tainted. It made me grow up quickly. I was vulnerable, needy. I craved attention and for someone to make me feel like I was important. For a while there were problems with my weight and at the moment, depression."

The second woman was 18.

She was alone with her boyfriend while her parents were out of town. "He took things really far. I wasn't ready but terrible things happened."

She told her parents a month later. "He [the boyfriend] told me that no one would believe me because I was a whiny piece of [crap]," she said. Her parents did not believe her until they saw text messages between her and her ex-boyfriend. "They said I was being dramatic."

Both women were victimized twice; once by the actual crime and once more by the aftermath. "It really hurt to be ignored and called a liar when it came to something so serious."

Claps & Slaps

#whsclaps #whsslaps

Claps to *Noah*. A Biblical masterpiece.
Slaps to the ungodly amount of rain. I know it's April, but come on.

Claps to NCAA March Madness. I forgot that Connecticut is a state.
Slaps to busted brackets. There's no reason to get up anymore.

Claps to a second Spring break. Now I can do all the things I couldn't do the first time.
Slaps to having school until June. It's a great time to be a Senior!

Claps to Michelangelo. Painting God on a ceiling for years probably sucked.
Slaps to wet paint. I wish there would have been a sign to warn me before I sat down...

Claps to Netflix. We just really like Netflix.
Slaps to Senior Comp. papers. A whole new level of stress.

Heard in the Halls

#whsheardinthehalls

Hmmm those cheeks-bums.
My litter box, your grave.
I spell happy b-o-o-k
Writing makes me sweaty!
If I go into space, my lungs would explode!
Just don't watch *Don Jon* with your Grandma.
Mike? My dad shot a guy named Mike.
You guys are goats. I'm not a goat. I'm a lamb.
Never forget the secret moose rituals.
It's hard being without eyes...I guess. I wouldn't know.
I still don't know what 'Turn Down for What' means.
That's not a cow, that's a llama dog.
It's like peanut butter is running through my veins.
I will never turn down soup. I'm like a homeless guy.
It's like touching velvet cake.
I will serenade your mother all night long.
I like the highlighters where you can see the juice.
It's like a turkey explosion!
Neil Armstrong died?!

If you ruled the world, what would be your first law?

Man on the Street



"Only I can have nukes. No one else can have them."

-Issac Kohl '15



"Make *Minecraft* a sport."

-Timmy Russell '14

Prescription Abuse: Anna's Story

By Julia Rankin

Pharmaceutical abuse is rising among teens, and no one knows better than Anna (name has been altered to protect anonymity).

"I started abusing Xanax first semester of my sophomore year. The stress of school, extracurricular activities, and home stuff was getting unbearable. I started stealing the pills from my aunt, who was living with us at the time."

The prescription drug Xanax, a fast-acting anti-anxiety drug, is far from benign. Although rarely causing death, this substance is highly addictive, mimicking the effects of significant alcohol consumption.

"At first, I used Xanax about 3-4 times a week when my anxiety got really bad. But over the next three months, I built up a tolerance until my usage increased to around 20mg a day—over two times the maximum daily dosage. It got to the point where I wasn't even getting high anymore—I had to take Xanax just to get through the day."

Once her aunt started noticing her pills missing, Anna had to look to outside sources to feed her addiction.

"After a while I would skip school and take time off work just to get it," recalls Anna. "It was constantly on my mind. My only desires in life were to sleep and get more of the drug. It ruled my life honestly. I didn't know it at the time, but I was addicted."

About 6 months after she began using, Anna's aunt moved out and she realized she no longer had the funds to support her Xanax use, forcing her to go "cold turkey."

"For four days and nights I was bedridden. I didn't sleep or eat. I vomited. I had hallucinations. I was depressed to the point I couldn't be bothered to interact with anyone. On about the third day without Xanax I started to become uncoordinated and unbalanced and bumped into things. It took an entire month for these symptoms to go away, and to this day I am still haunted with dreams about Xanax."

But this type of thing doesn't happen at WHS, right?

Wrong. Anna is a student right here in our high school. Although many of us would like to think that these things don't happen here, the truth is that no community—no school—is immune to the epidemic of prescription drug abuse.

Aside from Xanax, which is a depressant, commonly abused prescription drugs include opioids (Oxycontin, Percocet, Roxanol, etc), and stimulants (Adderal, Ritalin, Dexedrine, etc). Although each has its own unique "high," these drugs are all dangerous, addictive, and according to Jana Haley, a pharmacist of 22 years, easily accessible.

"The danger is that so many people are on pharmaceuticals from such young ages that they are a natural part of society," Haley insists. "People buy into the myth that because these substances are legal, they must be safe. But this could not be further from the truth."

Statistics show that many teens fall victim to this mindset. According to the CDC, every day in the United States 2,500 youths abuse a prescription drug for the first time.

So what can we do?

The path out of this mess is not easy. This is a pharmaceutical culture, where "casual" drug use is about as common as underage drinking on a college campus. Adolescents have a false sense of invincibility—often unable to recognize our innate human fragility. But our bodies were not made to deal with the abuse of these highly dangerous, foreign substances. As demonstrated through Anna's story, prescription drug abuse can swiftly snowball to the point where the abuser is virtually unable to stop the destruction of their life.

As a student body, we must eliminate the "casual" from "casual drug use," for there is absolutely nothing casual about it.



"Everyone would have ice cream for dinner."

-Jaclyn Davis '17



"All fast food is free."

-Nathan Cleveland '16

Students Explore Europe Over Break By Yusr Ghozzi



"It was definitely the best time I've had in my life," said Emily Docheff, '15. For six WHS students, a ten-day adventure in four European countries was the cultural experience of a lifetime.

Beginning in Kansas City, the group took a ten-hour trip to Frankfurt, Germany. In Germany, they visited the cities of Rothenberg and Munich and made a stop at the 19th century Neuschwanstein Castle before taking a bus south to Innsbruck, Austria.

After visiting Austria, they continued traveling south to Italy where they visited the cities of Verona, Venice and Sirmione.

Italy was the favorite on the itinerary.

"I had always wanted to go on a gondola ride, so I'm glad we got to do that," said Rachel Boone, '14. "It was just like you would think it would be; they had the gondola drivers in the striped shirts and everything. We got to really soak in the city while on the ride."

The highlight of Italy was the city of Sirmione. "Sirmione was my favorite because all the other cities were tourist cities, but Sirmione was really local and it felt more authentic," said Docheff.

"Sirmione is rural, so it felt like real Italy," said Bridget Cavuoti, '15. "The boat ride was really beautiful, and the water was so blue."

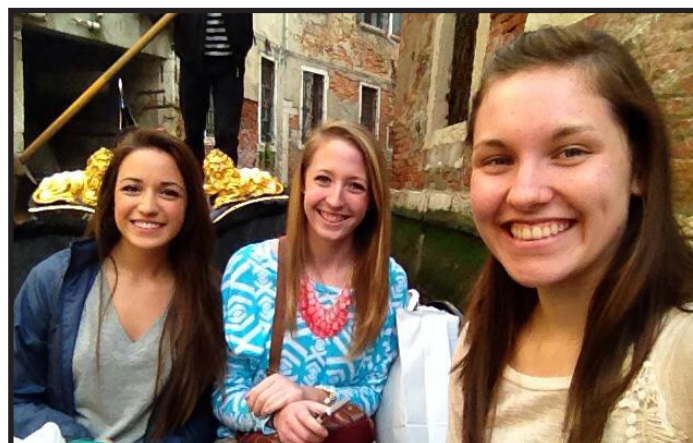
The trip allowed these students to get a glimpse of a few of the various European cultures. "I didn't realize before the trip how many different cultures there are in one country. In every country we visited, there were so many different types of

people and traditions," said Boone. "We heard many different languages in every country."

Although most Europeans speak multiple languages, communication was still an issue. "Our tour guide did most of the talking, and in shops we would just hand over some money and hope the shopkeepers did the right thing," said Cavuoti.

Finally, the group stopped in the mountainous city of Luzern, Switzerland for a view of the country from the snowy Swiss Alps before circling back up to Germany for their plane home.

The students who experienced the trip highly recommend traveling abroad and would love to do it again. "I feel like I got to really see what the world is like," said Docheff. "I got to be a part of something outside of myself and the things that are going on at home."



Rumors Is Coming To WHS By Maggie Kohl & Sam Brooks

Mixed up identities. Confusion. Death.

The spring play, *Rumors* by Neil Simon has all this and more.

"This play isn't supposed to make you feel warm and fuzzy," says the theatre teacher and director, Ms. Overstreet. "It's just meant to make you laugh."

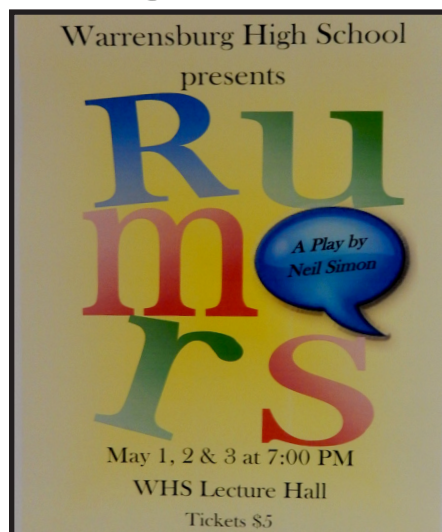
When death strikes a party before it's even begun, the arriving guests are left to uncover the mystery of whodunit and why.

The ten guests at the party are played by Nate Roberts, Celyna Burges, Isaac Kohl, Bene Clear, Aubrey Hicks, Mason Barry, Jacy Burgess, Derek Cox, Ben Richner, and Elizabeth Carter.

"This is a very ensemble cast," says Ms. Overstreet.

"There is no set lead."

This funny and exciting play will leave the audience



on the edges of their seats the entire time. Ms. Overstreet finds her favorite part to be the climax because it is "exciting and no one will be able to guess the culprit."

Bene Clear said, "It is so unexpected and will shock the audience."

Both are itching to see the audience's reaction to the twists and turns throughout the play.

With a "monster" schedule, the cast is working hard during practices to memorize lines, build sets, and put the finishing touches on establishing their characters. Clear said practices are "fun, but we still have a long way to go."

Opening night is May 1st and the play runs until May 3rd. Tickets cost \$5. "If you don't come see the play, you are doing yourself a disservice; it's so funny, so cheap and so enjoyable. Come see the play!" said Ms. Overstreet.

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Feature Teacher: Tammy Slifer By Maggie Kohl

Tammy Slifer, Special Services teacher at Warrensburg High School, brings joy to her students everyday just by walking into the classroom.

“This group of students are an absolute joy to work with,” said Mrs. Slifer. “By the end of every year, they are no longer just students; they are my kids. Our classroom becomes like a big family. We all have unique personalities, and we accept each other for those differences.”

In Mrs. Slifer’s classroom, there is never a dull day. She teaches her kids life skills, reading, writing, social studies, and even PE (her personal favorite). But what her kids love even more than learning is the opportunity to be the teacher. She says, “They are good at teaching the lesson. They have my personality down to a T, and they don’t forget anything.”

Mrs. Slifer attended Eastern Illinois University, double majoring in Special Education and Social Studies. During her college years, Mrs. Slifer helped out with the Special Olympics on campus. She has always had a place in her heart for kids with extra struggles, which was displayed whenever she would help with the competition.

So much so that one day a nun from her private college asked her why she was not studying to be a special needs teacher. Mrs. Slifer’s response was, “Because I want to be a PE teacher,” at which point the nun told her that she had been wasting a God-given talent. The next week, Mrs. Slifer changed her major to Special Education and began her lauded 24-year endeavor as a Special Services teacher.

Despite all of her success in teaching, Mrs. Slifer, like many new teachers, experienced a very laughable, yet embarrassing moment her first year out of college.

“During my first year teaching in Illinois, I had the daughter of the



college president in my class. She was a runner and one day we had a fire drill. She ended up running the opposite way of the class and so I had to go catch her. On my way running to get her, I tripped, in a dress, over a curb and fell flat. In the distance there was a man laughing at me and as I got up. I barked at him saying it was not funny. Too late, though, did I realize that it was the president of the college who’s daughter was in my class.”

Although teaching is her main role in her life, Mrs. Slifer has a second role as an assistant coach alongside her husband, the head coach for the UCM Jennies basketball team.

“Coaching with my husband works well. He wants all the coaches to be people with new ideas, not just “yes” people.”

She has had much success in coaching, and even when she had teams that were more challenging than others, Mrs. Slifer has found a way to overcome those challenges and create balance.

“With every team you have to mold your ideas to all of their different personalities,” she said.

Mrs. Slifer is currently the tennis coach at Warrensburg High School and is enjoying it immensely.

She says she really enjoys all the students here and is “very impressed with how accepting and tolerate our student body at Warrensburg High School is to anyone with special needs.”

Her commitment to her work and her ability to face and overcome any challenges that come her way are the main reason why she inspires so many people. In her closing statement, Mrs. Slifer humbly said, “My students are inspiring to me because everyday they have so many challenges, yet they come to school filled with so much joy and excitement.”

Though Mrs. Slifer has taught many lessons, she feels the most important lesson is one that was taught to her by her students.

The Spirit.

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