



SOUNDS
like **US**

SHAWNEE MISSION NORTHWEST

SHAWNEE, KANSAS

VOLUME
54

LAIR
2023



THE LAIR 2023

SOUNDS
like **US**



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SOUNDS

like

US



PLAYING THE MELLOPHONE, FRESHMAN LIAM
 Lucas performs in the "Chaos Order" halftime performance Sept. 2 at SM North District Stadium. In this year's show, woodwind players acted as chaos, while brass players acted as order. "I would say playing the music made me feel like part of a story being told," Lucas said. "It was a lot of fun to be a part of and it was a change of pace from last year's show." *Photo by Evan Johnson*

There's a

lot

about us

you don't
know.

And a lot

that

WE

don't know, either.

Because we're still figuring it out.

SURE, WE CRAVE PEER-VALIDATION.

We take

IMMATURITY

to the next level.

And we have

the attention span

OF A

PUPPY.

BUT THIS ISN'T

THE WHOLE

AFTER THE LIGHTSHOW PERFORMANCE, SENIOR Nick Ruschill chugs a bottle of hot sauce Oct. 21 at SM North District Stadium. Ruschill drank the bottle following his drum solo in which he was held upside down on someone's shoulders. "It felt good, but it also felt weird," Ruschill said. "I think it was a unique way to cap off a solo." Photo by Kara Simpson





STACKING CANS, FRESHMAN DAXTON TAYLOR BOWES up donations Nov. 3 in the Loading Dock. Student Council members spent every fifth hour of the drive collecting items, counting and packing them. "I liked going door to door collecting cans," Taylor said. "[Plus] seeing our haul at the end." Photo by Sidra Sakar

THAT

WE KNOW

We know how to
SLACK OFF

But we're not too lazy
to bake cookies for
Capp Day to help with a
student's medical bills.

We can be
oblivious to the
world around us.

UNTIL WE

haul in thousands of cans to feed low-
income families at Christmas.

Sometimes we're
self-absorbed.

BUT WE

know when to shut our
mouths and cry with a friend
on the school bathroom floor.

we've heard it all.

"Gen Z is so ..."

**"THESE KIDS WILL NEVER
UNDERSTAND ..."**

"How will they ever ...?"

ARE WE

as unmotivated and irresponsible as
our critics say?

**DOESN'T SOUNDS
LIKE US.**

SO WHAT DOES?

IS IT

typing in seven random numbers to bypass the tardy kiosk at 7:41 in the morning?

OR

sharing a booth with a stranger in the mall just to charge your phone and take advantage of the comfy seating?

OR

finally experiencing the thrill of getting your hands on the spirit stick?

IS IT

the **SHOCK**

of seeing a ponytail peeking out of the varsity kickers helmet

AS **SHE** STEPS UP TO
THE FOOTBALL.



RECORDING A VIDEO, SENIOR MICAH REEVES helps hold up the Spirit Stick Oct. 7 in the Main Gym. Reeves used the footage for his YouTube video titled "Homecoming 2022." "It was really cool when all the seniors brought the spirit stick back," Reeves said. "When I looked back at the clips, I got (some) of me extending my hand and touching spirit stick," Reeves said. Photo by Roddy Carlson

MAYBE

Maybe we're the ones who
**pursue
passions**
without fear of
JUDGMENT.

The ones
who know how
**to
navigate**
the intricacies of
**a woke
generation.**

DOES THAT SOUNDS
LIKE US?

MAYBE?



AT A DANCE COMPETITION, SENIOR Hilary Romero leaps during her dance solo Jan. 20 at Lee's Summit North. Romero performed her solo to the song "Oceans" by Hillsong United. "I chose this song because it's one of my mom's favorites," Romero said. "The dance was dedicated to her." Photo by Anna Torres

POINTING TO THE CROWD, SENIOR BRODY Carlson lip syncs to "Oopsl... I Did It Again" by Britney Spears Aug. 27 at the Tall Oaks Conference Center. Carlson did an impersonation of Britney Spears, mimicking when she shaved her head. "A couple years ago, months even, I would have never done anything like that," Carlson said. "It felt amazing to push myself out of my comfort zone." Photo by Ashley Broils



SITTING IN A TREE, SENIOR Malaina Hesterlee dangles a camera from her ankle Aug. 26 outside of the dining hall at the Tall Oaks Conference Center. Hesterlee was completing a lesson about thinking outside of the box when getting different angles and shots. "The best thing I took away from [Tall Oaks] is perspective," Hesterlee said. "We need to show our viewers something they've never seen." Photo by Kyra Highlander



DURING THE TALL OAKS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT, JUNIOR Lily Reiff yells with her team Aug. 27 on the volleyball court at the Tall Oaks Conference Center. The semifinal match went back and forth with both teams struggling to score the match point. "The R&B team's game was pretty tight, so the energy and stakes seemed higher than normal," Reiff said. "After winning, it was just pure happiness." Photo by Sydney Jackson



a rockin' TALLOAKS

DESIGN BY
DANIE EAVES

STUCK AT A CAMPGROUND FOR THREE DAYS, NW MEDIA GATHERED TO LEARN AND COMPETE IN TEAM BONDING COMPETITIONS

SENIOR KATIE BURKE reached her hand up with excitement and gave a high-five to each member of her team after junior Lily Reiff successfully served another ball over the net.

Another point goes to Country!

The volleyball tournament was super high energy," Burke said. "Everyone was cheering on those who were playing, and the teams had good sportsmanship which just made it a lot of fun."

The weekend started off with an opening ceremony in the auditorium, where everyone from newspaper, yearbook, photojournalism and KUGR divided into their teams. The themes of the groups were genres of music, including R&B, pop and emo.

After the opening ceremony, NW Media students hopped onto three buses and made their way to Tall Oaks Conference Center in Linwood, Kan.

Last year, students were unable to attend Tall Oaks at the usual conference center due to COVID restrictions. Instead, Fake Tall Oaks was held at the Center of Academic Achievement (CAA).

"People were definitely a lot more motivated to participate and willing to bond at the campground versus the CAA," senior Grace Logan said. "When we were all stuck at the campground, we were forced to get to know each other, which is a good thing for journalism kids."

"This year was definitely my favorite year of Tall Oaks," senior Sophia McCraney said. "The CAA was horrible. Everyone kept leaving, and nobody really wanted to be there."

With this being the first real Tall Oaks that most of these students had experienced, the bonds people made were definitely memorable.

"[Classic Rock] bonded the most

during our lip-sync rehearsal," junior Margo Schuerman said. "We would all get on each other's nerves just a little bit, but coming up with ideas and executing them in a way that worked was a really big achievement for us."

Because most people in the groups did not know each other beforehand, the teams clashed a little bit as they brainstormed ideas. But within just a few practices, each group came up with plans that made for some loud, sweaty and unforgettable moments during the journalism bootcamp.

"At first, I just felt new and out of place," junior Kais Givner said. "After a while, I definitely saw the cabin groups and team groups become closer."

Being together for a little more than 50 consecutive hours allowed students from yearbook, newspaper, photojournalism and KUGR to get to know each other.

"I am normally not into talking to people randomly, but the experience really helped me open up," freshman Miguel Lara said, "especially to people I didn't really know very well."

The lip-sync battle at the end of Tall Oaks is one thing that all students look forward to. With all the time the groups spent working on their skits, they provided an excellent opportunity for each member to open up to others and find new ways to get to know everyone in the NW Media programs.

"During the lip sync everybody really pitched in on the planning," senior August Bocker said. "Even though my group [Emo] got last place, everybody was still really happy and excited that we did it together."

The Tall Oaks workshop and Journalism Bootcamp began in 2005 and has continued for 18 years.

STORY BY BROOKLYNN BRIDWELL & AUDREY TEEL

sounds like music

top PICKS EACH GROUP'S FAVORITE SONG FROM THEIR LIP SYNC



COUNTRY
"God Bless the USA" by Lee Greenwood



BOY BAND
"Best Song Ever" by One Direction



ROCK
"Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen



EMO
"Dear Maria" by All Time Low



GRUNGE
"Loser" by Beck



DISCO
"Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!" by ABBA



R&B
"Umbrella" by Rihanna



POP
"Oopsl... I Did It Again" by Britney Spears



SENIOR LILLY SAILS AND SOPHOMORE Robert Jones film and record small business owner Shalizi Wiley Aug. 27 at the Lawrence Farmer's Market. During the NW media workshop, students were put in groups and assigned to report on any stand at the Lawrence Farmer's Market. "The individual we interviewed was very antsy," Jones said. "They wouldn't stop moving and we had some audio issues but I really liked the b-roll shots." Photo by Sydney Jackson



LAUGHING, SENIOR GRACE LOGAN reacts to sophomore Kasa Simpson hanging over a bunk bed Aug. 27 at the Tall Oaks Conference Center. Although a main goal of the field trip was learning, students were given multiple opportunities, through competition and free time, to bond with other journalism students. "[Tall Oaks] gave me the opportunity to get to know people that I wouldn't know because they aren't on our newspaper staff," Logan said. "I think, as a program, we're all a lot more close now because of that experience." Photo by Sydney Jackson

olivia ANDERSON

DESIGN BY
DANIE EAVES &
BRODY CARLSON

JUNIOR OLIVIA ANDERSON walked into the boys' team locker room, ignoring all of the boys as she marched to her locker. She kept all of her stuff in the back of the locker room, away from the boys on the team.

It wasn't unusual to find Anderson still on the field practicing kicking as the boys gathered for their halftime meeting. Other times, she attended the meetings to learn what the goals were for the rest of the game.

"I actually do go in the locker room during games and I have a locker in the team locker room for the boys but it's in the back," Anderson said. "It's not weird."

Anderson had her mind set on doing soccer for college. Things took a turn when she went to a NW football game.

"There was a girl kicker," Anderson said. "She was covering for someone. It sounded so cool and I just tried it."

Once she decided to play high school football, she was excited for the new opportunities but nervous about what other people would think of a girl on a guys' team. Although many people supported her, there were always those who doubted her.

"[The] majority thought it was really cool," Anderson said. "Most people are really supportive but there is always a small minority thinks that it's weird, not normal."

Each time Anderson performed successfully in

a game, people told her how amazing it was and how cool it was to have the bravery to step out of her comfort zone. Through social media, people continued to lavish praise on Anderson.

"People DM'd me [after games] and would be like 'great game' or 'you did great,'" Anderson said. "People are super nice about it which just makes me want to be there and do better because I know there is a supportive team out there."

Girls have even chatted on social media about how cool it is that Anderson plays for the football team. They have asked Anderson about setting up private lessons for kicking with her. So far, no one has followed up on the request.

"I have had probably six girls DM me," Anderson said. "I think there's just this idea that being on the football team scares a lot of girls. They just aren't confident enough. I get it, everybody's different."

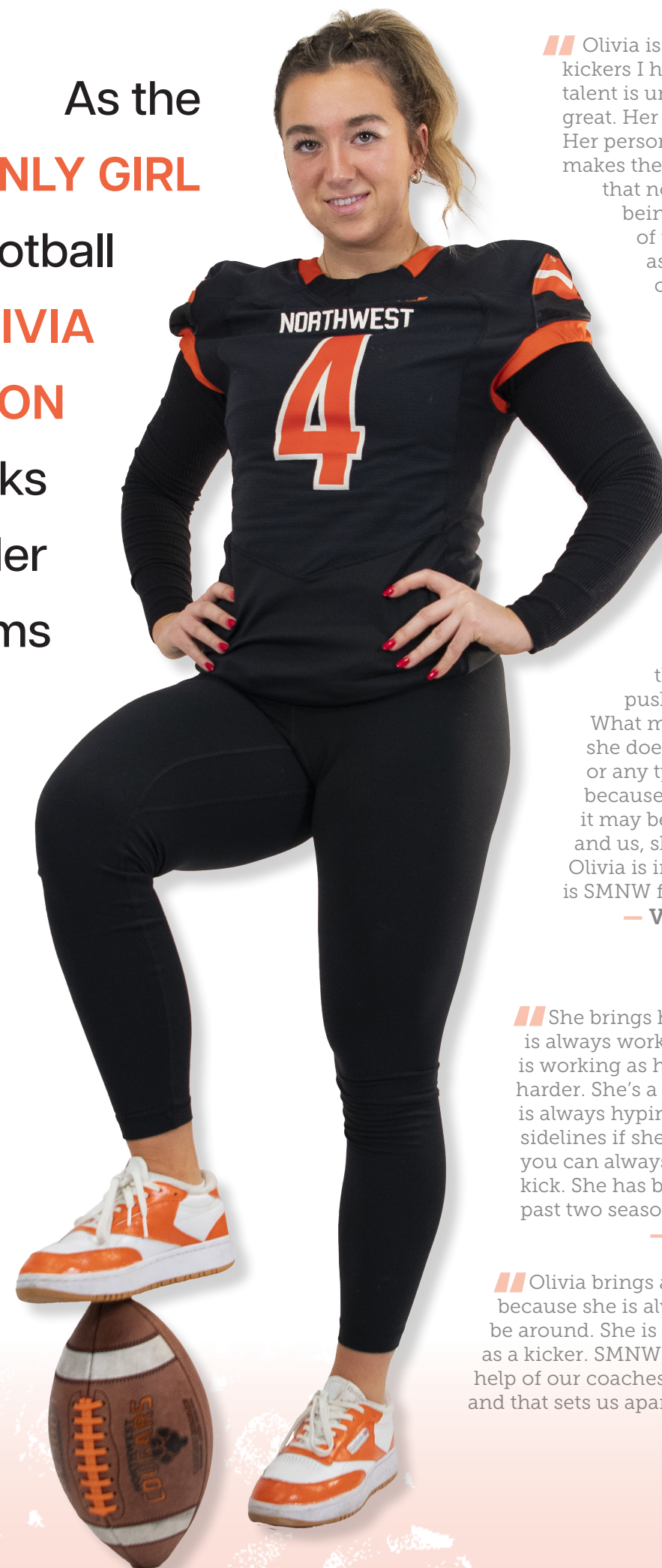
Anderson began kicking for the team during her freshman year and now, in her junior year, is being recruited by colleges and an all-women's football team. She has no idea what college she wants to go to but hopes for a D2 school.

"There is a Women's National Football League that I have been asked to join and that's really amazing," Anderson said. "They're older women, but they're great and making it more known and not so 'out of the norm.'"

STORY BY WILL SEITZ

Photo by Sydney Jackson

As the
ONLY GIRL
on the football
team, **OLIVIA**
ANDERSON
breaks
gender
norms



// Olivia is one of the best high school kickers I have ever coached. Her talent is unique. Her work ethic is great. Her smile lights up the room. Her personality brings joy to all. What makes the situation special? The fact that no one ever looks at her being a "special or unique" part of the team, we all just see her as a football player and part of OUR team. //

— **Head Varsity Football Coach Bo Black**

// Our football team is based on four pillars: Accountability, Respect, Competitive Spirit, and Relentless Effort. Olivia embodies all four of these pillars. Olivia shows up every day ready to work. She doesn't just go through the motions, I mean she pushes herself to the max.

What makes Olivia special is that she doesn't ask for any handouts or any type of special treatment because she is a girl. To the outside it may be a big thing, but to Olivia and us, she is just a football player. Olivia is important to us because she is SMNW football culture.

— **Varsity Football Defensive Coach Sedrick Cook**

// She brings high energy and she is always working hard. I mean, she is working as hard as the guys if not harder. She's a great teammate. She is always hyping people up on the sidelines if she's not kicking. You know you can always count on her to make a kick. She has been pretty reliable in the past two seasons. //

— **Junior Cameron Kelly**

// Olivia brings a really positive vibe because she is always happy and good to be around. She is important to the team as a kicker. SMNW is fortunate through the help of our coaches to have two good kickers and that sets us apart from other schools. //

— **Junior Derek Larsen**

always A FIRST

DESIGN BY
RYLEE GREEN & DANIE EAVES

FILLED WITH SHRIEKS AND GIGGLES, THE FALL PLAY, "GHOST HUNT," ENDED WITH TWISTS AND TURNS

THE THESPIAN MASK logo shown from the middle of the navy blue curtain. Rainbow spotlights randomly followed and chased across the main curtain as the audience waited for the show to start. Thunderstorms and rainfall sounds rumbled in the auditorium and lightning flashed as the blue curtain opened.

"This is going to be... fun," Joey, portrayed by Savannah Siceloff, said. "This is going to be fun, you'll see."

Siceloff played the part of one of seven high school students searching an abandoned mansion for ghosts.

Director Shawnasea Holst said she followed a process in selecting the shows. She worked to provide theater students a chance to have input in the choice.

"We found 'Ghost Hunt' while looking at a different piece that was similar," Holst said. "It wasn't actually pitched to the class. I found it and then we read it in class and it was a blast. It's really cool that it was brought to us during class time and then we ended up doing it."

"I am absolutely certain that there is no one else in this house other than us," Eliot, played by senior Jade Taylor, said. "Understand?"

Eliot was the father to the Civil War family of five.

Holst trained the cast to present themselves as the character, regardless of age, rather than as a high school student.

"I was cast as Victoria," freshman Sienna Dehaemers said. "We said she was about 12 so she was hard to play because she's not a little kid anymore but not a teenager. It's hard to channel that energy. When I think of 12-year-old me, I don't think of much difference in body language but you have to express that because you want [the audience] to see a difference in age among the siblings."

For Dehaemers, it was a lot, but the many rehearsals helped her grasp the character.

"We went to rehearsals, we got our scripts and we started by reading," Dehaemers said. "We just ran the show over and over. Mostly it's one time a day. Then rehearsals start

going later and we're doing the costumes and mics.

"They're here," Phinn, played by senior Grace Allen, said. He was talking about the teenagers who had entered the house.

Phinn was another of Eliot's children.

The leadership team faced multiple "starting days" since each part of the cast and crew began their work at different times.

"There are a lot of first days," Miner said. "We have a production meeting with Holst and the production crew. The first day starting with the actors is auditions. [And we also work] with the actors doing the table read."

Eventually, the two groups of characters, the family and the students, came together in the show. That occurred when one of the students, Amy, played by senior Morgan Tate, passed out. Both groups crowded around her. Everyone but high school student Greg, played by freshman Gabe Larkin, helped Amy, but Greg apologized to Eliot for any trouble they had caused.

The lights blackout as the students walked out into the storm. They disappeared with no trace. Eliot and his family sat down to talk to them about what had happened.

"Dad, do you think those kids will come back?" one of the children asked.

"No, I don't think so," Eliot replied. "I think they've finally moved on. That's what life's about, kids. Moving on."

Plot twist: the high schoolers, not the family dressed in Civil War period clothing, were the ghosts. It's 2006. The family is part of a Civil War re-enactment group.

"People said they didn't see [the twist] coming," Gast said. "I would definitely say people who saw the show multiple times enjoyed it because they saw all the foreshadowing."

Bows and applause ended the night. The family returned to the stage together first. Then Timmy and Sarah. After them, Phinn and Joey. Amy, Heather and Greg appeared. Together they bowed to applause as the curtain closed and the lights went out.

STORY BY MARISSA BUFFON



"GHOSTS HAVE MOODS, TOO, PEOPLE," Sarah (senior Autumn Posey) explains to Joey (freshman Savannah Siceloff) Oct. 25 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. Sarah used the crystal on a chain as a dowsing pendulum to connect with spirits. "My favorite part of playing [Sarah] was that I basically got to play my self just dramatized," Posey said. "I am a pagan and a witch so all of the props that I was using during the show as Sarah were all things I brought from home." Photo by Ashley Brodie



LYING ON THE COUCH, HEATHER, PLAYED BY JUNIOR Elaine Gast, said "Ugh! I'm so bored," to Greg (played by freshman Gabe Larkin) Oct. 25 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. "Ghost Hunt" was set in Draper Mansion which turned out to be haunted by a group of teenage ghosts, one of which was Heather. "It was super fun to act in the abandoned mansion set," Gast said. "The set, lights, and sound all made it super spooky." Photo by Ashley Brodie



GETTING READY FOR full tech rehearsal, freshman Savannah Siceloff gets miked up backstage Oct. 25. Tech rehearsals allow both the cast and crew to run through the entire show without stopping to get their timing right. "Tech rehearsals are extraordinarily important. Sure the actors do a ton of work, but the 'techies' do just as much and only get half the recognition," Siceloff said. "Really, without tech rehearsals there wouldn't even be a show." Photo by Anna Torres

sounds like applause?

break A LEG

WHY IS THIS FAMOUS PHRASE THE EQUIVALENT OF SAYING 'GOOD LUCK' TO ACTORS? HERE ARE A COUPLE OF THEORIES

Saying 'break a leg' to an actor doesn't actually mean to break a bone. There are several theories regarding the origin of the phrase. One traces the phrase back to Greece where people didn't applaud. Instead they stomped in appreciation. If they stomped hard enough, they could break a leg, the ultimate compliment.

Another tracks the phrase back to Elizabethan times when the audience would bang their chairs on the ground and if they like it enough, the legs of the chairs would break.



Senior Jade Taylor, as Eliot, the father

in the SPOTLIGHT

From the ceiling, a single beam of light focused **ON THE TWO WRESTLERS** on the mat, leaving the rest of the gym in darkness

HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH HIS OPPONENT, SOPHOMORE JEREMY Darrough, grabs his opponent's waist Feb. 1 in the Main Gym. According to Darrough, endurance and his mindset are his biggest struggles during matches. "I get through by taking deep breaths and focusing on doing the best I can," Darrough said. "I never [want to] underestimate my opponent." Photo by Kara Simpson





the last TALK

A MEMORY OF YOUR FIRST LOVE CAN BE
FOUND IN THE SIMPLEST OF PLACES

Sitting in the passenger seat of my soon to be ex boyfriend's Red Jeep Compass, I stared blankly at the dock in Shawnee Mission Park with tears streaming down my face.

This cannot be happening, I thought to myself.

We were having one of those talks. The ones that make your stomach churn eight different ways. The ones that make your hands uncontrollably sweat and your face flushed.

Little did I know it was the talk.

The last one we would ever have.

A first love is something hard to put into words. The constant need to be around a person unlike anyone before. Someone you think about every single second of every single day.

I used to not believe in getting butterflies in your stomach. I thought it was just something people just said – a romanization of feeling nervous or excited.

Until I fell in what I am to believe was love.

My first love.

It all started with just one fight, a miscommunication even. I watched him drive off as we screamed back and forth at each other through a car window.

All over a miscommunication.

My pride and stubbornness stopped me from sending you a text apologizing, or even just trying to sort things out.

I should've sent a text.

Hours went by and my notifications remained empty. Not a call, not a text, not even a snapchat from him. I went to bed without the routine "goodnight" text. Thinking maybe I'll get a "good morning" one.

I didn't.

It wasn't until the following night my phone lit up with your name.

"We need to talk" screamed at me from the 5 x 2 screen.

My stomach hit the floor. Couples do this right? I had never been in a real relationship before.

I blinked and I was back in the passenger seat of your car.

The same seat I used to sit in for hours talking to you while parked in my driveway because I just couldn't go inside.

The same seat I used to scream the words to The Show Goes On, because you told me you liked it.

The same seat we had our first kiss in.

The same seat that made me so excited to go to school everyday because I knew I got to sit in it on the way home.

I loved that seat.

This time I sat and listened to you break up with me.

Like all of those things just didn't matter.

Every word that came out of your mouth ripped me even more into shreds.

I tried to hold in the tears. Continuously trying to swallow them down. Taking deep breath after deep breath in hopes I could calm myself down.

I couldn't.

I've spent the last four years trying to forget and block out everything that was said in that car. But the only thing I can truly remember is that it hurt. And it hurt bad.

The kind of hurt you will never forget.

A hurt I still feel just a little bit everytime I pass your street. I hear that song. I see that car. When I hear that name, even if it's not yours.

STORY BY ELINOR ENGEL

susan MASSY

DESIGN BY
KATIE BURKE

THE YEARBOOK WAS behind.

So in the 17 days leading up to spring break, one day during, and 18 days after, there was journalism adviser Susan Massy, all day and all night, in Room 151. On the Friday and Monday before the final deadline, Massy took the whole day off, shut herself in her office, and hung up a pink blanket over the window to focus on final edits.

The night of the final deadline, Massy sat in her office and fielded questions from students every five seconds, giving them everything she had.

Over the last 44 years, a lot has changed at Northwest. Students have come and gone, teachers have begun and ended their careers, and even the building has changed. But there has been one constant — Massy, known to her students simply as “Cough” (pronounced “co”).

“I wouldn’t be here today without her,” newspaper editor in chief Grace Logan said. “She’s known me throughout a very tumultuous time in my life. She’s watched me grow up. She is the one person who has been the most encouraging and supportive. I owe her a lot — I wouldn’t have as many opportunities for the future without her.”

Massy came to Northwest in 1980 as the newspaper adviser. Six years later she took on the yearbook as well. In 38 years as an adviser of both publications, the newspaper and yearbook have won a combined 27 National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) Pacemakers and 28 Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) Gold Crowns, the high school journalism equivalents of a Pulitzer Prize. In addition, Massy won the NSPA Pioneer Award and Kansas Adviser of the Year Award (1997), the Journalism Education Association (JEA) National Yearbook Adviser of the Year Award (1999), the CSPA Gold Key Award (2016), and the JEA Lifetime Achievement Award and CSPA Charles R. O’Malley Award (2023).

“Seeing all of her accomplishments and how she has built up her name is inspiring to me,” newspaper writer Sofia Ball said. “When we go to events or conventions, everyone knows her name. It makes me realize that you don’t need to have all these connections at first. You don’t need all this money, or to live in a specific place. All you need is a good head on your shoulders and the right role model.”

But awards aren’t Massy’s priority — just

a simple perk. Her priority is holding her students to a high standard.

“Cough helped me come out of my shell in a way that I never expected,” yearbook design editor Danie Eaves said. “I was closed off and weird. Cough helped me find my talents, utilize them and make me feel more confident about what I was doing, even outside of journalism. She’s improved my quality of life.”

Massy’s different teaching strategies have greatly influenced her students.

“She’s made me realize the power I have as someone who is an observer — quiet and reserved,” Logan said. “She’s brilliant. It makes me sad that a lot of people won’t get to know her. She is so stinking smart, and she knows so much, and she’s experienced so much, too.”

Thanks to Massy, her students have no shortage of practical life lessons.

“High school is two words.”

“Never burn bridges.”

“Listen more, talk less.”

“There’s always room for the best. Go be the best.”

More than a teacher, she has been her students’ second mom, best friend and confidant.

“Cough somehow has a sixth sense,” yearbook designer Rylee Green said. “She stepped into my life at one of my lowest points and practically saved it without even knowing it. She’s one of the few adults in my life who treats me like a real person and doesn’t sugarcoat anything, which I appreciate. She talks to me like an adult.”

Massy’s role isn’t just to teach journalism, but to be there for her kids as well.

“My job is to teach students to write and edit and design,” she said. “But my calling is to be there when they need me — to catch them.”

She has driven suicidal teens through the streets of the city in the middle of the night, headed to nowhere-in-particular. She has held students and cried with them in the hospital immediately after the death of a parent. And she has sat on the floor and hugged a student who asked if she’d ever had a pregnant photo editor before.

“That’s my life as someone students will let into their lives and into their confidence,” Massy said. “But there is a flip side to this. I’ve been allowed to celebrate and laugh and joke and tease my ‘yerts,’ as only someone who knows them well can do. We have danced to the Top 8 at 8, gone outside to scream in frustration

when the index crashed again, shared our highs and lows over dinner, and giggled for no reason at all at the end of a long work night.”

Massy gets to know all of her students on a deeper level than most. When they don’t find their place right away, she goes the extra mile.

“One day Audrey Teel and I were working in the backroom, and Cough came in and made me feel special,” co-reference editor Brooklynn Bridwell said. “She talked to us about next year, and when we said we weren’t coming back, she said, ‘I’m really going to miss you guys. I’m so sorry that you aren’t coming back. I wish that you were.’ I will never forget those words. That made me feel wanted. I went to my counselor that day and switched into yearbook for the next year.”

While no one at Northwest wanted to face the reality of Massy’s leaving, it loomed. If a journalism student brought up the retirement, another would tell them to stop.

“I never understood why she didn’t want to retire until this year when I was looking at all of the NW yearbooks and newspapers,” Logan said. “She essentially made this all. She made her legacy here. It’s hard to quantify how much work she has done for the school and for however many students — God knows how many. It’s hard to quantify how much of an impact she’s had. She doesn’t realize that.”

Massy has been a constant here for so long, it’s hard to imagine how much will change. When you drive past Northwest, on 67th Street, you won’t see her bright red Mazda. When you step into the office in room 151, you won’t see her chaotic desk (there’s a desk there, it just may not look like it from all the computer screens, papers, pens and sticky notes).

You won’t see her sitting at the desk, sipping on a venti Starbucks non-fat vanilla latte with regular syrup, doing four things at once. The lights won’t be on after 10 p.m. Her contagious laugh won’t cheer up the students who walk in and out. Her comforting presence won’t be there to give any student advice or a much-needed hug.

“She’s family. I’m just going to miss her a lot,” yearbook photo editor Sydney Jackson said. “She’s taught me so many skills in these classes. She motivates me a lot. I’ll take that motivation to college. I want to be like Cough.”

STORY BY KATIE BURKE

“My job is to teach students to write and edit and design,” she said. “But my calling is to be there when they need me — to catch them.”
— journalism adviser
Susan Massy



Well there's a lot about
us
you know
now.

AND A LOT
that
WE
figured out, too.

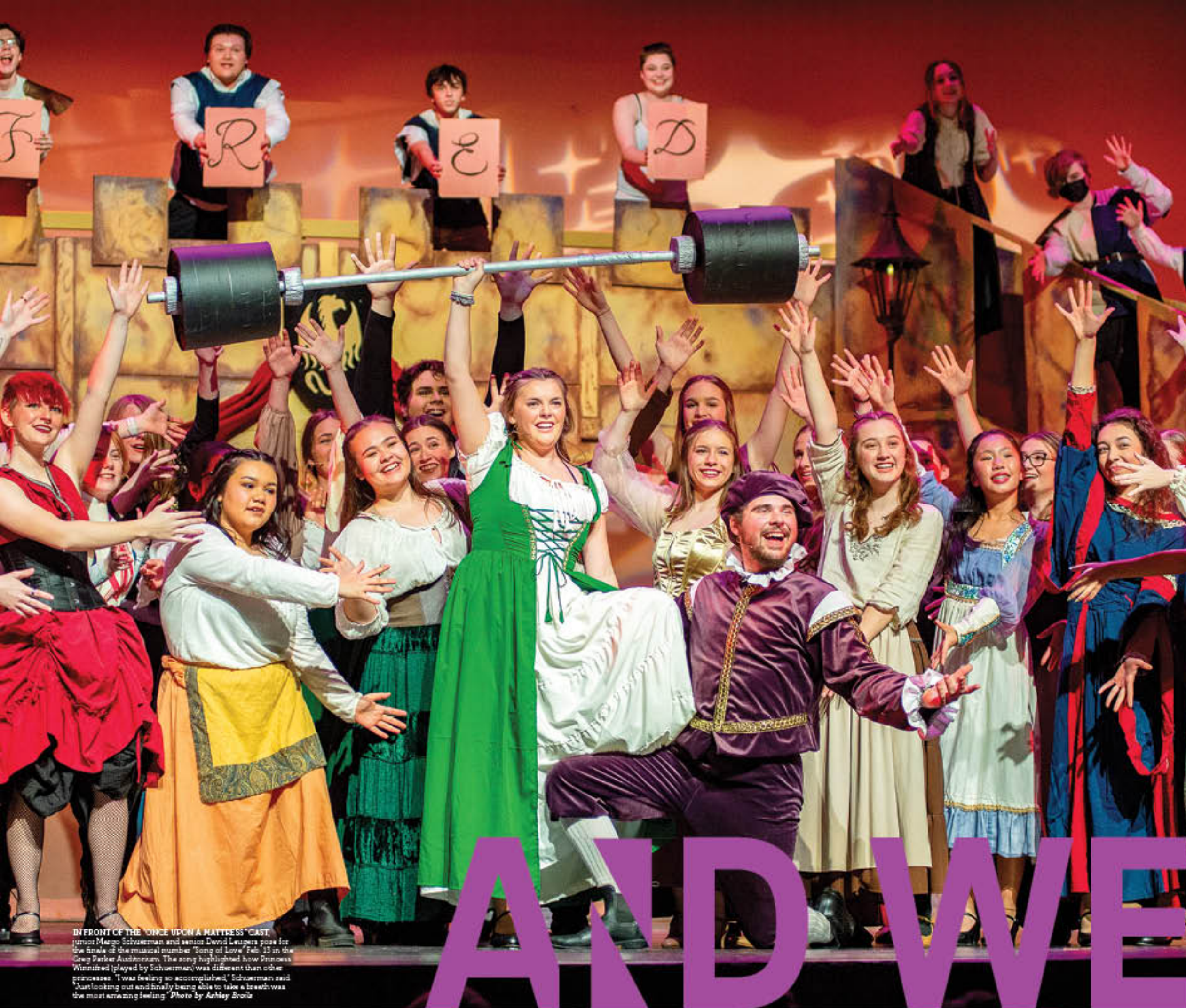
Because we made it
through

AND WE'VE GOT
THE STORIES TO



SENIOR MADALYN HESTERLEE AND JUNIOR Kristina Keys dance Feb. 4 in the Cabaret. Keys and Hesterlee had reconnected during the dance. "This was the first time I had danced with Kristina at a school dance," Hesterlee said. "I felt so special." Photo by Claire Reed

PROVE IT.



IN FRONT OF THE "ONCE UPON A MATTRESS" CAST, junior Margo Schuerman and senior David Leupers pose for the finale of the musical number "Song of Love" Feb. 13 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. The song highlighted how Princess Winnifred (played by Schuerman) was different than other princesses. "I was feeling so accomplished," Schuerman said, "just looking out and finally being able to take a breath was the most amazing feeling." Photo by Ashley Brails

We laughed when another animal escaped from the
**ENVIRONMENTAL
ED ROOM.**

WE GASPED when Band
won the spirit stick at Not So
Late Night.

WE GAGGED at the smell
wafting from the Zoology
room on dissection days.

WE CHEERED
when basketball coach David Birch "Got
Sturdy" in the locker room after the boys
won the Sub-State Tournament.

WE GROANED
when our ACT scores went
down a point.

**WE SNORED IN THE BACK
OF FINANCIAL LITERACY
CLASS.**

We cried at the national news
of yet another school shooting.

WE CLAPPED
at the curtain call after "Once Upon
A Mattress."

**SAID OUR "SEE YA LATEERS"
ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL.**

These are our stories
woven throughout

400
pages.

Stories of surprises,
struggles, competitions,
heartaches and celebrations.

THE STORIES
are just waiting to be
READ.

And there are
many more.

They're
everywhere.

AND THEY SOUND
JUST LIKE



POSING WITH THE BASKETBALL TEAM AND JERU, SENIOR ABRAHAM CHRISTIAN HOLDS THE SUBSTATE CHAMPIONS PLaque MARCH 3 AT Olathe West High School. After the Cougars beat the Owls 73-54, the student section stormed the court to celebrate with the team. "It felt like a party because everyone was so hype," Christian said. "They were a part of that win by bringing all the energy." Photo by Sidra Sahan

Hey, did you get this far?
Did you read every story? Or did
you just flip through the pictures?
(Be honest. We know you're a
procrastinator.)
It's OK. All this good stuff will
be waiting for you whenever
you want to relive your time at
Northwest. You know – all the
good stuff that **sounds like us.**

SOUNDS
like
US