

THE BULLDOG BARK



Principal: Mrs. Chamberlain

Advisor: Mr. Barnes

Northern Lehigh Middle School

Fall 2013 - Issue One

Team 8 walks for a cause

By Amelita Pjetrovic
Team 8

The 8th grade Walkathon is a school fund-raiser hosted by Team 8. It's a fun-filled hour where you get to walk with all of your friends. It's a whole day of no classes, a movie, and walking. All you need is one person to sponsor you in order to participate in the Walkathon. The winning group gets a special prize.

See Walk, page 2



Photo by Olivia Toth

Jill Olewine has her game-face on for the Walk-a-Thon.

Yeeeehawwww!



Photo by Olivia Toth

Victoria Lear and Katie McGeehan wore their best duds on NLMS's Country Western Day, Oct. 2.

Appreciate your seventh-grade year

By Emme Reiser
Team 8

When you hear the words "seventh-grade experience," you might think of all the bad things I have to say. Like, for example, how boring the classes were or how stressful it was, but, to tell you the truth, it was the best year of school ever.

All of the teachers and the experiences were like no other. It was all balanced out perfectly to make for a great year.

Of course, there were some bad times, but the rest of it was all great.

I learned things that have helped me and I found out more about who I am. (I have

See 7th Grade, page 3

The sun shines for this year's Walkathon



Photo by Olivia Toth

(Right to left) At the 8th grade Walk-A-Thon, Shelbie Hyrowich is deucin' it up, Jenna Zarkoski stays hydrated, Destinee Cruz crutched her way around and Pierce McGowan is either mid-sneeze or singing opera.

Walk, from page 1

Don't worry about getting tired! You're allowed to take a break anytime you want. If you need to use the bathroom or refill your water bottle, just notify your team leader. All you need to bring with you to the Walkathon is a blanket some water and your energy. The teams are led by teach-

ers and high school students. So, you may see some of the eighth-graders leading your team next year.

All the money raised for the Walkathon goes right back to you. The money is used to pay for new school supplies or fun assemblies.

Last year, Mrs. Chamberlain and Mr. Carroll got the Sandlot Heroes to come to school.

That's what fund-raisers like the Walkathon could get you. If you raise more money, you could probably get newer and better things. Maybe you could get Sandlot Heroes to come again.

Congratulations to the winning group of this year's Walkathon that was led by Ms. Case.

Seize your 7th grade memories

**7th Grade,
from page 1**

to thank Mr. Barnes for most of that...)

In fact, I wouldn't be writing this article right now if it was not for seventh grade. It inspired me in ways you could not even imagine but remember to let life guide you – don't expect it to just give you things (and never give up).

Also, don't let the stress of life pull you down – let it be a lesson. (I learned these things in seventh grade also).

I also advise you to listen in English class. The words of Mr. Barnes are not just funny but are also words of wisdom.

When you finally walked through those doors on the first day with fear and nervousness like I did, you probably thought that this year was like every other year – boring and full of work, but it isn't.

It's a year you will never experience again. I know this article might be short but quality is better than quantity. Enjoy this year while it lasts and when it does, never forget it. Just take my word for it.

Peer pressure can be handled, conquered

By Danielle Doll
Team 8

No matter how old you are, chances are you're going to run into a situation where someone pressures you to do something. We hear about it the most with children who are in middle school and high school, but the reality is, it can happen to anyone.

Even toddlers can run into peer pressure. They'll see a fellow tot doing something they shouldn't, but follow them anyway. But before you learn how to conquer peer pressure, you have to know what it is, right?

Peer pressure is feeling like you're being pushed to be like other people. Whether it's by doing something they're doing, or doing something they're *not* doing. It plays a big role in determining who you are and how you dress, talk, and act. Feeling forcefully influenced by someone can be directed from one person, or a large group of people.

For instance, a group of friends at your school invites you to their place after school. When you get there, it turns out they were planning on getting into their parents' alcohol. But when you say no, they

pressure you into it. This is one of the most common examples of peer pressure out there: being pressured into taking drugs or alcohol.

No matter what the situation is, you're going to have your own thoughts on it. What you choose to do depends on who you are. If you decide to drink with your group of friends, it's your decision. Given it might not be a good one, but it's



your life and your choice.

That's an important part to understand about peer pressure. In order to conquer pressure, you need to understand yourself and your thoughts and feelings. Along with this comes understanding your self-worth.

People can deprecate you all they want, but the truth of the matter is that you are an extremely unique person and that is beautiful

See Pressure, page 4

From the cattle range to the cafeteria



Country Western Day allowed these NLMS ladies to be (legal) pistol-packin' mama's: Olivia Toth, Destinee Cruz, Katie McGeehan, Tiff Traugher, Victoria Lear, Jill Olewine and Caitlin Hoffman.

Confidence can help conquer peer pressure

Pressure, from page 3

by itself. Now knowing that you, as an individual, are astonishing, do you really need to be bossed around by some knuckleheads who want to smoke weed or spray-paint their neighbor's garage doors?

No, no you don't. You are free to make your own decisions. You don't need someone to tell you how to live, or influence you to live their lifestyle.

So if you aren't 100% into what they're suggesting, say no!

Tell them to bug off, and be strong. Whomever is pressuring you into doing something is the biggest coward of them all, so don't even produce an ounce of fear. By saying no, you are being bold, powerful and it's something you should be proud of.

Now is all peer pressure negative? Of course not! Your friends could pressure you to join something because you're a little nervous, or add a little enthusiasm to anything!

OK, so what's the best way to conquer peer pressure? Say no,

and understand that you don't need to be pushed around by someone. Every person is born unlike everyone else, and destined to accomplish great things in their lifetime. It may not seem like it now, but you are going to have a beautiful life as long as you believe so.

This is a perfect reason to avoid peer pressure and make your own decisions. You don't need someone to boss you into anything you don't want to do.

A Facebook-less, Twitter-less, Instagram-less world

Imagining a planet without 'Social Media'

By Kara Steckel

Team 8

Social media has many pros and cons. So the real question is, do the pros outweigh the cons, or do the cons outweigh the pros? It's a question we have all probably thought about. I can't tell you how many times I've considered completely deleting all social media. But I never do.

There are so many positive aspects to social media, in my opinion. I mean, I spend countless amounts of time on the internet. It's convenient, too. "Hey, what's the math homework?" "What time is the game?"

Then you get an almost instant reply. Also, I find it to be a fun way to waste time and relax.



It's an easy way to connect with friends and family and keep in touch.

Let's not forget the negative aspects. I have encountered more drama and bullying on social media than I have in person. It's so

do we know what we're doing to others?

With websites like Ask.fm and Tumblr allowing us to send messages and questions anonymously, this makes cyber-bullying even more likely.

much easier to be cowardly and say something hurtful behind a computer screen than in person. Sometimes, when we say mean things over social media, we forget that there's an actual human being reading these. We can't see their reactions, so how

U.S. Gov't: To bomb or not to bomb Syria

By Jionyxx Constanza

Team 7

If you watch the news lately, there is a little country called Syria, a small country in the middle east, currently in the middle of a civil war, and thanks to this civil war,

they're causing massive chaos.

Recently, their government gas-bombed their own people, but as our country went there to see their government's leaders about the situation, they just said "We didn't do it."

The U.S. Congress acted

quickly and put Syria on a national investigation, but now we know that they actually lied to us about this gas bombing and tried to hide the evidence so the President of the United States will be deciding if the U.S. will bomb Syria.

So, should we bomb Syria?

What kind of idol do teens need?

By **Tori Csanadi**

Team 8

Well, the answer lies in what situation a teenager may be going through. Generally, we're all going through the same kinds of things. Stress from school, pressure from school, and something I like to call "early-life crisis" (basically like a mid-life crisis, except tailored for teenagers).

With all this said, what kind of idol or role-model would someone in their teenage years need?

I don't believe there is a right or wrong answer here. I see so many people who get picked on because they idolize people like Harry Styles or Miley Cyrus. Anyone can be a role-model, actually. You think that guy from that band is a perfect role-model? Idolize him.

You think that the girl from your favorite book is a great role-model? Idolize her.

You think your parents are great role-models? Idolize them. As long as they're great role-models, you can idolize them.

There are, however, exceptions. I have personally idolized people who many would believe to be bad role-models. Am I wrong? The answer is no, I am not. You can disagree with some of someone's action, but you can also idolize them for other actions. A good example would be modern-day people of the music industry.

You may idolize them for making amazing music and caring

so much about their fans, but you might dislike them for certain behaviors and actions. This is OK.

Though there are no guidelines for role-models and idols, don't idolize someone for bad reasons. Idolizing someone for being rude to people isn't a good route to go.

teenagers today need are people who will get them through the seven hardest years of their life. Idolize people who make you really happy and inspire you. Make role-models out of people you aspire to be like. Make sure not to limit yourself to just one group of people!



Besides that, you might idolize someone for being sad or depressed. That, my friends, is a terrible idea and I would not recommend. Being a teenager is tough, especially now when we have to juggle school, after-school activities, sports, and a social life, all while being told our opinions aren't important.

Idolizing someone who makes you feel worse is a very unsafe way to go. I would consider it the worst way to go when choosing an idol or role-model.

This brings me to my final point. The kinds of role-models

Idolize or make role-models out of celebrities, teachers, family members, people from your community, parents, and even kids your own age! They don't even have to be alive. Idolize fictional characters, historic figures, family members that have passed away, and even inanimate objects if you really want to.

What kind of role-model or idol do kids need these days? In this day and age, if your idol/role-model makes you happy, that's all you need.

What is appropriate to wear in school?

Dress codes that include uniforms seem more proper

By Riley Adams

Team 8

What should we be wearing here? Now, this doesn't go for just girls. Though the problem is a bit bigger with them and that's

ers. As for the disrespectful part?

You're in public. Adults are around and dressed in certain clothing. If they tell you to pull it up, do it. Don't whine, just pull them up. You'll have plenty of time to have your pants down to

thighs, it'd help. Now, I understand completely...it's your body. But, you have to know that you can't wear certain things in certain places. Cover up a little, it's only until you get out of school. When you get home, dress however you like.

I get some of you think it's unfair we can't wear certain things, but be thankful we're not forced to wear uniforms. But, I bet if some kids continue to dress the way they do, it could come to that.

Clothing is a way to express ourselves and I don't want to lose that just because some people can't follow the rules. Incidentally, people think the teachers don't notice.

But, they do. I don't understand why some don't say anything, but perhaps they have reasons.

Either way, in my opinion they should give kids a warning. All in all, be a little more careful with what you wear.

You never know what the consequences could be.



obvious. A lot of the times, you'll see boys walking around with their pants nearly halfway off. Not only is that inappropriate, it's also pretty disrespectful.

No one wants to see your boxers. I can't stress enough how much it annoys people.

For those of you who do it, I get it. It's a trend. But, do you really think you look cool? Plus, girls don't want to see your box-

your knees when you get home.

As for the girls? Well, it is incredible how much they get away with. They'll wear tank tops and then put a small jacket over it that's practically see-through. Just because the jacket has lacey stuff on it doesn't make it OK. Sometimes I'll hear girls complaining how guys keep staring at them.

Well, maybe if you'd stop wearing shorts that cover your

Will the real geeks please stand up?

By Sylvia Hope

Team 7

“Fake Geek” is a very popular insult for females in pop culture classified as “geeky” or “dorky.”

Girls in geek culture will be criticized for everything they don't know about a geeky topic.

In experience, I have been called a “Fake Geek” by a boy when I was talking about how much I love *Lord of the Rings*. He quizzed me and I got one question wrong. Oops. I didn't know what program they used for special effects. Big deal. This kid was obviously angry that he was wrong. Lesson learned? Never judge a book by its cover.

On “Geek Feminism Wiki” (Yes, it has become such a production there is a page on Wikipedia for the subject) the term for “Fake Geek Girls” is



women who show up at geek events such as Comic Con with not enough geek *cred* for you.

Tara Tiger Brown at Forbes

laments the apparent dropping of standards to call one's self a geek in the post “Dear Fake Geek Girls: Please Go Away” - “Now, a geek is synonymous with anyone who has internet connection.” Yet it's “girls” who get called out. They also get the insult:

“Pretentious females who have labeled themselves as a ‘geek girl’ figured out that guys will pay a lot of attention to them if they proclaim they are reading comics or playing video games.”

Seriously!?! It's not only the girls that are the fake geeks. Just stop being sexist. Girls are not the reason the geek community is going down in ruins. Who died and made you Batman? Was it your parents? Well, in that case. I'm very sorry. Nevermind. Anyway, don't blame girls for your problems.

Everyone's a winner in flag football

By Krysllyn Fehr

Team 8

The Northern Lehigh coaches agreed that the flag football players are too young to be worrying about the score while playing, so they decided that all games will be tied to show each team has “won.”

I think that's a great idea so no little 5- or 6-year-old will go home crying because N.L. kicked their butts.

Our flags team is pretty good at playing; the last game they scored five touchdowns.

They work well together as a team and they are training to become great professional players. Watch out, high school coaches!

As one little boy explained it to me, he said, “football is like having fun to me. I love my team and I love when I get to play.”

So there you have it – our next generation NFL players in-the-making.



'The Walking Dead' doesn't rot your brain

AMC's hit zombie series might eat it, however

By Jack Ligenza

Team 7

What's better than humans running and fighting zombies? Nothing! The Walking Dead is an awesome TV show that teens our age would love.

A group of survivors lead by a man named Rick Grimes must survive not just the zombies, but each other.

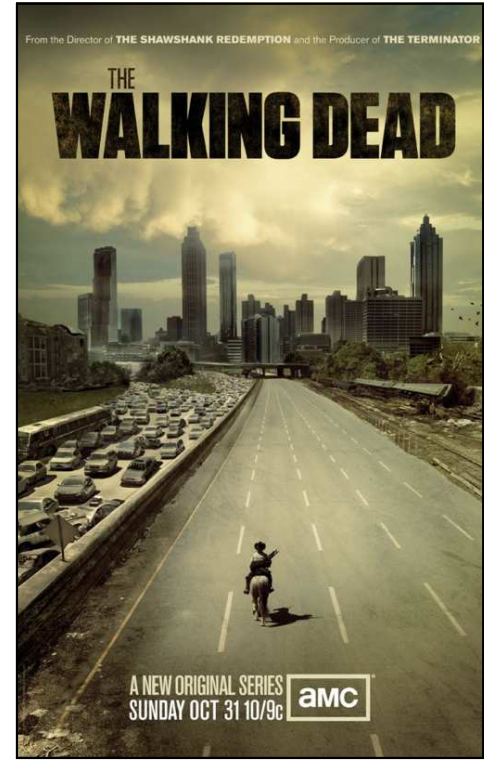
As the first season continues through the next two seasons, the group becomes a lot closer than expected.

Although the group members are close to each other, there is another group out there lead by

one of Rick's closest men in the group.

Most people who haven't watched it think its all about killing zombies. That's not true one little bit. Yes in the show they kill zombies a lot to survive, but there are many stories hidden throughout the seasons.

You just have to watch and listen to the characters. WARNING: Once you watch the first episode, you will be hooked. The Walking Dead premiered on the first Sunday of October on the channel AMC (For Blue Ridge cable channel 44). I just have one suggestion for you. Do not get bit!



Dissecting A&E's 'Duck Dynasty' craze

By Devin Slack

Team 7

"Duck Dynasty" is a show on A&E about guys that make millions of dollars making duck calls and selling them in addition to selling merchandise.

So what's the craze with this show? How funny the actual people and situations they are in. They usually end each episode with a "redneck" style dinner.

Some people say it's a nice, entertaining show while others disagree. I think it's a great show.

Uncle Si has some good puns while Willie Robertson has some bad puns.

People saw what the show is – a nice show with funny "redneck" kind of people. Just watch it, Jack!



Teen 'idol' Justin Bieber has lost his mind

By Emily Zellner
Team 8

Justin Bieber has lost his mind.

First, he decided to pee in a bucket. Why would you do this? He is a very bad role model for all his good fans. He also decided to give an inappropriate gesture to former president Bill Clinton.

Just think – all his fans out there possibly know about it, and maybe some people think it's OK to act like this. Because they saw him do it, they might go around giving other people the finger.

In addition to this, he kept 13,000 people in London waiting for three hours. Just think how many fans he upset. Picture yourself going to see your favorite band or singer, and you had to wait three hours longer

than when the concert was supposed to start.

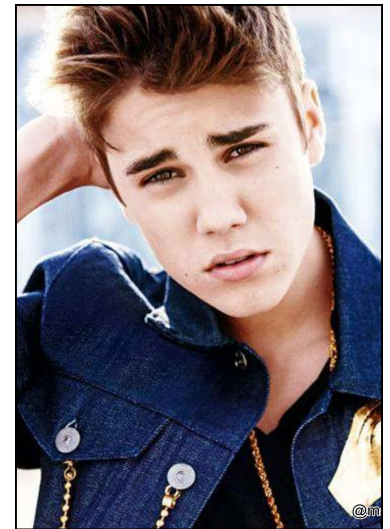
He made girls in Germany cry because they had to leave before he showed up 2.5 hours late. Then he let fans in Iowa chill another three hours while posting a shirtless "selfy" instead of going onstage to perform.

All these fans look to him as a good person; well, you should think again because he really isn't. You don't usually hear this stuff about other celebrities. The only other person who is like him is Miley Cyrus but that is a whole different story.

Also in 2013, Swedish authorities discovered a small amount of drugs and a stun-gun on one of Bieber's tour buses. If you don't believe this story, you can go online and check it out. I'm sorry if you need this story and you are a big fan of Justin Bieber.



When visiting the Great Wall of China, Justin Bieber had his bodyguards carry him up the steps on their shoulders. No joke. Is this the idol our teens need? Make your own decision as you walk up steps by yourself!



GOT BOOKS?

If you are done with books that are appropriate for the middle school, please consider donating them to the school library so everyone can read a new book. Due to budget constraints, we rely heavily on donated books to fill our shelves. So next time you are cleaning your room and find books, please consider donating your books to the middle school library.



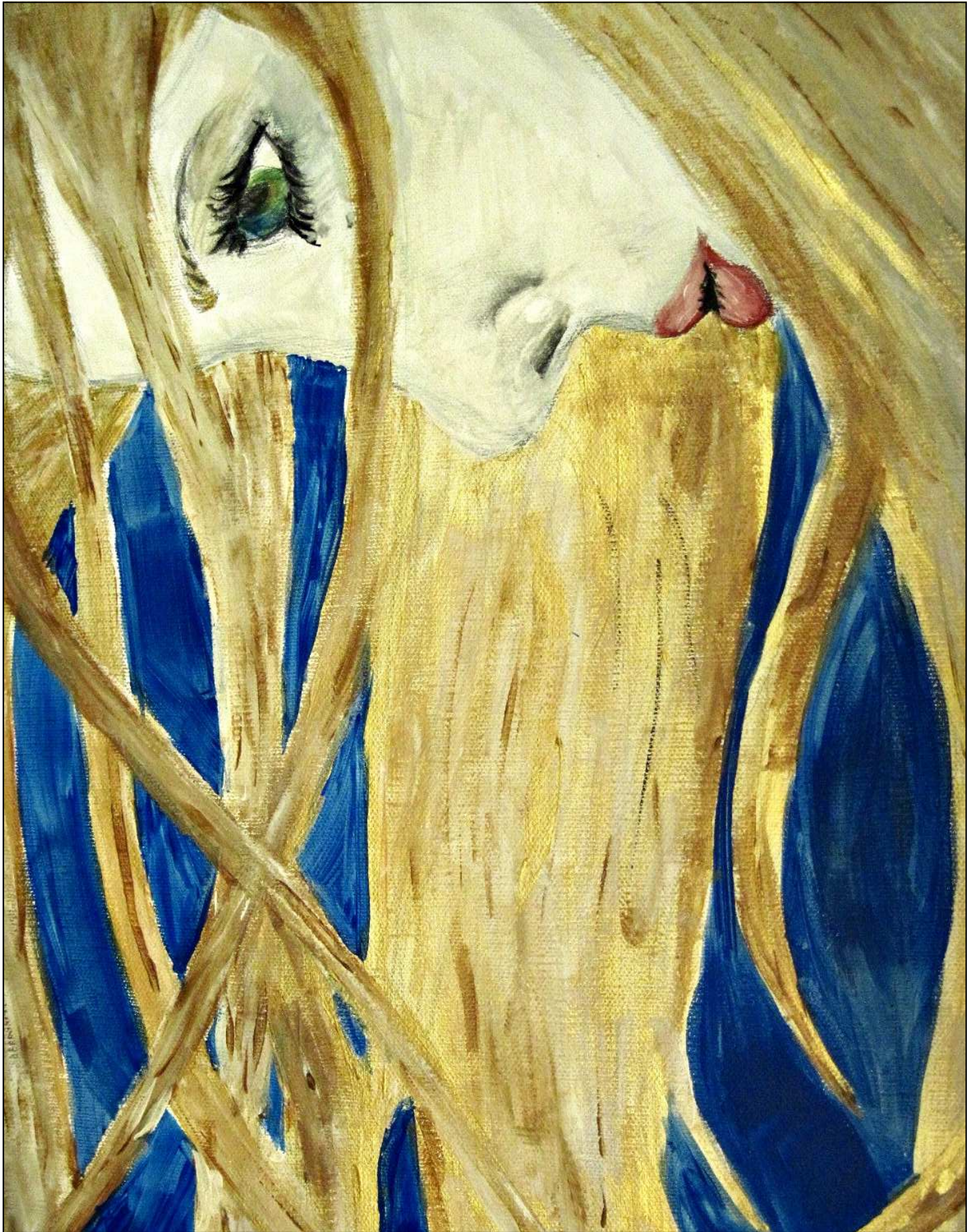
Photo by Olivia Toth
Kira Rex, Sami Lambert and Emily Hartman
were all Country-Westerned up.



Photo by Olivia Toth
Katrina Redline, Jenny Ni and Jill Olewine
skipped their rodeos for Country-Western Day.



Photo by Olivia Toth
What's the difference between Rob Shoff and the NFL? Rob Shoff still cares about Tim Tebow.



“LOOKING BACK”

By Tori Csanadi

In this painting, the girl is facing away from the wind. She's looking straight, as if looking for something. She is looking for the footsteps in the sands of time. She's looking for the good she's done to give her the power to face the wind and walk farther. The wind represents the hardships of life, and how we usually take it head-on. The thing we often forget to do is look back at what we've accomplished. We're so determined to finish, we forget to congratulate ourselves on how far we've come.