

Psychologist Brian Hall starts the talk on the Unity Point panel discussion that followed the first performance of the school's fall play "The Dream of the Burning Boy". The play covered sensitive topics including grieving, loss, and young death. Counselors from Unity Point used the time to tell students that it was okay to seek psychological help. Photo by Kate Allender



"I really like fencing because it's an individual sport. Your friends or your coach can help you practice, but when it comes down to it, you put on the mask and you're on your own."
 -Maeve Greising '17"



Sword Types

Light, slender, flexible sword tipped by a button

Foil

Fencing sword with a v-shaped blade

Sabre

Similar to foil but with a heavier blade

Epee



1. Leaning forward against a chair, senior Nick Ward listens to local officers leading a TSA meeting. TSA club opened up to a new variety of activities like volunteering at veterans' homes, working at Wells Fargo Arena and raising money to buy TSA letterman jackets. The expansion of activities led to a busier year for members. Photo by Kylie Le Page

2. Senior Sanjay Koduvalli receives feedback from senior Andrew Mills on a poem he wrote himself. "Poetry Club was a phenomenal idea," Koduvalli said. "Poetry helps you escape isolation, the feeling of helplessness, by showing readers ideas that would otherwise be impossible to convey." The first-year club met every other Tuesday and participated in poetry slams at Java Joe's. Photo by Joe Fairchild



3. Getting ready for Innovation's first preview show, senior Katlyn Meiners dusts on her foundation. "Each performance brings us to a new level of performing," Meiners said. "All the hard work and hours spent in rehearsals are all worth it." Photo by Morgan Jensen

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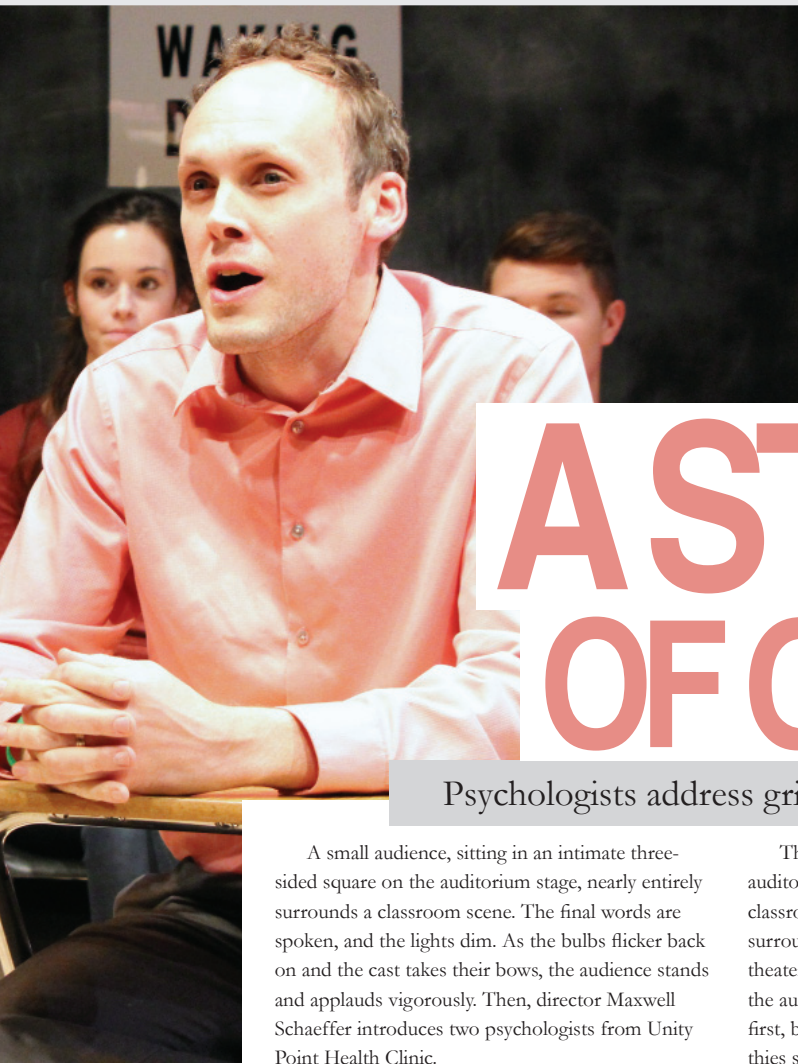
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A STAGE OF GRIEF

Psychologists address grief depicted in play

A small audience, sitting in an intimate three-sided square on the auditorium stage, nearly entirely surrounds a classroom scene. The final words are spoken, and the lights dim. As the bulbs flicker back on and the cast takes their bows, the audience stands and applauds vigorously. Then, director Maxwell Schaeffer introduces two psychologists from Unity Point Health Clinic.

The psychologists attended and gave a panel discussion on opening night because the fall play, titled “The Dream of the Burning Boy,” dealt with a difficult theme, focusing on how people cope with loss and grief. In the story, student Dane Yates, played by junior Tyler Matthies, collapses from a brain aneurysm and passes away just seconds after speaking with his favorite teacher, Mr. Larry Morrow, played by senior Jacob Emblen.

With such complicated emotions being depicted onstage, Schaeffer decided to invite the psychologists in order to find out if the author had created characters who gave an accurate portrayal of the psychology involved. “I wanted to get their view on how each character dealt with the loss and discuss how the theme of the play resonated with them and the audience,” Schaeffer said.

All of the characters dealt with the tragedy differently. Dane’s sister, Rachel Yates, played by senior Samantha Long, had a bitter and darkly humored attitude toward her brother’s death. Emblen, on the other hand, in his role as the person who saw Dane last, spent the majority of the play denying his emotions and trying to teach his classes, as if nothing had happened. An important part in conveying these complicated emotions was the set up of the stage.

The play was performed on only a portion of the auditorium stage, smaller than the size of an average classroom. The audience sat on the sides of the stage, surrounding the characters. This is called a black box theater, and it made the story much more intimate, for the audience and cast alike. “I was really skeptical at first, but when it started, I felt more comfortable,” Matthies said. “You can actually see what [the audience’s] facial expressions are.”

In another attempt to realistically communicate the grief the characters were going through, Schaeffer decided not to remove the inappropriate language from the script. Senior Ann Robinson in particular had to use some choice words as she played Dane’s distraught mother, and was worried when the principal attended on opening night. “I felt like he would have had a big problem with all the cursing and all the suggestive content, but after the psychologists talked about it, rather than having people think ‘Oh well, that’s inappropriate,’ it was like ‘No, it was more than that,’” Robinson said.

In the end, the psychologists’ only protest about the play involved Kaus’ extremely enthusiastic and cheerful role as the guidance counselor. “They said [the play] stuck really well to how it would actually be, but they said my character pushed it a little bit,” Kaus said.

With the help of the psychologists, the intimate setup, and the strong acting, “The Dream of the Burning Boy” gave everyone that was a part of it a deeper perspective on grief and tragedy. “The whole purpose of the play was to try to make it as genuine as possible,” Robinson said. “[Schaeffer] wanted every person to really get into their character and really feel what they’re supposed to feel.”



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4. Smiling wide with ticket in hand, senior Mallorie Goodale finds her seat on the flight from Chicago O’Hare International Airport to fly to Boston. Goodale went on the National Journalism Convention trip and participated in the newspaper writing competition.

Photo by Kate Allender

5. At the Canned Food Scavenger Hunt, student council officer sophomore Lauren McDowell tallies up food items. Juniors Jordan Weddington, Troy Tigges, Jon Dolan, Hezekiah Applegate and Logan Beguhn won the hunt for the second year in a row with 1,000 cans of food for donation.

Photo by Laura Schwartz

6. Learning the basics of film photography, senior Jason Koenigsberg attends the Photo Club meeting. Members learned how to load a camera, adjust ISO and shutter speed and shoot pictures. Koenigsberg presented his own photography and planned to attend the annual Minneapolis trip.

Photo By Kate Allender

Spread by Hannah VanZee & Morgan Jensen

organizations **45**

WORK ORDER

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