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V^{the} Voyager

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Mansfield: "This is your school; you decide how safe you want it to be"

Two students carry BB guns in school last week

JOE MALONEY AND CAITLIN McCAFFREY
Co-Editors-in-Chief

Two H-F freshmen were handcuffed and escorted out of their respective classes for possession of plastic BB guns April 10 during their sixth period math classes taught by Aaron Clark and Russell Saylor.

One of the freshmen brought both of the BB guns to school, but by the end of the day, he and the other student each had a gun in their possession. "If it changed hands in terms of showing his friends, that very well could have happened," said Principal Von Mansfield.

The Dean's Office received several anonymous reports of the weapons and immediately acted upon them. "It was not just one call, which is a good thing, because we are all responsible to take care of one another... This is your school; you decide how safe you want it to be," said Mansfield.

Students in Saylor's classroom were taking a test when Saylor was called out of the classroom, according to Freshmen Mario

Nicosia, who is in the class. One security guard came into the classroom while Superintendent Laura Murray and Director of Human Resources Dave Thieman waited outside with two other security guards, he said. "He did not know what happened. He kept asking, 'what are you doing?' and [the security guard] would not answer," said Nicosia.

When a security guard and a police officer entered Clark's room, they bolted towards the student who took out his BB gun. "[He] put the gun in the air, and he screamed, 'It's fake!' Then he would not put his hands on the desk," said Freshman Rebecca High, a student in that class. The officers thought that he was resisting arrest and resorted to dragging the handcuffed student out of the room, she said.

After the students were removed from the classes, Murray and Thieman spoke to the classes regarding the unacceptability of the situation and were there to calm the remaining students' nerves that were disturbed by the situation. "They took care

of [the situation] as fast as they could," said Nicosia.

Because the situation occurred within the classroom setting, to avoid rumors, Mansfield delivered an announcement during seventh period to inform students of the situation and the potential expulsion of the students. "When it is something this serious, I will make an all-school announcement. I think in the five or six years that I have been here, I have probably made two to three all-school announcements," said Mansfield.

In the announcement, Mansfield reported that two students had made poor decisions by bringing the BB guns to school and that a letter would be sent home to parents explaining the circumstances surrounding the event. The letter sent home April 10 referred to the weapons as "fake, plastic BB guns." But according to Thieman, while one of the guns was inoperable, the other was fully capable of shooting BB's. "They were plastic BB guns, so a fake gun, true, but a real plastic BB gun," said

Mansfield. According to the administration, "fake" in the letter sent home refers to the fact that the BB guns were not automatic weapons, however, they were still capable of shooting and harming a student.

Freshman Allanah Hoefler was walking with a group to go to a friend's house in Flossmoor over Spring Break when she experienced the effects of this kind of weapon. "I heard a cracking noise, and we thought that the car that had been following us had run over a stick. Then my leg started to hurt; I looked down, and there was blood," she said. They ran to her friend's house in fear that the car would come back when she realized that she had been shot. The doctors in the emergency room notified her that the pellet or BB had penetrated two inches into her leg and could not be immediately removed to ensure her safety.

"Here at H-F we are committed to safe environment. We never have and never will tolerate an environment where students bring to school weapons, whether they are fake or real," said Thieman.



PETAR MANDICH
News Editor

Tonight, the National Honor Society (NHS) will host the inaugural NHS-A-Palooza fundraiser in the North Building Gym, starting at 7:30 pm.

NHS looks for a large community service project every year that will involve all of its members. However, this fundraiser was created by an H-F graduate. "We [the officers] discussed plans to have a big project sponsored by NHS that would somehow serve the community. Coincidentally, Carrie Virene, a graduate of H-F, requested our help in fundraising money to buy school supplies at Harper High School, a Chicago Public School (CPS), where she teaches. We thought this was our opportunity to develop our own project," said NHS Treasurer and Band Recruitment Committee Chair Austin Smith senior.

In order to create a fun and successful fundraiser, the officers had to create something fresh and different. "We did not want to do something that people would expect or something people have already done a thousand times. We thought a 'Battle of the Bands' type of function would attract a lot of people our age and raise a lot of money for the school supplies, hence the NHS-A-Palooza [was created]," said Smith.

The officers and some NHS members have been planning this fundraiser for the past few months in order to raise funds to purchase school supplies for children in CPS. "The officers began the early planning stages around December. First, we had to

get the idea approved by [Superintendent Laura] Murray. Later, we worked on the details such as publicity, sponsorship, ticket sales, and band recruitment to ensure we [had] thoroughly planned the event," said Smith.

There were four committees of which each of the four NHS officers were in charge including band recruitment, publicity, sponsorship, and tickets. Within these groups, four to five NHS members signed up to assist the officers. "The publicity committee made posters and flyers to advertise the fundraiser. Also, the committee sent an announcement to Viking Television. The sponsorships that we receive serve as a form of publicity," said Smith.

Band Recruitment was a major factor in the planning of this fundraiser. Five bands, which all include H-F students and staff members, are scheduled to play: Marajo Funk, Yon Yonson, The Purge, Biggums MaCarthur, and Staff Infection. "The band recruitment committee spoke with people who played in bands they knew had a good reputation among the students at H-F and that would attract a good crowd. We limited ourselves to about five to seven bands, and that is what we ended up with," said Smith.

Overall, NHS hopes to create an entertaining evening where they can raise funds for students in need. "We hope to raise anywhere from 5,000 to 10,000 dollars to purchase school supplies. We want this to be a great event," said Smith.

Tickets can be purchased from any NHS member and are also available at the door tonight for five dollars.

H-F alum witnesses University of Iowa tornado destruction



The state of Iowa recently faced tragedy April 13 when tornados hit damaging everything in their paths. University of Iowa in Iowa City was one of the places that came into contact with the tornado's powerful winds.

H-F graduate and current student of University of Iowa, Evan Grzelak, experienced the tornado first hand. "We were at the intersection where it touched down. It was the evening, and my friend and I were going from one dorm to the another on Thursday. It was right around 8:30 pm; From below, we could not tell it was a funnel cloud but the wind started picking up. We turned into a parking lot about to go back to the dorm. We were both looking out my window because that is where the wind was coming from, and the window broke off and completely shattered. After that, all the other windows broke at different times," he said.

They are unsure what hit the car, but they know that a dumpster ran into the side of the car and something came through the windshield completely shattering it. The car was completely crushed when something fell on the back of the car. "That was when I remember hitting the gas, and I had no idea where we were going but I was just trying to protect my face. At that time I was 95 percent sure I was going to die," he said. As they drove, the car was being moved from side to side.

They eventually hit the curb and before even turning the car off, they climbed out and ran inside a parking garage. "We both ran inside, and I kind of went into what some would say 'extreme shock.' My head was bleeding and my clothes were all ripped up, so I went to the ER for about five hours," he said. They both made it out of the storm with minor injuries. "[It was] overwhelming because just being out in that I was thinking, 'How did my friend and I both survive?' seeing that it ripped off a Starbucks roof we were near, and it split a sorority house in half, yet the car we were in was not damaged."

-Allison Bivin, Staff Writer