

Italian AFS student finds world of difference

By Morgan Lock
Cometeer staff

American Field Service, or AFS, is an organization that lets students all over the world travel to different countries and study abroad. That includes Greta Beruatto, a senior attending Delavan-Darien High School this school year. She is from Italy, staying with the Timmerman host family

There are many cultural differences between Italy and America that Greta has noticed. She said it's mostly in the "way how people live." That may be what we define as culture and we don't necessarily realize how different our culture may be from the culture of other people around us.

She says that high school sports aren't really a big deal in Italy. In fact, most teens just play sports when they are bored and there aren't high school teams. That is very weird and different than what we know. Most kids spend every night practicing, playing sports, or watching and cheering on their friends. A lot of our time is involved with sports.

Another cultural difference that most of us don't really notice is our modes of transportation. Greta says it is very surprising that "you need a car to go everywhere. The places are so far and there isn't a center where you can find your friends, where people can just stroll."

Most of us take our modes of transportation for granted and don't really notice how much we use cars or vehicles, instead of just walking. Most students can't even walk to school, which is a big cultural shock for Greta.

Food is another huge part of our American culture, and culture in general. It is very easy for most of us to just pick up some fast food from a drive through, but in Italy the food choices are more healthy. She also said she never sees "so many different candies," and she is in love with the chocolate chip cookies here.

Schooling is viewed in different ways between the cultures too. In America, we have high school for four years (or three years in some schools) and we rotate classes during the day, depending on different electives we choose for ourselves. In Italy, it isn't that same way. You spend the day with the same people, and there isn't much time to "interact with other classmates," says Greta.

She says it is weird to not know so many of the people she has classes with because she is so used to knowing the same people for all of her classes. It is a chance to meet more people, that most of us don't realize. Also, Greta says that high school is five years in Italy, and you don't have as much freedom when picking your



Greta Beruatto

classes. It is important to realize how great it is that we have a little bit of freedom with that.

Another thing Greta noticed in schooling is that we have closer relationships with our teachers, and they are nicer, and not as closed off as what she is used to in Italy. Holidays are also a big part of our culture in America. Most Americans celebrate Christmas, even if they aren't necessarily the "traditional Christian." Greta says lots of Italians have a big dinner on Dec. 4 and open gifts "at the 00.00" and that's what she does. Other Italian people eat lunch on Christmas Day, and the Italians that live in the south eat bigger meals from the 24th of December to the first of January.

An important lesson Greta has learned from this whole experience, and an important lesson we could all reflect on, is, "We don't give more importance at what there is around us (family, friends, school, your room) and when you go far, you miss all of these things, the things that are part of your life, your daily routine, but at the same time, you discover a new world, bad or good, and you ask to yourself, 'How can I not know about that?' There is more outside your house and you don't see that before you do an 'important pass' (the AFS opportunity) and this is amazing."

Review: One-act plays perfectly executed

By Jacob Prado
Cometeer staff

This school year Delavan-Darien High School's Fall One-Act Plays told three relatable stories and were perfectly executed by its amazing cast. The Fall One-Act Plays took place Nov. 17 and 18. Directed by James Larson, D-DHS choir director, and Esther Jeninga, a D-DHS senior, Seth's Anxiety, 301, and Hopes and Words and Ordinary Things all tell relatable tales.

In Seth's Anxiety, Seth, who is played by Ian Bullock, struggles to come to terms with his parents' divorce and fears of his first day at a new middle school. We see all of Seth's fears come to life in his dreams through singing lunch ladies who serve horrible food to mean girl bullies who throw Seth into a garbage can.

Although Seth's fears are caused by a fear of his first day of middle school, the same can be applied to starting at any new school or for incoming freshmen who must adjust to the difference between middle school and high school. Many of Seth's own fears are very similar to those of incoming freshmen or even any new students to the district. While some who have this fear, some may not have anyone to help them through their fears,

Seth has his grandmother, played by Jeninga, who gives him a lot of good advice to help him both come to terms with his parents' divorce and help him with his fear of middle school. At the end of Seth's Anxiety, while waiting for the bus on his first day, Seth meets another girl who will be attending middle school and both

One-act plays...

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her and Seth help each other by discussing their fears. The audience is relieved once we know that Seth will go into middle school OK and have someone by his side.

In 301, the cast explores gender roles, relationships, and the ups and downs of success and it does this amazingly! It begins with Rose and Bobby, played by Mackenzie Janisch and Zach Barker, arriving for their league bowling play in the middle of an argument over Bobby's career. As the night progresses we see the two talk through their problems with their teammates. However, tension rises as Bobby is only bowling an average game while Rose is bowling a perfect game. The two talk about problems that students may face in the future with significant others, or even parents who may face similar problems at home.

Often action switches between the two discussing their issues to the food counter, where the counter guy tries desperately to impress a young customer with his witty ways. Overall, 301 tells a very relatable story and is comical as there are many different people "flirting" with others throughout the play.

In *Hopes and Words* and *Ordinary Things*, the cast goes to Maple Springs, Missouri, around 1900 to tell the story of painter Allison Drake and how the town tries to keep her from leaving. Drake longs to take her career to the big city, but Eric hopes she will not leave. Though Emily, Drake's best friend, and Roger, along with the town gossip and brat, plot to find a reason for her to not leave town. This story mixes in humor and seriousness, as Drake wants to follow her dreams and leave for the big city, but her friends try to find ways to make her stay. Overall, I think *Hopes and Words* and *Ordinary Things* tells a story about following your dreams and supporting others' dreams and is told very well by the excellent cast.

While not all cast members were mentioned in this article, they are all still important and played an important role in making the Fall One-Act Plays as great as they were. The full cast included: Kora Zoe Quinn, Elijah Jeninga, Amber Keys, Dylan Keys, Sophia Roth, Trinity Weir, Caleb Reshkus, Ian Bullock, Zach Barker, Amy Beals, Mackenzie Janisch, Eliberto Gomez-Rodriguez, Arianna Mendiola, Andrew O'Neil, Eduardo Valadez, Anthony Wilson, Alleigh Green, Skyllar Riley, Eliana Gluchman, Abigail Gleiter, Lily Goodwin, Kianna Hiemstra, Elizabeth O'Neil, Ana Garcia Choque, Whitney Nevala, Scott Sirkman, Robert Berres, Xavier Bullock, Alexander Flesch, Myles Lockhart, John Moses, Jessica Olsen and Esther Jeninga.

With the superb acting and directing of these Fall One-Act Plays, I cannot wait to see what D-DHS has in store for future performances!



Staff - Jacob Prado, Morgan Lock, Vianney Perez Fonseca, Kaia Warner, Casey Huerta, Jacob Szczap, Calvin Lumkes and Trinity Dement

Advisor - Thom Aiello

Design - Wendy Shafer



Seth's Anxiety: Seth is struggling to come to terms with his parents' divorce and his fears of the first day of middle school. His fears come to life in his dreams: from singing lunch ladies who serve him slop to the mean girl bullies who cram him into a garbage can. Back in the waking world, Seth eventually finds a cure for his anxiety in the form of a young girl he meets at the bus stop who shares his same fears and helps Seth confront his first day of school with a new confidence. Esther Jeninga plays the comforting grandmother of Seth (Ian Bullock), who is anxious before his first day of middle school.



301: In a typical middle-American bowling alley, Rose and Bobby arrive for their league play in the middle of an argument over Bobby's career. Both are unsettled by the future of their relationship and Bobby's feeling of inferiority. As the night progresses, they talk through their problems with their teammates. However, the tensions are increased by the fact that Bobby is bowling an average game and Rose is bowling a perfect game! Action often shifts to a food counter where the counter guy is trying to impress a young customer with his witty ways. The play explores gender roles, relationships, and ups and downs of success. From left, Eliberto Gomez Rodriguez, Arianna Mendiola, Mackenzie Janisch, Zach Barker and Eduardo Valadez hold hands as they smile for the bows.



Hopes and Words and Ordinary Things: Complete with the town bum, a town cop, and a local brat, this story unfolds in the park of Maple Springs, Missouri, around 1900. Painter Allison Drake longs to take her career to the big city, while Eric hopes she will not leave, but is reluctant to interfere. Emily, Allison's best friend, and her beau, Roger, with the help of the town gossip and the brat, plot to find a reason for her to not leave town. Emily (Kora Zoe) and Erik (Caleb Reshkus) argue about her leaving to New York City to become an artist. Meanwhile, Roger (Elijah Jeninga) and Allison (Amber Keys) eavesdrop on the argument/conversation.

Photos by Vianney Perez Fonseca

D-DHS takes first place in food drive



By Vianney Perez Fonseca
Cometeer staff

From November 5-30, Delavan-Darien High School participated in a Hunt of Hunger with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. D-DHS competed against Elkhorn Area High School and Lake Geneva Badger High School to see which school could collect the most non-perishable items for their local food pantries during the month of November.

Proudly to say, our school collected the most items in the first Hunt of Hunger competition with more than 2,275 pounds of food out of 5,000 collected that was donated to the Harold Johnson's Food Pantry in Delavan.

The completion was capped off during a collection at the Nov. 30 home boys basketball game against Cudahy with an incentive of a free admission with a donation of non-perishable food items.

The donations within the three pantries impacted more than 4,000 people. It is a great way to bring the community to work together to make a positive impact.

"It is a great honor and you should be really proud," said Michael Katzenberg about the first-place finish. D-DHS has the smallest enrollment of the three schools involved in the event.

Let's continue to show the community and Walworth County a positive view of our school district. You should be Comet Proud.

Review:

Reality Fair could be tweaked to meet more student needs

By Jacob Prado
Cometeer staff

Delavan-Darien High School juniors attended a Reality Fair sponsored by the business education department and Educators Credit Union on Nov. 20, 2018. The purpose of the Reality Fair was to give students a look into life after high school and college. During the event students use the app "Bite of Reality 2," where they choose a career or get one randomly assigned, and then they will be given their monthly income, marital status, children and pets, and other things about themselves.

Once they receive this basic information about themselves, students go on to multiple different stations where they will choose different monthly expenses based on what they earn with their career. As students go through each station they will have to decide different things, like monthly household expenses, vehicle expenses, entertainment expenses, child expenses, and more.

"The Reality Fair gives students an example of the many bills to pay and day-to-day challenges adults solve every day that kids might not have ever considered," Ms. Jodi Scott, D-DHS business teacher, said.

This school year, being a junior, I was able to attend this event and, first, let me just say it was very informative and actually a very fun experience. In the future I wish to be a lawyer, probably a civil litigation attorney, and because of this I obviously choose lawyer as my occupation.

My information was then assigned and I was divorced, had a two-year old son named Noah, acquired around \$4,000 in credit card debt, had a credit score of 827, and also received child support of about \$900 per month. My monthly income as a lawyer was set at a little over \$9,000, including my child support, and I had to

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Roth sisters adjust after homeschooling

By Morgan Lock
Cometeer staff

There's a sort of stereotype about homeschooled kids that they're weird or they don't have social skills, but that stereotype has been proven wrong by many students, including Delavan-Darien High School's very own Roth sisters -- senior Sarah and sophomore Sophia. Both of these girls were homeschooled before this school year.

This is their first school year attending public high school, although Sophia did take a choir class at D-DHS last school year. Both of the girls went to a public elementary school, but after a couple of years, Mr. and Mrs. Roth didn't like the school district that their daughters were in, so it was decided they'd try homeschooling. Both girls were homeschooled for approximately eight years.

Although they had lived in the area for two years prior, the girls were still homeschooled until this school year. Sarah and Sophia both really wanted the public high school experience. As Sarah is a senior, it's her last time to have that chance, and both girls were allowed to enroll at D-DHS this school year.

Sophia was really happy to have the typical public high school experience, but also to "dive more into the arts," she said. As mentioned earlier, both of these girls have broken the stereotype, as Sarah herself states, of the "socially awkward homeschooler."

Sarah says public schooling has given her "an outlet to make friends and be social." Sophia agrees and says it helped her make friends, and gave her "the option" of being around kids her age every day.

Many students here remember or understand what it is like coming to a new school and how that change can affect you, although both of the Roth girls said it wasn't "that big of a change." They had both spent a good amount of time at D-DHS participating in sports and other activities, so they knew it pretty well.

Even though many students may hate being told what to do or having to do things at certain times, Sophia said that "it was nice to have a more scheduled day." Even though they both agreed the change in their day-

to-day lives wasn't drastic, there were a couple of things they had to get used to. Sarah and Sophia worded it in their own ways, but they did have the common point of public high school being really loud compared to homeschooling. Sophia also said the frequency of tests was very different from what she was used to. She said she had "homework every day, but there weren't really tests until the end of the semester." Most students probably wish it was like that here.

Lastly, Sophia was involved with choir last year for her freshman year, so she basically gets to experience D-DHS for the typical three to four years, but her sister Sarah doesn't, as this is her senior year. Although Sarah is happy she got to have this experience for one year, she does wish she could have started sooner. She feels like she "missed out on doing more sports and school trips." She feels like she could have been "involved more" or taken different classes, depending on prerequisites, and other activities she could've done if she were here for four years.



Sarah Roth



Sophia Roth

Overall, the Roth girls have had a different educational history from most of us, but we are happy to have them both here at D-DHS and are glad they feel the same way.

Review:

'Boy Erased' a powerful memoir, as well as movie

By Jacob Prado
Cometeer staff

Boy Erased, a 2016 memoir by Garrard Conley has recently hit mainstream media due to Joel Edgerton's adaptation of the novel into a movie. A powerful novel, Boy Erased describes Conley's life and his stint in a gay conversion therapy program when he was a young man. Only two years after its 2016 release, Conley's memoir was adapted into a film by Edgerton and Focus Features. Moving forward, if you have not read the memoir or seen the film, you may want to wait to read more as there may be spoilers about both the memoir and film.

In Boy Erased: A Memoir, Conley writes in first person his experiences growing up in Arkansas with his very religious family, including a soon-to-be Baptist father. Throughout the novel we learn about Conley's experiences growing up and his journey of self discovery before attending his first year at college. During his first year at college, Conley meets another boy, known to the readers as David, who befriends him through their common interest. Later we find out David, who Conley had become close friends with, sexually assaulted Conley in his dorm and then outed him to his parents. While this part of the novel can be very sensitive to readers, it is important to Conley's life because it caused him to be sent to a conversion therapy program and gave him obscure thoughts of what it meant to be a gay male.

After discovering that Conley is gay, through David, his parents decided to take, in their mind, the appropriate measures to fix his thoughts. Much of the novel revolves around Conley's own experiences at Love in Action (LIA), a conversion therapy program, where readers learn about the different practices used at these types of programs. Through the use of Bible verses, family genograms, addiction workbooks, moral inventory, false images, group therapy, and more, LIA counselors tried to trace the behaviors that led patients into homosexuality.

Through his own experiences at LIA, the reader learns more about Conley's life growing up and what he thought about the program as he was experiencing it. After attending the program for a little while, Conley eventually had to flee the whole place. He was able to leave the program when his mother had different thoughts and felt the program was not going to be beneficial to him any longer.

Conley's experiences in a conversion therapy program, in this case LIA, grew very popular as it exposed the obscure methods of therapy used in an effort to cure people of homosexuality. The practice of conversion therapy has been a largely controversial one and many prominent organizations and health groups have labeled it as pseudoscience and falsely claiming to change orientation. Some can say that because of this Edgerton decided to pick up the book and adapt it into a film that has been shown at a multitude of film festivals and has played at select theaters nationwide.

Starring Academy Award nominees Lucas Hedges, who played Conley, and Nicole Kidman, who plays his mother, Boy Erased adapts Conley's memoir into a moving and powerful piece of film. The film also stars many other actors, artists, and directors, including Edgerton, playing the head counselor at LIA; Troye Sivan, a fellow patient at LIA; and Xavier Dolan, who also is a patient at LIA.

In an effort to not spoil too much of the film or novel, I want to simply focus on one particular scene in the film that showed how harmful conversion therapy can be. It begins with Conley, who in the film is

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Fall Sports Awards



Special awards: Top row: Madelyn Gonzalez, Caitlynn Kirsch, Melisa Doloir, Paulina Cruz and Maggie Person. Bottom Row: Ross Gengler, Jacob Szczap, Eliberto Gomez-Rodriguez, Pablo Guzman Martinez, Zeus Huerta and Eric Gonzalez.



All Southern Lakes Conference Awards: Top Row: Caitlynn Kirsch, Paulina Cruz, Reese Crull, Daniel Rangel-Hernandez, Estevan Colin, Sean Wiese and Ross Gengler. Bottom Row: Sarah Roth, Eric Gonzalez, Martin Soto, Eliberto Gomez-Rodriguez, Pablo Guzman Martinez and Zeus Huerta.



Sportsmanship Award: Caitlyn Karbash, Edward Aranda, Erica De Jong, Jonathan (Jack) Wright, Vianney Perez Fonseca and Eliberto Gomez-Rodriguez.

Gengler receives honors



Linebacker Ross Gengler, a Delavan-Darien High School junior, received honorable mention on the 2018 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel All-Area Football Team. He was also named to the Janesville Gazette's All-Area Team. The outside linebacker made 108 tackles, with 58 solo, 11 for losses and 4.5 sacks for the Comets. He also recovered four fumbles, forced one and intercepted three passes. Gengler made the all-region team and gained all-Southern Lakes Conference first-team honors. Coach Hank Johnson of D-DHS told the Gazette the move from inside to outside would help Gengler avoid more double-teams, "but Ross really took it to the next level."

(photo by Vianney Perez Fonseca)

Reality Fair...

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make decisions based off this throughout the event.

The stations that were there included: Transportation, Entertainment, Household needs, Child care, Clothing, Shopping, Groceries, Housing, and more. I liked a lot of the stations and it showed how much everything cost a month if you actually made the salary you were given.

I felt during the event that at each station there were not a lot of options or choices for everything, especially transportation and housing. You had a good selection, but I don't think it was a lot, especially when everyone might live in different areas and there are different prices and options depending on where you live. You had to pick something at each and every station, but some did not make a lot of sense. For example, the clothing station you needed to decide how much a month you would spend on clothing, but some people may not spend the optional amounts on clothes each month.

Another thing I did not like, but also didn't affect me, was the amount of different careers from which we as students had to choose. Yes, there were many choices, but there were also not a lot. I think the app should have a database of different careers and average starting salary, then, through the use of a search bar, students could look up their intended career. This was not a problem necessarily for me since I do want to be a lawyer, but some students had to choose a career they didn't necessarily want in the future.

Overall, the Reality Fair was a very eye-opening experience that showed me and other students at D-DHS what life looks like as an adult. I am hopeful the Reality Fair is a yearly event that continues for years to come as it is something every student should be exposed to before reaching the real adult world.

Analysis: Midterm elections bring about change



Former Gov. Scott Walker

Gov. Tony Evers

By Jacob Prado
Cometeer staff

The 2018 midterm elections took place Nov. 6, 2018, and if you were confused or unaware of what exactly happened, then you are in the right place. Maybe you are not interested in politics, or you are interested but don't know much about this last election, but either way, here is a primer on the importance of this election and what has changed since then. This election was vital for many people, including our own Delavan-Darien School District, but especially for the Congress.

The House of Representatives and the Senate, who make up Congress, had many of the seats up for reelection or were open for the taking. For years, both parts of Congress were made up of a majority of Republican seats, which helped propel some Republican-endorsed laws and helped Republicans make strides, while keeping Democrats from fulfilling Democratic-endorsed laws. What made many of the seats up for reelection important was because it showed the potential to be flipped, for both the Senate and House of Representatives, meaning the Democrats would take control and be able to push their own Democratic-endorsed laws.

While Republicans tend to be more conservative, Democrats tend to be more liberal and open to change. This is important because in light of recent events involving gun violence and LGBT equality, Democrats have pushed and pushed for a change in legislature that would make changes to issues they see, which made this election one of the most important in the past few years.

The results provided for a Democratic-majority House and a Republican-majority Senate. The Republicans kept their control of the Senate while the House was flipped and the Democrats took over the majority. Because of this House majority, we can expect to see more Democratic Party ideals being put forward into legislation and current issues addressed through law.

What made this election important for our own state and community was the \$2.8 million referendum for the Delavan-Darien School District, but also the election for governor. When the past referendum failed last spring, it resulted in a large layoff for teachers across the board and also shut down a local school. Afterward, Jill Sorbie took over as school superintendent and has tried her hardest to advance the referendum.

As for governor, Republican Scott Walker, a graduate of D-DHS, had been in office for eight years, but was running against Democrat Tony Evers, who looked pretty good before the election at having a shot of winning. Through a poll by the Marquette University Law School, it was revealed Walker and Evers were tied with popularity only a short time before the election. This was important for the same reason it is important for Congress - it would flip the Republican control to Democratic control if Evers won.

Once again the results showed a flip to a Democratic governor, with our own local referendum passing. As outlined in his campaign Web-

site, Evers has many plans in hopes of moving Wisconsin forward regarding health care, public education, minimum wage, agriculture, and more. If you want to know more about Evers and his plan as governor, you can pay a visit to <https://tonyevers.com/plan/> and take a look. While he has taken office, the state still has a Republican-controlled Legislature.

As for the Delavan-Darien School District referendum, you can expect 2019-20 to be a little different. The referendum would allow for the school district to hire more teachers in an effort to decrease class sizes and also update the district curriculum to meet state standards.

After the 2018 midterm election, much has changed, and much has stayed the same. Now that you know some of what happened during the election and how it changed Congress and the governor position in Wisconsin, you can make educated conversation with your family and friends. We will have to wait and see how things change and what is to come after all the changes.

Boy Erased review...

(Continued from page 4)

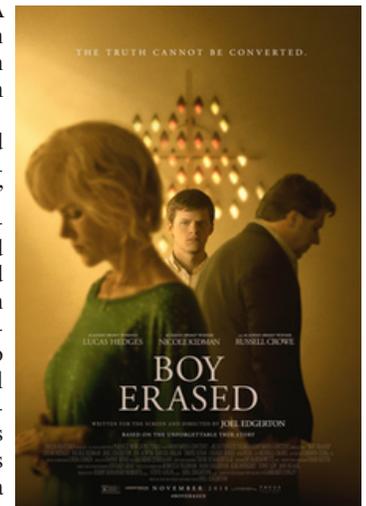
Jarod Eamons, walking into LIA one day and everyone is getting on ties and suits in preparation for an important event, but none of them are told what is going on.

The scene leads the patients and counselors to a room with a coffin in the front, and one patients' parents present. The patient, Cameron, is brought in by the lead counselor, Victor Sykes (played by Edgerton), and set down in the front of the room. As everyone is watching, Sykes begins to talk about Cameron's homosexual sins and the viewers can see Cameron's family crying. Sykes yells out, "Who is going to strike this demon down?," while raising a Bible in the air. As the scene progresses, many different people approach the front, including his family and one other patient, take the Bible from Sykes, and strike Cameron over and over again. Although this particular scene is never mentioned in the original memoir itself, it brings a powerful example of how damaging and harmful conversion therapy can be.

The film is powerful and moving for anyone who goes to see it, but there are a few things that I feel should be different. In the film, many of the familiar names in the book are never mentioned, which can make it a little confusing as you are trying to connect faces to names in the book. Conley, John Smid, and all of the other patients in LIA have different names so when you read the book it is hard to connect the names to faces in the film. I also feel that one scene sounded and looked very forced from the actors; they just did not seem to flow together with the tone or mood of the film. Besides these two things, which can be overlooked because of the amazing acting, I believe this film is powerful and moving and definitely is a must-watch as it displays an important message.

The end of the film displays a strong message that simply states that 700,000 Americans have been subjected to conversion therapy. The practice is illegal in some states and jurisdictions but in many states conversion therapy is still legal and youth, as well as adults, are subjected to it often times. I would recommend reading Conley's novel, viewing Edgerton's adaptation of the novel, and, if you so please, listen to the amazing soundtrack from the film.

Overall I would rate Conley's *Boy Erased: A Memoir* a 10 out of 10, while rating Edgerton's adaptation of the novel *Boy Erased*



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