

Flakka makes appearance at party

Adan McGoff

Although it has only been on the international market for two years, the street drug Flakka has experienced a rapid rise to prominence in the United States.

The drug surfaced in the slums of Florida, and was responsible for the deaths of 60 people in the state last year. For many, the effect of Flakka was worlds away, but for others in our community, the drug recently left a permanent mark.

On New Year's Eve, two North Central teens ingested Flakka along with exorbitant amounts of alcohol.

Later that night, both students were rushed to the hospital, with one thought to be brain-dead on arrival.

"I was with a friend, and drank [at their house] first," one of the students taken to the hospital said. "[Another student] gave me something to drink, and then the next thing I know I was in the hospital."

The student believes that Flakka had been added to the last drink they were given, and soon after began to exhibit uncontrolled physical and emotional actions.

"I got to the party about 30 minutes in," a friend said, "Someone said that [the student] was laying on the floor crying. We tried to give [the student] water, which they were able to drink. [However] it took them about 10 seconds to swallow each drink. [The student] began foaming at the mouth, and then started having seizures."

The student's seizures consisted of a constant flinching action, and alerted the onlookers at the party that they had likely ingested something other than alcohol.

"[The student] passed out for a couple seconds and woke back up and at that point was [constantly] having seizures and foaming at the mouth. An ambulance was called when their brother got there," the friend said.

Flakka is known medically as Alpha-pvp, which is a hallucinogenic drug. Flakka causes dopamine sensations to overwhelm the neurons in the user's brain, and remain attached for several hours.

The drugs clinging tendency causes the user to become unaware for several hours. The drug often causes the user to become increasingly aggressive, to the point where the heart and other essential organs are strained.

"[The hospital] said I had .33 [blood alcohol content], which is the lethal amount. They didn't think I was going to make it," the student said.

A blood alcohol content of .33 is rarely reported without a fatality, and the residing physicians at the hospital originally thought the student was attempting suicide.

Generally, the human body rejects further intoxication after a certain blood alcohol content. However, most mental processes are impaired while on Flakka, which allowed the student to drink more than they usually could have.

Since the incident, the parental supervision at the party has also been called into question.

"There were seven parents that were chaperoning the party, but they never came down to check on anyone, so everyone was drinking," the student said.

Flakka's popularity is partially due to its low price, and it's often purchased in doses for \$5 or less. Flakka's financial feasibility has caused it to be especially attractive to younger users.



Indianapolis Police Department photo.

Student turns self in after arrest warrant

Alicia Lehman

An Indianapolis man was killed after being shot December 13, 2015. 31-year-old David Bowman lost his life in the shooting, allegedly perpetrated by North Central senior Cameron Tibbs. Though the incident is not thought to be premeditated, based on what police believe, Tibbs was still arrested and is being charged as an adult.

It has been released that Bowman went to cash-in two of his winning lottery tickets at a gas station in west Indianapolis. As Bowman was leaving he dropped his money and was shot while trying to pick it up.

Tibbs turned himself in to the police December 17 after a warrant was issued for his arrest. According to police, Tibbs was charged with murder and carrying a handgun without a license.

Bowman's family is trying to turn this tragic event into something positive and are starting a "Stop the Violence," campaign. They intend to create wristbands, t-shirts and signs in honor of Bowman.

Currently Tibbs is being held in jail without a bond.



Senior Kendall Baten gets her blood drawn during the blood drive last year. Photo courtesy to Gabby Leavitt.

Annual blood drive back in February

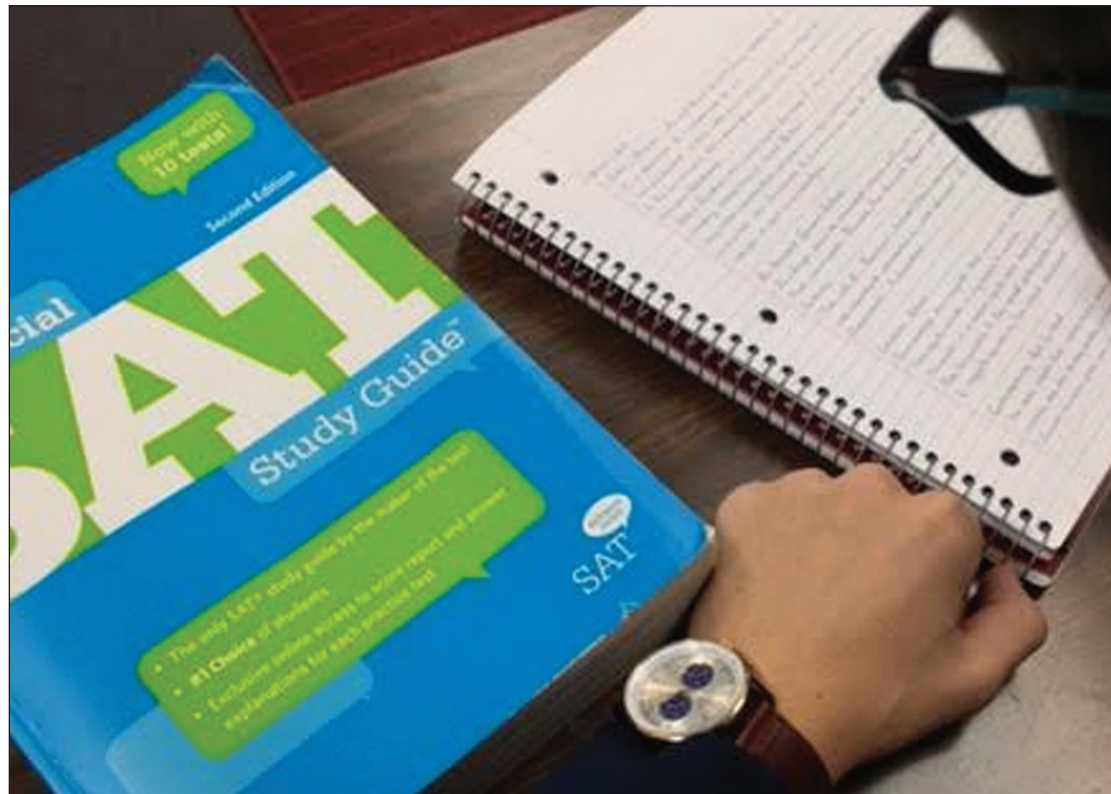
Maddie Scarpone

Heading into the second month of the semester, North Central will hold its annual blood drive on Friday, February 12. For over 30 years, North Central students and faculty have taken time out of their school day to donate blood to the Indiana Blood Center. The sponsor of this event, English teacher Leslie Decker, is looking forward to carrying on this North Central tradition.

"The NC blood drive was well established when I was here as a student, and that was in the 90's. I've been running the blood drive for fourteen years," Decker said.

Registration will be held from Wednesday, January 20 to Wednesday, January 27. This year's goal is to have over 700 students donate blood.

"There's no reason not to come and donate. Don't be scared of needles, they're professionals who are handling this. People need blood all the time, from something as serious as cancer patients to people who get into accidents, like car accidents, which happen on a daily basis. You never know how much blood will be needed, and so many people don't give blood that often, and the blood bank goes empty," Decker said.



A senior prepares for the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Tommy Cagnassola photo illustration

New SAT format coming in March

Lily Null

Starting in March, the format of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, more commonly known as the SAT will change. The last current SAT will be proctored on January 23. The first new SAT will take place on March 5.

The College Board has decided to change the SAT in order to accommodate the changing curriculum of the national education system.

"The changes reflect changes in the educational system in the U.S. It's also been 30 years since major changes have been made to the test," Susanna Bremen said, "more and more students are taking the ACT and College Board is making their test more like the ACT to compete."

The new SAT has a lot of changes to it in terms of scoring and types of questions. The scoring range will now span from zero to a maximum of 1600 points.

"The SAT is returning to a maximum of 1600 points, 800 [in] reading and 800 [in] math" Bremen said.

There is also no penalty for guessing, meaning points are only awarded based on correct answers. The essay portion will become optional and the time limit will change to 50 minutes instead of 25.

"The essay will become optional, but students are encouraged to [take] the writing in the event that they are looking at colleges that require it" Bremen said.

The purpose of these changes in scoring is to show colleges what a person's strengths and skills are. These changes will make the test have a whole different look and feel.

"Most reviewers think it will be more difficult. They will be fewer questions in some sections, but they will require more thought and analysis" Bremen said.

How to avoid senioritis

Kourtney Brooks

Congratulations! You've made it this far. After years of taking rigorous classes, the end is finally near. You're so close to graduation! Below are tips to help you (and your friends) not catch the contagious disease that is senioritis.

1 Do Homework While at School: If you are employed, this will make your life a little bit easier.

2 Organize Your Bag/Backpack The Night Before: This is crucial. If you walk out the house feeling as if you've forgotten something, you probably have. Gather up everything that you need and continue on from that point.

3 Go to Bed At a Reasonable Time: Ever wonder why you're so tired in the morning? The answer to your question is common sense. I know, you have to work. This is where number one comes in. Starting and or getting your homework done while at school will increase the amount of sleep you get.

4 Recognize the Importance of Sweatpants: Unless you pick out your outfit the night before, sweatpants are the way to go. They're practical, can be stylish and most important, they're comfortable.

5 Eat Breakfast: Breakfast is a great way to start of your morning. If you don't feel like making breakfast in the morning, prepare it that night. From there, all you need to do is heat up your desired meal in the microwave.

6 Set Goals and Stick to them: If you plan on going to college, you are aware of how important what you do now is. Start simple. For instance, maybe your goal is to turn in your senior paper before it's due. Maybe it's not. Whatever it is, stick with it.

7 Relax: Senior year isn't designed to be hard. Go to class, take notes and study. Everything will work out.

NO MORE

"WELL, SHE WAS DRUNK"



Domestic violence and sexual assault are never the victim's fault. It's time we all speak out to stop the violence.

No more excuses.
No more silence.
No more violence.

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