



THE CHARGER

Debler eliminates competition in assassin game

AJ Grutsch | Podcast Editor

After reading “The Most Dangerous Game” the freshman class prepared to participate in a game of their own, involving betrayal, heartbreak and justice.

“The Most Dangerous Game,” a 1924 short story by Richard Connell, features a rich count who hunts humans for sport on his private island. After studying the story and film the freshman class prepared to do the same — not with real weapons but with clothespins and black dots.

“It’s a fun way to make the stories come alive, and I think it’s a nice break from essays and worksheets,” English 1 teacher Brendan Praeger said. “A bunch of seniors played it when I was student teaching and it was fun to watch. They used squirt guns, which is obviously a problem, so I adapted it to something that would work well here.”

In the game, students are assigned a target to eliminate. This can be done by attaching a clothespin to a target’s clothes or tricking the target into holding a piece of paper with a black dot drawn on it. The way to prevent getting pinned is to say “Don’t pin me,” before your attacker gets to you.

Eliminations were not allowed during class times and breaking any school rules resulted in disqualification.

Praeger assigned two of his independent study students to be commissioners of the game. Seniors Lauren Schutter and Eli McDaniel were

WHS ASSASSIN CHAMPIONS

- 2012: Jason Maciejewski
- 2013: Natalee Kates
- 2014: Sania Huda
- 2015: Erika Prue
- 2017: Raegan Feyh
- 2018: Kara Hafenstine
- 2019: Robert Potter
- 2021: Dalton Debler

Check out this week’s Senioritis podcast Friday for an interview with the final three assassins.

responsible for assigning targets, settling disputes and tracking the game’s progress.

A WHS tradition since 2012, the game was suspended last year because of Covid-19. “The current sophomores missed out, so I might have them play next year when I have them as juniors,” Praeger said.

The game started at dawn October 4. With a new bright and early day, the world knew not of the chaos about to ensue. With more than half of the class gone on the first day, the students become uneasy and more cautious wherever they go.

“This year was a slower start than usual, but it really picked up at lunch time,” Praeger said. “They learned pretty quickly that they couldn’t trust anyone.”

On the third day of the game, an announcement was made over the intercom, warning all players that the game had become a free for all. Knowing that multiple people could be trying to eliminate them, the freshman plunged into chaos. “I



Freshman Dalton Debler shows his trusty clothes pin, his weapon of choice in the 2020 freshman assassin game. The game is related to the short story “The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell. Photo by Eli McDaniel.

had planned out how I was gonna get out this person and the person after that but that went all out the window,” freshman Dalton Debler said.

Eventually, the game was down to three: Dalton Debler, Jude Meseke and Grady Perrin. Dalton and Grady devised a plan to get Jude out of the game, yet when Grady had turned his back on Dalton, Dalton took the opportunity to eliminate him. “I was slightly salty but I’m so glad I can wear sweatshirts again without the fear of getting pinned,” Perrin said.

And then the game was down to two players: Dalton and Jude. Armed with pins at their sides, the two had planned for war. There was always fear of opening Snapchats or emails in case it was the infamous black dot.

Jude has been on his guard

for days, ready to defend himself from being attacked at every turn... until he was offered a seemingly harmless piece of gum. He accepted, but unbeknownst to Jude, a black dot had been attached to the bottom of the wrapper and the game was over.

After a short controversy of the size of the dot on the gum, the games commissioners ruled that Dalton Debler has been claimed the victor.

After speaking to Dalton about his Prize, he had proclaimed that he would share his earnings with his brothers in arms. The prize has yet to be decided, but will most likely be in the form of food.

After all the struggle and heartbreak was over, the freshman class had learned a valuable lesson. “Don’t trust your friends,” Meseke said.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR Charger should emphasize positive results of incident

This is in response to the October 7 editorial “Destructive behavior reflects poorly on entire student body” that was published in the Wabaunsee High School student newspaper, The Charger.

To clarify, the opinion article “Destructive behavior reflects poorly on entire student body” contained misleading statements. Rather than focusing on negative events, the positive outcomes from these life lessons are what should be sought after.

We live in a world that is filled with negativity, gossip, and drama and it’s easy to get caught up. It takes a leader to shine through all that negativity and there are leaders being formed every day, not only on the volleyball team, but the entire school. For the entire volleyball season, we have had discussions about positivity, being a good person, and attitudes/actions toward others.

We have made an amazing, positive transformation over the last couple of months and that’s the type of story we wish The Charger would focus on. There have been some hard lessons, but without earthquakes, mountains are not formed. That positive change is definitely worth writing about! For the ladies on the volleyball team that have not been involved with any poor behavior (which is quite a few of them), it’s still a great message for them to hear when we discuss accountability.

This misleading newspaper article has led to some great discussions within the volleyball team. We have grown so much as a team over the last couple of months and have started to change our perspective from “why is this happening to me” to “what is this trying to teach me.” It’s up to all of us to make that change to be uplifting and not tear down others. Be positive!

— 2021-22 Wabaunsee Charger Volleyball Team

Cheer team apologizes for missing flag at game

Dear Wabaunsee Community, We sincerely apologize for our negligence regarding the flag at the football game on October 8th. It is our responsibility to raise the flag during or before the national anthem preceding games and that evening we let the community down due to a mixture of irresponsibility and ignorance of job allocation. It won’t happen again.

We love this community, we love our country, and we look forward to cheering for both at future home games – with the flag flying high!

— WHS Cheer Team

Question of the Week | What bill would you propose for WHS?

WHAT SHOULD THE NEXT PEP CLUB THEME BE FOR THE NEXT HOME GAME?

“Everyone should dress like they are in the band KISS.”
Senior Jacob Daley

“Pajamas, Flannel, or beach.”
Junior Rebekah Stuhlsatz

“Dinosaurios.”
Spanish teacher David Amer

IN HONOR OF HALLOWEEN, WHAT IS THE MOST SCARED YOU’VE EVER BEEN?

“We lost my son in downtown Lawrence for 2 hours.”
Science teacher Lisa Hull

“When Biden got elected as president.”
Freshman Payton Wurtz

“When I got a hole in my foot.”
Freshman Caden Frank

“I have never been scared in my entire life, my focus and strength is unwavering.”
Senior Jacob Daley

“My mom used to run a haunted house in Maple Hill and I was way too young to go through it, but I insisted I went through every year then I would come out balling.”
Junior Olivia Mayer

“I used to be always scared of the mascot shocker for Wichita state when I was a little kid.”
Junior Lanson Parry

THE GOVERNMENT CLASS IS CURRENTLY PROPOSING BILLS. WHAT IS ONE THING YOU THINK SHOULD CHANGE AT WHS?

“Give us a longer lunch time and a shorter AB.”
Junior Kwinton Willier

“Go big or go home, 4 day school week.”
Spanish Teacher David Amer

“Texas Roadhouse rolls for lunch because those rolls are very good.”
Junior Bryton Reves

“There should be more opportunities for academic competition.”
Junior Austin Spellman



The pep club dresses up for a U.S.A.-themed night, last week versus Jefferson County North. The theme for the final game, October 22, is “Yellow-Out” in honor of the yellow ribbon suicide prevention club. Photo by Paxton Meyer.

“A lot of stuff, mainly they need to be more accommodating to people with mental illness.”
Freshman Mercedes Kershaw

“Bring back ZAP.”
Science Teacher Lisa Hull