

THE CLASSIC TV DROP

by Josh Kinney



photos by Summer Sebastian

It's your most epic final's week distraction: a television falling from two stories shattering into a thousand pieces while one by one, hall members dressed in businesslike attire with an edge smash its remnants with a baseball bat to the song of their choice. Trustees Second East's (T2E) TV Drop occurs at the end of every semester, competing with the Caf's late night breakfast and always drawing a decent size crowd.

However, there's more to this destructive tradition than simply demolishing broken televisions that deserve a look down this hallway.

Having lived on T2E since freshman year, I've witnessed and been a part of what really goes on during that grand night and the real meaning behind the devastation. What started as one fed up student's anguish towards finals and, let's face it, Asbury, turned into a semi-annual ritual that not only celebrates his legacy, but allows an outlet for finals frustration. You can feel it on the hall, especially in the 2 or 3 hours before the event. Everyone is pacing, putting on their clothes and wielding their silver sharpies so they can write on the televisions. The duct tape team is mechanically taping trash bags to the screens while whoever is in charge of music that year sifts through the iPod to create an energizing playlist. Barriers are set up outside and a crew of two or three is gathered to convince students in the Caf to come to the event. Everything is rather systematic: few questions asked, always clear and simple organization. It's like pulling off a successful (Asbury approved) stunt: it's always the same, yet always stepped up a notch.

"It's thrilling: it's your night because it's your hall," says Chandler Klein, who recited the last TV drop speech. In December of 2009, Scott Fitzsimmonds swore it wouldn't be possible to drop

the giant 64 inch TV. "Seriously guys, there's no way we're dropping that TV," he said. Some agreed and thought of alternate uses such as throwing smaller TVs on top of it, but Jacob Mendelson said "No way, we're gonna drop that thing!" And we did with ease. It was the biggest TV ever to have been dropped at the event: a moment in history that has yet to be rivaled. "When we do something, we do it big: ruthlessly determined," says Mendelson.

Although the TV drop happens relatively fast, usually within a half hour, a lot of work occurs behind the scenes to pull it off. However, the TV drop meeting is always a week before the event and is no longer than 15 minutes. Hall members gather outside the bathroom door and assign or volunteer for positions. Who's getting the TVs? Who's getting duct and caution tape? Posters: who's artsy? Make them different this year.

"Facebook: Josh you're the king of The Social Network: make an event invitation," says Will Rowe. It's a given who will get some of these assignments. Jacob has always been in charge of manual labor while Abe Parker controls speakers and music, and I take care of Facebook. After the short meeting when everyone has been given some sort of role, it's a guarantee that each will follow through, as natural as doing anything else. If only we felt the same way about school work...

Speaking of school, that's the real story behind TV drop. What spectators don't know and hopefully will never fully see is everything that's written on the TVs from the hall members of T2E such as very detailed specific pointless assignments, disliked professors, homework and all of the annoying petty rules. There are a few names and course numbers that will always show up on the TVs such as... well, I can't reveal that much but I'm sure you could think of a few. And then there are other names or things in general that are detested by the hall specifically and a number of people in general that are written like: parking tickets, Osama Bin Laden, the Tampa Bay Rays, the hilarious "no shorts" rule that the hall sarcastically believes is from 1800, poor internet connections, exams, Nancy Pelosi, the New England Patriots, and so on.

To welcome Trustees new

Resident Director, Quinn Gervel to Asbury, T2E let him swing the bat at the TVs for his very first TV drop. If the hall had known that he was going to lose control and end up throwing the bat and hitting the hood of a vehicle, they would have been more hesitant to let him at it. Nevertheless, it's now become a joke to give Quinn something with a handle.

"There's something more to it than dropping TVs and smashing them," said Rowe. "It's really about dropping and smashing what's written on them." Surely there is no greater distraction than this primary outlet for final's week aggravation. So remember Asbury: the TV Drop is yours too. And it's not just exams it's everything else. From silly rules to terrorism, everything comes to the fire escape ledge, is pushed off and then smashed to rubble.

