

HOBBY OF THE MONTH COMIC CENTRAL

A senior's collection of comics continues to grow throughout the years

BY MELISSA LUKES

lukes.melissa@gmail.com • @randomhyperness

Senior Alex Groenweghe has been collecting comic books since he was 10 years old and has about 500 to 600 comics. He has read and stored every comic in his collection. Some are displayed in his room, each series having its own shelf on his wall in a comic book case for protection. The rest of the comic books are stored near his closet just to the left of his bed in white cardboard boxes.

"Collecting is in the family," Phillip Groenweghe, Alex's father, said. "His grandfather collects fans, I collect antiques and he collects comic books."

According to Alex, he collects all types of comics including D.C. and Marvel, but his favorites are Daredevil and Spider-Man because they're well written and it's easy to identify with the characters.

"I always liked the superhero movies," Alex said. "I remember one day going into Slackers and saw they had a sale, so I bought a few out of curiosity and it turned out I just really liked it."

Some of the many places Alex goes to add to his comic book collection are Comic Relief on North Third Street and Slackers. Alex enjoys sharing his comics with friends and family members, who occasionally accompany him when he goes to the stores and are very supportive of him continuing to add to his collection.

"Comic books have a kind of nostalgic feeling, like being a little kid again," Alex said. "The stories are really entertaining and pretty light-hearted. They're just fun to read and fun to collect."

THE MAGIC CUBE

Juniors Sam Ritchie and Bo Nixon solve Rubik's cubes in their free time and have taught themselves to solve faster than the average human

BY SARAI ESPARZA

saraiesparza.se@gmail.com • @SaraiEsparza

Solving a Rubik's cube can be challenging. Right, left, up, down, twist here, twist there and still nothing. But for juniors Sam Ritchie and Bo Nixon, it's become second nature.

"The first times I solved one I would be like 'Oh, yes!' but now it's just like 'Done,'" Sam said.

Both Sam and Bo started solving Rubik's cubes after they saw their fellow wrestlers solving the cubed puzzle and wanted to try for themselves. Sam started around Christmas time of his eighth grade year while Bo started in January of his freshman year. Once they knew they wanted to solve it, they went on YouTube and watched video after video to figure out how to do it. When they had the basics down, it was all about time and getting faster.

"You have to, like, want to do it," Bo said. "Like people ask me and they're like, 'It's too hard,' and I'm like 'Well, you probably don't want to do it that bad.'"

Although there are many types of cubes, from five by five to three by three to digital ones, Bo prefers the five by five while Sam prefers the three by three.

"Just the normal one," Sam said. "I don't feel too accomplished, but whenever I do a five by five, it's really hard. It takes me like half an hour to 45 minutes to do it."

Nowadays, Sam and Bo can be found solving the cubed puzzle, once known as the magic cube, in their free time or after a stats test. Many students have taken notice of their unique ability.

"I would see them all the time at the wrestling meets," junior Charlene Penrod said. "They would do it before a meet and it would just calm them down."

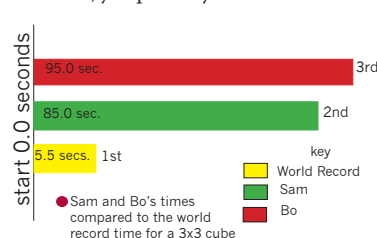
No matter how hard it may seem to solve a Rubik's cube, the boys encourage everyone to try it and not give up. Their biggest tip for anyone that is willing to try it out would be to spend some time watching YouTube videos, and to keep practicing.

"Just stick with it," Bo said. "It's really frustrating at first, like you're not gonna get it on your first time, but once you get started doing it you just want to start doing it faster."

▶ WATCH



Use the link goo.gl/Nd1pbp to watch Bo and Sam's skills at quickly solving different size Rubik's cubes.



The cube started out as a geometry model to help explain three-dimensional shapes.

'Cubaholics' suffer from 'Rubik's wrist' and 'Cubist's thumb.'

Since 2003, 'speedcubing' championships have been held on national and international

"Rubik, The Amazing Cube" was a TV show that ran from 1983-1984.
Sources: goo.gl/c311vf, goo.gl/ouQYCa

The biggest cube in the world is on display in Knoxville, TN. It weighs 1102.3 lbs and is 9.6 ft tall.

There are many types of cubes including edible cubes and jewel-encrusted cubes.

