



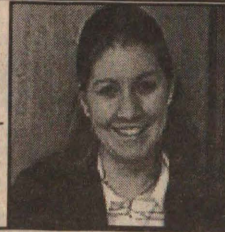
Turkey Time

Learn why, when, and for how long Mr. Lasky will be wearing this turkey costume. PAGE 3



Basketball

See how the basketball team plans to be successful this year. PAGE 11



Student of the Month

Meghan Dalton grabs the honor of October Student of the Month. PAGE 8

Film festival premieres in '05

By C.J. Hinojosa

We-go will hold its first-ever film festival this March.

Hosted by English teacher Brian Turnbaugh, the showcase of student films is expected to take place Friday, March 18 in the Weyrauch Auditorium.

The film festival is open to all We-go students, but people outside of school can be involved in the projects as well. Friends and family are encouraged to participate in the films.

Turnbaugh strongly encourages all aspiring directors, actors, and all-purpose filmmakers to submit their work.

Categories of films accepted include short films, music videos, documentaries, advertisements, and animation, but exceptions can be made if students have other ideas.

If you are interested in submitting a film, you must explain your idea by Dec. 16. The actual final product is due, tentatively, Feb. 1 for review. Announcements will begin going up all over the school shortly, Turnbaugh said.

The maximum length is 20 minutes, but that's negotiable, he added, and all films should be in either VHS or DVD format.

The film festival, or exhibition, is still in need of a theme and a name, but Turnbaugh is working on that, and they will be released soon.

Key Club spreads a little happiness

By Carri Wostratzky

Key Club has opened new doors for those who want to help the less fortunate with their toy drive.

Students can donate new toys to less fortunate families in DuPage County. Key Club will set up a station in commons where students can drop off the gifts. If students wish to donate cash, Key Club will use it to purchase more gifts for the children. All donations must be made by Dec. 15.

Key Club is also requesting that people make greeting cards for the residents of the DuPage Convalescent Center.

Key Club meets the second Friday of every month in room 197 at 7:15 before school.

Award caps great teaching career for Kosek

Kosek's involvement in many outside areas including coaching girls basketball and writing articles led to a prestigious award

By Sabrina Potirala

English teacher Wayne Kosek received the 2004 National Council of Teachers of Excellence Award on Saturday at the National Council of Teachers of English annual convention.

When Kosek first found out about the award, he was very excited.

"I was very surprised and felt highly honored," said Kosek.

What the Illinois Association of Teachers of English takes into consideration for this award is how active a teacher is in professional activities as well as their devotion to teaching.

Someone who gives speeches at conferences or serves their community is more likely to become eligible for this award.

Not only does Kosek coach girls' basketball, but he has published articles about teaching as well.

"I was also nominated for my long tenure as a teacher," said Kosek.

Kosek's nomination was supported by letters of reference from faculty members, including Principal John Highland and Assistant Principal

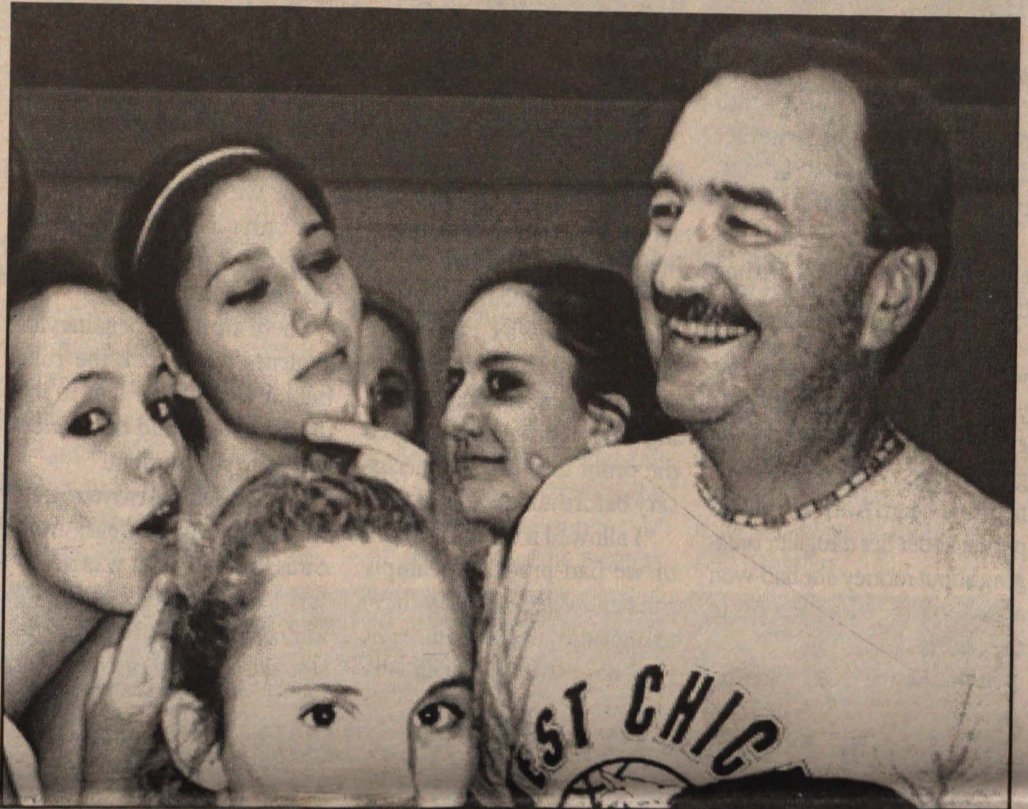


Photo by Sabrina Potirala

Coaching the girls basketball team is just one of the activities Kosek enjoys doing in addition to teaching.

Thomas McCann.

Kosek enjoys many things about teaching, but the one thing that he enjoys most is the students.

"They are a constant challenge and inspiration to do my best," said Kosek.

Kosek also enjoys seeing students grow and mature through their high school careers.

"It is very special to me when I hear from former students regarding what they have accomplished. A few have even said that they decided to go into teaching as a career as a result of being in my class," said

Kosek.

One person who believes Kosek deserved this award is fellow faculty member, Judith Minor.

Having student taught for Kosek, Minor believes that he is "not only a great teacher, but a wonderful mentor," and owes much of her love for teaching to him.

"Student teaching was one of the most enlightening experiences in my professional development and instilled in me a love for interdisciplinary teaching," said Minor.

Kosek also continues to help

Minor by answering questions about students, curriculum and education in general.

Kosek will be greatly missed, especially by Candace Kairys, who team-taught American studies with him for four years.

"I have learned so much from him. The experience has been fantastic, I will miss his wealth of information and his passion for education," said Kairys.

Kosek's passion for education is not the only thing Kairys will miss.

(See Award page 3)

Madness infects students as basketball season starts

By Cristina Sarnelli

Midnight Madness kicked off an exciting basketball season thanks to the hard work of a marketing class on Nov. 17.

Dan McCarthy, business education teacher, and his marketing class were in charge of "stimulating interest in the basketball season" by planning activities and advertising for the fourth Midnight Madness.

Some of the activities that took place were a Dance Dance Revolution contest, relay races, knockout, student and teacher dodge ball, and free throws. Prizes for the activities included money, gift cards, material goods, and even Bulls tickets.

McCarthy's marketing class made up all of the quotas that they needed to meet. Each student agreed to come up with \$80 in prizes and/or advertisements for the big night. The advertisements marketed the events to get students to attend.

The students also made money by selling t-shirts. The money collected goes toward a charity, and this year part of the money is going to the school to cover some of the expenses of homecoming.

McCarthy said that Midnight Madness is a great way for his students to get "a hand's on experience" on marketing. He was happy with the event and said it was a fun time.



Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Circus Boy was just one of the many forms of entertainment on display at Midnight Madness on Wednesday.

Gambling by students forces school to ban playing cards

Students were caught playing poker and gambling in school which has forced a ban on cards except Magic and Pokemon cards

By Kellie Virnich

In an attempt to disband gambling, school officials decided to ban almost all card playing on campus, whether during school hours or extra-curricular activities.

The only types of cards exempt from the ban are trading cards and magic cards.

Though the school board wanted to prohibit cards for years, they didn't have specific evidence that students were gambling. When a board member heard from a troubled parent about her daughter bragging about money she had won at school, they had the proof they needed.

Supt. Lee Rieck, who re-

laid the issue from the board to Principal John Highland, does not believe they are over-reacting.

"It was always a concern, and we've been monitoring it closely. I just don't think we should condone gambling during school," said Rieck.

Highland agreed, saying that the faculty was not naïve enough to believe that there was no gambling going on during school, they simply lacked the proof they felt was necessary before taking action.

"I allowed it to continue until we had proof. We simply can't allow gambling. We have to draw the line," he said. "The staff has obviously been very

supportive of the new rules, and students have cooperated as well, and seem to understand why the rules have changed."

But many students do not understand why all regular card games were banned rather than just poker.

Brittany Vollmuth, who until the ban played spoons with her friends during lunch, said, "Now we have nothing to do. You can't lose money just by playing spoons. A finger maybe, but no money."

There are no set penalties for students who break the rule, but they would be sent to the deans, who would then determine the punishment.

Dean Miguel Arroyo regrets having to ban students from cards, but he said it was necessary to stop the gambling. He and dean Josh Chambers stopped a group in commons



Photo by John Jennings

While all playing cards have been banned, students are welcome to play other cards games such as Magic.

from gambling the day before the ban went through. They had been watching the students for several weeks, waiting until they actually saw it happen.

"Kids were fortunate to have cards for so long. Most other schools don't allow cards at all, and some students were abusing the privilege," he said.

They are reluctant to suspend or even give detention to students for gambling, but they said the punishment will depend on whether the student cooperates with them.

Many students have reacted negatively to the change, saying that is unfair to be punished for something only a few students do.

Administrators said that it is not realistic for them to attempt to guess who is gambling.

School officials met with other local schools on Oct. 20 to discuss each school's policy on the issue of gambling, but Highland said that the school's policy is more likely to influence theirs than we are to change ours again so soon.

Speaker shares experiences from days as police detective to girls at recent assembly

By Cristina Sarnelli

Look them in the eye, escape their grasp by pushing toward the thumb, and kick repetitively without trying to talk them out of it. This is some of the advice that girls received on how to defend themselves from one who knows best.

J.J. Bittenbinder, a retired police detective, came in to speak to the girls about rape on Nov. 4. He travels around the country to talk to people about preventing sexual assault.

"I feel as if I am the lifeguard and you are the swimmers," he said about teaching people how

to defend themselves against attackers.

At the assembly, Bittenbinder taught girls how to defend themselves and how to get out of a situation where they may get raped. Bittenbinder told the girls how rapists go after those who are vulnerable. So walk with heads up and make eye contact.

Bittenbinder also told them how to escape an attacker if they are grabbed. He said to slip out of any clothes an attacker grabs, scream, and to carry pepper spray. Even though people cannot buy pepper spray until they are 18, Bittenbinder said to have a parent buy it.

"It's better to be tried by 12 than carried by six," he said.

Bittenbinder was inspired to speak because of an incident that happened on the Chicago lakefront. A rapist was cutting open window screens to attack women. After the incidents, Bittenbinder was asked to talk to a group of people about it.

"That group lead to another group and then another, and then I started to speak all around the country about these cases of sexual assault," Bittenbinder said.

Bittenbinder has been speaking since 1981.

The physical education staff decided to invite only girls to the assembly because one in three girls will be sexually assaulted after high school.

Variety show displays talent

By Sabrina Potirala

After having to reopen tryouts for the variety show, the final acts have been chosen for the Dec. 2 show.

This year, a total of 14 acts will perform, which include singing, dancing, bands, rappers, and even lip synchers.

"These acts are interesting and fun. We have a lot of variety," said variety show adviser Maria Wirth.

Anywhere from 10 to 12 acts were seen per day at tryouts, and Wirth is pleased

with the final acts.

"Students like to tryout because many of them have hidden talents that they would like to express but have no other place to show them off," said Wirth.

The original tryout dates were held in October, but were reopened in November.

"Tryouts were different this year because we did not get enough variety acts the first time, so we had to reopen tryouts," said Wirth.

(See Variety show page 3)

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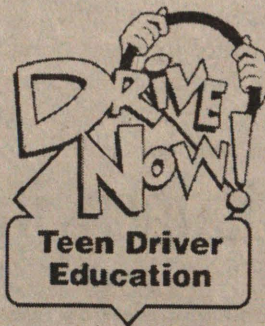
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The Wildcat Chronicle is the student newspaper at West Chicago Community High School. It is a public forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views. The Chronicle publishes eight times a year, with the student editorial board making the decisions concerning the paper's contents. Unsigned editorials represent the views of the majority of the staff. Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although the staff may withhold a name upon request. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and may refuse to publish a letter.



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Holiday fun includes a turkey of a contest for one teacher

In preparation for Thanksgiving, the turkey contest was successful in raising money and goods for the Make-a-Wish Foundation

By Maria Perez

Math teacher Eric Lasky is doing more than eating turkey this Thanksgiving. He gets to be a turkey Wednesday.

Lasky earned the right to wear the turkey suit because he was the winner of a Student Council fundraiser where students put money in jars belonging to teachers.

The teacher with the most money won the right to wear the suit. Student Council also accepted coats and blankets.

"We raised about \$3,000,

328 coats, and 15 blankets which would equal one successful drive," said Student Council adviser Kim Maloney.

The fundraiser ran for two weeks. During the second week Student Council reduced the cans to the top six teachers who had more than \$100 by the end of the week, said Maloney.

The finalists were Lasky, Maloney, Peter Martino, Josh Chambers, Jaime Garcia, and Allan Fickau. A second turkey suit contest was formed for teachers to donate because they

started battling back and forth on who would wear the turkey suit and they wanted to get in on the fun. For the teacher fundraiser Josh Chambers and Mike Koulos wore turkey suits on Tuesday.

"The fundraiser went way above and beyond expectations. We set our goal at \$1,000 and 100 coats," Maloney said.

The money raised in the fundraiser will go to the Make-a-Wish Foundation of the Chicagoland area and the Humanitarian Service Project. Make-a-Wish is an organization that grants the wishes of children with terminal illnesses.

Make-a-Wish will use the money to sponsor two high school boys and the Humanitarian Project is sponsoring two



Photo by Maria Perez

Students gave the most to see math teacher Eric Lasky in a turkey suit, with science teacher Allan Fickau and dean Josh Chambers close behind as the school raised \$3,000.

seniors and two children that live in West Chicago.

The coats were donated to the Welcome Center and the blankets were donated to the Illinois Resource Center.

"I'm so proud of the students

and staff members here at West Chicago for their enthusiasm, dedication, and big hearts. There is no comparing We-go students to others. They are truly in a class of their own," said Maloney.

Award... (Continued from page 1)

"We have had so much fun together. Sometimes I have fun telling jokes at his expense, but I am sure he won't miss that," said Kairys.

Kosek has enjoyed working with some highly motivated and talented teachers, especially in the American studies program.

"The teachers here have inspired me over the last 13 years (in the studies program)," said Kosek.

Kosek has been teaching at Community High School for 37 years, so he is looking forward to retirement in June.

"I have two children in college playing soccer, so I will

most likely spend a great deal of time watching them after I retire," said Kosek.

Not only will he be spending more time with his family, Kosek has his heart set on traveling with his wife, Konnie, when she retires in a few years.

"Scotland is one place that we both want to revisit having been there several years ago," said Kosek.

"The entire school will miss his knowledge and his leadership. I will lose a good partner and friend next year, and although there are great teachers I can work with next year, it will be hard to fill his shoes," said Kairys.

Variety show... (Continued from page 2)

One act will be an original rap song called "D20 Flava" written by Steve Migliorato and Eric Lauer.

"You may not understand the lyrics. They are really nerdy, but, I think you will still find it funny and entertaining," said Migliorato.

One way Migliorato and Lauer are preparing for the show is by practicing a lot before the actual performance.

"We had made this song previous to the show, so it shouldn't be too hard," said Migliorato.

Other acts include "Star Spangled Banner" performed by Jeff Linsenmyer, "All That Jazz" by Mallory Russo and Kaitlyn McAvoy; "Carmen" by Angelina Panozzo and Lindsey Haines; "Lazee" by Liz Goodin; "Makin' Cookies" by Dave Taylor and Tyler Dameron; "Long Black Veil" by John Hall; "The Sunshine Experience" by Justin, Julien, and Joffrey Benter; "Look at the Star" by Benny Orozco;

"Out of Time" by Quin Barclay and Carl Johnson; "Halleluiah Gamma" by Alex Breining; "Wildcat Dancers" by Caitlin Reirmaier, Maria Espiniza, Megan Keefe, and Mary Turnquist; "Calculus" by Erik Hernandez, Greg Callahan, Ryan Morris, Doug Sieder, and Brandon Kutilek; "Rose" by Jessica Stentz; and finally, "All Roads Lead to Rome" by Mike Smeraglia, Chris Wiersema, Greg Powwel, Matt Kycera, and Miles Lincoln.

The theme for the show is West Chicago's 100th year anniversary.

The show is at 4 p.m., for \$2 and 7 p.m., for \$3.

The proceeds for the early show will be donated to the Humanitarian Birthday Project, but who will receive the proceeds for the later show have not yet been determined. Tickets will be sold in commons from Monday through Dec. 2. No tickets will be sold at the door.

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Our View

Voters make election decisions based on religion, not politics - Bush elected for wrong reasons

He has prematurely entered a controversial war, is the only president since Herbert Hoover to preside over an economy that has actually lost jobs, and has directed the country into the biggest federal budget deficit...ever.

So why then did Republican President George W. Bush get re-elected into office?

According to exit polls conducted for The Associated Press, it was because of his stances on moral, or religious, issues. This, therefore, implies that Decision 2004 was a victory for values. But the question remains: whose values prevailed?

When voters were asked to pick the one issue that mattered most to them in choosing the president in the 2004 election, "moral issues" ranked first at 22 percent, surpassing the economy at 20 percent, terrorism at 19 percent, and Iraq at 15 percent.

Okay, America, good call. Our economy is terrible and Americans are dying, but as long as two men or two women can't get married, we'll all be okay.

Furthermore, when did it become okay for a bunch of upperclass white men in suits to decide the fate of millions of women across the country on a topic that none of those men can ever fully understand? There is no problem with believing abortion is wrong, but there is a problem in allowing the Republican dominated government to force their conservative ideas and religious beliefs on the entire country.

Ironically, as Bush pushes his "pro-life" stance on abortion due to his beliefs, he was highly in favor of the death penalty while he was governor of Texas. In fact, during Bush's term as governor he ordered the execution of 152 individuals. So where does the line get drawn? How does he decide who lives and who dies?

He seemed to have no problem killing Texas residents as governor, but as president the idea of killing by abortion, even if the woman was raped by her uncle, for instance, is preposterous. Hmm, could that be considered hypocritical?

"This election confirmed that we are a divided nation, not only politically but in terms of our interpretation of God's will," said Rev. Robert Edgar, a former Democratic congressman and general secretary of the

National Council of Churches.

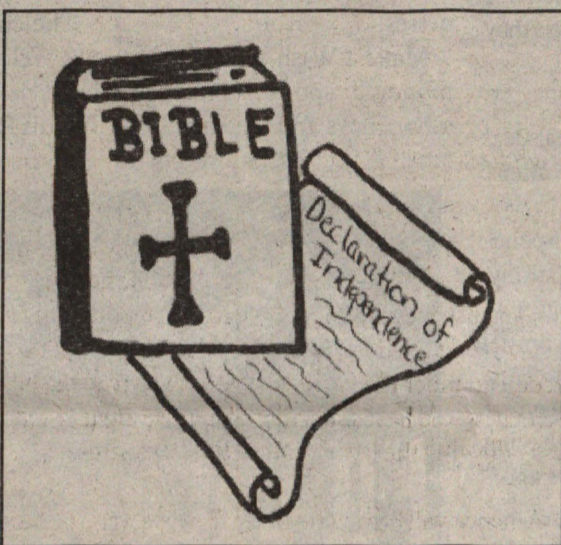
God's will? One would presume the role of the government was to lead the nation and control issues such as the economy, security, and education—not to decide God's will for its people. And what happened to that separation of church and state, anyway?

It was James Madison, the father of our Constitution, who supported religious tolerance for all citizens, but opposed any connection between religion and government because of issues like those seen in the 2004 election. The Constitution says that all men are created equal, but with our administration, that seems to mean all straight men, doesn't it?

This country prides itself on the freedoms it offers each and every one of its citizens, but then picks and chooses which freedoms it will offer to whom.

Sad, isn't it, that with our struggling economy, failing education, and what some consider the second Vietnam at hand, the only thing people can think about is "moral issues"?

More people voted against George W. Bush than any incumbent in history, but a little over half of the country believed his promises (that he didn't fulfill the first time around) and thought he was the best man for the job. Only time will tell, but one truly hopes his actions prove deserving of their vote.



Stem-cell reasearch could save lives if mothers are allowed to make their own decisions

With the recent death of actor Christopher Reeve, the debate over whether stem cell research is ethical or not has been in the news.

An embryonic stem cell is an unspecialized cell created in the first days of pregnancy. These cells are extremely valuable because they hold the potential of being reconstructed into any type of cell such as a muscle, brain, or spinal cord cell, and have the capability to carry on its specialized function.

These cells can then be used to replenish other cells and serve as a repair system for the body.

With enough research and time put into them, embryonic stem cells may help reconstruct skeletal muscle to cure muscular dystrophy and spinal cord injuries. Other such diseases as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and even leukemia may also be cured with the use of these cells.

The benefit of these cells is that once they repair the tissues, the tissues will continue making healthy cells. Success of the transplants ultimately depends on the person's age and health, but it can only help.

In fact, every year about 30,000 people are diagnosed with stem cell curable diseases. Saving 30,000 lives a year seems like a good idea.

But some people object to the research because they believe that it requires the destruction of human embryos.

As well as the destruction of embryos, other people dislike the idea that aborted babies can be used as well. Scientists see this as a great discovery, but many

Americans believe this only encourages abortion. They believe that mothers who want to abort their babies can use stem cell transplants as an excuse to make things right.

But do these people really believe that a pregnant woman bases her decision to have an abortion on whether or not her child can be used to do stem cell research? That's not what goes through the mind of a mother who is deciding whether or not to keep her baby. She decides on personal factors.

Embryonic stem cells are not always taken from an embryo either. Many have also been known to be retrieved from blood within the umbilical cord after the birth of a child.

Fertility clinics discard many embryos each day. Instead of these embryos being thrown away and wasted, it would be wiser to use them in research that may one day save millions of lives.

However, once again religion and law have collided, and although the Constitution clearly states that religion should not affect laws, the government has gotten around it again.

The government should not be able to take away the right to save lives. Not only does the transplant save lives, but thousands of families would be spared from the grief of losing a loved one who may have been cured.

People need to stop waiting for miracles to happen, realize mankind has the potential to create these miracles within its grasp, and allow stem cell research.

Letter to the Editor

Reader doesn't see the point of football retirement article

After reading the articles that really do matter on the "Perspectives" page, I came across the article, "Ricky Williams's lets down team and fans with early retirement," by Joe Harte. To my surprise, the whole Perspectives page made a 180 degree turn in a matter of seconds. Your page went from issues that matter to ideas that no one should care about. Your author's only opinion was that "Williams did not retire, but instead quit." Who cares either way? Besides, Williams apparently quit so "he could do illegal drugs without having to worry about taking drug tests."

Though I have never heard of the player, and don't really care about him, I was surprised to find an article about him.

I would rather keep up on the latest deals and fashions from the advertisements than what someone thinks of some football player. Let's get back to issues that matter and away from football players "losing heart for the game."

Sincerely,
Christopher Bodane

Point/Counterpoint

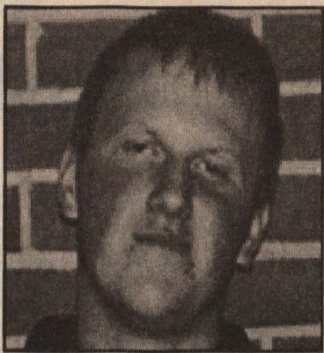
Giving up a little privacy is worth it to protect America against terrorists

By John Jennings

Much has changed since President George W. Bush took office in 2000. An overlooked threat has risen in the form of terrorism. Because of this new threat, the privacy of the American people has been invaded. Just after the Sept. 11 attacks, Congress passed the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act, or the USA Patriot Act for short, which is designed to enable both American police forces and counter-terrorism forces to better fight the war on terrorism.

The war is not in a foreign country anymore, it is on our doorstep. It is being fought on our streets, because that is where the terrorists now reside. That is why the Patriot Act was created. Many people have misconceptions about the act, thinking that the government taps into our phones and puts surveillance on everyone like some Orwellian nightmare. This is not the case. We are not living in George Orwell's, "1984."

The only thing the act changes are the standards for which wiretaps and surveillance are conducted. Law enforcement once needed definite proof for a judge to let them listen in on phone conversations.



This means that the law enforcement and federal agents have more freedom in order to build a case against a suspected terrorist.

It is now easier to get search warrants or court orders allowing surveillance. Law enforcement can just get one warrant for a person and use it everywhere. That means if the suspect had dealings in DuPage County, but lived in Cook County and worked in Kane County, then law enforcement under the Patriot Act only needs one warrant. Before the act, law enforcement would have needed three separate warrants that take much longer to obtain, allowing the terrorists time to get away.

The Patriot Act does not mean that now everyone in America will be watched non-stop. Our government has not turned into "Big Brother."

There is no reason to be against the Patriot Act. Hypothetically, you could have a phone conversation or two listened in on, but it is well worth it if it helps prevent another Sept. 11. It would be wrong for our country to not do everything in its power to prevent another attack. It would dishonor those who died fighting terrorists if we did not do everything in our power to fight them. I am willing to give up a little privacy if it means a terrorist is caught, as I hope every other American is. My question is, what do people have to hide that is so important? What do they talk about that they don't want the government to hear?

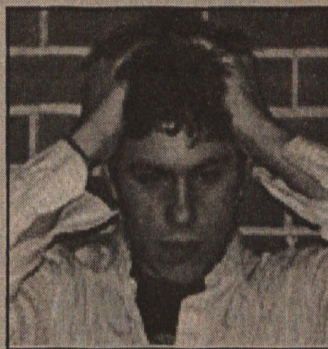
I think it is more important to stop those trying to destroy America. We need to protect our homes at any cost, even if it means giving up a little freedom.

The Patriot Act unnecessarily invades the privacy of the American people

By C.J. Hinojosa

Indeed, much has changed since George W. Bush took office four years ago. But as you know, change isn't always good. For instance how about a complete stampede by the Bush administration upon the Bill of Rights? That's one of many new moves under Bush, and it's called the U.S.A. Patriot Act, ironically enough.

The Patriot Act allows the FBI a warrant, whenever they need it, to do something like come into a library, pick up a computer containing data they've deemed "questionable," and walk away with it. Maybe that's not a big deal, but the catch is, you can't tell anyone why that computer is missing. And if you're the librarian, you could very likely lose your job over that incident.



How can you say the war isn't in a foreign country anymore? The "war on terrorism" was officially said to be in Afghanistan at first, yes, but now it's in Iraq, where it's been for quite some time, getting nothing done while wasting money and more importantly, lives.

As Bush has so ignorantly phrased, we are supposedly "hunting down the evil-doers and smoking them out." It's all jin-

goism, as he would say.

Now, one thing you should know is that the Patriot Act was passed without any public hearing or debate whatsoever, and there was no conference or committee report held to go over its policies.

Here's the shocker: congressional representatives have said that almost no one even read the bill. Which means that it was passed based on its advertising premise alone: increased government power, all the more with which to capture terrorists.

The powers described within the act's transcript were granted to Bush. And that is a very un-democratic, un-American thing. In fact, it's fascist. But it seemed like a good idea at the time, didn't it?

The Patriot Act sacrifices our freedoms at the mercy of national security, with no respect to a timeless document of American values, the Bill of Rights. Some of the act is not controversial, but the other half radically is.

It's extremely paranoid, placing cameras almost everywhere and making even schools police states. I don't think it's too farfetched to say Orwell had a vision in "1984," and that a form of Big Brother really is watching us.

I always thought Republicans believed in smaller, less regulatory government. Not these Bush Republicans. I'm not going to go out on a limb and call the Patriot Act the beginning stages of a dictatorship, but you can bet it's making the writers of the Bill of Rights, our founding fathers, a little uneasy in their graves. This is not the way it was meant to be.

Get Your War On, By C.J. Hinojosa

Somehow, even with all the warnings, Bush won again

Uh-oh. Nice going, everybody. Real smooth.

The election four years in the making is over, and ahead are four more years of President Forever, George W. Bush. Who knows? Maybe in the next four he'll come up with an amendment that will allow presidents to serve more than two terms, and he'll be around, God forbid, even longer.

I see a red door and I want to paint it black, as the Rolling Stones once said.

Well, I guess we just have to accept it. Defeat, that is. I always thought Howard Dean or Barack Obama would make a better commander-in-chief than John Kerry anyway. It's a shame that Obama said there's no way he would run for higher office in 2008. But come on. Let's just move on with our lives, however completely down the drain America may be.

I guess all my teenage activism was in vain. All those Bush signs I tagged with yellow paintballs in undisclosed locations. All the replacement Bush signs that I stole, even knowing about the \$50-per-sign fine that awaited anyone caught stealing. All the preaching to preachers preaching to bleachers. I couldn't have

even voted!

It was a bad situation to begin with, though. I knew it when I walked past a poster in the science hall that said "K vs. B: Whoever wins, we lose," and couldn't help thinking both, "How cute! That's just like Alien vs. Predator!" and how true it was. Don't get me wrong, though. Kerry would make a much, much better president than Bush, hands down, and I'll hold to that belief unless Bush somehow doesn't make a fool of the nation a second time.

And the Osama video released less than a week before election day? The one where he told America, more or less, "If you vote for Bush, very bad things will happen to your country. But not if you vote Kerry," apparently didn't affect anyone's decision.

I didn't take it seriously either, except for laughing seriously at it, but it held one underlying truth: Wow, the rest of the world really dislikes Bush. And wow, it's great to have a spokesman who makes you look so bad your only ally could soon be Monaco, a "country" the size of maybe St. Charles.

For example, Europe's reaction to Bush's victory was so negative and widespread, that the London Daily Mirror's

front-page headline read, "How can 59,054,087 people be so DUMB?" Case in point.

But is anyone wondering why the number of Americans immigrating to Canada has increased sixfold since Bush's re-election? If you are, you might as well ask yourself, "Is our children learning?" Because if the last four years are any indication, then the political weatherman might say, "Head for the hills, while you still can."

Perhaps it's fitting that Bush be sentenced to clean up his own mess: Iraq. But it's ironic that when our own country is so divided, we're trying to clean up other countries' civil wars.

Maybe we're farming other territory for future residence. Kind of like Mars. Who knows? Maybe someday we'll have political segregation forced upon us by law, just like racial prejudice. Liberals drink from that fountain, conservatives sip that one, and everyone else... no water.

Meanwhile, I pledge allegiance to the United States of Canada. Because that's where it's at, whether they like it or not.

Walters opens her heart to the elderly

By Kellie Virnich

While many students say they would like to do something to help out others, only a small number actually take the initiative to volunteer.

Senior Michele Walters, who has volunteered at her church and DuPage Convalescent Center for over five years, feels the reward of helping others more than makes up for the time it takes.

Most of Walters' responsibilities at the center involve helping the residents get to and from church. She also visits with the mentally disabled seniors. At Corpus Christi Catholic Church, she serves meals and distributes packages of clothing and personal items as part of PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter), and became very involved with the Youth Ministry Team (YMT) after her confirmation.

"I like helping people who can't help themselves," she said. "My parents are really proud that that I take the time to volunteer, and I love it."

Religion is a large part of Walters' life, and she got involved with YMT because she wanted to know more about Catholicism and help others discover more about their beliefs. She promotes teen involvement in religion for others by acting out skits and leading discussions with other members during regular church by weekly connects, outreaches, and annual youth retreats for

teens about to be confirmed.

"I like helping people find themselves. Religion is about more than God, and we discuss all kinds of teen issues like drugs and depression," said Walters.

She was unable to accompany the group on trips to Appalachia, where they fixed up peoples' homes, but promoted the trip and encouraged others in the parish to go and help.

She also visits her ex-boyfriend Lee Nolan, who is in a wheelchair after being hit by a

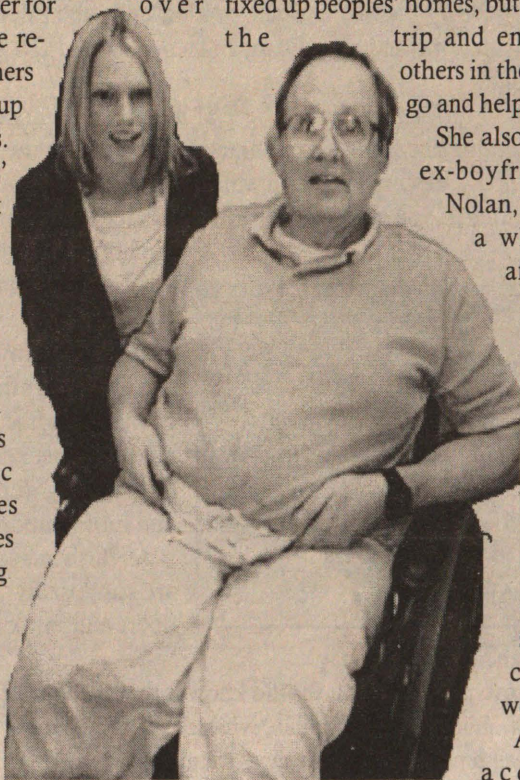
car. Walters does this on a regular basis, and she does not consider this charity work.

After the accident, Walters helped

Nolan's family raise money to pay for medical bills and make their home wheelchair accessible.

"A lot of teens don't volunteer because they're shy and uncomfortable around old and disabled people, but everyone's really friendly and excited to get visitors," Walters said, commenting that most teens also feel like they cannot make a difference. She said that this is not true, and that anyone can help someone else in some small way.

Walters plans to continue volunteering through adulthood, and hopes to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.



Hall learns the alphabet through strings

By Doug Sieder

A,B,C,D,E,F,G that's the part of the alphabet Jon Hall has been concentrating on, when two summers ago Hall decided to pick up a guitar and start playing it.

Hall began playing the guitar because music played a big part in his life. He also liked the idea that the ladies like guitar players.

Another influence on Hall's reason for playing the guitar was musician Dave

Matthews, who Hall has listened to and admired for years.

"Dave Matthews is part of the reason I decided to play guitar. Whenever you hear someone play well it makes you want to be the best you can be," said Hall.

He also loves Matthews for his different styles of music.

"If you listen to his music there are so many different styles and different keys. He plays music that is popular today all

the way to African music. He just has the best of everything," said Hall.

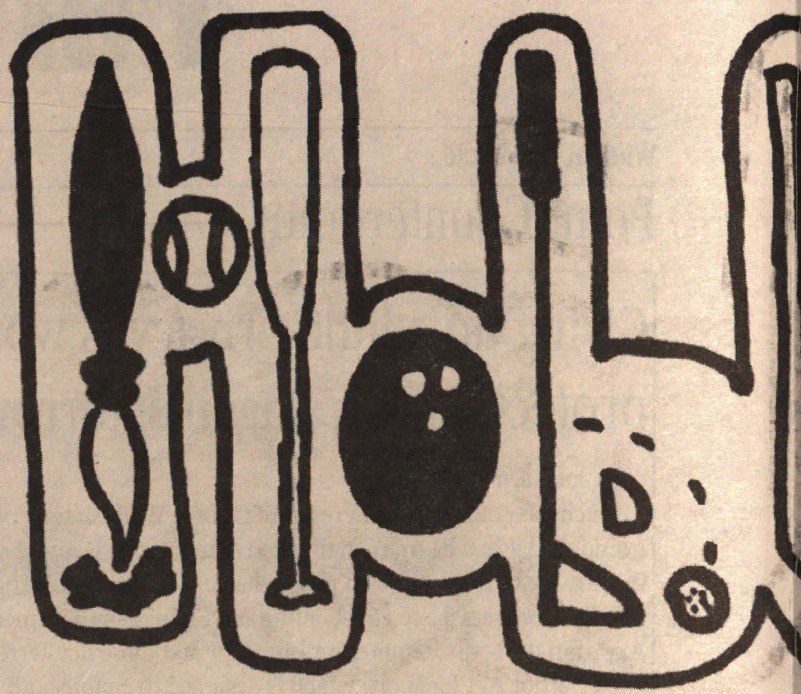
One of Hall's favorite things about the guitar is that he gets to work at his own pace. He likes the fact that you don't need anyone else to play with. Guitar is also relaxing and does not require much energy.

Hall said at the beginning it took him time to actually get into playing because it was difficult for him to learn, but now Hall plays the guitar every day. He also

takes lessons.

One of Hall's favorite parts about playing the guitar is that every Thursday night he plays at a coffee shop in downtown Wheaton where there is open mic night.

"Some of my best memories with my guitar is playing at Las Spiaza with some of my friends. I also like the fact that I get to play in front of my family and friends. It's just a good time," said Hall.



What Community students do after

Krecek lives her hobby rides free with

By Cristina Sarnelli

Saddle up and grab the reins!

Kate Krecek, a sophomore, spends her time after school horseback riding, something she has done for eight and a half years.

Krecek spends three days out of the week with horses on Dunham Woods Farm working with and riding on horses. On Mondays and Saturdays, she takes care of the horses by brushing them and getting them ready for the next riders. On Wednesdays, Krecek practices her own riding skills by doing flat class, which is riding with no jumps, and jump class.

Her favorite thing to do with the horses is jumping and working with them to see their reactions. Even though she has been riding for so many years, Krecek is still learning.

"I learn something new every time.

There is always something to learn whether it is about the horses or myself," she said.

Krecek's favorite horse at the barn is Essex.

"He is a good horse because he can do a lot more than some of the other horses can," she said.

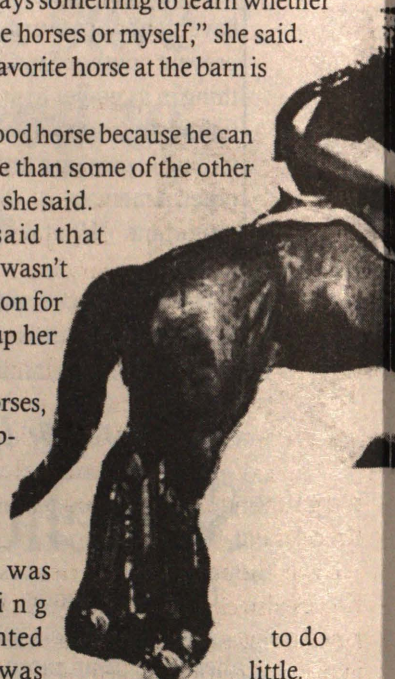
Krecek said that there really wasn't any inspiration for her to start up her hobby.

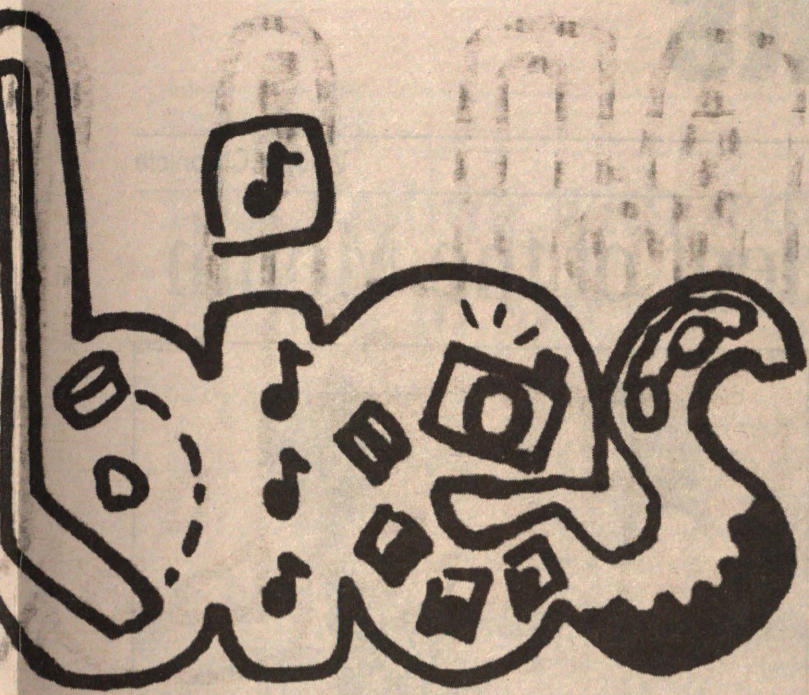
"I liked horses, so it just appealed to me," she said.

Riding was something Krecek wanted since she was

"My first lesson

to do little. was excit-





ty High School er the bell rings

er dream and h the horses



ing. I was happy that I was able to do what I've always wanted to do," she said.

Her favorite experience was going on a trail ride, but it isn't just any ordinary trail.

"It's not like a regular trail like what most people think. You go through forests cantering over fallen logs and jumps that are out there

and go up and down hills and through water," Krecek said.

Even though her experiences are fun, Krecek also encounters injury. Among the injuries are bites and falling off horses. Her worst injury was getting bucked off of a horse and falling onto a fence. Krecek didn't break any-

thing but was still hurt from the incident.

Krecek also felt bad when she found out that one of her instructors was leaving to work at another barn.

"I was mad when I found out about what she did," she said.

After eight and a half years of learning how to ride a horse, Krecek has many awards and ribbons from competitions that she has gone to.

At competitions, Krecek practices different skills with her horse including flat class and jumps. She has earned from first place to sixth and has also won reserved champion in 2002 which is like a runner up to the winner.

Krecek plans on continuing her hobby and hopes that one day in the future, when she has enough money, she can get a horse of her own.

Halberg takes a shot at paintballing

By Sabrina Potirala

Take aim and get ready to fire. Mark Halberg, a junior, has been actively paintballing for two years. Halberg knew it was something he would enjoy before he had even begun playing.

"My cousin and I always used to play war in the woods. When I found out about paintball I was instantly in love," said Halberg.

There are many different types of paintball games you can play such as wood ball or speed ball. Halberg's favorite game to play is wood ball and he plays on a team consisting of 8 - 10 people. Most of the time only 50

percent of the team shows up at one time.

Halberg does not mind though, he said all the team needs is one person to cover your back to have a formidable team.

"I wouldn't last one minute out there if it wasn't for them," said Halberg.

Strategy plays a major part in paintballing, and is one of the things Halberg enjoys about playing.

"There is a lot of adrenaline that runs through your veins as you play, not to mention it is a great stress-reliever," he said.

One move you can do that does not take too much strategy is move quickly and try to pick off the other team. Something that is more strategical, however, would be to sit and wait for someone to

come into range and, according to Halberg, "give them something for their ignorance."

To get that tactic to work, one must be extremely good when it comes to camouflage. However, those are just tactics of an individual. To command a team, Halberg believes you need some knowledge in combat.

"I read up on some of the greatest military minds in history. It gives us an edge against the others on the field," said Halberg.

There are three primary places where Halberg and his team meet up to play paintball. When they want to play for fun, they will usually play in Milintont. During the winter, Halberg and his team will try meeting up at any

indoor places. When the team feels like spending a little more money to play, they will go to Operation Paintball, located in Hampshire.

"This is my favorite place to play because it has the best field and the refs are cool too," said Halberg.

Halberg even owns his own gun which cost him roughly \$220, including upgrades on the original gun.

"It is a Spyder Image with an 18' 32 degrees upgraded terminator barrel. I'm in love with it," said Halberg.



Siefert's passion for film making goes to big screen

By C.J. Hinojosa

Jamon Siefert makes movies. He's even got his own film company lined up, Psychonaut Studios.

"I've always wanted to be a cinematographer, so I figured I'd set up my name and whatnot from the start," he said. "It's kind of like the Jamon trademark."

Most of the films he has done focus on extreme sports, from snowboarding to skateboarding, surfing and even paintball. What's his latest creation?

"I am currently working on a project for the (We-go) film festival, tentatively called 'Anopsia,'" Siefert said. "It's somewhat of a murder mystery, but that's all I can say at this point. I will release a few people in the project; They include Julie Evans, John Gaede, Andrea Huntzicker, and also, an actor everyone should know from our school's drama department and one of my long-time friends, Jon Hall."

As far as the filmmaking process goes, Siefert takes care of almost everything.

But not without a little help from his friends.

"I pretty much handle all the different parts of the process, from coming up with scripts, basic ideas, etc.," Siefert said. "Once I have a good plan, I try to get some friends to join me to help along with the process, both fleshing out the story and getting actors. You know, hyping the movie somewhat. Then it's time to 'shoot.'"

Then comes the tough part: editing. "Editing may be the hardest part of filmmaking," Siefert said. "Not only does it take loads of time, but learning the software to edit is quite a project in and of itself."

His advice to other aspiring amateur movie moguls and anyone who's ever watched a movie:

"I will say this about filmmaking: It's tough and it takes quite a bit of time. Most people don't realize how much time it takes for such a little amount of movie."



Paw Prints

Dalton leads as October Student of the Month

Leadership and dedication to school and extra curriculums earn Meghan Dalton the honor

By John Jennings

Meghan Dalton has been selected as the October Student of the Month due to her accomplishments both in and outside of school and her devotion to success in her academic life.

What were your accomplishments during high school?

I was band secretary for three years, band president for one year, JSA secretary for one year and president of JSA for one year.

What are your accomplishments outside of school?

I am the director of communications for the midwest cabinet for JSA. I was also chosen one of 60 students in the country to attend a leadership conference in San Francisco this past August.

Who has been your favorite teacher in high school?

My favorite teacher would have to be Mr. Leitner. In the beginning I was terrified of him, but over the course of the

year I learned a lot.

What has been your favorite class in high school?

Probably AP chemistry because I had to work my butt off, but Mrs. Tunt was amazing, and there was never a dull moment.

What is your favorite memory during high school?

There is a tie. Last year at the JSA convention Mr. Healy had us walking for almost 13 hours all over the D.C. until about three in the morning.

The other one was last year. Mr. Guter's final game had been rained out so the band decided to throw a surprise show for him in full dress on the field with the lights and an audience and he loved it.

Where do you plan on going to college?

I will be attending the College of Charleston in South Carolina.

What do you want to major in?

I want to major in international business and political

science, and I want to minor in Spanish.

What do you want to do for a living?

I would love to go into political affairs and hopefully work in the capital and work for the government someday, or enter into business and one day control my own corporation.

Why do you think you were chosen as Student of the Month?

I think I was chosen to be the Student of the Month because I have been a good student and I am involved in a lot of activities.



Photo by Brittany Blanchard

Meghan Dalton receives the Student of the Month award from School Board member Rich Nagel for her ability to lead, shown by her being president of both JSA and band.

College Column

Seniors begin the waiting period of the college application process

By John Jennings

By now, most seniors should be done with or finishing all of their college applications.

This year's seniors though, have not had problems with turning in their applications.

Maura Bridges, head of the counseling department, said,

"Everyone has done a great job turning in their applications. Nearly all of my students have a few applications in already. This year's seniors are the most diligent group of students I have ever seen."

Now that applications are in, the waiting begins. This time

of the year can be very tough for some students because of the anticipation and stress involved in getting accepted into college.

Some students have already received acceptance letters from colleges, and some will not hear back from colleges until spring. It all depends on what type of admission policy the school has.

Some of the terms that students need to know and recognize are rolling admissions, early decision, early action, and regular decision. Each one of these different policies requires a certain amount of time for applicants to receive responses.

Some schools have a policy of rolling admissions, which means that they will give you a response in about two or three weeks. Rolling admission is where the university accepts applicants as applications comes in rather than gathering a pool of applicants before deciding who to accept, and who to reject.

A school with an early decision policy means the student has to apply usually in November, and they will receive a decision much earlier than a regular decision applicant.

Early action is similar to early decision. If a student applies to a school that has an early action policy they will probably learn the decision by January or February.

Regular decision usually has a deadline between Dec. 15 and Feb. 1 and the applicant will probably learn the decision by early April.

Celebrating 100 Years

A glance back into the past...



THE BAND

Photo courtesy of the West Chicago Historical Society

Music is not the only thing that has changed with time. The 1930's Community High School band has seen a lot of changes in uniforms and size since this picture was taken.

Paw Prints

Fascination with nature draws Brolley to science career

Science department chair feels welcome in new environment

By Cristina Sarnelli

Being a science teacher is something that Peg Brolley wanted to do ever since she was little.

She said that when she was young she would go to a cemetery near her neighborhood

and observe the bugs and wildlife because she was fascinated with nature.

Teaching also allows Brolley to share her fascination with her students.

"I want to help students to appreciate nature," she said.

Brolley taught at Yorkville High School for five years and at Oswego High School for 10 years. She decided to come to West Chicago so she could

learn more.

"I was at Oswego High School and became comfortable, and once that happens, I don't feel I learn anymore," Brolley said. She added that the school had a lot to offer and that the staff was great.

Brolley teaches biology and is also the science department chair. She feels that being department chair is important so she and the science staff can

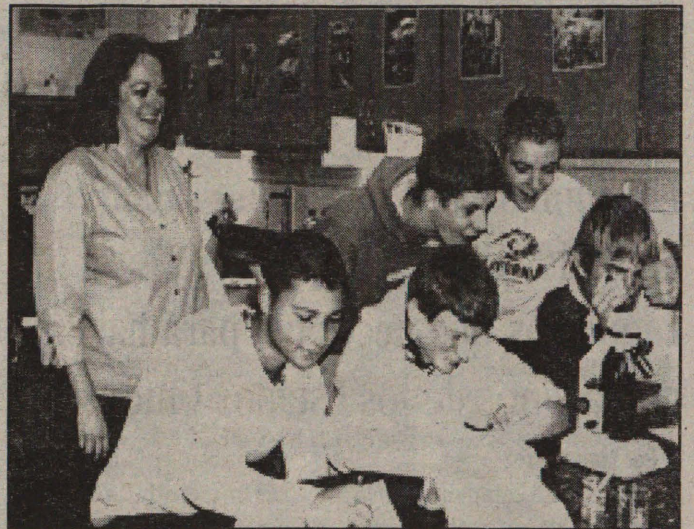


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Brolley shares her love of science and shows her biology students organisms in a microscope.

work as a team.

"I want to be available and

able to help the (teachers) as much as possible so they can help the students," she added.

Besides the first day of school, where Brolley was feeling tense about not knowing her students, her experience at the school has been good.

"I'm learning new things everyday and am enjoying my students," Brolley said.

She enjoys the science department staff very much as well.

"The science department is a great group of people who are innovative, helpful, and dedicated teachers," she said.

Brolley received her bachelor's of science degree in biology at Aurora University and two master's degrees from Northern University in curriculum and administration. She is working on a doctorate degree in curriculum leadership for Northern Illinois University.

In the future Brolley will be working with science and curriculum. Some of her goals are to improve the science department by "cleaning out the past" and making adjustments to benefit the students.

A passion for singing and music makes Erin Silk October's Artist of the Month

Silk, inspired by various musicians, is planning to have a musical career of her own some day

By Bridget Geraghty

Singing as often as she can, junior Erin Silk sings her way to being October's Artist of the Month.

Are you a soprano, alto, tenor, or bass?

Soprano.

When did you start singing?

Seven years ago, when I was in middle school. My teacher encouraged me to join a chorus outside of school.

Which musical organizations do you perform in at school?



Photo courtesy of Erin Silk

Erin Silk sings for people inside and outside the school.

I have been a member of chamber choir for two years, and this is my first year in concert choir.

Do you perform or have you performed in any musical orga-

nization outside of school?

I was recently accepted in the IMEA district chorus. I was also in Glen Ellyn's Children chorus for seven years, and I take voice lessons.

Which music group do you like performing in the best?

Chamber choir!

What kind of music do you like best and like performing best?

I like performing classical the best, but I listen to everything. I'd have to say I like alternative the best, though.

In what other activities have you been involved with in school? Out of school?

I have participated in the musical for the past three years and student council for a year. And I volunteer at my church a lot.

In fact we went on a mission trip to Tennessee for a week.

Do you plan on continuing to sing after high school?

After I graduate, I plan to go to the University of Illinois and double major in music education and vocal performance.

Which vocalists and people have influenced you most?

Mr. Fantozzi has definitely been a positive influence on me. He has helped me develop as a vocalist.

Without Mr. Fantozzi as my teacher, I probably would not have considered going into music as my major.

Besides that, Billie Holiday is one person I like listening to because she has great technique.

Does anyone in your family play a musical instrument or sing?

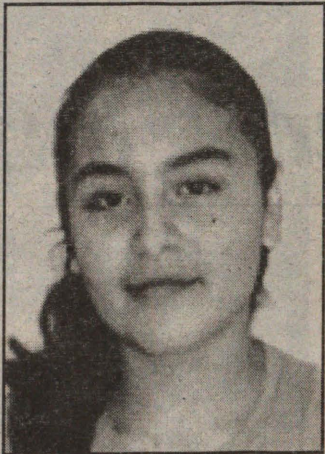
No, I am the only one in my family musically orientated.

Q&A: What is your worst Thanksgiving memory?



Kristin Johansen
Freshman

When we left the turkey out to thaw and we were going to put it in the oven. Our cat jumped up on the counter and ate the turkey.



Nancy Martinez
Sophomore

When my turkey got burnt in the oven because we weren't paying attention. I smelled smoke when we were preparing the rest of the meal.



Tom Delegge
Junior

I remember getting in a fight over cranberries with my cousin. We ended up wrestling on the ground during dinner. I thought it was awesome, but my family didn't, and I was grounded for a month.



Jessica Carter
Senior

Worst Thanksgiving memory would have to be seven years ago when my parents broke up and we had to share Thanksgiving on the same day with two different families.



Ben Warren
Sophomore

I remember when I was about four or five I had a little Barney (the dinosaur) doll and I was feeding it little pieces of turkey. Well the turkey wasn't really being eaten, but it left stains in Barney's mouth. Later in the night my dog ripped Barney's turkey-flavored head off and I cried.

Hacerse ciudadano estadounidense paso a paso

Los inmigrantes necesitan saber sobre los diferentes pasos y requisitos que necesitan para hacerse ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos

Por María Pérez

El gobierno estadounidense tiene un criterio alto para sus ciudadanos, especialmente sus inmigrantes que buscan el sueño Americano.

Las personas que nacieron en otros países sí pueden llegar a ser ciudadanos de EE.UU. pero primero tienen que ser naturalizados.

Antes que puedan ser naturalizados ellos tienen que ser residentes legales de EE.UU.

La única manera que un inmigrante puede hacerse un residente legal es si los parientes son ciudadanos estadounidenses, o un jefe manda una petición para que ellos reciban el estado de residente legal.

Después de que el inmigrante es otorgado estatus legal, ellos pueden aplicar por ciudadanía.

Si la persona tiene 18 años o mayor, ellos llenan el formulario Aplicación para Naturalización, también forma N-400 para el U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services (USCIS) en apropiados USCIS centros de servicio.

Si la persona es menor de 18 años, llena la Aplicación para el Certificado de

Ciudadanía, N-600, para recibir ciudadanía por parte de sus padres si son ciudadanos EE.UU.

Cuando entregan la aplicación la persona tiene que acordarse de no mandar documentos originales a menos que USCIS lo indica que deben mandar copias de los documentos.

Inmigrantes tienen que acordarse a pagar la cuota de aplicación y sacar las huellas digitales, si tienen menos de 75 años cuando mandan su aplicación.

Durante este tiempo el inmigrante tiene que haber tenido estatus de residente legal en EE. UU. por un periodo específico de años. Uno tiene que asegurarse de haya vivido en los EE. UU. sin salir por largos periodos de tiempo del país, porque el inmigrante tiene que estar en EE. UU. físicamente por una cantidad cierta de tiempo.

El USCIS citará una entrevista con inmigrantes para determinar si el inmigrante tiene buen carácter moral, porque el inmigrante tiene que mostrar que tiene buen

carácter moral de ser admitidos como ciudadanos estadounidenses.

El USCIS basará su decisión en leyes estadounidenses, y también en el tipo de crímenes que han cometido los inmigrantes.

Si la persona miente en su entrevista y el USCIS encuentra que mintió, ellos prohibirán que el inmigrante también obtenga la ciudadanía. Por eso los inmigrantes deben asegurarse de reportar cualquier tipo de arrestos

sin importar lo mínimo que sea, si no fueron arrestados o condenados, y si su record criminal fue limpiado. Si el inmigrante no le informa a USCIS de los crímenes que han cometido durante la entrevista, el USCIS les negará su aplicación de ciudadanía.

La persona tiene que pasar los exámenes de inglés y cívicas antes de jurar el juramento de ciudadanía. El inmigrante tiene que demostrar que tiene conocimiento básico de inglés en escritura,

lectura, y discurso. También necesitan un entendimiento básico de la historia y el gobierno de los Estados Unidos.

Al final el inmigrante puede repetir el juramento para hacerse ciudadano. En el juramento el inmigrante renuncia lealtades a países extranjeros, reclama que apoyará la constitución de los Estados Unidos y que ellos servirán los EE. UU.

El USCIS está cambiando el proceso de naturalización para asegurarse que nada más durará seis meses.

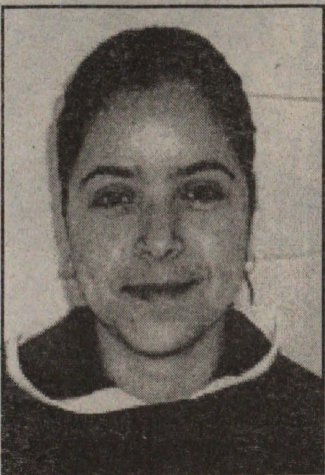
Requisitos para ser ciudadano de EE.UU.

Typo de aplicante	Tiempo como residente permanente	Tiempo para presencia física en los EE.UU.
Ha sido un residente permanente para los últimos cinco años y no tiene circunstancias especiales.	Cinco años sin dejando los Estados Unidos para viajes por seis meses o más	30 meses
Estas en las fuerzas armadas EE.UU. por menos de un año	Tienes que ser un residente permanente el día de tu entrevista.	No es requerida
Eres un trabajador o individual bajo contrato al gobierno EE.UU.	Cinco años sin dejando los Estados Unidos por seis meses	30 meses
Estabas casado a un ciudadano estadounidense que murió durante un periodo de servicios honorables en las fuerzas armadas EE.UU.	Tienes que ser un residente permanente el día de tu entrevista.	No es requerida
Si sirvió en una nave operada por los Estados Unidos o sirvió en una nave registrada en EE. UU. y es poseída por cooperación estadounidense	Cinco años sin dejando los Estados Unidos por seis meses	30 meses pero el tiempo que trabajó en la nave cuenta como tiempo en los Estados Unidos

Fuente de informacion... U.S. Citizens and Immigration Services

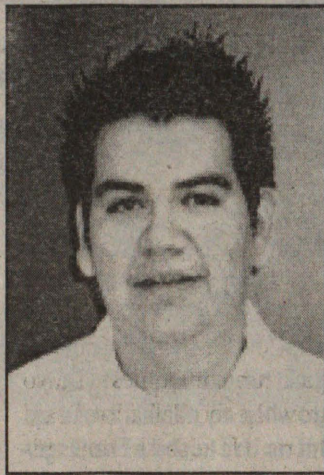
Pregunta y Respuesta:

¿Cuándo vino a los Estados Unidos?



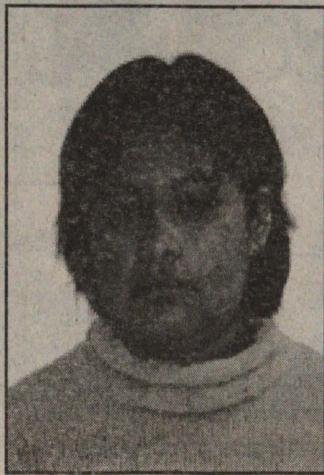
Karen Arreola

Llegué aquí hace dos meses y el propósito de mi llegada es para estar con mi familia.



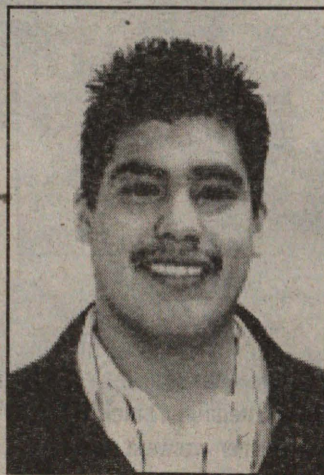
Paco Soto

Yo vine en agosto del 2003, porque quería una mejor oportunidad en la escuela y hacer una carrera.



Edith Moyotl

Yo vine el primero de septiembre para poder seguir estudiando y para superarme.



Fernando Moreno

Yo vine en agosto del 2003, porque venía de vacaciones y a mi papa le gustó y buscó trabajo. Lo aceptaron y nos quedamos aquí.



Jessica Fernandez

Yo vine el 12 de julio de 2003 y vine para buscar una mejor vida y educación.

Boys basketball team will rely on experience

As a new season begins, the team will counter a lack of depth with the experience they have gained through playing together

By John Jennings

Unity and teamwork are the building blocks of this year's boys basketball team. They hope that playing together for so long will equal a lot of wins this season.

As for expectations, the team is just looking to keep improving before its first game.

Head coach Kevin Gimre said, "I am looking for the team to improve day-to-day in anticipation that we will be ready for each game. Hopefully this preparation and readiness will lead us to many wins this year."

Some of the team members though expect bigger accomplishments.

Senior Carlos Santillan said, "I think that we will do pretty well this season. I think we have a chance to go all the way to state with the talent we have."

Senior Austin Monroe agreed that the team has a lot of talent and could go far in the playoffs if the team plays well.

"I think we are looking

good this year because we have a good core of seniors who have played a long time together," said Monroe.

Experience and leadership are just a few of the team's many strengths.

Monroe said, "Our unity is by far the team's biggest strength. We're like brothers because we have played together for so long and it helps us play as a team."

Gimre said that the experience of the team is key to its success and that the good shooting and defense are also a few of the team's strongpoints going into the new season.

One of the ways that teamwork will help the team is by taking care of the ball and preventing turnovers.

"Right now we need to get better everyday and we need to take care of the ball. We need to stop turning over the ball and make every possession count," said Gimre.

As for other weaknesses, the team suffers from a thin roster.

Monroe said, "I would say that our weakness is our numbers because we don't have a lot



Photo by Andrea Bradley

The boys basketball team practices hard to get ready for their competition. The boys work on their shuffling to improve their defense for the season.

of players so when people are injured it really hurts the team. But other than that we have no weaknesses."

Seniors will lead the team this year. Nine of the 12 players are seniors and Gimre expects them to lead the team and provide the experience needed to win.

The underclassmen though will also play a big part in the team's success.

Gimre said, "Their roles will be to help the team improve and to get used to playing at the varsity level."

Some of the games that the team is looking forward to playing are Wheaton North, Wheaton-Warrenville South, and Glenbard North.

Monroe said, "Wheaton North is fun because when you play them the fans are virtually on the court and the fans from the two schools often get into it during the game."

The Glenbard North game is special for the team because a lot of the players live in Carol Stream and they know many of Glenbard North's players personally.

For Santillan though, it is even more personal.

"I have a huge rivalry with this player named Dejesus on their team and I always want to beat him," said Santillan.

Wheaton-Warrenville South is a rival because when this year's seniors were sophomores, Wheaton-Warrenville South beat them to take the conference championship.

Athletes' daily routines help them stay in shape

Many athletes lift weights or work out in the off-season so when they return the next year they are still in good shape for their sports

By Doug Sieder

Many students play all different kinds of sports from football to track, they play sports from fall to spring, but what do athletes do in the off-season to prepare?

The season to athletes is the most important part, but what really makes them good is what they do in the off-season to prepare for it. In the mind of an athlete there is always room for improvement, and there are many ways to do this, and one of those is weightlifting.

"I lift weights in the off-season," said football player Mike Hanrahan. "I also play catch with my quarterback to get our timing down."

Hanrahan's quarterback, Ryan Morris from this past season, followed Hanrahan's example.

"I weight lift at Lifetime (Fitness Center) in the morning, and I run sometimes. I also throw the football a lot," said Morris. He added he does this off-season work so he can be the best athlete he can be.

Lacrosse and football player Brandon Kutilek also said weightlifting is a big part of his off-season program. He said he

weight lifts a lot, but that some of his lacrosse teammates play in an indoor league.

"We do the indoor lacrosse league so we can improve our skills," said Kutilek.

Weight lifting is not the only thing athletes do to improve their skills. Some athletes just don't stop after the season, and just keep on playing their sport for a team outside of the high school.

Basketball player Dana Hernan plays basketball all year around and still has time for volleyball.

"I played on a traveling basketball team during the spring and summer, while playing in spring, summer, and fall leagues for the high school," said Hernan. "I do this so I can dominate everyone I hate."

There are other ways that athletes can improve their bodies for the upcoming season and it doesn't involve running, jumping, or weight lifting. It's actually something everyone does everyday.

"I eat nutritionally because eating the right food affects an athletes performance," said football player Ryan Funderburke.

Athlete of the Month

Preventing goals brings Janek honor as Athlete of the Month

By Doug Sieder

November's Athlete of the Month is Bruce Janek for his accomplishments as goalie for the We-go soccer team this year.

Who inspired you the most during the year?

Definitely my parents, my friends, and my siblings. They all come to support me at my games whenever they could.

Do you play any other sports?

No.

What plans do you have after high school?

I plan to take over European sports and be the coach of a traveling soccer team. I hope to go to Bradley University.

Do you plan on playing any sports after high school?

Soccer.

What is your best sports memory?

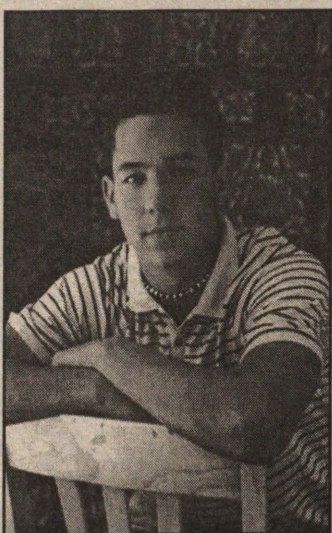


Photo courtesy of Bruce Janek

Bruce Janek's last year of high school soccer ends with a trip to regionals.

The win against Naperville Central- that was best game I ever played. The celebration afterwards was amazing.

What has been the best part about soccer?

Hanging out with the team and getting to know the guys.

What coaches have helped you achieve your goals throughout high school and how did they help you?

Marcus and Karsten Roythey have trained me ever since I was 10, and they still critique my game.

How many years have you been involved in soccer?

Twelve. I've played goalie every year.

What is your favorite sport other than soccer?

Golf and racquetball.

Have you achieved any awards in soccer?

In soccer I've gotten all-conference and honorable mention for sectionals.

Do you do anything special before each game?

I go to Jimmy John's, get a number one with no tomato, and a giant pickle, go home and watch "Rocky 4," get my head in the game, then play DDR to work on my foot work.

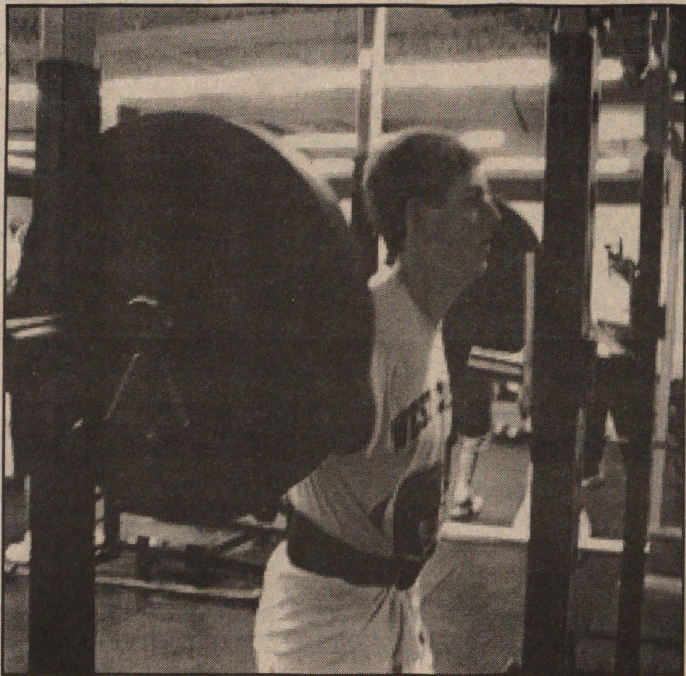


Photo by John Jennings
David Frommert stays in shape in the weight room. School officials plan to improve the weight room with newer equipment.

New equipment will help out PE department; new classes will be available

The weight room will be just one of the many areas that will be improved for future years

By Kellie Virnich

The federal government recently gave \$286,000 to the physical education department to revamp the entire curriculum and facility.

Community High School was one of only 11 schools in Illinois to earn a grant this year.

Every year, \$70 million is set aside to give to public schools across the country.

Schools had to apply for grants, writing long and extensive reports about what the money would be used for and why it was needed.

Community High School officials decided to apply for a grant, not expecting to be accepted the first time.

"Most schools get rejected the first year they apply for the grant, but Ms. Randle and Ms. Hasty did such a great job that we got accepted on our first try," said Dan Johnson, head of the PE department.

The money will be used to change the entire PE curriculum, first buying weight equipment and cardio machines to match, the new weight room facilities.

Then they plan to move from traditional gym classes to adventure education, with equipment like high ropes and kayaks, and eventually turning that wing of the school into a community health and fitness center.

The department's immediate goal is to change the way

students look at and get involved in gym class.

The grant will allow for a lot more variety in physical education classes, attracting a broader range of students, especially the ones who usually do not enjoy gym.

"We want to get kids involved who aren't athletes and don't want to be," said gym teacher Clay Reagan, who is now talking with different vendors about new gym equipment for next semester's gym classes.

Classes will be grouped with freshmen and sophomores concentrating on the cognitive aspects, like wellness and nutrition, while upperclassmen will continue the more traditional approach to both team and individual sports.

The department believes that this new system will give kids more knowledge they can use later in life, and an incentive to go to gym.

Though none of the money can be used to build new facilities, much of it will go towards training teachers to use the new equipment and possibly hire staff so that the facilities can stay open from 3:30 to 6:30 after school and during the summer.

The school eventually hopes to sell memberships to the community for night classes like weight training, spinning, and yoga.

"It took a lot of work to get to where we are," said Johnson, "and it's going to take a lot more to get to where we want to be."

Soccer season ends too soon for team with unexpected loss

Regionals did not go as planned

By Brittany Blanchard

The historic Wildcat soccer season came to a disappointing and unexpected end in October at the regional game against Geneva High School.

The soccer team, that went undefeated in the DuPage Valley Conference this season, was expected to go far during the post season; speculated by many to go to the state championship and bring back a victory. However, their successful run was cut short at the game that was to determine regional champions.

Senior Jessie Hernandez said the 5-3 loss was partially due to a lack of intensity and little mistakes We-go made

that Geneva capitalized on.

"We lacked intensity in that game and lost our composure after the first goal," Hernandez said.

Hernandez said that the loss was disappointing because the team's expectations had been so high.

"We expected to be more than conference champs. We really could have made it down to state this year," said Hernandez.

The team did not make it as far as they had hoped during the postseason but that does not undermine the victorious season and historical accomplishments the team achieved throughout the regular season.

"It was an awesome season.

We accomplished a lot of our goals and made a lot of memories," said Hernandez.

As for next year, the team has high hopes. Although the team is losing many seniors including, Victor Lopez, Jessie Hernandez, Miguel Tapia, Jesmar Rangel, Marcos Campos, and Bruce Janek, Hernandez believes the underclassman can achieve just as many accomplishments next year.

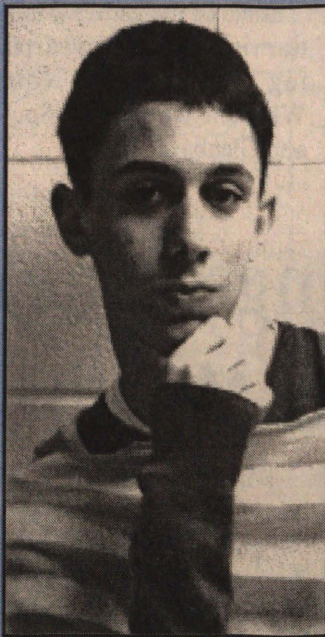
"The underclassman have shown that they have the heart that the upperclassman play with. I'm sure the team will keep up the effort and bring home a state championship next year," Hernandez said.

Head coach Steve Brugmann was unavailable for comment.

Harte to Heart

Dances start to cause problems

Celebrations in the end zone start to ruin reputations for teams; wild and insulting gestures become more popular than the plays



By Joe Harte

The cheer of the crowd, the adrenaline rush, and the team camaraderie; those used to be enough excitement for a football player after a touchdown.

But as the players get better, so do their outrageous celebrations.

A long time ago, in fact before I was born, there was no such thing as celebrations after a touchdown.

If a player made a successful play they would run back to the huddle and get ready for the next play hoping they could have the same success.

Today if a player has a successful play you can expect some dance or motion to

show off or insult the other team.

These cocky showboat moves were started by Bengal's rookie running back Ikey Woods in 1988 who made the Ikey Shuffle famous. The shuffle was the first end zone celebration fans had ever seen but certainly not the last.

As time progressed, the dances got more planned out and often more offensive to the other team.

One recent extreme end zone celebration was New Orleans Saints wide receiver Joe Horn calling his mom long distance from a cell phone that he had hidden under the field goal post. After he caught a long touchdown pass he picked up the pole padding and used the phone.

But the player who finds himself being most criticized for his crazy celebrations is Terrell Owens.

His first extreme celebration was when he pulled a Sharpie out of his shoe and signed the ball he just scored a touchdown with.

Owens' most recent end zone insult was just a few weeks ago against the Ravens when he imitated Raven's middle linebacker Ray Lewis doing Lewis' exact dance.

The sad part about these celebrations is that people are doing them over the smallest

things; they sometimes even do them when they are losing.

These dances are hurting teams not only on the scoreboard but also in the media. This season the Philadelphia Eagles has had to answer more questions about Owens' end zone antics than about the team's great start to the season.

Another example of a player hurting his team by excessively celebrating is David Terrell of the Chicago Bears, who got his team a 15-yard penalty for throwing the ball to a player on the other team after a successful play. The penalty took the Bears out of field goal range and they lost their season opener because of it.

Lastly, I know it's not the football players' responsibility to babysit, but sometimes you have to think about all the little kids that look up to you.

What kind of sportsmanship does that teach them? Now when those little kids score a touchdown they are going to start bouncing around like idiots.

There is no real reason to celebrate the way the players are doing now. Go ahead slap a hand, but don't do some goofy dance.