



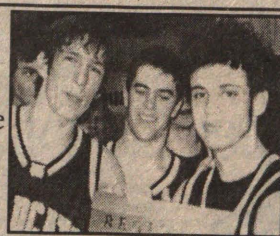
Student of the Month

See why Dale Szul was selected as February's Student of the Month. PAGE 12



Peace Corps

Learn why art teacher David Exner spent three years in the Peace Corps. PAGE 10



Boys Basketball

Basketball team brings home third regional championship in school history. PAGE 16

Airbag takes part of blame for death

By John Jennings

An inquest jury concluded recently that the car's airbag was at least partly responsible for Joey Stout's death, who was a graduate of Community High School.

Stout died after his car crashed into a utility pole on Kress Road. While the coroner's office determined that Stout's blood showed recent use of marijuana, the inquest jury found the death to be accidental.

They ruled that the death was caused by injuries from the impact of the airbag. The deployment of the airbag cracked Stout's ribs, and in the process punctured his lungs and injured his heart.

The National Safety Council states that airbags save lives. However, airbags alone are not designed to save lives. The use of an airbag should be in conjunction with a seat belt, which Stout was wearing at the time of the crash.

In an interview for the Daily Herald, John Ulczycki, director of transportation safety for the National Safety Council said, "It's extremely rare for someone wearing a seatbelt to suffer those kinds of injuries."

Key Club hosts blood drive

By Katie Taylor

Key Club will sponsor a blood drive on April 22, and encourages students to sign up to donate when they get back from spring break.

Students can make appointments to give blood with Key Club members during study halls and lunch. They will receive an informational packet for their parents to read.

Some restrictions do apply to those who can give blood. For example, those who received tattoos or body piercing within 12-month waiting period cannot give blood.

Also, donors must be over 110 pounds and at least 16-years-old, or if under 18, get signed approval from a parent.

Upcoming Key Club events also include participating in the annual Kiwanis Fish Fry at West Chicago Middle School on Friday.

International Week introduces foreign cultures to students

Presentations by students and staff give school a little taste of the world

By Maria Perez

From Europe to China, from India to Mexico, students had a chance to visit them all to experience culture from the world during March's International Week.

"When you're in the middle of planning it gets frustrating,

but when you see the performances and students reacting, then you know it was well worth it," said communications coordinator Mary Randle.

Randle, bilingual education coordinator Norm Kane, and the International Club put to-

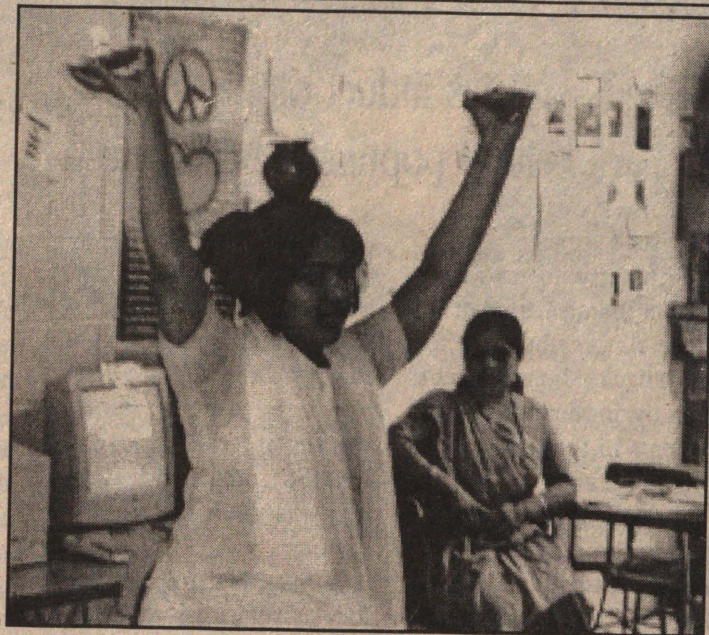


Photo by Brittany Blanchard

Naiya Panchal presented Baruthnathum dances to students and staff and was just one of many performances throughout the week.

gether International Week, with additional help from staff members and junior Jennifer

Linsenmeyer.

Randle said that the hardest part about organizing International Week was the small details, such as reserving rooms, gathering props, publicizing events, and coordinating classes.

"Even though we tried to keep things simple, because it was our first year, it was still a lot of work," said Kane.

In order for International Week to continue next year Randle said that all of the people involved would have to discuss the possibility of repeating it.

Some of the other factors to be considered would be how students and the public reacted to International Week, and finding the funding for the event.

"I would like to see this continued as an annual event, because I think we are a diverse school and it gives us an opportunity to showcase our diversity," said Kane.

Prom time and price decided

With information about dance in place, students can begin to make plans for their red carpet prom

By Brittany Blanchard

Bring out the cameras and dust off the walk of fame. Wildcats are headed to Hollywood for prom on April 29 at the Carlisle.

The dance is from 6:30 to 11 p.m. and tickets are \$50 per person or \$100 per couple.

Junior class student council president Amy Ackerman thinks this year's prom is going to be great even though student council just recently determined ticket prices.

"We needed to wait and see

how much all of the decorations are going to be before we could determine how much the ticket prices were," said Ackerman.

She said this year's theme, "We-go to Hollywood" will offer endless creative opportunities, including a red carpet and the paparazzi.

"The theme is really what's going to make the whole prom explode this year," Ackerman said.

Additionally, the after prom committee has put a new spin

on All Night Long, hosting it now at Gameworks rather than Bowling Green in hopes that the program will regain popularity among students.

All Night Long, as always, is offered to all juniors and seniors and their prom dates and will cost \$20 per person with transportation fees included.

Activities will include caricature artists, movies, pool tables and a variety of food.

Tickets for All Night Long go on sale during lunch hours on April 5, 7, 12, and 14.

Carrington named finalist for scholarship program

By John Jennings

Senior Chris Carrington is a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program. The scholarship program is for students who score well on the SAT test.

"I was selected because I had a really good SAT score of 1500, and I wrote an essay," said Carrington.

There are over 15,000 finalists, and out of them about 8,200 will be Merit Scholarship winners, winning approximately \$2,500.

"I hope I get some money. I want to go to the University of

Notre Dame, so I would like to have some more money to help pay," said Carrington.

In response to how he would feel about winning one of the scholarships Carrington said, "ecstatic."

Students initially qualify for the program based on their PSAT score, which is taken during junior year. Students are judged solely on their scores in the three subjects that the test covers. Those subjects are math, verbal, and writing.

Out of all the students who take the PSAT, 50,000 are selected national wide. Out of

those 16,000 are named semi-finalists.

The scholarships awarded are broken down into three categories. The three types are National Merit Scholarships, corporate-sponsored scholarships, and college-sponsored scholarships.

The National Merit Scholarship Program offers \$2,500 scholarships for all 8,200 finalists, corporate-sponsored scholarships are scholarships offered by companies, and college-sponsored scholarships are those offered by certain universities.

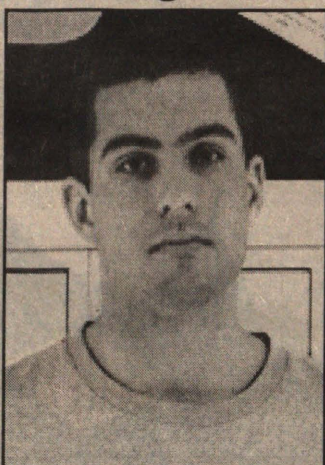


Photo by John Jennings

Because of his SAT score and an essay, Chris Carrington is still in the running for a National Merit Scholarship.

As foreign language gets more popular, their honor societies accept more teens

Foreign societies induct more students, teachers believe popularity is the cause

By Kellie Virnich

With more and more students enrolling in foreign language classes, the three foreign language honor societies recently inducted the most students in the school's history this year.

"I think language classes have become more popular because students realize that it is important," foreign language department chair and French teacher Marjorie Appel said. "Lots of colleges require it, it helps with jobs, and it increases opportunities like travel."

She said the societies' goal is to recognize students' commitment to foreign language.

The school has been involved with each of the three foreign language honor societies, Société Honoraire de Français, Delta Epsilon Phi, and Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, for almost 25 years, and the school has many teachers who are in the societies as well.

Every year, the foreign language teachers choose a former student who has used language later in life to speak

at the induction, and this year they chose Mercedes Koch, a 2000 graduate who majored in Spanish and psychology at Bradley University, and eventually became a family worker at West Chicago's Head Start program where she uses what she has learned every day.

"I basically give families the main essentials for living. Whether it's food stamps, medical care, or clothing, I enable them to get those things," she said.

Koch spoke to the students about getting a career in foreign language, the entailed benefits of taking another language, and how best to learn a foreign language.

"The only real way to become fluent in a language is to be surrounded by it," Koch said. "So I think the best way to learn a language is to study abroad, where you can hear it every day."

There were 59 students inducted in all, with 13 each into the German and French societies and 33 into the Spanish society.

(See Honor societies page 5)

Students "break free" from tobacco use with new program from school

The school created a program with the help of Breaking Free Inc. to turn students away from smoking

By Lauren Krage

A team of staff members, with the help of Breaking Free, Inc., has launched a campaign to increase tobacco awareness among the students of Community High School.

Throughout the school, signs are posted informing students that "3 out of 4 Wildcats walk away from cigarettes."

This campaign uses a technique known as social norms marketing to improve the perceptions of tobacco use that students hold by highlighting positive teenage behavior and enlightening students about actual smoking statistics within the school.

According to a survey taken by all students last spring, 75 percent of all Community High

School students have never smoked a cigarette, and 80 percent have not smoked in the last 30 days.

These statistics greatly differ from the notions of the students, most of whom estimated that 60-80 percent of their friends have smoked.

"That's the buzz you hear in the hallways," said Breaking Free staff member Irene Thraen-Borowski. "But we hope to increase students' perceptions."

Some skeptics of the campaign argue that students may lie on the survey, therefore tainting the results. However, Thraen-Borowski said that techniques, such as rewording the same question and comparing the results of the two an-

swers were used to determine which surveys to throw out. Only 1 percent were invalid at CHS.

Additionally, research indicates that when students know the survey is confidential they are more honest with their answers.

"When students first see the figures, their first reaction is usually disbelief, or that all the kids lied on the survey," said Kate Hodgson, another Breaking Free staff member. "Then when we explain how false surveys are found out and thrown out, they begin to see their peers and their community in a whole new light."

Success of the campaign will be measured by survey results of the notions CHS students have regarding tobacco use over a three-year period.

This campaign is also receiving national attention because it is the first of its kind to use bilingual marketing in the U.S.

Aunt Jemima is flipping over more than pancakes

By C.J. Hinojosa

There was much chili and fire-breathing to be had at Cara Blevins' Foods II Chili Cook-Off.

Four groups of students gathered in the kitchen and prepared their chili under the theme of their recipe, dubbing their creations Aunt Jemima's Southern Chili, Yankee Chili, Alex and Andi's Hot and Spicy Surprise, and Old El Paso Chili.

Blevins pointed out that a name like Yankee Chili was just the name of the recipe, not necessarily Yankee beans.

The themes were played out in each selection's décor and garnish; Yankee Chili was served on a baseball diamond, while Alex and Andi's chili had a fire extinguisher handy just beside the bowl.

"(Alex and Andi's) is really hot," said Patti Kozlowski, one teacher who filled in as a taster.

Five teachers judged the chili: Don Zabelin, Wayne Kosek, Marty Molina, Kozlowski, and Jeff Kargol.

When asked of his pick for winner, Kargol said, "It's kind of a wash between (Jemima's and Old El Paso). They're pretty good."

Aunt Jemima's Southern Chili ended up with the high-

est rating of the four chilies. It was adorned with a lone chili pepper that had "chile" carved into it. Each chili had its own special quirk like this, and most had soda crackers nearby in order to warrant a higher rat-

ing. The chilies were judged on recipe information, presentation, and taste, from everything to the folding of the napkins to the chili's distinct flavor.

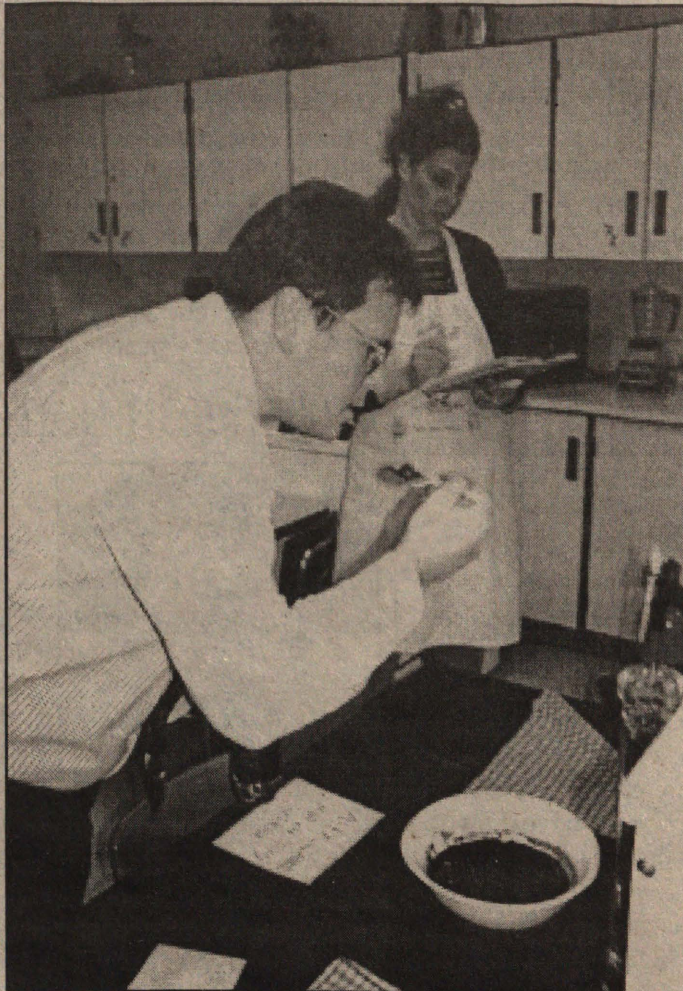


Photo by C.J. Hinojosa

Jeff Kargol preferred Aunt Jemima's, which eventually took home the highest rating of any of the chilies.

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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.

A year's worth of hard work unveiled during International Week

The completed immigration mural was ceremoniously put on display

By Maria Perez

Entrance C got a new look with the completion of the Bilingual Art Club mural.

The immigration mural was unveiled on Friday, March 11 and is now located near entrance C.

Club adviser Lorena Samaniego said, "We were very excited to have finished the mural. We had a great group of students who were very committed in coming to the club

every week when they could fit it in their schedule."

The mural represents the story of immigration, said Samaniego. It displays some of the reasons people choose to immigrate to the United States such as a search for better education, more freedom, and better career selection. It also displays some of the many struggles that people encountered on their journeys.

"We hope that the mural



Photo by Maria Perez

The Bilingual Art Club finally unveiled their immigration mural, something they have been working on since last year.

brings a sense of belonging to recent arrivals in the school in the bilingual program," Samaniego said.

The Bilingual Art Club made the mural with the intention of

making it a permanent part of the school. Samaniego thinks that the mural will relate to the students and the community for a long time.

"We hope that the mural ex-

presses the school's compassion toward these families who are enduring the struggles it takes to immigrate to the United States," said Samaniego.

Board of Education seeks to answer academic woes

By Kellie Virnich

After much controversy and heated debate, the Board of Education passed new school policies according to NCLB regulations, including policies covering graduation requirements, supplemental educational services, and transfer options for students.

Board member Tony Reyes stated his case against passing the policies for Community High School. He said that if no one agreed with the policies, which he had never heard anyone do, then they should not be enforced in the school.

"I'm not anti-policy; I'm anti-meaningless-policy," said Reyes, who stated that if the changes would do nothing for the school, they shouldn't be made.

While Supt. Lee Rieck agreed that the mandates were not practical for the school, he held that the board simply could not ignore the changes because they didn't agree with them.

"It really isn't applicable to our school . . . but we can't just break the law," Rieck said.

Many of the changes will have no effect on Community High School because of its location. Only four schools in DuPage County made adequate yearly progress (AYP), and these schools are already at maximum attendance. This means that students from CHS could not transfer to one of the passing schools, even though that is one of many things NCLB promises.

The change about graduating students with disabilities

is already used at CHS, but the mandate also stipulates that students must take the Prairie State Achievement Exams to graduate. These exams were, according to Rieck, "not taken seriously" by students and must now be enforced.

The NCLB policy about "dangerous" schools was another that currently did not apply to CHS, but caused the most controversy at the meeting.

The policy stated that students would be allowed to transfer from schools meeting all the following criteria for two consecutive years: expelling more than 3 percent of the students for violence-related activities, expelling a student for bringing a gun or other weapon to school, having 3 percent or more students attempt to transfer, and being pronounced unsafe by the Illinois State Board of Education.

While these events could happen at any school, the board agreed that there is little likelihood of it happening at CHS, looking at the current student population and the history of the school.

Some board members argued that it could also be incentive for schools that do have problems like these to stop expelling students who are a danger to others.

Board member Rich Nagel said, "Schools probably won't want to be labeled as 'dangerous,' so they won't expel the kids that should be."

The policy changes will go into effect next school year.

Librarians create and enforce new rules for students in library

Students now must have a pass to enter or leave the library, and must have some form of work to do

By Sabrina Potirala

New rules in the library restrict students from entering or leaving the library without a pass during all lunch hours were instituted recently.

The rules include getting up to the library on time, not eating any food or drinking, and for people in the library to have something to do.

Students are expected to treat the library like a classroom. This means that if a student is coming late into the library, they are required to have a pass from a teacher.

The same rule applies if the student would like to leave the library before the bell rings.

The staff members in the library were the ones that initiated the change.

"I realized that students would be mad at me, but I hope that the changes will create a new alternative," said head librarian Eric Bodwell.

The new environment Bodwell hopes to create is a place for students to be able to talk quietly to their friends, but for them to also have work to do.

"If students sit and talk to their friends then that is fine with me, but I would prefer it if they had something to work on," said Bodwell.

The new rules should help to provide more space in the library for students that go to

work on school assignments and projects.

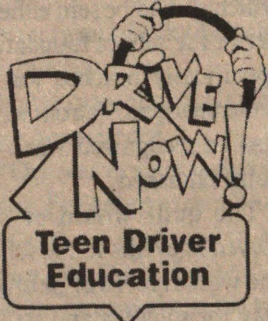
"We usually don't have any problems until the lunch hours. About 30 to 40 students come up and there is a limited amount of space because of so many classes coming up here for junior research," said Bodwell.

However, Bodwell does not want students to stop coming up to the library.

"We don't want to be police, we want the library to be a student friendly-place and we want students to be comfortable in their new environment," said Bodwell.

Despite Bodwell's good intentions, some students disagree with the new rules and find them to be against what the library is meant for.

"It's ridiculous to deny students the ability to do their homework. They should either stop giving kids study hours during lunch periods, or allow them to do their homework in the library," said senior Tania Dorsey.



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Mind's Eye looks for best art for magazine

After receiving numerous entries, Mind's Eye must choose the best to go in the magazine, appearing in May

By Katie Taylor

Mind's Eye members are busily reviewing work submitted to the Mind's Eye literary magazine, a publication of student art and writing that will be released during the first week of May.

"It's an outlet for artistic and creative people," said adviser Andrea Cobbett.

The magazine will include over 100 samples of artistic works, varying from drawings and photographs to poems and short stories.

"We're very open-minded; we looked for a large diversity in the entries that we received," said Mind's Eye secretary Kim Wanous.

Entries were due by Jan. 31 and were submitted openly or could be submitted anonymously by students.

"It's a great way for students to share and receive recognition for their work and their pieces of art," said Wanous. "I get to read so much work that people might not normally share."

About 130 written pieces and 75 artistic works were submitted this year, however only about half of them will be in the final version of the magazine.

"I entered two poems," said sophomore Val McCluskey. "It's a way to let others enjoy your work."

Centennial quilt needs help with creation and funding

By Kellie Virnich

In honor of the school's centennial, teacher Patti Kozlowski has begun a memorial quilt, covered with pictures, quotes and memories of the last hundred years, and is in desperate need of both physical and financial help.

"I wanted something visual that both current and former students and staff could appreciate, but I really need people to help make it and cover the cost," said Kozlowski, who teaches child development and clothing classes.

Her plan was to collect information from alumni of West Chicago High School, especially those whose descendants continued to live in the town, and those who have become prominent in their fields.

She made pamphlets with questions about how the people and the town have changed over the years, and distributed them to City Museum and several businesses in the area, hoping that people would fill them out and turn them in.

"I think we need human contact," she said. "There were flyers out at homecoming and they'll be out at parent night, but there has been little response so far."

In addition to information, Kozlowski needs volunteers to help with the construction of

the quilt. She will offer different clubs, activities, and individuals the chance to come in and learn the basic sewing procedure to be used on the fabric. Anyone who contributed to its construction would be recognized when it is unveiled, ideally by graduation 2006.

The whole process is estimated to cost nearly \$1000, and Kozlowski is currently writing to the school foundation to get a grant, but would still appreciate any donations, which should be sent either to her or the school foundation, specifically marked for the centennial quilt. Patrons would also be recognized when the quilt is finished.

The quilt would be displayed at events in the school and would otherwise be on display for students and staff to enjoy. The information would also be copied and put into several binders, which would be given to the town's museums and historical societies.

Kozlowski said that she decided to commemorate the century because she loves West Chicago, and that it deserves to be preserved somehow.

The questions from the pamphlet will soon be published at www.d94.org, and anyone with information can either call Kozlowski at 876-9377 or e-mail the information and pictures to pkozlowski@d94.org.

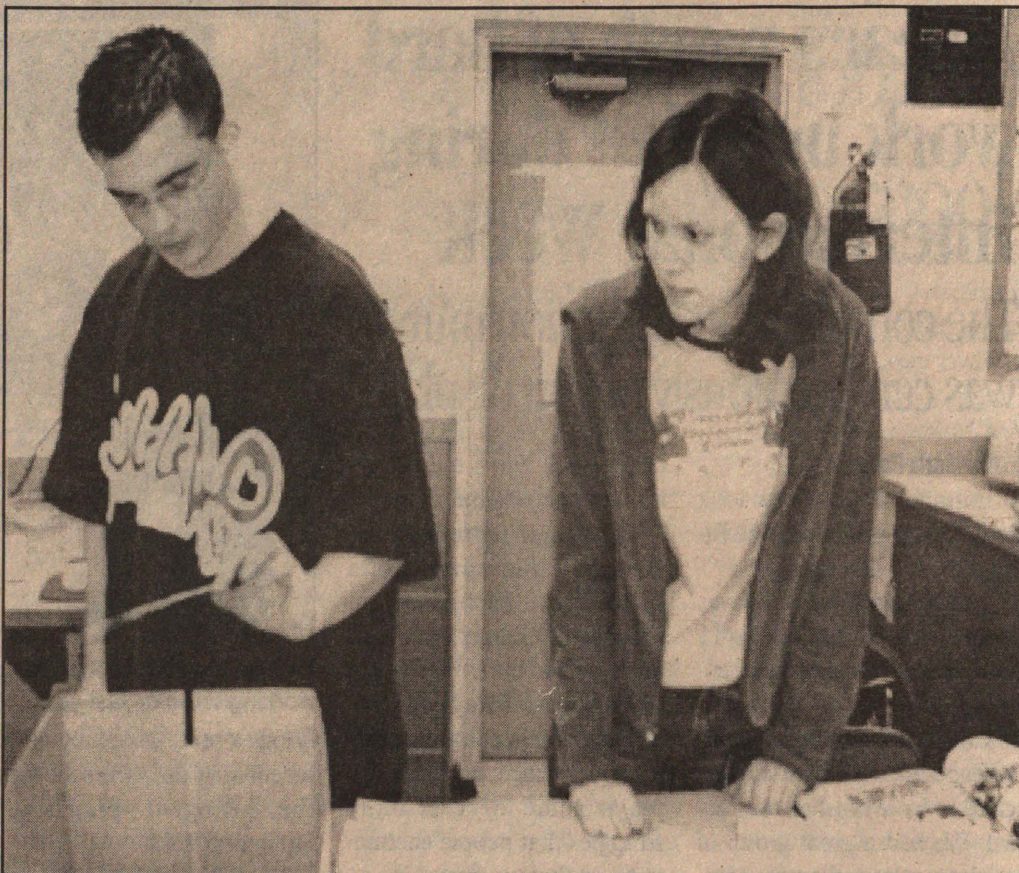


Photo by Sabrina Potirala

After receiving over 200 works of art, the Mind's Eye staff must choose less than half to go in the final product.

After all submissions were collected, Mind's Eye members studied all the entries and voted on which should make it into the magazine. They also

examined all written entries for plagiarism.

"I was pleased with what I saw," said Cobbett. "But there are some favorites."

The magazine can be purchased in commons for \$2.

"They sell out fast, so make sure to buy your copy right away," Wanous said.

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Scholastic Bowl takes third place at regionals

Chris Carrington and Jeff Burgess were named to the all-conference team adding to the team's success

By Brittany Blanchard

The Scholastic Bowl team wrapped up an exciting season with an impressive showing at the regional competition.

The school's team consists of 10 junior varsity and seven varsity competitors, two of which, Jeff Burgess and Chris Carrington, were named all-conference players at the conference tournament.

Head coach Nick Caltagirone said this year's team was a well-rounded

group.

"This was the strongest year We-go has had in the Scholastic Bowl, as far as our performance in conference goes, and all the members of varsity really contributed; it wasn't dominated by any one or two players," said Caltagirone.

The team finished the season this year with a record of 3-4 in conference and 4-14 overall, which is one of the best records in recent years.

The regional competition

Football field will get a makeover during summer

By Maria Perez

Next year's football players will be running on something other than grass, as artificial turf is being installed during the summer.

"The school is landlocked and there's minimal access to green space that is close to the high school. By installing artificial turf we expand our ability to use what open space we have," said Gary Grizaffi, superintendent of business.

Grizaffi said the reason the school is getting artificial turf is that it would give the school more efficient use of the football field for practices, games, physical education, and extra-curricular activities.

"I'm very much in favor of getting artificial turf. It will benefit all of the sports, the physical education program, and also the community. That's because it can't be over-used, you can't ruin it by using it," said football coach Bob

Stone.

Varsity football player Jordan Meissner agrees.

"I'm excited to be able to play on artificial turf next year. I always like playing on it at Wheaton because it's faster and gives you more support," said Meissner.

Artificial turf also doesn't get muddy or need to be replanted between games, Grizaffi said.

Varsity football player Mike Brezcek disagrees with the decision, "I would rather play on grass because this year I tore my ACL on artificial grass."

So far the cost is estimated at \$636,000. The artificial turf will be installed on May 15 and should be ready when school opens in August.

The money to pay for the field is coming from the \$7.5 million the school made from the sale of the High Lake Road property near Winfield which is becoming a townhome condominium complex.

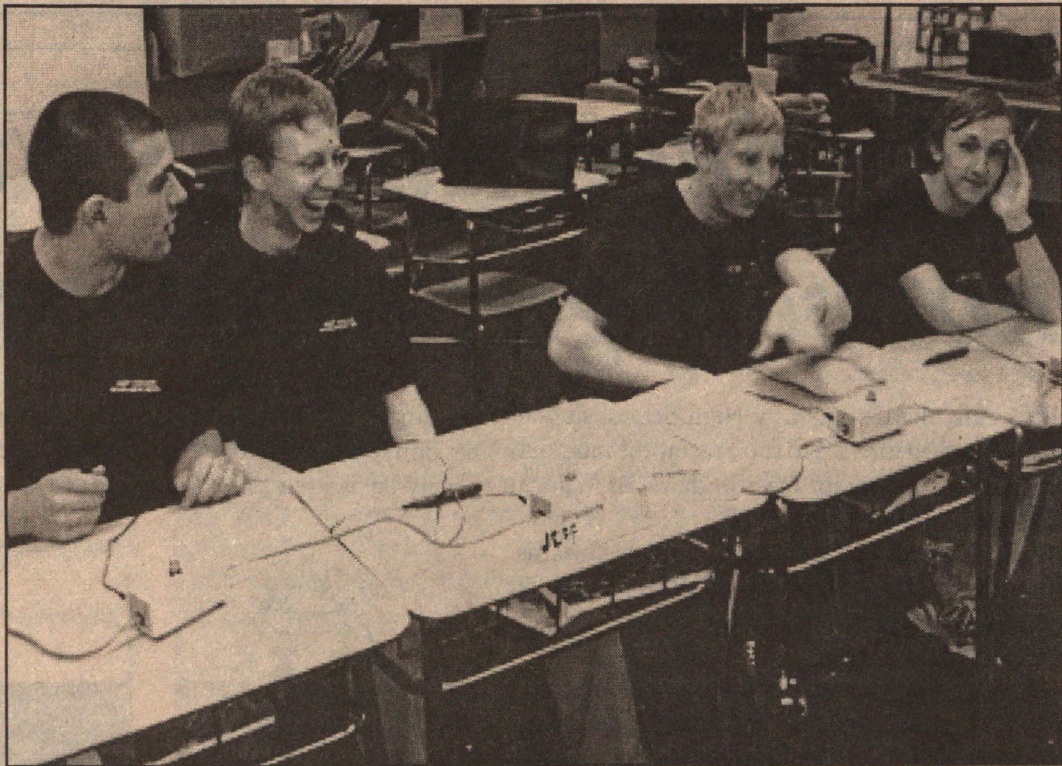


Photo by John Jennings

The Scholastic Bowl team made it to the second round of regionals, capping off one of the best seasons in recent memory.

took place at Wheaton Warrenville South (WWS) on March 7 where the team defeated St. Charles North with 203 points in the first round. They lost to WWS in the second round in a close game,

only scoring 168 points.

"It was a really close match—really close until the end," said Caltagirone regarding the match versus WWS.

Caltagirone is looking forward to the the program's con-

tinued success.

"I'd like to continue building the program, keep recruiting new members for both varsity and junior varsity, and remain competitive in the DVC," Caltagirone said.

Forensics celebrates personal achievements even after loss

Seniors Becky Bonarek, Bridget Geraghty, and Summer Hassan all had great years, even though the team came up short at regionals

By John Jennings

Although the forensics team had a disappointing end to their season, there are many accomplishments to be proud of and plenty to look forward to for next year.

Coach Jason Kling said, "We had a pretty good year overall, but the end was a little disappointing because no one made state and only one person made sectionals."

Summer Hassan made sectionals for radio speaking, which is a competition where 45 minutes are allowed for preparing a skit about a radio broadcast. The skit includes

six news stories, two sports stories, one weather story, and one commercial.

As for some of the team's highpoints, Kling said, "Summer Hassan had a really good end to the year by making sectionals, and both Bridget Geraghty and Becky Bonarek had terrific years."

Hassan said sectionals were a great experience.

"Our season went very well. It was fun going to sectionals and it was a great end to my senior year," said Hassan.

Bonarek agreed that the season was successful even with the disappointing end.

Honor societies... (Continued from page 2)

Inductees in the Société Honoraire Française are Alexandra Breinig, Abigail Cole, Ashley Conway, Denisse Espino, Carissa Gerber, Rachael Hasse, Bethany Inch, Miriam Padilla, Abigael Sherby, Natalie Steward, Maggie Stremel, Elena Suarez, Kimberly Wanous.

Delta Epsilon Phi inductees include: Merrick Doll, Abigail Gerwin, Rachel Hellman, Tim Kirincic,

Michelle Krueger, Meghan Larson, Scott Lichtfuss, Valerie McCluskey, Matthew Miller, Bradley Rathe, Daniel Rizzo, Elizabeth Stout and Thomas Wood.

The inductees into the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica include: Jennafer Bedard, Christina Briggs, Jenna Bodie, Jacqueline Boyd, Anne Caputo, Kevin Carrington, MaryPat Flanagan, Samuel Flens, James Foreman, Nicholas Gorski, Cameron

Jimmo, Peter Kiger, Peter Konchar, Paige Kulie, Ian McKoy, Kathryn McLeland, Katrina Means, Kevin Michaelson, Steven Migliorato, Rebecca Mueller, Mary Nichols, Miranel Obdin, Ashley Richards, Julia Shallcross, Amy Smolucha, Deborah Sosnowski, Anne Marie Sticksel, Heather Stoeberl, Nathan Sullivan, Leigh Taddeucci, Joseph Tedeschi, Jamie Voelz and Christine Williams.

"The end was disappointing, but overall, it was the best year out of the four. I accomplished things this year that I didn't think that I could do," said Bonarek.

Next year ought to be a successful season because the team is returning a lot of experienced sophomores and juniors.

"We have a great sophomore class this year, so we are excited about having a good team next year because we have experience in a lot of events," said Kling.

Next year Kling predicts good seasons from Rachel Hasse, Dave Taylor, and Dave Thomas.

"We want to continue to build the program, make it more visible in the school, continue to grow in numbers, and hopefully rebound and have a good showing in sectionals," said Kling.

Lifsmarts wins state level

By Jennifer Konewko

The ninth annual Lifsmarts State Competition that was held March 8 ended in victory.

The team took first in the state and will move on to nationals held in San Francisco in April.

The team includes Jacob Bermudez, Tom Walsh, Tim Bolt, Ryan Funderburk, and Joey Station.

The school hosted the event and consumer education teacher, Don Zabelin, who is also the state coordinator of

the Lifsmarts events, could not be happier.

"Our students spent a great deal of time preparing for this event," he said.

Zabelin has high hopes for his kids. "Two years ago we were fourth in the nation, we have a stronger team, we can surpass that," he said.

Zabelin said the team has a true passion for learning their topics and getting to practice "It's fun. They think up questions to ask and we all compete for the answer first," he said.

Our View

Introducing a Miss Wildcat will not help girls achieve equality

For years, the Community High School student body has looked forward to showcasing the most outgoing girls of the senior class in the Miss Wildcat competition.

Wait a second. That sounds a little backwards. Who said anything about Miss Wildcat? Isn't that supposed to be a guy thing?

The answer is yes.

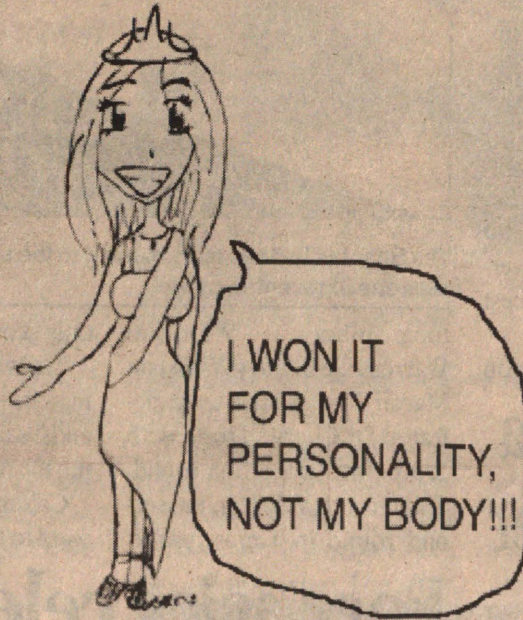
In reality, the senior men have danced, sang, and overall entertained students through their charismatic and comedic personalities during the Mr. Wildcat competition for over 25 years.

If people attempt to begin this same tradition with girls, it frankly will not have the same effect.

Now, this is not to say that girls can not do everything that guys can, because that is absolutely not true. Women are equal to men in every way.

In fact, women have activities of their own that are strictly "no boys allowed." How many guys are on the poms squad? Though males are technically allowed to join, it is not quite a social norm, and it definitely would not be accepted amongst their peers. Therefore, Mr. Wildcat cannot be discriminatory against women because guys are not included in everything girls do, so why do girls feel the need to force their presence upon events that are traditionally strictly for men?

Additionally, because the format of the male competition will be used for the girls, Miss Wildcat completely lends itself to a beauty pageant. All that is



missing is the swimsuit competition.

The male version of this competition is half a beauty pageant for guys already; the only reason it escapes criticism for focusing on looks is because it has com-

edy in it.

Adding to the pageant feel, many girls in the audience respond to the displays onstage with screams and cries of "I love you, Johnny!" and "Fred is hot!" while other, less exuberant females whisper to friends in the next seat, "Tom looks so great in his tux!"

Despite all the swooning, the most talented man does usually win; however, he's almost never the crowd favorite. The next week in school, the talk revolves around how cute the guy was who serenaded his girlfriend or how hilarious another was while dancing like an idiot. Not how good the winner sang.

If girls were to be put in the same format, guys would be yelling out how hot they are and commenting how each looks in evening wear, and they frankly won't care about their talents.

Further, it is a known fact that a larger portion of the girls are involved in fine arts such as singing, dancing, and playing an instrument. Therefore, what began as a display of comedy from guys who can not dance, sing, or play anything will become a competition for girls who can really do these things.

Now, this is by no means a bad thing, but the point is, a sense of humorous entertainment vital to a Wildcat competition is lost.

We already have a talent show. We do not need another.

Letter to the Editor

Equal opportunities for girls is one thing; yet a pageant based on looks and/or lack thereof is something different.

Mr. Wildcat has been a tradition for more than 25 years for Community High School senior boys to show off their talents. Whether it be singing a love ballad, showing off one's num chuck skills, or making the audience laugh; Mr. Wildcat has always been about the talent each boy possesses, not about how hot (or not) they are.

Having a Miss Wildcat competition would turn into a beauty and popularity contest. After reading the February "Miss Wildcat coming soon" article, I noticed that the competition offers nothing but a superficial perception towards girls. There is not one reference regarding talent or personality. By stating that the contest is only for girls that aren't "really skinny," or for "The girl without the huge chest," is ironic and contradicting.

If Miss Wildcat is supposedly meant to generate equality, then why is there no mention of talent or character in the plans for the competition? Why is Mr. Wildcat based on the skills and qualities of the boys but Miss Wildcat is focused on nothing but looks? I would definitely not call this an attempt for equality, but more like a clear explanation why there has been no Miss Wildcat contest up until now.

Holding a Miss Wildcat competition would promote equality but only because it would be offering the same opportunities to the girls. However, a Miss Wildcat competition would greatly reinforce society's objectification of women and the depiction that women are to be identified by the way they look and not by the content of their character.

Unless Miss Wildcat focuses only on personality and talent, not on appearance, Community High School should leave the competition for boys only.

—Kayla Harris

The recently popular diet that promises hearty health turns out not to be so heart healthy

Most teenagers will tell you thin is in. But health experts say this attitude is shaping up to be a dangerous trend for teens.

Young people are doing what is being called "extreme eating": leaving out entire food groups like dairy or meat from their diets in order to lose weight.

A popular diet today among adults and teenagers is the high-protein diet.

Serious athletes and bodybuilders have long been high-protein proponents. Then in the 1970s, "The Complete Scarsdale Medical Diet" and "Dr. Atkins' Diet Revolution" hit the scene, both based on the theory that too many carbohydrates prevent the body from burning fat and dieters should fill up on protein. Scientists slammed the plans, and for a while, carbs reigned as the diet food of choice.

Now, high-protein-diet books like "The Zone" and "Protein Power" are flying out of bookstores and Dr. Atkins is back, pushing butter-drenched lobster as diet food on infomercials.

These high protein diet plans promise easy, fast, weight loss, and the perceived image of being "buff." But do they deliver?

Instead of helping weight control, high-protein diets can be unhealthy, and tests show they are unlikely to lead to long term weight loss.

What many do not realize is that high-protein, low-carbohydrate diets, trick the body into reacting as if it is being starved. Sure, there are often dramatic initial results, but the results do not last. Worse than

this, the process itself damages and stresses the body, sometimes so severely that there is permanent liver and kidney damage, and possible death for the dieter.

The recommended daily allowance of protein for healthy adults is 0.8 g/kg. This is approximately 56 grams of protein per day for males, and 44 grams of protein per day for females. However, the average consumption of daily protein for Americans between 20-39 years of age is 102 grams of protein per day for males, and 64 grams for females, according to the Mcdougall Wellness Center.

On a high protein diet, some of the weight loss can be from loss of muscle. Once you are no longer supplying the body with a steady source of glucose, the body turns to its stores of glycogen in the muscles. When glycogen is liberated from muscle tissue, water is also released. The quick weight loss experienced is from the breakdown of muscle to get to the glycogen, and the accompanying water release. The more water you lose, the more weight you lose. The downside is dehydration, and loss of muscle.

Instead of chewing on a cardboard flavored protein bar to "buff" up and lose weight, stick to a diet based on complex carbohydrates with the addition of fruits and vegetables. This will cause effortless, permanent, healthful weight loss without restricting food or causing hunger. You can eat delicious dishes such as minestrone soup, chili, and bean burritos and you will not ever have to make yourself sick again with fried cheese cubes wrapped in bacon.

Point/Counterpoint

Flash orange for torture

By C.J. Hinojosa

If anyone remembers the shocking pictures of American troops sodomizing Iraqi prisoners that dominated the news for about a month last year, they should recall the feelings they had over them. Did anyone feel such torture was right or needed? That it could even be fun, like the soldiers' faces suggested? How is it productive to pile naked Iraqi men on top of each other and tie them up, because they are suspected terrorists? This is what torture is, a pointless act.

You see it all the time in action thrillers and it's been used for centuries, with more primitive methods like the infamous "tar and feathers." It's unnerving just to watch it.

Torture is commonly used in wartime, when one side captures an opposing soldier and tortures him. "We have ways of making you talk," you might hear. The torture takes place for the sole reason that the soldier is fighting an enemy. He could've been drafted, and may not even support the cause for which he thrusts his bayonet. It doesn't examine his spirit and real motives.

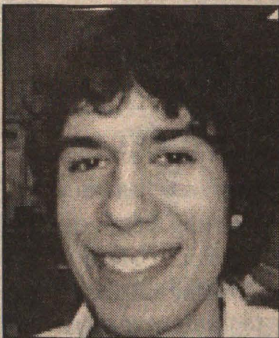
Maybe what society needs is a little shake-up. When high school students support violent things like torture and war, it goes to show how off the mark the "norm" is. People everywhere are being brought up intolerant with their own personal jihads, and it's terrible that the minds behind 9/11 had to attack America with the belief that all Americans are greedy, nationalistic, warmongering, and self-serving. That is simply not true.

In "Fight Club," Edward Norton's character blows up seven major credit card buildings without killing or injuring a single person. If human life is the target in any operation, the operation should be stopped, or simply should not be. In a perfect world, the world we aspire to live in, it would be that easy. But by using torture, we are simply reaching a low level used by killers, like we are with the death penalty.

Yes, torture violates human rights, although not on the same plane as murder, and it doesn't always lead to solid information. So why bother stretching people out, holding them at gunpoint, psychologically tormenting them, or slitting their throats? Of course, no one wants thousands of people of any nationality to die, ever. When they say it's only logical to torture a killer, I react, as logic is not the language of my heart.

To wish for such a terrible occurrence is both inhuman and heartless. If someone does not care for a particular group and plans to attack them, they should first consider that these people have families and people who love them. Such an action would affect several people, and vengeance would surely rear its head. And yes, Sept. 11 was an extremely tragic day, but it has become a stigma, an excuse to always fight fire with fire. Which only causes more fires, maybe even nuclear ones.

And when our country uses different colors to gauge how much terror is about, with the Bush Administration's newborn Homeland Security department, it's crazy. How about a torture meter? It's flashing orange, let's bust out the tar and start feathering!



Justifying hurting people

By John Jennings

After reports surfacing about the United States sending Iraqi and al Qaeda prisoners to other countries to face torture to retrieve information, many have asked the question of whether it is right to torture suspected terrorists and other threats to society.

Some believe that it is necessary and vital to the safety of our country that information be obtained using any means necessary, while others who oppose the torture of terrorists say that it is both morally reprehensible and it will not achieve the desired results.

Those who oppose the use of torture state that torturing others violates their basic rights and that it may not lead to solid information.

While torture may be construed as a violation of human rights, it should not prevent the use of torture. American citizens must keep in mind that the people who will be tortured would have no regrets in murdering thousands of innocent men, women, and children. How can one give rights to those who are trying to take one's basic right to live away from them?

The fact is that these terrorists are willing and eager to murder those who oppose them, and have no reservations about doing so. When faced with this attitude and blind fundamentalism our country has no other option except to turn to torture.

Around 3000 people died in the Sept. 11 attacks of 2001. If another attack such as that could be prevented through the use of torture, it is only logical to use torture. The lives of thousands of innocents outweigh the health of one terrorist. This is the only logical conclusion.

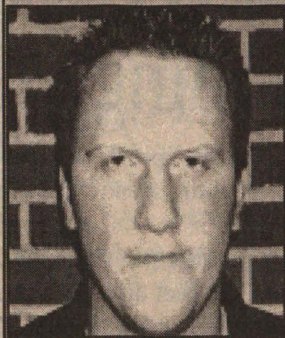
Many critics state that torture will not provide authorities with truthful information and often use the line that, "people will say anything when tortured." This is exactly what many are counting on though. If people are liable to say anything when tortured, then it stands to reason that they will also spill all the information that they have about future terrorist attacks.

Granted, there will be other information that is wrong, however if our information agencies are able to stop one terrorist attack through the use of one piece of information out of a thousand interrogations, then it is worth it. That one terrorist attack could cost thousands of lives. These fanatical terrorists will not give up the necessary information through normal interrogations. They are not going to just divulge all the secret plots. There is no other option other than to get the information out of them using torture.

While some say that it is just wrong, they must look at the big picture. What is worse: one tortured person or a thousand dead Americans? Logic says that the torture must be performed for the greater good of society.

We cannot give rights to those who give us none and try to murder us. If the United States does not stop them, these terrorists will kill innocent Americans, and this must be prevented at all costs.

The fact is, when it comes down to crunch time, how many of you out there are willing to sacrifice yourself for the health of a terrorist? When the issue becomes personal, the answers start to change.



Indecent or not; it should be up to the people to decide what is appropriate in the media

By Kellie Virnich

This country has always been based on the principle of freedom of speech. It was one of the first rights promised by the Constitution and has been something the nation has prided itself in upholding, until now.

Under the Bush regime, Congress is in the midst of approving the Broadcast Decency Act, which is basically a belated reply to last year's Super Bowl controversies. The act will fine TV and radio stations for any single incident of "indecent" in the media, such as one off-color word or a racy outfit. Not only will the station broadcasting the offense be fined, but the actual person will as well, up to half a million dollars per incident. This is more than many people are fined for committing dangerous crimes like assault or drunk driving.

This law is certainly an impractical one, wholly up for interpretation. What one person finds indecent might be completely acceptable to another, Republican or Democrat, teenager or grandparent. And it shows that Big Brother is back from the 1950s to interfere with the people once again.

This law will also show how selective the Federal Communications Commission can be when they use any excuse to fine certain stations, and tend to look away from others.

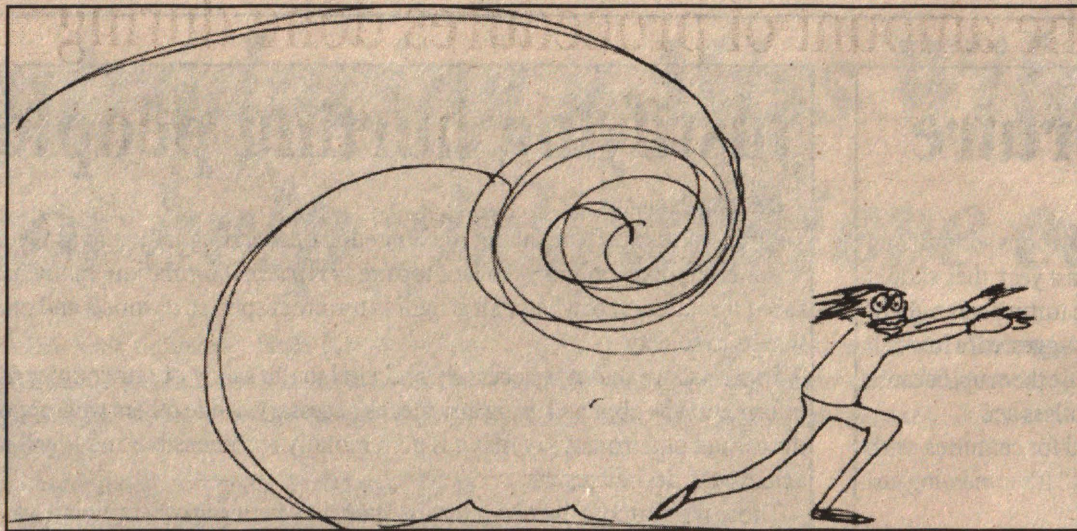
Richard Roeper summed up the complete hypocrisy of the bill when he wrote in his Chicago Sun-Times column, "If this was happening in some other country, we'd be shaking our heads in sympathy and wondering how those unfortunate people can put up with such an oppressive regime."

One version of this bill was recently passed in the House,

with an overwhelming result of 389 votes for it and 39 against. This included only one Illinois representative, Jan Schakowsky, who realized that this was simply another government ploy to control its people while telling them it was for their own good.

This bill would be taking power away from independent and responsible adults, deciding for everyone what is shown in the media, leading some to reminisce about the past, where it was perfectly natural to omit certain facts or pervert some of them to show administration in the best light.

It may be the government's job to keep its people physically safe, but it is certainly not their job to tell the entire country what is or is not appropriate to be seen or heard.



Aquaphobia poses a problem in high school swimming classes

By Lauren Krage

A teenage boy lounges on a poolside chair, gazing at his friends diving into the pool. A girl approaches and urges him to join in, but the boy refuses, despite her attempts at dragging him in. This boy would rather suffer the ceaseless teasing of his friends than venture into or near deep water. This boy is an aquaphobe.

Swimtherapy.com suggests that one in four people do not know how to swim or fear water, and that aquaphobia is more common than other phobias such as spiders and heights.

"Dorlands Medical Dictionary" defines aquaphobia as an

irrational fear of water, specifically swimming or falling in and drowning.

However, though this anxiety may be irrational, this fact does not lessen its severity.

But that is not to say that this phobia cannot be overcome.

Workshops are offered throughout the country that encourage aquaphobes to conquer their fears, but severe aquaphobia can be beaten with the help of a therapist.

Healthyplace.com suggests that behavior therapy, a gradual exposure to water, is effective in guiding aquaphobes to a phobia free life.

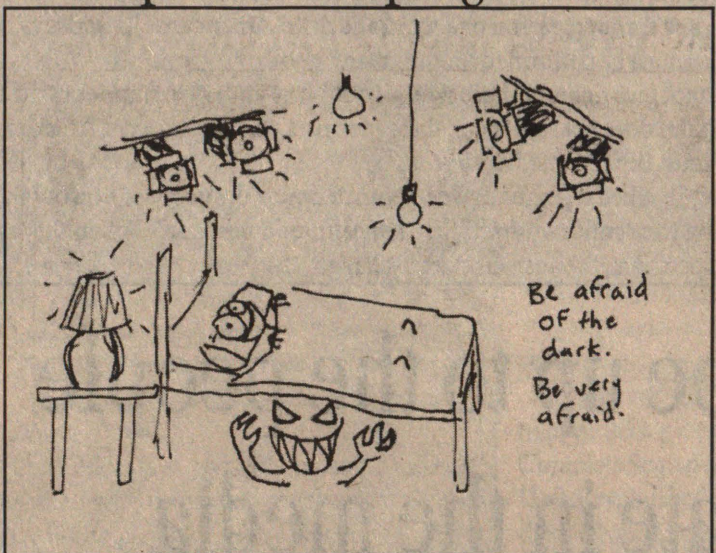
Aquatics director Curt Herrin

agrees. "I have taught six students how to swim when they were afraid of putting their faces in the water," he said. "I taught them how to breathe underwater and to feel more comfortable by talking to them and reminding them exactly what will happen when trying new things."

Herrin assures that aquaphobia is a conquerable fear. "I know aquaphobia can definitely be conquered with time and the right instructor who takes things slow and reassures the phobic," said Herrin.

Though it may be difficult, dedication and willingness can lead to joining friends jumping off the diving board in no time.

Fear of the dark is associated with young children but is possible to progress into adult life as well



By Ellyn Fortino

Children are usually associated with a fear of the dark, however it is not just children who suffer from this phobia. Each year this surprisingly common phobia causes countless people needless distress.

Known by a number of names; achluophobia, lygophobia, myctophobia, nyctophobia, scotophobia, fear of the dark, and fear of darkness, being the most common.

The problem often significantly impacts the quality of life. It can cause panic attacks and keep people apart from their

loved ones, peers, and business associates, says Change That's Right Now (CTRN).

Symptoms typically include shortness of breath, rapid breathing, irregular heartbeat, sweating, nausea, and overall feelings of dread. However, everyone experiences darkness fear in their own way.

Like all fears and phobias, darkness fear is created by the unconscious mind as a protective mechanism. At some point in the person's life, there was likely an event linking the dark and emotional trauma. At the same time the original catalyst may have

been a real-life scare of some kind. The condition can also be triggered by things such as movies, TV, or perhaps seeing someone else experiencing trauma.

Just like that, darkness fear is born. Attaching emotions to feelings is one of the primary ways that humans learn. Sometimes we just get the wiring wrong, according to CTRN.

A variety of potent drugs are often prescribed for darkness fear, but side effects and withdrawal symptoms can be severe. Drugs do not "cure" darkness fear or any other phobia. At best they temporarily suppress the symptoms through chemical interaction, CTRN said.

The good news is that modern, fast, drug-free processes are available. The CTRN Phobia Clinic can help train a person's mind to feel completely different about the dark, eliminating the fear so it never haunts you again.

Support groups can also help people suffering from darkness phobias.

"It's good for the person to know that they are not experiencing this alone," said school nurse Tammie Murphy.

Obsessive-Comp

- 0- No Problems with activity- takes me same time
- 1- Activity takes me twice as long as most people
- 2- Activity takes me three times as long as most people usually avoid it.

A high total score indicates the severity of the disorder

Score	Activity
___	Having a bath or shower
___	Turning lights or tapes on and off
___	Brushing teeth
___	Dressing and undressing
___	Using toilet to urinate
___	Walking down the street
___	Being touched
___	Locking or closing doors
___	Washing items
___	Bed making
___	Touching door handles

Information courtesy of "The Encyclopedia

Fear of germs limits v Molysomophobia can go as far germs, mud, animals and other s

By Maria Perez

A door knob is more than a way to enter a room. To people who fear germs, it is a breeding ground for bacteria, and something they will not touch.

"Germ phobias are an irrational fear of being in contact with germs and the person will go to great lengths to avoid physical contact or avoid the germs," said school psychologist Lee Steffanus.

Most people that fear germs fear contamination, according to Ronald M. Doctor and Ada P. Kahnin "The Encyclopedia of Phobias, Fears, and Anxiety." The fear of contamination is known by many other things

such as mysophobia, misophobia, and finally molysomophobia. These people fear disease, dirt, germs, mud, and animals or objects that are seen as unclean. Examples include chickens, rats, insects, and many others.

Steffanus said people with a germ phobia can start limiting their social contact to avoid contact with people, animals, or situations that the person perceives to have a lot of germs.

"The person will withdraw and lose contact with other people and have an abnormal relationship with the world around them," said Steffanus.

An example would be forget-

Dentophobia prevents from receiving proper

By Katie Taylor

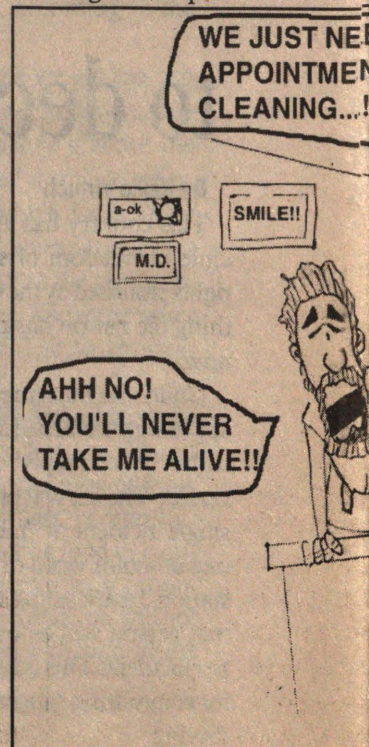
Dentophobia, the fear of dentists, is a major problem for many people. It prevents people from maintaining their dental health because they often fail to visit the dentist for routine care.

An estimated 7 to 10 percent of adults feel very afraid of going to the dentist, according to the Dental Fears Research Clinic at the University of Washington in Seattle. Another 13 to 20 percent feel somewhat fearful or scared.

"Most people who fear going to the dentist had bad experiences with a dentist in the past," said West Chicago dental hygienist Karen Lesniak.

There can be other causes as well, such as insensitive remarks by a dentist, or even overhearing other people's horror stories. In fact, insensitive remarks and the intense feelings of humiliation

they provoke are one of the main factors that cause dental phobia. The main problem in defining dental phobia is that



ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

Compulsive Self-Test

As an average person, I do not need to repeat or avoid it. I repeat it once, or I have to repeat it twice, or I tend to avoid it. I repeat it three or more times, or I avoid it.

Score	Activity
___	Visiting a Hospital
___	Care of hair (ex. Washing)
___	Getting to work
___	Going to public places
___	Looking at people
___	Cleaning shoes
___	Buying things in a shop
___	Washing hands or face
___	Cleaning the house
___	Throwing things away
= ___ Total	

Media of Phobias, Fears, and Anxieties" by Ronald Doctor and Ada Kahn

Why people live lives

...to fearing dirt, such objects

...ing that the body has a natural ability and immunity to some germs and that some germs die when exposed to air.

Such phobias can cause people to be compulsively clean and obsessive about being clean.

That obsession can lead to obsessive-compulsive disorder. Obsessive-compulsive disorders are difficult diseases to stop or ignore due to the repetitive and destructive nature of the disorder.

People may do certain things by following certain rules to prevent or avoid certain consequences. The problem is that the compulsive act is not realistically connected to what it is

meant to stop or make it happen.

"The person feels like they have no control, that they are absolutely required to focus on that obsessive target," said Steffanus.

A reason people may commit these acts is to relieve tension. Some obsessive-compulsive disorders that are common are cleaning, counting, checking, avoiding things, and striving for completeness. Such phobias are not limited to the fear of germs the disorder can manifest with other phobias, said Steffanus.

The disorder can cause people to restrict their interaction with the world as they start doing long rituals that take time out of the person's day. Also the person might start to avoid normal interactions with people, common places, or events as a means to avoid exposure to germs.

...adults and children

...teeth cleaning care

...there is not just one type of dental phobia, but many types, some rational, some irrational.

"Often fearful patients will

...NEED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR A DENTIST



seem concerned about one thing when they are really frightened about something completely different," Lesniak said.

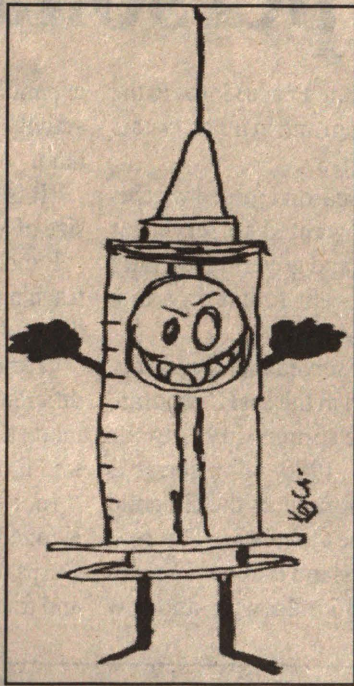
Advances in technology have been created to help ease the pain of some procedures for example, Novocaine is often used to dull pain during fillings.

"With modern techniques and procedures used in dentistry, there is really no reason treatment should ever be uncomfortable for a patient," Lesniak said.

With a good dentist-patient relationship and with good communication, dental anxiety can be overcome.

"You have to trust in and be able to talk freely and comfortably with your dentist," Lesniak said. "Ask him or her to explain everything they are going to do before they do it. Feel free to ask as many questions as you need to make the experience easy."

The amount of procedures done during operations is limited by belonephobia



By Sabrina Potriala

Most everyone hates going to the doctor's office to get shots, especially little kids, but imagine what it would be like for a person that has an extreme fear of needles and sharp objects.

The fear of sharp objects such as pins or needles is known as belonephobia.

The word phobia is Greek and means 'fear' or 'dread'. Suffering from a phobia has been described as having immense fear of a situation or an object that is not in proportion to the actual danger. This fear can lead to a strong desire or need to completely escape the situation or avoid the object.

Belonephobia mostly affects

children, but if left unattended it can prevail into adult life.

"I worked in pediatrics and the fear of needles has definitely made it hard to get immunizations for children. It is also hard for adults to get the right treatment," said school nurse Tammie Murphy.

This condition is extremely disruptive when it comes to procedures that deal with needles, because the procedure ends up taking longer.

"The best policy for children is to not let them know they are going to get a shot," said Murphy.

Belonephobia is said to most likely be caused by two things. One is a personal, negative experience one might have had when they were young. Another cause may be a fear that has been instructed by a misinformed parent or friend. An example of this may be someone telling a story in which a painful needle procedure occurred, according to the Smith and Nephew Corporate Website (SNCW).

SNCW states there are three main preparatory routes to the pain management problems posed by belonephobia that cause people to have this type of phobia. One of the routes is to provide information for the person suffering from the phobia. Medical staff and family can

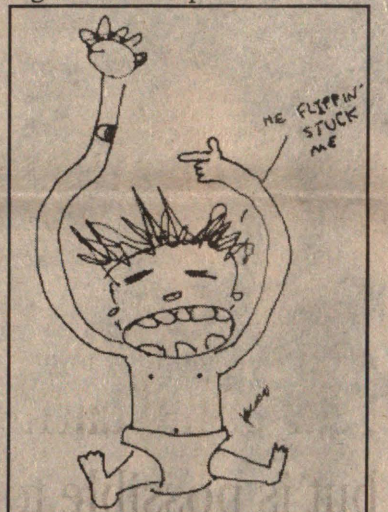
make a patient fully aware of what is going to occur and the reasons why.

Another strategy is the coping strategy where the patient uses techniques to distract themselves. An example of this would be reading a book or perhaps singing a song to yourself. With young children, one could take along a child's favorite toy or teddy bear.

"They can also do stress measures such as deep breathing, squeezing a stress ball, or bringing someone along for support," said Murphy.

It is possible to use local anesthetics to numb nerves before needle procedures. The use of an anesthetic can help prevent development of belonephobia.

Ametop gel is used to produce anesthesia of the skin before taking a blood sample.



Claustrophobia makes being in small places hard

By Jennifer Konewko

Claustrophobia is described as a morbid fear of small-enclosed areas, or not having a quick escape route from a room. It is also an anxiety disorder.

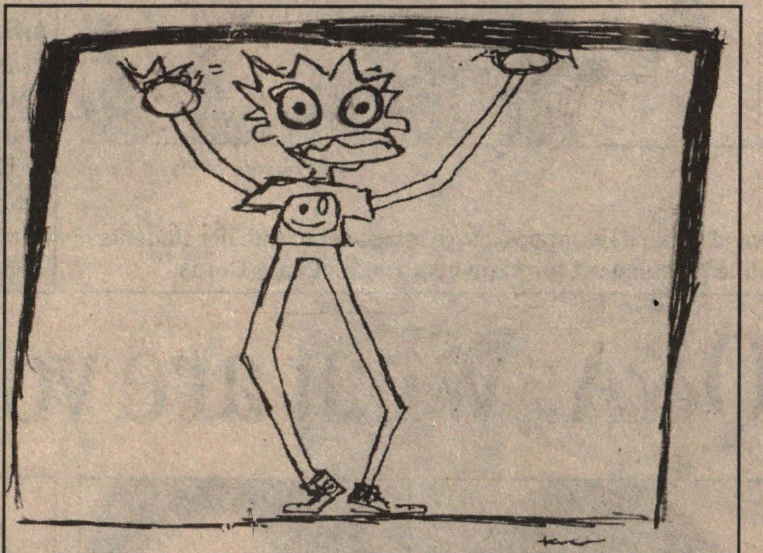
This inconvenient condition can put a strain on an individual's every-day normal existence and experiences. Travel is made difficult by feeling trapped in rush hour traffic.

Airplanes cause stress because there is a feeling of being trapped or suffocated and there is no escape route.

Hospital scans also become almost impossible for fear of being in that tiny closed box.

Symptoms may include: sweating, shaking, hyperventilation, fainting, vertigo, dizziness, nausea, panic attacks and many other problems that could have resulted from one traumatic childhood experience, according to Time Line Therapy Association (TLTA).

Claustrophobia is referred to as a learned response, meaning that it may occur after a traumatizing experience.



There are many treatments for claustrophobia.

Some patients try antidepressants to help with coping. Therapy is sometimes a solution to those with an extreme case of claustrophobia, according to TLTA.

If a person gets over his dislike for small spaces, they may be able to overcome it by talking to oneself while going into an elevator or counting to 10 slowly when walking into a closet or pantry.

Beth Jones, a school nurse,

said how close others can get in crowded hallways at school.

"Close your eyes and relax. Imagine where you may like to be on vacation," she said. "Depending on the severity of a person's phobia, they may be able to overcome it without the help of antidepressants or therapy."

What most claustrophobics do not realize is that they are not alone. Help is offered in many places such as: psychologist, psychiatrist, trained therapist, or even your family doctor, TLTA said.

Paw Prints

Students learn about the Peace Corps from Exner's own personal experiences

Art teacher David Exner holds seminars with students to promote National Peace Corps week and emphasize its importance

By Ellyn Fortino

Fighting hunger, famine, and disease in foreign countries are some of the goals of the Peace Corps and are also some things

in which art teacher David Exner has tried to aid.

To help promote Peace Corps Week, Exner talked to students about his own experiences

while in the Peace Corps in the auditorium and in his art classes on March 3.

"The reason I joined was because I wanted to serve our country and government, but I did not want to put on a uniform," he said.

Exner served on Montserrat, an island in the east Caribbean, from the spring of 1977 to the summer 1980. Montserrat is known fondly as the Emerald Isle of the Caribbean. This pear shaped island is about 11 miles long and 7 miles wide, and now

expanding due to the volcanic activity in the south of the island.

"It is very small, around the size of West Chicago," he said.

Exner's job in Montserrat was teaching arts and crafts to the students of the island.

"I knew I wanted to make a difference, but in the end they made a bigger impact on me," said Exner.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps to promote world peace and friendship.

Exner emphasized the three simple goals that comprise the Peace Corps' mission.

These include helping the people of interested countries in meeting their needs for trained men and women, promoting a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served, as well as a better understanding of other peoples on the part of all Americans.

Peace Corps volunteers work in the following areas:

(See Art page 12)



Photo courtesy of David Exner

David Exner developed a close relationship with his students while teaching art for three years in the Peace Corps.

College Column...

Students should look for scholarships, both local and nationwide, to help pay for their college education

By John Jennings

As students begin to learn the amount of money they are going to have to pay in order to attend college, most realize they are going to need a little help paying. That is why March is a month when many local scholarships have their deadlines.

March is the month for scholarships and that is what seniors should be focusing on.

Maura Bridges, head of the counseling department, said, "A lot of big time local scholarships have their deadlines in March. These are much more obtainable because there is a smaller pool of applicants."

The school's monthly bulletin, Senior News, is sent to the families of all senior students and lists available schol-

arships whose deadlines are in that month. Seniors should be watching for these bulletins and filling out scholarships.

"Apply for as many scholarships as possible. You have a better chance at getting local scholarships and they can help a lot. It really depends on how many you apply for," said Bridges.

Bridges also advised that students not to get frustrated or discouraged, and just keep filling out scholarships.

However, that being said, seniors should also have fun.

"Just try to have a good few months and enjoy what you're doing, but don't lose focus," said Bridges.

March is also an important month for juniors. The college process begins in the spring of

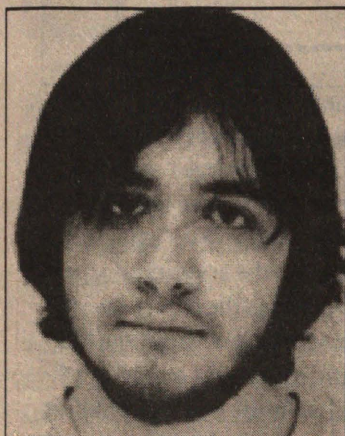
junior year with college visits and taking standardized tests.

Recently, the counseling department had an assembly for all juniors called "Making College Count." Also, the counseling department has opened its computer lab to all juniors in order to better assist them with their college search.

"The best thing to do for juniors is to visit the colleges they are thinking about applying to. It really helps establish your preferences and you get a gut feeling about a college when you step on campus," said Bridges.

Counselors will be holding meetings with all juniors in the following months to discuss college plans and answer any questions.

Q&A: What are your spring break plans?



Brian Correa
Junior

I'm probably going to Illinois State.



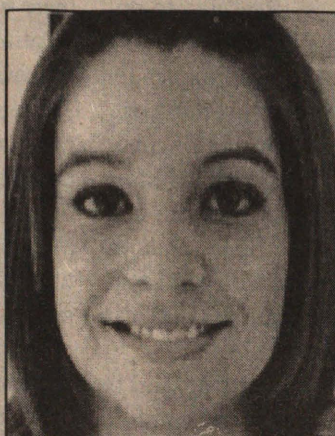
Lisa Daniels
Sophomore

I'm going to sleep. A lot. I hope.



Brandon Nail
Freshman

I'm going to Florida. I hope to go go-carting for a day, and I'm hoping it's not rainy for once when I go down there.



Marilyn Jacques
Junior

I have to stay home because our softball team has four games over break.



Jon Kimber
Senior

Hopefully hanging out with my girlfriend a lot.

Paw Prints

Clothing classes learn industry skills by starting design businesses and sewing their own clothes

Advanced clothing classes show local companies with personal designs and businesses that they learn not only how to sew, but also the math and business skills needed for the clothing industry

By Kellie Virnich

Showing that they can do far more than thread needles, the students in the advanced clothing classes are now putting their skills to practical use by starting small businesses and designing clothes for themselves and others.

Students chose what they wanted to do at the beginning of the semester, whether it be designing an outfit for themselves or making pieces to sell, and have worked to make their ideas a reality.

They paid for all their own materials, and even though each is working on his or her own project, they all help each other solve problems and get the job done.

Junior Sam Lawson has already completed her project, a dress she plans on wearing to homecoming next year.

"I wanted something unique that no one else would have," said Lawson. "I really want to thank (Mrs. Kozlowski) for helping me."

She and the others making

dresses used a draping technique, where they cut and pinned sheets to a mannequin until they achieved the look they wanted. Then they used that as a pattern in cutting and sewing the material they want for the dress. Clothing teacher Patti Kozlowski noted that this technique cuts down on wasted material and money.

"When you put that much time and money into something, you don't want to mess anything up," Kozlowski said.

Senior Lucy Guerrero and some other girls in the class are also making dresses for prom and other special occasions. This alternative, while it takes more work than just going out and buying a dress, ends up being much more cost-efficient.

"I spent about \$75 on the fab-

ric and rhinestone accents, and I would have spent probably up to \$200 on a store-bought dress. Plus, this way you can make sure you get exactly what you want," Lawson said.

Lawson is also entering a fashion show at College of DuPage on May 9 for a skirt that she made earlier in the year.

Also on the class agenda is a fashion show on April 27 called Puttin' on the Ritz, held at St. Andrew's Golf Course and

Country Club, where local businesses promote themselves and look at new companies.

Kozlowski hopes to show that she is not only teaching students how to sew, but also how to work the business end of the clothing industry, which many students are looking to join.

She said, "I want them to know that these kids are being educated as entrepreneurs, and possibly form partnerships where we can help each other."



Photo by Brittany Blanchard

Sam Lawson models the dress she made in clothing class and plans to wear to homecoming next year. She will also be modeling a skirt she made in the annual fashion competition in May at COD.

<p>Choose from the newest fashions from the latest designers and</p> <p>SAVE!</p>	<p>s a v v i f o r m a l w e a r</p>
<p>Over 100 vests available to match your date's dress.</p> <p>No second choice required.</p> <p>From ordinary to extraordinary!</p> <p>We are Savvi!</p> <p>See store for complete details. Certain restrictions apply.</p>	<p>\$30 OFF</p> <p>Your Prom Tuxedo Rental</p> <p>or...</p> <p>Bring in any competitor's coupon and we'll match their price!</p> <p>Savvi Formalwear Fox Valley Mall — Aurora 630-851-6838</p>

Great Prom

s a v v i n g s

Student of the Month

The school recognizes Dale Szul's commitment to his activities both in and outside of school

By John Jennings

For his dedication outside of school with Boy Scouts of America and extracurricular activities such as Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Skills USA VICA, Dale Szul was named February's Student of the Month.

What are your accomplishments during your time at We-go?

I have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts of America.

Who has been your favorite teacher in high school?

It is very difficult to decide, but the two teachers that have influenced me the most are Mr. Junkroski and Mrs. Strohm.

What has been your favorite class in high school?

My favorite have been Mr.

Junkroski's drafting courses.

What is your favorite school activity?

FBLA and Skills USA are probably my favorite school activities.

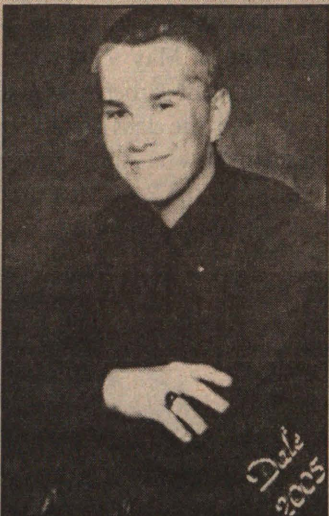


Photo courtesy of Dale Szul

What is your favorite memory during high school?

My graduation day will be the

most memorable because I will be able to reflect on the last four years.

Where do you plan on going to college?

I plan on attending Purdue University.

What do you want to major in?

I will major in mechanical engineering.

What do you want to do for a living?

I would like to be a mechanical engineer.

What is your favorite pastime?

My favorite pastime would be just having a good time with friends.

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

I think because of my consistency in scholastic goals and accomplishments.

Choir both hears and makes music on class trip to New York City

Students travel for Broadway musicals and personal concerts

By Lauren Krage and Julie Youngwith

Experiencing both the audience's and performer's side of the theater, the choir traveled to New York City where they held two performances and saw three Broadway musicals.

Any student in the choir department was invited to go and 82 people attended the February trip.

Choir director Brandon Fantozzi said the purpose of the trip was to be educational, fun, and exciting.

"The students experienced the cultural center of North America and all that it has to offer," he said. "Hopefully they were able to take home a greater appreciation of culture, the arts and all that the Big Apple has to offer."

Fantozzi said he gained a deeper respect for New York City, great relationships with chaperones and students, and the satisfaction of seeing his students experience great things.

The students performed at St. John the Divine Cathedral, the largest Episcopalian church in the United States, and South

Port Pier on the lower side of Manhattan.

"The singing overall went very well. There were a few circumstances that led to challenges, but they generally did not affect our performance," Fantozzi said.

Students had the choice of seeing three musicals; "Rent," "The Lion King," and "Phantom of the Opera." Junior Sara Duran saw "Rent" and liked how it showed problems similar to those in life.

The choir department held several fundraisers this year for the trip including candle and pizza sales. Some students were able to pay for three-quarters of the trip with fundraising.

The group visited many places including the Empire State Building, ground zero, Carnegie Hall, Rockefeller Center, Radio City Music Hall and Central Park.

They visited the Statue of Liberty as well, but were unable to go up inside.

Duran said, "It was a great bonding experience for the students and teachers to be together."

Best Buddies enhances lives

By Katie Taylor

Whether they are fundraising or hula dancing, Best Buddies always has fun while making connections between students and their special needs classmates.

Best Buddies members enjoyed dancing at Barrington High School's "That's What Friends are For Annual Winter Ball" on Feb. 19.

Every school in the Chicagoland area that has Best Buddies was invited, making the event action-packed.

To go with the Hawaiian luau theme, The Barefoot Hawaiian dance troupe performed, a buffet supper was served, and colorful leis were provided.

"We had a great time," adviser George Petmezas said. "It's a good opportunity for kids in special education who don't get to go to school dances."

Best Buddies is also busy fundraising. They have asked students to donate their old cell

phones and printer cartridges so that they can receive money from tonerdonations.com.

"It's how we get all our funds," Petmezas said.

Donations can be dropped off in room 101, where anyone can go to sign up to be a part of Best Buddies.

"We're always looking for people to join," Petmezas said. "It's a good opportunity for special education students to develop relationships that are appropriate for high school."

Students can join at any time in the school year by filling out an application.

Best Buddies is dedicated to enhancing the lives of students with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships. Club members organize activities with their special buddies, such as trips to the mall or bowling.

"It's as easy as just stopping by and talking to me or Mrs. Cook," Petmezas said.

Petmezas is also looking forward to Best Buddies' future.

"We're hoping to have field days at the end of this year," he said. "We want to include all kinds of activities like racing. Hopefully it will be something that West Chicago gets to do every year."

Artist of the Month information was not available at press time. The article will return next month.

A glimpse into the past...



Photo courtesy of Challenge archives

Donkey basketball, which was introduced as a charity fundraiser in the early '80s, was a sold out event, with spectators filling the entire gym, even though enrollment was much less than it is today. There were two games, one between selected students and teachers, and one between male and female teachers.

Art... (Continued from page 10)

education, youth outreach, community development, health and HIV/AIDS, agriculture and environment, business development, and information technology. Within these areas, the specific duties and responsibilities of each volunteer can vary widely.

The men and women who

join the Peace Corps reflect the rich diversity of America in race, ethnic background, age, and religion.

They possess varying physical capabilities. They come from all geographical regions, all personal backgrounds, and all walks of life, according to PeaceCorps.gov.

Los negocios esperan estimular la economía local

Con los Comerciantes de West Chicago Unidos los negocios se adelantan para un futuro mejor

Por Maria Pérez

Emma Ríos, la dueña de Casa Ríos, espera Comerciantes de West Chicago Unidos (CWCU) para motivar la economía de West Chicago.

"Muchos negocios cerraron porque no duraban debido a la falta de suficiente negocios y los negocios no se podían sostenerse," dijo Ríos.

Ríos y otros comerciantes locales empezaron CWCU en enero para trabajar unidos y atraer el negocio a West Chicago. Así la gente se da cuenta de los diferentes negocios que hay porque hay mucha gente nueva que no sabe de los negocios de West Chicago, dijo Ríos.

"Por muchos años hubo locales vacíos, y si no hacemos algo van haber locales que se quedan vacíos aquí," dijo Ríos.

Pero Ríos dijo que los Latinos en la comunidad han cambiado porque hay más Latinos animados a abrir sus propios negocios. También los Latinos esperan la ayuda de la ciudad en cualquier área que necesiten ayuda.

Dueño de la WC Defense School Guillermo Coix y miembro de CWCU, dijo que están tratando para juntar los más comerciantes Latinos posibles para que vengan juntos

para compartir información y las experiencias que pueden beneficiar a nuevos dueños de negocio.

Ríos dijo que también empezaron CWCU debido a problemas del idioma.

La organización ofrece a los comerciantes que hablan espa-

"Muchos negocios cerraron porque no duraban debido a la falta de suficiente negocio y los negocios no se podían sostenerse"

ñol que se puedan comunicar con comerciantes que hablan inglés.

Ríos dijo que no están tratando de separarse de la comunidad, quieren trabajar unidos con los Latinos y los Angloamericanos. Ríos piensa que ayudaría a la comunidad porque en vez de que las personas fueran fuera de West Chicago, ellos comprarían aquí y el dinero se quedaría en la comunidad.

También la gente no gastará



Foto por Maria Perez

Emma Ríos, dueña de Casa Ríos, comparte su experiencia de negocio para ayudar a negocios en West Chicago, porque no quiere ver negocios cerrar.

dinero en gas y en tiempo porque los negocios están cerca y las personas no tendrán que salir fuera de la ciudad. El problema dice Ríos es que la gente nueva a West Chicago no sabe de los negocios locales y no van al centro.

"Espero motivar a la gente para que tienen éxito los negocios. Me refiero a los negocios que comienzan y no duran por la falta de publicidad y para dar

a saber a la gente que aquí estamos," dijo Ríos.

Ríos espera que negocios participen en CWCU porque tendrán un beneficio trabajando juntos para la publicidad. Ríos ha estado invitando a los demás comerciantes por llamadas de teléfono o visitas personales.

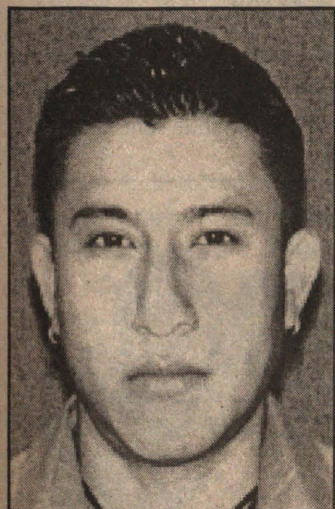
Por ahorita los comerciantes se reúnen en su tienda. Ríos dijo que si viene más gente busca-

rán otro lugar más grande. También ella cita las juntas durante horarios diferentes, unas en las mañanas y otras en la tarde, para que todos los comerciantes tengan la oportunidad de asistir.

Ríos también dijo que si hay jóvenes que tengan ideas para ayudar a los comerciantes con la publicidad que la contacten. La pueden contactar por teléfono llamando a 231-7130 o visitándola a 204 Main Street.

Pregunta y Respuesta:

¿Crees que Latinos contribuyen a la comunidad?



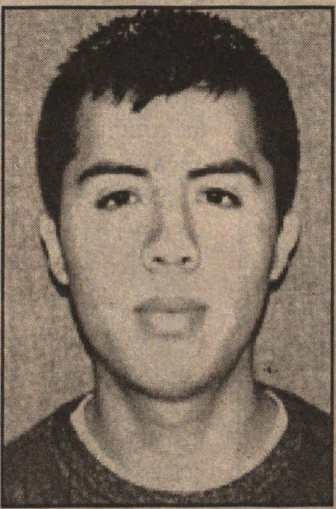
Ramon Salgado

Si contribuyen porque muchos Latinos están trabajando aquí, aportan la economía de Estados Unidos. También los jóvenes están estudiando y graduándose y así pueden tener mejores empleos y por lo tanto hacerse contentos aquí en los E.E. U.U.



Alejandra Correa

Sí, yo creo que ellos contribuyen por trabajando ayudan a la economía. Otra cosa es que ellos contribuyen a la cultura, ellos la hacen mejor.



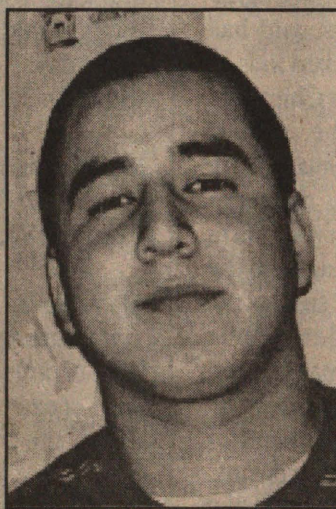
Antonio Tapia

Sí, yo creo que formamos parte muy importante para la economía y la superación no sólo de la comunidad sino para el país. También aportando beneficios trabajando y ayudando de una u otra forma.



Brenda Chavez

Los Latinos contribuyen a la comunidad ayudando a todos comunicarse; breaking language barriers.



Alejandro Lopez

Sí porque los Latinos hacen la mayoría de los trabajos más pesados. Por ejemplo, cortando yardas y construcción.

Dedication and hard work lead to success for girls track team

DeAnne Fitzenreider, Shannon Fleming, April Bennett, and Kelly Wdowiarz receive commitment awards for their dedication to track

By Katie Taylor

Commitment and effort have characterized the girls track season so far as they strive for improvement both personally and as a team.

The girls won the Fenton Invitational on March 12 with first place finishes from Hilary Tennant, Abby Cole, and the 3200 meter relay team of Tennant, Heather Olsen, Mallory Sanzeri and Laura Tan.

At Rolling Meadows on March 6, the girls placed fourth against Bartlett, Lake Forest, Hoffman Estates, Antioch and Rolling Meadows.

Gina Adduci and Shannon Fleming took third and fourth

in the 1600-meter run.

Coach Katerina Claiborne recognized Fitzenreider, Adduci, Fleming, Cole, and Kristen Johansen as outstanding athletes for their performances at Rolling Meadows.

Fitzenreider and Fleming also were acknowledged for their dedication to track along with Kelly Wdowiarz and April Bennett by receiving the commitment award.

"They show total commitment to the team in practice and at meets," Claiborne said. "They are great leaders."

Seniors also received praise from Claiborne for their work.

"Their dedication and hard work is a lesson they teach.

They give underclassmen something to shoot for," Claiborne said.

The varsity team started its season by taking second place at its first home meet on Feb. 8 against Bartlett and Rosary.

Cole took first place in the triple jump and seventh in the long jump, and Lauren Buscemi won the high jump.

The girls went on to place first in both varsity and junior varsity against Immaculate Conception, Rosary, Larkin, and East Aurora on Feb. 15.

Fitzenreider, Kane, Cole, and other varsity members including Fleming, Tennant, and Kristy Klouda placed first in individual events.

Claiborne awarded athlete of the meet to Fleming and junior varsity runner Carrie Staton for her 30-second time drop in the 1600-meter run.

"I beat my mile time by a lot," Staton said. "It was such an honor to know my performance stuck out."

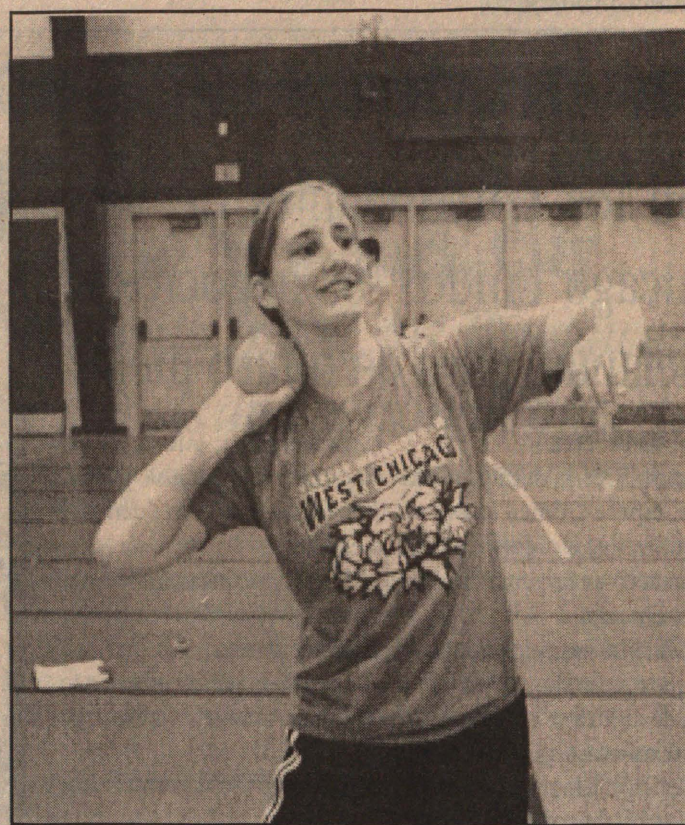


Photo by Lauren Krage

Erika Kane and the rest of the field event participants have been practicing hard and have helped lead the team to success in recent meets.

Former student opens clinic

A life-time resident of West Chicago opens up a new opportunity for the next generation of the community

By Maria Perez

Self-defense hits closer to home with the opening of WC Self Defense School on Main Street.

The school's owner, Guillermo Coix, has been boxing 23 years, and has coached kids in West Chicago.

The school teaches boxing with different tournaments throughout the year such as the golden globe tournament and the statewide tournament for amateur boxing.

Coix said that boxers from the school can go all the way to the U.S. Olympics for boxing if they win the state competition and then proceed to nationals. If the boxers win nationals they are eligible to join the U.S. Olympic Boxing team. Coix said that the box-

ing gym will hold local showcases in spring and summer.

The school, only open for

tioning, and self defense," said Coix.

Boxing is not a sport for people with a lack of commitment. Coix said that boxing is a physically demanding sport because it requires a lot of dedication. It takes boxers a long time to develop fighting skills. Coix said that people will never forget the boxing skills.

Coix is a resident of West Chicago and grew up here. He decided to open up the defense school in the community because he wanted to give something back. Ten years ago he stopped teaching kids but his former students, now grown, suggested he open the school.

Coix has been boxing since he went to college in 1982, with over 70 boxing fights to his name. He also was a professional manager and trainer for professional fighters, such as Albertano Caballero and Frankie Wellford.

three months, already has over 100 members with clients ranging from 8-years-old to 65-years-old.

"Boxing is a very effective form of martial arts that teaches you discipline, physical condi-

Experience and talent raise expectations for baseball team

By Brittany Blanchard

The team that "does more baseball-wise before any other school in the DVC" is at it again this year as the 2005 season begins.

Head baseball coach John Walters said the team is continuing its early morning practices to prepare for the upcoming season.

"(We practice) to be fundamentally sound on the field and to make sure we make the plays routine," Walters said.

Last year the team had a record of 20-15 and with this year's team of 21, and college-bound baseball players like Austin Monroe, Chris Jones, Dan Eckler, and Luke Martin returning to the team's line up, Walters' said this season is looking good.

"It's hard to compare this season to last year before this season is over, but we have a good mix of experience and

youth on the mound and there is potential that this team can be as good as or better than any of my other teams in the past six years," said Walters.

However, the team has a few weaknesses they plan to improve before their first game.

"We need to concentrate on putting the ball in diligent play and do a better job of getting pressure on the other team offensively," Walters said.

Each year the team looks forward to games against rival Naperville Central because, according to Walters, they just like to beat them.

Walters said the team is off to a great start from a practice standpoint and that the boys are working hard at their game; he has high hopes for them.

"We'd like to have another 20 win season, compete for the conference championship and do well in the state series," said Walters.

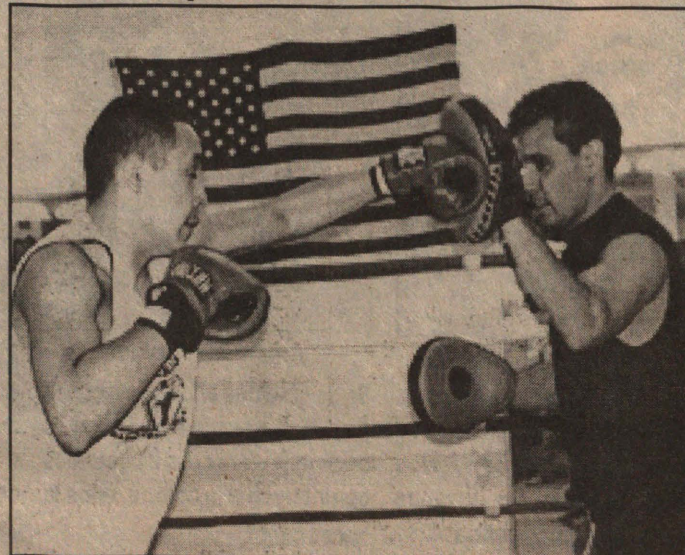


Photo by Maria Perez

Guillermo Coix opened up a self defense school recently in order to give something back to his community.

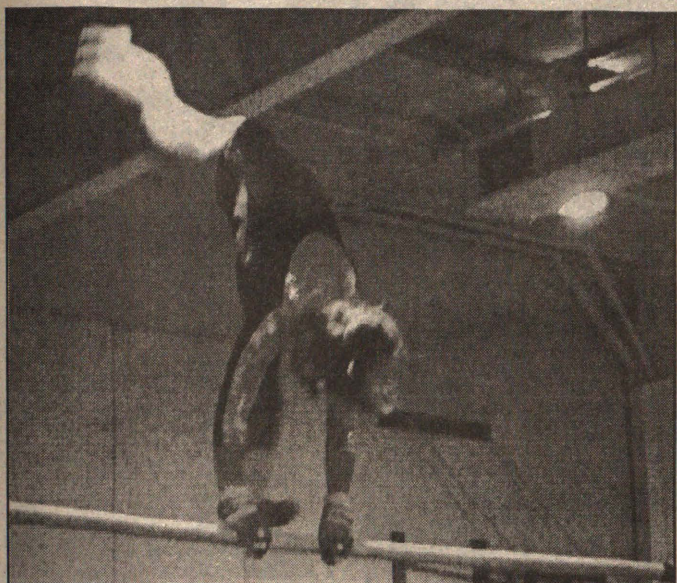


Photo courtesy of Jorie Spayth

Sarah Rysell worked back from an injury to compete at state.

Rysell swings into state gymnastics competition

Gymnast qualifies on the uneven parallel bars for the second consecutive year

By Kellie Virnich

After performing all season with an ankle injury, senior Sarah Rysell surprised everyone by qualifying once again for the state competition on the uneven parallel bars.

Though she was understandably disappointed not to qualify for finals, having missed the required score by six tenths, Rysell still considered herself lucky to have made it to state.

"After my sprained ankle, I had to gain back a lot of strength, and I needed even more energy and momentum to even get back to where I was," she said. Her injury was the first of many throughout the gymnastics season, and

several of the gymnasts had to compete not only their own routines but also routines on extra events to fill in for their injured teammates.

Her final score was 8.7, with the qualifier at 9.25. During Rysell's routine on the bars, she fell, lowering her score just enough not to qualify. Had she not fallen, she would have gotten 9.3, allowing her through to the next round.

Rysell said that over the years, the co-op where she practices, usually 20 hours a week, has become like a second home to her, and her teammates like a second family.

"Almost the whole team came with me to cheer me on,"

she said. "Five of the girls even spelled out SARAH on their stomachs. It really made me happy to see everyone out there supporting me."

As a team captain, Rysell motivated everyone on the team and encouraged them to do their best. She said that it was more difficult to do so, however, when she was injured and couldn't join in with them.

"My coach, Jorie Spayth, was amazing, and helped me get back into my game," said Rysell. "Plus, all my club coaches over the years really motivated me."

Rysell has been doing gymnastics nearly her entire life, and made it to state for bars last year as well. She is considering attending college at University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, and hopes to continue competing at a college level.

"I'm excited to keep learning new things. Whatever life brings me, I'm ready to take it on," Rysell said.

Strong field event scores help boys track team take fourth at invitational

Erik Hernandez threw the shotput 55 feet, taking first in that event

By Ellyn Fortino

The boys track team ran and threw their way to fourth place at the Glenbard North invitational.

Senior Erik Hernandez placed first in the shotput, with a throw of 55 feet, which puts him 29 in the country.

Sophomore Jim Foreman took first in the pole vault and intermediate hurdles.

"This season has been going very well. We have a smaller team than years past, but the quality is much higher from

our athletes," said coach Paul McLeland.

The team will compete at state on May 24 at Eastern Illinois University.

"We're looking for the guys to be the best they can be at state, and we want to be competitive," said McLeland.

McLeland hopes that the team's three returning state qualifiers will do well in the competition.

Junior George Visser will compete in the two mile run, senior Greg Callahan will

compete in the 300 hurdles, and Hernandez will compete in the shotput.

"Hopefully during this season more boys will compete in state than last year and we will hopefully score more points," said McLeland.

"Another goal for the season is for each kid to achieve their personal best and improve for next season," he added.

Softball team hopes speed will lead to many victories

With a faster and more experienced lineup than last year, the softball team has set expectations higher

By Sabrina Potirala

The softball team looks to hit a homerun this season with an experienced varsity team who knows how to win.

Assistant varsity coach, Laurie Davidson, believes that this year will be a turning point in the softball program.

"Our team this year is more experienced. We will have a very experienced outfield and we will also have speed on the bases, which is something we have never had before," said Davidson.

The experienced team consists of a collaboration of seniors, juniors, and freshmen.

"Three seniors will be playing outfield and there are two freshman that can play any position," said Davidson.

Davidson is definitely looking forward to the upcoming season because of the variety of girls on the team.

"I believe the team will receive leadership from the seniors. The rest of the team also has a drive that makes them

perform well," said Davidson.

There are many things the coaches are hoping to help the girls improve on.

"Some of our goals would be to work on team unity and to do better than last year. We would like to get above .500," said Davidson.

Some drills the team has been working on to prepare for games would be outfield relays, infield throwing to bases, and conditioning.

According Davidson, there were a lot of competitive players at try-outs.

"It was a tough call when it came down to deciding who would make the team. We had a lot of quality players to consider," said Davidson.

The coaches look for many qualities in a player during try-outs.

Some of these qualities include whether or not the girls seem like they want to be coached, good grades, team unity, and the amount of Wildcat pride they have.

Athlete of the Month

Family has helped Dana Hernan reach her full potential as a basketball player

By Doug Sieder

Dana Hernan has been selected Athlete of the Month for her accomplishments in basketball this winter.

Who inspired you the most during the year?

My family has provided me with the best understanding of how to look at life and playing sports.

Do you play any other sports?

Yes, I play volleyball.

What sport do you enjoy the most?

I enjoy both at times, but basketball is more rewarding when you play well.

What plans do you have after high school?

I have no idea what my plans are.

Do you plan on playing any

sports after high school?

I would like to play basketball, but I still don't know what I am doing.



Photo by Doug Sieder

What is your best sports memory?

My best memory is winning the Benet/Naperville North High School Christmas Basketball Tournament during

junior year.

What has been the best part about basketball?

The best part is performing well against the top players in the area.

How many years have you been involved in basketball?

I have played for six years.

What is your favorite sport other than basketball?

Volleyball is my next favorite sport.

Have you achieved any awards in those sports?

For volleyball I was All-Conference and for basketball I was All-Conference and All-Area.

Do you do anything special before each game?

If I'm at home, I'll try to find a basketball game on T.V. to watch.

Wildcat basketball team wins the regional championship

Boys beat state ranked West Aurora twice in one week with the help of senior leadership

By John Jennings

The boys basketball team accomplished something this year that has only been done twice before in the school's history. The basketball team won their second regional championship in the last three years, and on the way beat the powerhouse West Aurora Blackhawks twice in eight days.

Finishing with a record of 22-6, the team had one of the best seasons in school history. Two years ago, the team won only the second regional championship in school history, and this year's team not only tied that feat, but had a better record as well.

Senior Nick Lelito said, "This year was amazing because it was the best season the school has had, and it will be remembered for years to come."

Almost just as important to both the team and the fans were the two victories over West Aurora this year. West Aurora, a school that consistently produces solid teams nearly every season, won the DuPage Valley Conference title for the sixth year in a row and won 20 games for the tenth year in a

row. The Blackhawks also gained the top seed in the Class AA West Chicago regional.

Eight days prior to their meeting in the regional championship game, the Wildcats stunned West Aurora with a loss, one of only six the team suffered the entire season.

Twenty-two hundred fans crowded the stands March 4 for the rematch of the two teams. This time though, the winner would be crowned regional champions, while the loser would be knocked out of the playoffs.

Senior Greg Callahan led the team to a 55-48 victory with seven 3-point field goals, finishing with 23 points and six assists. The sixth-seeded Wildcats defeated the top-seeded Blackhawks, who lost a regional championship for the first time since 1994.

The game went back and forth, each team having the momentum at times. At half-time the Wildcats led by two, and they never gave up the lead on their way to victory. While the Blackhawks tied the game twice in the second half, they never led.

"Beating West Aurora twice in eight days was probably the

highlight of my career," said Lelito. "It was just amazing."

The team's postseason run inspired not only the players, but all of the students as well. Fans came to games with faces painted, dressed in blue and white.

"This season was amazing," said a fan, senior George Chiarito. "We did a lot of really unbelievable things and we went far."

After the regional championship game, the student section was so involved that they stormed the court.

"It was great when we beat West Aurora. They don't have a lot of respect for us, and we showed them that we could play," said Chiarito.

The team went on to sectionals where they faced Batavia. The Wildcats led most of the way and had a six-point lead with five minutes left, but Batavia came back to win the game 69-62.

While the end may have been disappointing, the boys basketball team accomplished a lot this year. It had been 43 years since the basketball team won a regional championship when the team won its second in 2003.

Now the team has won two in the last three years, and this season they had the best record in school history. Along the way they gave plenty of excitement to both the school and their fans.

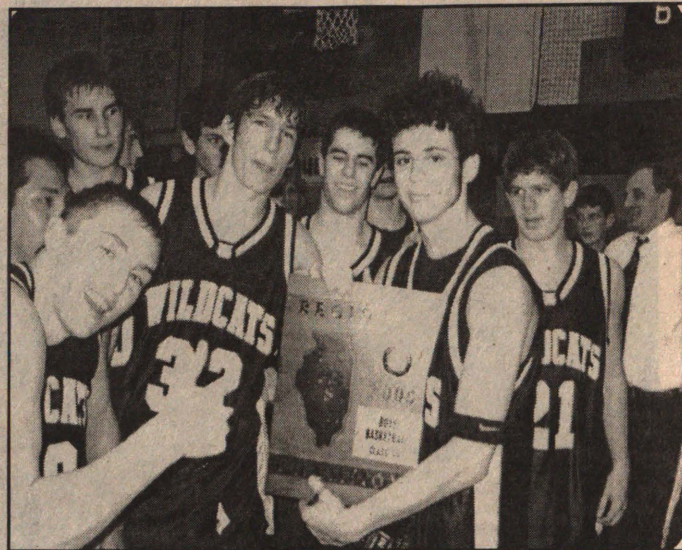


Photo courtesy of Sue Callahan

The boys basketball team beat the top-seeded West Aurora Blackhawks to win the regional championship. It was only the third time in the school's history that they have won a regional.

Young wrestlers place well in off-season state meet

Positive results from sophomore competitors promise a bright future for the wrestling team

By Maria Perez

Sophomore Tim Kirincic pinned a fifth place in the Team Illinois Wrestling (TIW) for state finals during March 11 and 12.

Wrestling coach Marty Molina was pleased with Kirincic placing well, but he said that Kirincic thought he could have placed better if he hadn't lost a close match with a kid that placed fourth, but he was still happy with the result.

The TIW is an off-season wrestling association for freshman and sophomore competitors and not associated with the Illinois High School Association (IHSA).

Brandon Klekamp, Jesus Ibarra, and Ralph Calleros also

qualified for state.

As a result of the freshmen and sophomores doing so well, Molina is anticipating a good season next year.

"I'm expecting a good competitive team for next year. With four kids placing well, they should be competitive with the rest of our conference schools," said Molina.

Molina thinks that rest of the team will benefit from wrestling with Kirincic, Klekamp, Ibarra, and Calleros due to their skills.

TIW serves to see how students will place at IHSA state competition, and he expects the students to return next year and do well in the state tournaments.

Sieder's Sermon

Chicago: One of the most beloved baseball cities

By Doug Sieder

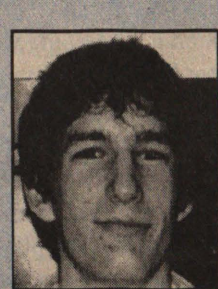
Why do many of the Sox and Cubs stars who leave the Windy City bash the two organizations?

The White Sox and Cubs are the two teams with the longest streak without a World Series, but deep down inside we may be one of the most beloved baseball cities by baseball players.

Magglio Ordonez and Sammy Sosa feel abandoned after their Chicago teams ditched them this past off-season.

Sammy Sosa's era ended with the Chicago Cubs on Feb. 2 when he was traded to the Baltimore Orioles for two mi-

nor leaguers and Jerry Hairston Jr., while on the other



side of town former White Sox right fielder Magglio Ordonez left town

after problems with White Sox management.

Since they have left Chicago, both players have not had a lot of good things to say about the two organizations. Ordonez was hurt most of the 2004 season because of a rare knee injury that required surgery during the season. While

Ordonez was sitting out the White Sox management tried to extend Ordonez's stay in Chicago. The only problem was the two sides did not agree on money.

Up on the north side of Chicago, the problem hadn't started yet. Sosa still had years and plenty of money left on his contract even though he was out for part of the season due to back spasms caused by sneezing during a game.

Sosa's problem didn't really start until the last day of the 2004 campaign, when he left during the first inning of a home game and never returned. Even the Cubs TV and radio analysts bashed Sosa for

his early departure.

Ever since the departure of both players, neither one of them has anything good to say about the Cubs or Sox.

Ordonez feels that the Sox don't want to spend the money that it takes to have a winning ball team, and Sosa told the media that he is "irreplaceable."

"He (White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf) doesn't want to pay the money to keep players who have been on his team. He will go out and get other players from other teams, but he won't pay those guys he already knows about," said Ordonez.

Sosa's problem wasn't so

much with management, but more with his former manager. Who, in Sosa's "words", would blame him for the Cub's lack of success.

In the off-season the Cubs put Sosa on the trading block but few even thought about making a trade for him. Finally on Feb. 2 the trade was made which left Sosa out of town.

I think these two players feel abandoned by the town, which they both seemed to bloom in and eventually love, but now that they are gone, their hearts are broken and it's time for them to be loved by someone else and stop bashing us.