



## Baseball hits it big

The baseball team hits its way to success. PAGE 20



## Mr. Wildcat

Learn how Miguel Tapia was crowned this year's Mr. Wildcat. PAGE 13



## Spanish Exchange

Hear the adventure of 20 students as they recall their spring break in Spain. PAGE 15

## Immigration lawyers to help answer questions

By Maria Perez

The Latino community will have the opportunity to get help for their questions about immigration on May 17.

"Immigration is very complicated and a lot of parents need some help with information about that," said Norman Kane, bilingual education coordinator.

Two immigration lawyers, Karolyn Eilers and Lorraine Leete, from the Midwest Immigration and Human Rights Center (MIHRC) will give a Spanish presentation on immigration and citizenship in the school auditorium from 7 to 8 p.m.

Kane said that they have worked with the MIHRC in the past when they had immigration lawyers come out to give a presentation two years ago.

The presentation will explain about citizenship, different immigration laws, and issues people have to be careful about.

## Plant sale to raise money

By Michele Lovel

Students can support the sports teams by buying plants at Prosak's Greenhouse starting Wednesday through May 4, as part of a Wildcat Booster Club fundraiser.

When purchasing an item, tell the cashier to donate the amount to West Chicago Community High School's Booster Club.

There will be annuals, perennials, baskets and garden supplies for sale at Prosak's Greenhouse.

"It's the easiest fundraising that anyone could do," said John Klingberg, head of the Booster Club. "Prosak's does everything; the tallying and percentages, all that Booster Club does is receive the proceeds."

Prosak's Greenhouse is located at 28 W. 140 High Lake Rd., in Winfield.

## LifeSmarts team puts intelligence on display as they take fifth place at the national competition

### After going undefeated at the state competition, the team lost to New York on final question at nationals

Brittany Blanchard

The LifeSmarts team recently finished what adviser Don Zabelin calls "a very successful season" with a fifth place finish at the national competition in San Francisco on April 16-19.

The team, made up of students Tim Bolt, Ryan Funderburk, Joey Staiton, Tom Walsh and captain Jacob Bermudez, went undefeated at the state competition.

"I knew we had a real strong team and we were really anxious to get to compete (at nationals) and see how we could do," said Zabelin.

The team started out nervous, but nonetheless strong as they beat Michigan and South Carolina early in the competition.

"During the first competition the players were a little nervous because (we were at

the national competition where) it was all on the line, but as the competition went on they loosened up and did very well," said Zabelin.

However, the loss to New Hampshire that followed showed Zabelin that the team was a bit off their game.

"We were behind early in the competition so the team panicked. We were buzzing in too soon and the team had a hard time recovering," Zabelin explained.

As a result, the following day Zabelin decided to cancel the scheduled practice in order to take the team to scenic

Fisherman's Wharf to talk and relax.

"I told the team that they hadn't just gotten lucky in qualifying for nationals; that they deserved to be here. So we spent the rest of the day relaxing and enjoying the sounds and sights of the city," said Zabelin. "And the next day the team had a much better frame of mind."

In the competitions that followed the Illinois team beat Indiana and New Jersey but lost to New York with the final question which eliminated them from the competition.

(See LifeSmarts page 7)



Photo courtesy of Nancy Blume

Ten members of FBLA placed high enough at the state level to move on to nationals where they will compete this summer in Orlando, Florida.

## FBLA looking to make a good showing at nationals

By Katie Taylor

Ten members of FBLA qualified for the National Leadership Conference, which will take place June 23-28 in Orlando, Florida.

"They're all very excited," said business education teacher Maria Wirth. "We're taking a great group of kids there."

Jeff Cisowski, Ashley Conway, Joe Majchrowski, Nick Kuras, Ryan Pinto, Heidi Colliander, Chris Jelen, Alyssa Claude, Megan Andracki, and Amy Axelrod qualified by placing in the top two in their events at the state competition in Decatur on April 11.

(See FBLA page 7)

## Library reaching out to struggling readers with grant

### The Learning Resource Center will use \$22,500 to buy new books for lower than grade level readers

By Sabrina Potirala

The Learning Resource Center, after receiving a \$22,500 grant, will be restocking the shelves with new novels and other materials for students struggling to read.

The change was initiated by head librarian Eric Bodwell by writing a report that said the selection of books for lower than grade level readers and Hispanic students was not very wide.

Supt. Lee Rieck and Education Foundation President Kathy Crampton approached Anna Ball and Mike Williams from the Ball Horticulture Company about the grant with Bodwell's report.

"We offered them six ways in which they would be able to help our school. This grant was the

sixth one and the most expensive," said Rieck.

Rieck was excited to hear that the company would give the school the grant.

"We were all very ecstatic and excited when we got the call that the grant had been approved," said Rieck.

Bodwell was also glad to hear that his hard work had paid off.

"I am really excited about getting books for those kids we don't usually have books for. I was doing flips when I found out we got the grant," said Bodwell.

Some changes that the LRC staff plan on doing include working with the special education and the ESL departments to create a list of topics

for the fiction and non-fiction books they plan on buying; surveying students to receive feedback on the books; purchasing the materials for the collection, including a notation in the online library catalog as an aid for teachers who serve the targeted population; and develop-

ing a marketing effort aimed at reaching teachers, English language learners, and others that would benefit by having booklists or booktalks in order to promote reading.

"It is going to be hard work, but in the end I think it will pay off," said Bodwell.

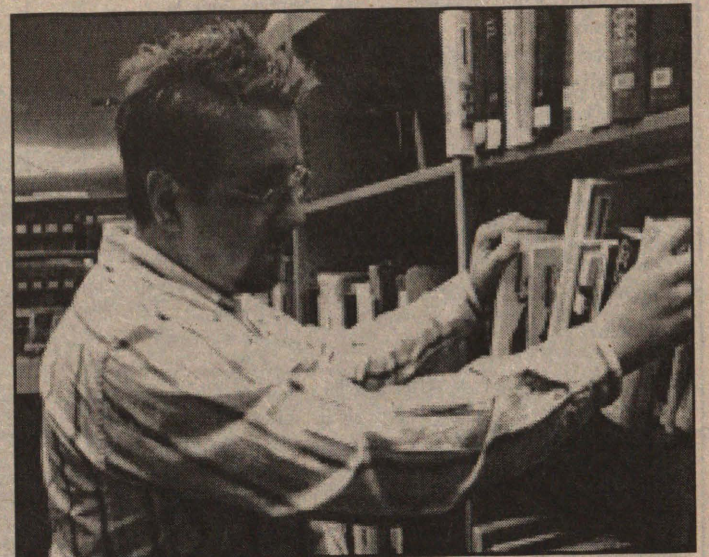


Photo by Sabrina Potirala

In his first year as head librarian, Eric Bodwell has made an impact by receiving a \$22,500 grant to improve the book selection for lower than grade level readers.



## Next year brings two new deans

### Miguel Arroyo and Josh Chambers will leave their positions to fill needs created by community and No Child Left Behind standards

By C.J. Hinojosa

Next year, if you find yourself called down to the dean's office, you won't be facing Miguel Arroyo or Josh Chambers.

WCCHS administration is experiencing a proposed shift in positions, with four new roles taking effect starting in the fall semester.

Arroyo will be the director of the Welcome Center, and Chambers will be assistant principal for administrative

services. The other two, director of business services and assistant dean, were given to Dan McCarthy and Pete Martino, respectively.

"This is all related to school improvement," said Principal John Highland. "There's such a high correlation between achievement and attendance, and our staff felt strongly about where our priorities should be."

Highland stressed how the school has really changed the

way it does instruction, citing the way classrooms have become more interactive, and because small group discussions can be difficult for an absent student to make up.

The focus is to get kids in school, said Highland. Attendance is the main concern.

Another reason for the shakeup comes from No Child Left Behind.

There are three groups at WCCHS not meeting standards: limited English speakers, Hispanic students, and the economically challenged, said Highland. He felt that Arroyo, who is Hispanic, would make a strong impact in the Welcome Center partnering with parents and reaching out to West Chicago's diverse community.

In Chambers' new position, he will oversee the new deans once they are hired. The application and interview process is already in motion.

McCarthy, the activities director, is leaving his current post to fill the position now held by Gary Grizaffi, who is the current business manager, but is transferring to Romeoville.

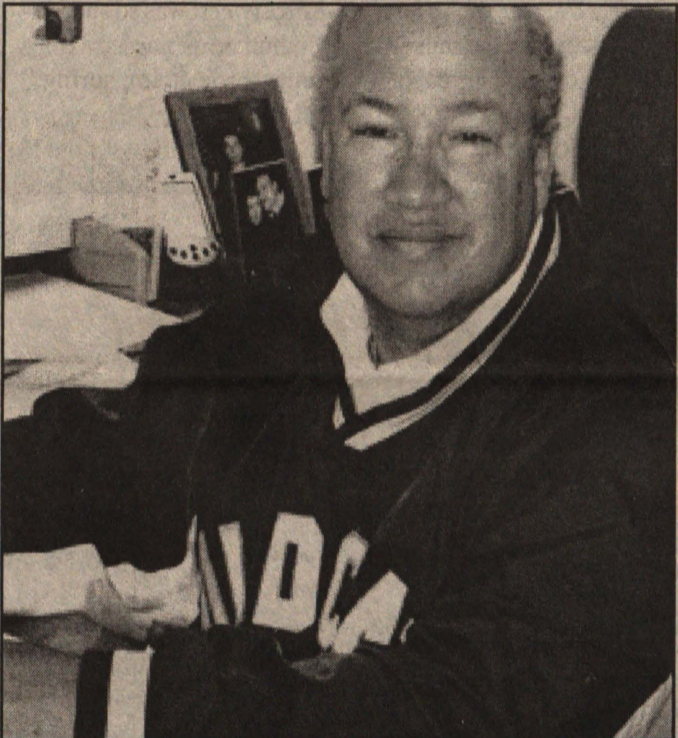


Photo by C.J. Hinojosa

Miguel Arroyo, a long-time dean, will become the director of the Welcome Center in order to help reach out to the community.

## Juniors face mandatory tests

By Kellie Virnich

For the first time, the Prairie State Achievement Examinations (PSAEs) will be mandatory for all juniors planning to graduate high school. The students will take these tests, along with the ACTs, Wednesday and Thursday for the majority of the school day.

Principal John Highland believes that this is a step in the direction of a mandatory exit exam for high school students all over the country, as required PSAE testing has become more popular over the past several years.

"The state seems to feel very strongly about this test, and the potential for an exit exam in the near future certainly exists," Highland said.

He said that the test does not seem to give a very accurate example of students' academic ability, as a different group is tested every year, and certain groups are disadvantaged because of language and learning barriers.

"The test is the same for everyone, regardless of how long they have spoken English," he said, "and many students simply do not test well."

While the government is attempting to gather test scores, and form a general consensus of how the nation's schools are doing, the PSAEs are only one assessment of a student's ability.

School districts' average PSAE and ACT scores will be included in AYP, which determines which schools are "in need of improvement" according to government standards.

In order to help students prepare for the ACTs, the high school offered a prep course again this year which has the potential to raise a student's score two points on average.

Highland stressed that test scores aren't the only thing colleges look at in a student's transcript, but that the PSAEs should be taken as seriously as other standardized tests, because the scores go out on transcripts and can be used in borderline situations.

"These tests, which students haven't been taking seriously at all, could mean the difference between getting accepted into or denied by your first choice school," Highland said.

## Evans heads off to Milwaukee after capturing \$20,000 scholarship

### Evans' essay was one of the top eight out of a pool of 200 for the Marquette University scholarship

By Katie Taylor

After writing an essay, senior Julia Evans was selected as one of eight to receive a \$20,000 scholarship from Marquette University.

Marquette invited Evans and 200 other admitted seniors to a scholarship competition in which they were asked to write an essay, in one hour, about how they would advise the president to use the media to unify the opposing opinions in America.

"I knew right away what to write and how to structure my essay," Evans said, who attributes her essay's success to her AP English 3 teacher Jason Kling and her modern media class.

"Modern Media honestly helped me more than I can ever say," Evans said. "AP English 3 was also so helpful in knowing how to write a good essay in an hour."

Evans was surprised when she found out she was one of

only eight winners to receive the scholarship.

"I never expected to win, especially since I was up against 200 other people from all over the country," she said.

After winning the scholarship, Evans stopped looking at other colleges and decided to attend Marquette's College of Communication.

"Receiving this scholarship was a big deciding factor," Evans said. "How can you say no to a great school where you also win a scholarship?"

Evans is looking forward to attending Marquette in the fall, where she plans to double major in broadcast communication and theater.

"I am so excited to get to know Milwaukee and be in an urban environment," Evans said. "Unfortunately, warm weather is not in my near future, but I guess my winter coat will be getting even more use."



Photo by Julie Youngwith

Julia Evans has been a part of many of the school's plays, and is currently practicing for the upcoming "Brigadoon."

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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.



## Students and staff promote reading with Read A Thon

While the turnout was low for the event, all who attended listened to some of their favorite children's books read by students and staff

By Katie Taylor

Child development students captivated young readers and encouraged the community to share the joy of reading with children at its page-turning spring event, the annual Read A Thon, on April 17.

The event took place in commons. Students, faculty, members of the community, and people from other schools read their favorite children's books to an audience of children from feeder districts.

The Read A Thon was free to all that attended, and also included a Scholastic book sale

and refreshments.

Special guest Mother Goose made a presentation and read to the children, and counselor Ward Rau read "Alexander and the Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Day".

Sophomore Maggie Stremel read "We're Goin' On a Bear Hunt" and enjoyed being at the event.

"It was fun to see their reaction when I read to them, and feel like I'm doing something for them that they really enjoyed," she said.

Advanced child development students came up with the



Photo by Katie Taylor

With hopes of creating another successful event like Frosty Fest, Patti Kozlowski was instrumental in the creation of the Read A Thon.

idea for the Read A Thon in 2004, and wanted to help the community with reading and story telling.

"Both districts are concerned about No Child Left Behind and reading scores,"

said Patti Kozlowski, child development teacher. "We need to encourage the children to read but have fun too."

Overall, Kozlowski was really pleased with the event, although not many people at-

tended.

"Frosty Fest was so successful, I thought we needed a community project for spring," Kozlowski said. "It's a really neat idea to have something for the community to do."

## Students ready to set sail for European History Tour

By David Thomas

England, France, and Germany are just some of the countries students will visit on the European History Tour 2006.

The tour will last 15 days in the summer of 2006 as students

have always read about these landmarks in history books. Now they have the chance to see them up close."

Other highlights of the trip include Big Ben, St. Paul's Cathedral, Canterbury Cathedral,

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*"We want to give the students a chance to experience history firsthand."*

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travel through six countries, starting in London, England. Students will see historic landmarks such as the Buckingham Palace before traveling to Paris to see the Eiffel Tower, and visit the historic Hall of Mirrors at Versailles, the elaborate palace of French King Louis XIV.

Once in Berlin, students will visit the Brandenburg Gate. It is the same gate West and East Berliners danced on when the Berlin Wall was torn down.

The tour will continue through the continent and visit cities such as Prague, Czech Republic, Budapest, Hungary, ending in Vienna, Austria.

"We want to give the students a chance to experience history firsthand," said social studies teacher and tour adviser Mary Ellen Daneels. "Students

Notre Dame Cathedral, the Louvre, Checkpoint Charlie Museum, Zwinger Museum, St. Vitus Cathedral, Budapest Basilica, Matthias Church, St. Stephen's Cathedral, and the Schönbrunn Palace.

According to Daneels, the tour will cost about \$2,500.

Students will need four teacher recommendations and accept the rules of the tour before they are eligible for the trip.

There is no age or club requirement to be able to go on the tour.

An informational meeting regarding the trip will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. in room 197. Students and parents are invited to attend.

Students with questions should see Daneels.

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## Spring musical brings Scotland to students

Actors and actresses will perform 'Brigadoon,' a comedy about two Americans finding a magic town

By Julie Youngwith

Thespians are bringing a wee bit of Scotland to the school with their spring musical, "Brigadoon."

The musical will be held May 12, 13, and 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

"Brigadoon" is a romantic comedy about two American hunters that get lost and find a magical town set in the Scottish highlands.

Director Mary Hafertepe said that one of the reasons she picked to perform this musical because the music is exceptionally beautiful.

Choir director Brandon Fantozzi said, "The music in this musical is much more difficult than any of the musicals I have done in the past."

Since the musical is set in Scotland, the performers will get to show off their Scottish



Photo by C.J. Hinojosa

Many of the actors and actresses in "Brigadoon" had to have a language coach to help them with their Scottish accents, which are vital to maintaining accuracy to the play.



Photo by C.J. Hinojosa

A different aspect of "Brigadoon" is that the music involved is much different and harder to play. Director Mary Hafertepe called the music in the play, "exceptionally beautiful."

accents.

Hafertepe decided to use the Scottish accents in order to keep the authenticity of the musical.

Though they had a little help with their dialect from a language coach, the cast practiced and perfected their own accents.

"The Scottish accent is hard to learn," said Kylie Riermaier who plays a townspeople and a dancer.

The leads for this year's musical are Jon Hall as Tommy Albright; David Thomas as Jeff Douglas; Julie Evans as Fiona MacLaren; Jessica Stentz as Meg Brockie; and David Taylor as Charlie Dalrymple.

Many of the students in the cast enjoy putting together the show.

This is junior Lora Vodicka's third musical.

"Being in the musical is really fun and I enjoy working with the variety of people in it," said Vodicka.

## Hall of honor may receive two new faces this year

By Elynn Fortino

Two new faces could possibly join the Board of Education's Hall of Honor this fall.

Every year new candidates are nominated and selected to be honored. A maximum of two candidates will be selected this year based on community involvement and contributions.

Selections will be based on the following criteria: the individual's achievement went beyond a personal benefit and benefited District 94; the individual's contributions were of a significant nature for the school, community, or society; and the individual's contributions were recognized on a community, state-wide, or national basis.

Retiring staff members or individuals leaving active in-

volvement in the school district are eligible for consideration as candidates.

Retiring staff members this year are Al Fickau, Richard Howard, Wayne Kosek, Patricia Kroger, Cass Streicher, and Penny Wold and are therefore eligible.

"If the individual has characteristics of those who have won before they will be considered as a viable candidate," said Principal John Highland.

Any person can submit a nomination. Letters can be sent to Highland and are due on Friday.

"So far we have no nominations," said Highland.

Highland and five other committee members will meet to discuss the nominations. The acceptance ceremony will take place in the fall.

## National Honor Society makes selections

### New members will be inducted May 5, as members wrap up community projects and events

By John Jennings

The National Honor Society will be inducting a new class of members on May 5, which will be the final stage in a long process for potential inductees.

The process started with all students with a GPA over 3.0 being eligible to be in the National Honor Society, and then filling out an application.

Applications asked background information about previous work with the community, volunteer service, and leader-

ship qualities.

To be inducted into the new class of the National Honor Society, eligible juniors had to fill out the application which included several short answer essays about why they should be in the society.

Those who turned in the application were then either accepted or denied by a council of faculty members.

The members chose the students blind, not knowing the name of the applicant, and choosing them based on the quality of the application.

"It was a really hard job, but I am looking forward to a great


year and helping out at Frosty Fest and other community service activities," said co-adviser Katie Jones.

The National Honor Society played a big part in Frosty Fest, which is an annual event held in December, to benefit the entire community.

The National Honor Society was in charge of Santa's Workshop where children could buy less expensive gifts for their parents and relatives. Some members also decorated the hallways and commons.

Also, the National Honor Society sponsored Senior Servants where students and faculty alike could donate money to have a member be their servant for a day.

All of the proceeds of the event were donated to the tsunami victims.



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## Aquatic center creates new activities to get students more involved

Diving and kayaking lessons are just some of the new programs created to teach students how to swim and have fun in the process

By Katie Taylor

Diving lessons have been added to the schedule where students can learn different dives from 1984 Olympic medalist Ron Merriot.

"He is very good with giving specific feedback on each dive and simplifying diving," said aquatics director Curt Herrin. "He has the kids learn the basics of the approach, take-off and entry before moving to new dives, which helps them in the long run."

Thirty-minute classes are available between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

The aquatic program is also looking for all levels of swimmers above the age of 19 to start a master's swim program starting June 6.

"The program is designed to give swimmers who want to train for fitness and competition a place to be on a team and to have a coach," Herrin said.

The program will also be geared towards training tri-athletes who want to take their swimming leg to the next level and be more competitive.

The group will meet from 5:30-6:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and 7-

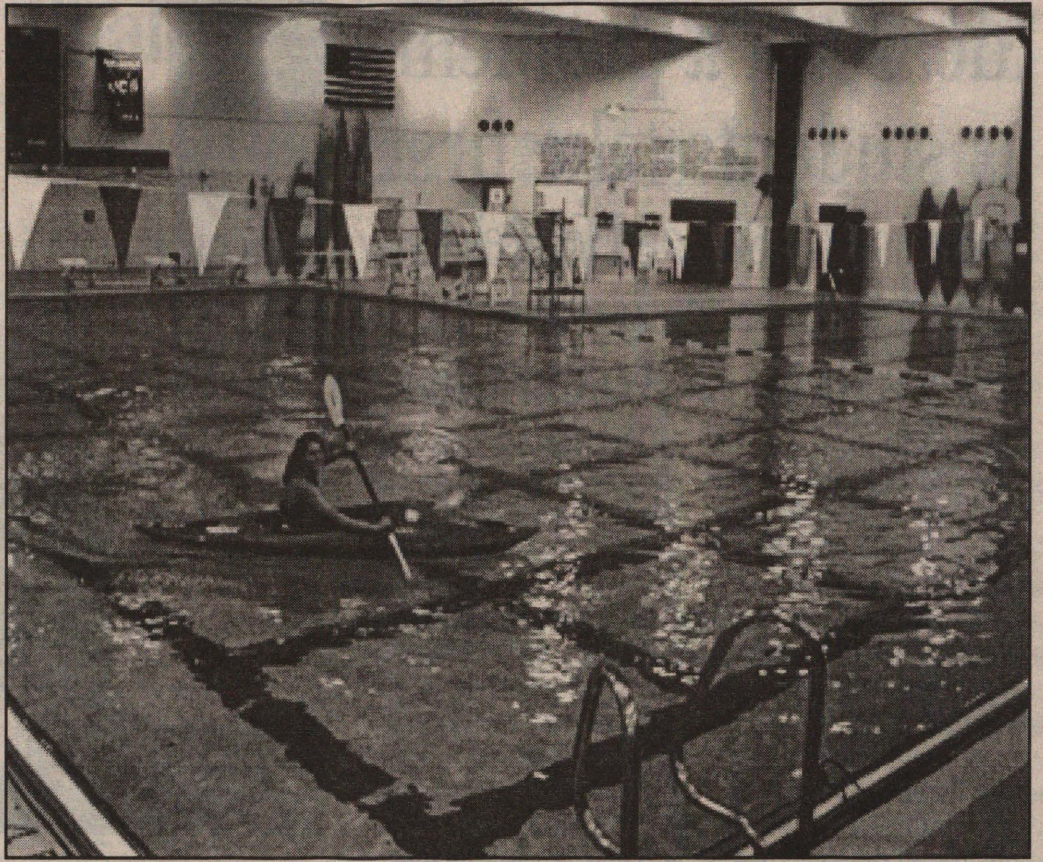


Photo by Katie Taylor

Kayaking is just one of the many activities offered by the school to encourage students to use the pool and aquatic center.

8 p.m. Monday and Thursday.

Kayaking classes will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12-2:30 p.m. in June and August. The class will first focus on teaching basic skills, and progress to learning white

water skills.

"The goal of the class is to offer basic knowledge so those patrons have the skills to explore kayaking in local lakes or rivers," Herrin said.

Open swim is available for lap swimming, basketball, diving boards, and free swim from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, and on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

Early-bird lap swim for those of high school age and older is offered from 5-6 a.m.

"I go to early-bird swim a lot," said student Natalie Stew-

ard. "It's a good way for me to practice when I'm not swimming for the school."

A Hawaiian luau will be offered Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8 p.m. over the summer that will feature a DJ and free leis.

The pool will also offer movie nights on June 14 and July 12 at 6:45 p.m.

"Patrons can enjoy popcorn and a movie in the dark while floating on a raft in the pool," Herrin said.

The pool will provide the popcorn and drinks, while patrons are asked to bring their own rafts.

## Students show elementary schoolers rest of the world

By Brittany Blanchard

Several students will be volunteering their time at the upcoming International Night at Indian Knoll Elementary School May 6.

The International Night will showcase seven different countries complete with presentations and displays. The countries include Mexico, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Australia, Japan, and India.

"Throughout the night each country will have a table and display where students will be able to ask questions, produce a small craft native to the country, taste food samples, and watch dances and demonstrations," said coordinator Rita Butler.

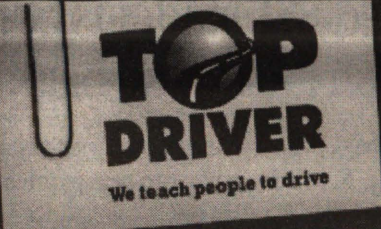
Junior Naiya Panchal will perform a dance native to India, Jane Zenker and company from the Foy School of Traditional Irish Dance will present two Irish dances, and Jeff Cisowski, Kelly Wdowiarz,

and Alyssa Claude, who all traveled to Germany last summer as part of a foreign exchange, will share some of their knowledge and experiences.

Butler is excited about the premiere of International Night and believes it will be a fun evening for all those involved.

"The high school students are going to be really good examples for the younger kids. Not only will they present important information, but they will be wonderful role models for the children," she said.

The idea for International Night spawned from the school's annual Cinco de Mayo celebration. The school held the festivity yearly as a social event to incorporate both of the predominant cultures within the school. However, many people expressed an interest to expand the program to make it international.



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
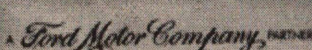


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## Ideas not a problem as students take first

### Students Dale Szul and Joe Peletis won their respective events at the state level at the IDEA competition

By Ken Cole

Two West Chicago students recently placed at the state level of the Illinois Drafting Educators Association.

Dale Szul and Joe Peletis both placed first in the regional contests and moved on to the state competition where places are awarded for only the top three finishers.

Szul participated in the machine board drawing contest and Peletis in the introductory CAD contest.

"For entry level CAD you have to be a first year student, you kind of can't have done this before," said Peletis.

There are seven separate contests in all.

"For the introductory CAD competition I had to take an object and draw all of the views like, the top and bottom," said Peletis.

"There is really no way for you to prepare for these tests, you just have to know what you're doing," said Peletis.

The machine board competition is where an object is passed out to all the competitors and they have to draw it out in sectional views. The main difference between the two contests is that one is made on a computer.

Industrial arts teacher Paul Junkroski was happy that both of the students made it as far as they have.

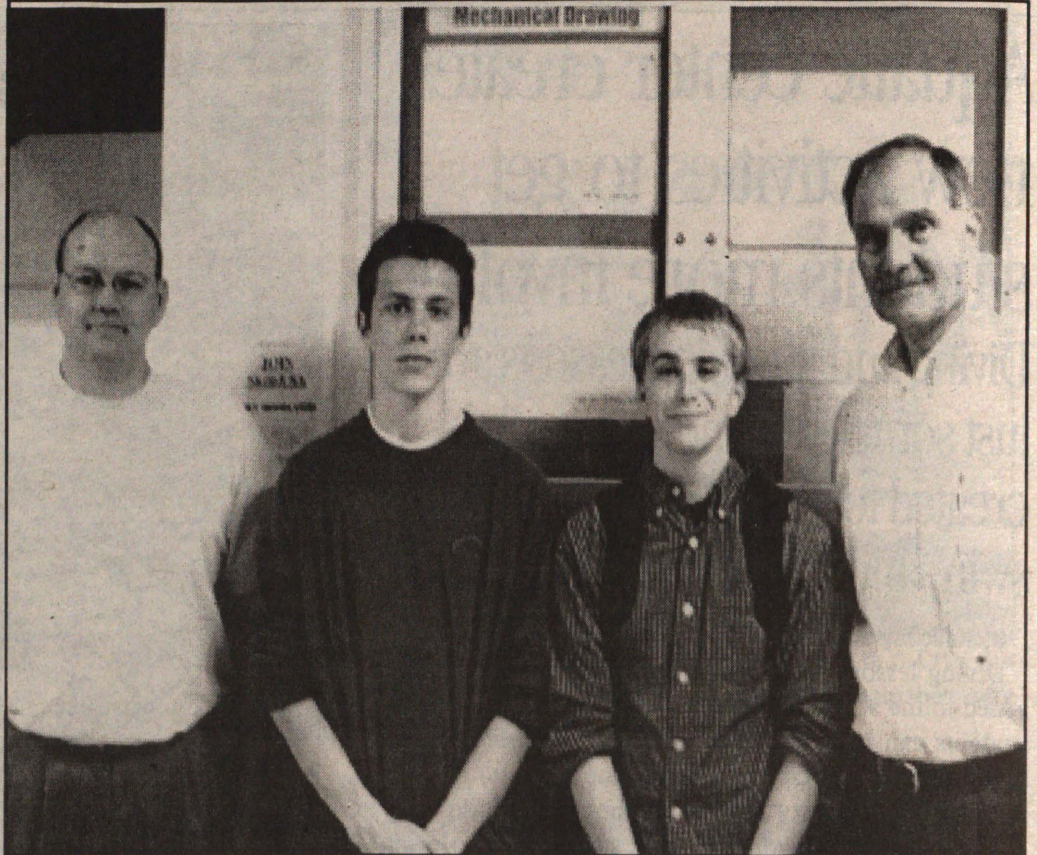


Photo by Ken Cole

Joe Peletis (second from left) and Dale Szul (second from right) both placed first at the IDEA competition recently under the direction of Marty Molina (left) and Paul Junkroski (right).

"The IDEA competition is extremely difficult, I'm impressed with their work," said Junkroski. "This is the best we have ever done at the IDEA competition."

## Clothing classes teach English to ESL students

### Patti Kozlowski and her clothing class helped ESL students perfect their English and make bags

By Brittany Blanchard

The English as a Second Language (ESL) classes incorporated sewing into their curriculum when they learned about clothing vocabulary kinesthetically.

she never found the language barrier to be a problem in her classes.

"I was able to teach them by demonstration so we didn't need to be able to speak the same language," Kozlowski

*"I wanted to put the students in situations where they could learn the language."*

With the regulations of the Bush Administration's No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation, teacher Patti Kozlowski knew that all students needed to learn English quickly in order for the school to meet the requirements of the law.

"I wanted to put the students in situations where they could learn the language. I knew there needed to be a place the students could feel comfortable enough to learn; somewhere they wouldn't feel threatened by others. (The sewing classroom) can be that place," said Kozlowski.

So Kozlowski teamed up with ESL teacher Mark Poulterer and met with his class during her first hour planning period to work on draw-string hand-bags that the students constructed.

Even though Kozlowski is not a fluent Spanish speaker,

said. According to Kozlowski, the students really enjoyed the unit and working with the different machines and it was a beneficial project for multiple reasons.

"(The students) didn't just learn to make a bag, they were learning the language through directions, sequencing, and socialization," she said.

Although the unit only lasted three days, Kozlowski is already urging the school for similar opportunities in the future for ESL students to interact with other classes.

"I'm trying to encourage (the school) to put together an actual sampling class for the ESL students. If they can get a taste of all of the classes that our school offers in a setting that is just for them, they might be more inclined to enroll in one of the electives in the future," said Kozlowski.



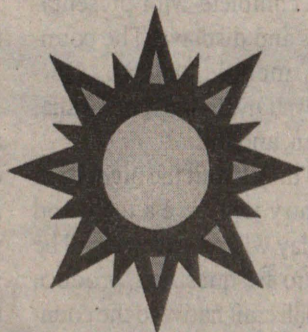
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Photo by Ellyn Fortino

Kayla Harris is one of the five students participating in the challenge, and likes the idea so much, she cannot wait to do it again next year.

## Challenge will have contestants in a fit as they try to keep up

### Five students will participate in the Fitness Challenge whose goal is to get students in shape and healthy

By Ellyn Fortino

The first Fitness Challenge kicked off April 11 to help motivate students to eat healthy and get fit.

"Now that we have new, cooler things in the workout room, it pumps the kids up," said physical education depart-

ment chair, Dan Johnson. "We have new bikes, treadmills and a sound system which will help motivate students to participate."

Five people are involved in this year's challenge, and each person must meet the requirements including three days of cardio for at least 20 minutes, weightlifting twice a week, and a daily food journal.

Students involved in the challenge are Kayla Harris, Joel Rojas, Mario Barajas, Marco

Luna, and Javier Hernandez.

"The fitness challenge is a good way to get students motivated to get into shape and be active," said participant Harris. "I think it's a great idea."

Students that meet all requirements will receive a gift card to Sportmart.

"The requirements are difficult, but I am confident that the students involved will succeed," said fitness challenge creator Dina Klancir.

The fitness challenge will end on May 27.

"I'm confident that I will meet the requirements and my personal goals," said Harris. "I am looking forward to next year's fitness challenge."

## Yearbook gets an extreme makeover as next year they will be in color

By Lauren Krage

Televisions made the switch. So did movies. And soon the Challenge Yearbook at Community High School will join the movement and replace its outdated black and white pages with a display of living color.

Pending board approval, the 2007 yearbook will be printed in color, said yearbook advisor Patricia Santella.

This proposal will be brought before the Board of Education next school year to gain approval to officially make the change.

Though the price of buying a yearbook will go up to \$42, the increase is gradual and is only \$12 higher than this year's price and \$7 higher than next year's.

However, Santella is willing

to assist anyone unable to make the price adjustment.

She said, "Price should not be a reason a student wouldn't get a yearbook, and we hope to implement a program to help students in need."

Principal John Highland added, "We would like to create some type of situation to help kids who can't afford the new yearbook, so there is a potential for assistance."

A main reason for pushing the change is equal coverage to all events and students within the high school. This goal can be accomplished by representing all activities in color instead of highlighting a few.

"The first pages people turn to are the colored pages," said Santella. "Color allows us to have an equal viewpoint of all students and sports."

Santella says a 50 percent decrease in the price to print color yearbooks within the past few years produced the possibility of the alteration of style.

"20 years ago printing yearbooks in color was unheard of," said Santella, "but across the nation it's becoming more common."

Highland agreed by saying he wants to keep our yearbook up to date by joining most other area schools in converting to color. "That's what most schools are doing," he said.

Therefore, both Santella and Highland agree that printing the yearbook in color would be a worthwhile endeavor, despite the raise in price.

"Color will allow us to show the beauty of Community High School in a way that black and white can't," said Santella.

## Future filmmakers take the stage and display their talent at festival

### Teacher Brian Turnbaugh along with senior C.J. Hinojosa started the school's first ever film festival

By Ellyn Fortino

Students showed off their filmmaking talents to over 100 viewers at the first annual film fest, titled "The Untrained Mind," recently.

English teacher Brian Turnbaugh and senior C.J. Hinojosa came up with the idea to start an annual film fest in September.

"I thought that something like this would be awesomely amazing to have at our school," said Hinojosa.

The deadline to submit a

film was on April 4, and any student who wanted to turn in a film could.

Altogether eight films were entered in the film fest and different film genres were music videos, dark comedies, fantasy, and others.

"The audience was entertained and the film makers had an audience to appreciate their effort," said Turnbaugh. "Without question the work of C.J. Hinojosa, Chris Wiersema, and Eric and Adam Olson blew everyone away."

Participants were Rachel Hellman, Dave Thomas, Davy Taylor, Tyler Dameron, Tom Wood, Wiersema, Greg Powell, the Olson brothers, Dan Trainor, Hinojosa, Zach Butters, and old work by Jon Brandt, Jeff Puetz, and Michael Brooker.

Since this was its first year, there were no specific requirements for the films. "We were very open and we accepted all the films that were submitted," said Hinojosa.

If students missed the chance this year to submit a film, they can participate in next year's film fest.

"It was a big hit, we are definitely bringing it back for next year," Hinojosa said.

## LifeSmarts... (Continued from page 1)

"It was a question my team knew the answer to. New York just got to the buzzer a half a second sooner," Zabelin said.

The loss was frustrating to the team that hadn't seen anyone at the tournament that they didn't feel they were equally as good as.

"At the moment they were really disappointed which is a natural reaction when you know you can beat the team you're playing," said Zabelin. "It just shows how evenly matched the competition re-

ally was."

Additionally, the team's goal was to tie or beat the best previous Community High School LifeSmarts finish at the national competition, which took place in 2003 when the team achieved fourth place.

Zabelin, however, is not displeased.

"I'm very proud of all of the players. We had a really strong team this year and proved at the national level that we were just as strong as any other team there," Zabelin said.

## FBLA... (Continued from page 1)

At the state conference Cisowski placed third, Conway, Majchrowski, Kuras, Pinto, Colliander, and Jelen placed second, and Claude and Andracki placed first as a pair in emerging business issues.

"Everyone did very well at state," Wirth said. "They have a lot of potential to place at nationals."

In addition to preparing for nationals, FBLA elected officials for the 2005-06 school year.

Elected officials include: Axelrod, president; Jelen, vice president; Conway, parliamentarian; Kevin Michaelson, trea-

surer; Annie Caputo, secretary; and Janette Leveille, historian.

Axelrod also was elected state treasurer at the state competition, and will serve on the 2005-06 executive board for Illinois.

"I am really excited that I got the position," said treasurer Michaelson. "I hope I do a good job, and hopefully run for state treasurer next year."

FBLA will be sponsoring a car wash at the VFW May 21 and all proceeds will go towards the trip to nationals.

"Nationals will be exciting," Wirth said. "Were hoping to bring home some hardware."

## Miss Wildcat will not see spotlight

By Jenn Konewko

What was to be the very first Miss Wildcat competition, was cancelled due to a lack of participants.

Art teacher and sponsor David Exner said, "It was an unfortunate series of miscommunications. They wanted to be taken seriously."

The idea started when a group of senior girls thought it was unfair to have a Mr. Wildcat, but no Miss Wildcat.

Senior Michele Lovel said, "I put a lot of hard work and effort into this, there just were not enough girls to do it."

Exner does not know if a competition will happen next year.



## Our View

# People should mind their own business; America's obsession with celebrities is a waste of time

Americans love to hate them, and hate the fact that they love them.

In America, celebrities dominate television programming, magazine covers, news stands, and coffee tables. But why has Hollywood life taken over the media?

The simple fact is that Americans are obsessed with celebrities.

Magazine sales are proof. Tabloids, which dissect the personal lives of celebrities, are becoming more popular. Today, People magazine ranks sixth in nationwide magazine sales on Amazon.com, while Us Weekly ranks sixteenth. Both were ranked higher than Time or US News.

Meanwhile, newspapers have reflected America's growing obsession by shifting their focus from world news to Hollywood gossip. The New York Times released a

front-page article analyzing the career of pop singer Britney Spears in 2002. One can barely open up a newspaper, click on CNN.com or flip through a news station without seeing an update on Michael Jackson's

molestation case or how Martha is coping with life after prison.

Television is so transfixed with celebrities that news

like "The Osbournes," "Newlyweds" and the "Simple Life". These shows have drawn large audiences and high ratings, not to mention huge amounts of money, according to Nielsen Media Research.

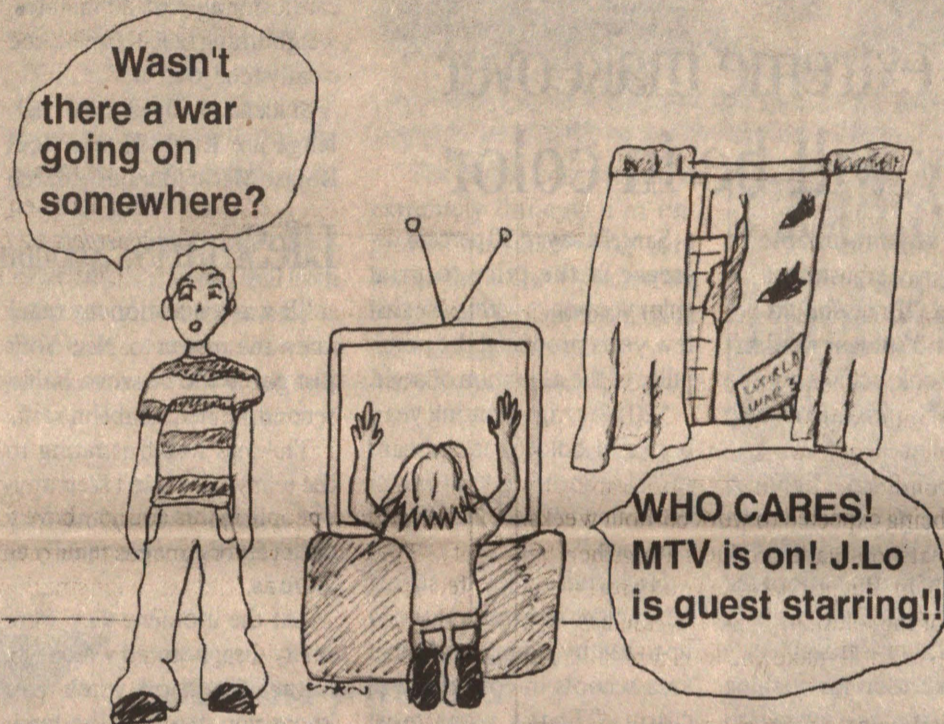
But why does America care so much about not only the careers of celebrities, but what they wear, how much they weigh, how they do their hair, who they date, and what they say?

The lives of the rich and famous take Americans away from what is going on in their own lives.

America needs to get over this obsession. If there is anything that the media's persistent digging into the lives of celebrities has taught us, it is that these "beautiful people" who seem to have everything are actually as imperfect and human as the rest of us.

Still, every day the public is blindsided by millions of useless stories and facts about celebrities that really don't matter. It's really too bad, because as a result, things that matter, like the war in Iraq, homelessness, or cancer research, get lost in the cracks.

American media needs to stop focusing on celebrities and start focusing on things that really affect the world, because celebrity gossip is a waste of the public's time.



programs dubbed "tabloid TV" like "Access Hollywood" and "Entertainment Tonight" were created to follow everything going on in the life of a celebrity.

Reality TV also focuses on Hollywood, with shows

## Scott Peterson's death sentence was influenced unfairly by bias and broad media coverage

Scott Peterson was found guilty of brutally murdering his wife and unborn child. It's obvious this heinous crime deserves some sort of punishment, and, to be honest, anyone committing this offense deserves to die. But can one be sure enough of Peterson's guilt to give him this extreme sentence?

A jury in California recently decided between life in prison without parole and capital punishment. They recommended that Peterson should pay for this crime with his life, and the judge agreed. Peterson now awaits death by lethal injection in a prison in California.

This decision was greeted by cheering crowds outside the courtroom and approval from all over the country.

However, there is a question of justice in this situation that needs to be raised. Was Scott Peterson's guilt really proven enough beyond reasonable doubt to sentence him to death?

Though the evidence brought up against him is seemingly incriminating and certainly reeks of suspicion, the case against Peterson undoubtedly lacks proof. The entire argument opposing him is purely circumstantial. Yes, Peterson claimed to be fishing at the time of the murder only a few miles away from where

his wife's and unborn child's bodies were found, but where's the murder weapon, confession, or even the

location of the crime scene? There is no forensic evidence to incriminate Peterson, and circumstantial

assumptions, though they may be enough to receive a guilty sentence, should not be enough to deprive a man of his life.

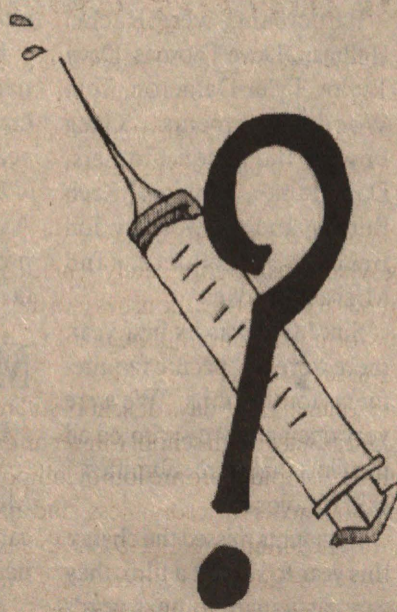
Further, Peterson's case gained attention throughout the nation through intense media coverage.

"I think media bias was a big factor in the case," said criminal defense lawyer Jeralyn Merritt in an online interview at washingtonpost.com. "The scenes of crowds cheering about the death verdict outside the courthouse were just awful."

This scene that Merritt described demonstrates the pressure upon the court when determining Peterson's future. How could he possibly have received a fair trial when it appears most of the United States wanted him dead? Even if the judge was able to rise above this influence, how can anyone know for sure whether or not he was affected?

Therefore, the hype surrounding the Peterson trial is enough to doubt the correctness of the outcome.

Whether or not Scott Peterson is guilty of murdering his wife, there is certainly reason for reasonable doubt. So because his guilt is no longer up for debate, his death sentence should be overturned due to this undeniable lack of proof and more than possible influence of the media.





# Perspectives

Wildcat Chronicle

April 26, 2005

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## Point/Counterpoint

### Increasing productivity at the cost of children is not worth it

By C.J. Hinojosa

When you hear the words "child labor," chances are you don't flash a genuine grin and say, "It's a beautiful thing that makes America's economy what it is today." No way. Not even if you're Phil Knight, CEO of Nike. You don't smile. You grimace. Or you call the working kids "poor little Indonesian workers," as he did.

And speaking of Knight, he never once set foot in his company's Indonesian factories, something he admitted to in "The Corporation," a documentary on the said subject's underbelly. As Nike's chairman, don't you think he'd want to check things out, just to see how shoe production was going? Or would it be too much to stomach that he might resign, and God forbid start advocating the Fair Trade Act?

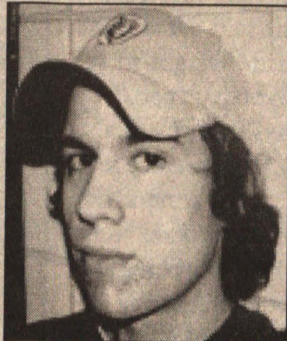
Michael Moore puts it perfectly. "The problem is the profit motive: for corporations, there's no such thing as enough," he said. You may think Moore is a lying jerk, or a damned blue-collar twaker, but there's no denying that he's right. Profit in the corporate world ranks on nearly the same plateau as Jesus does to Christians, and the go-getters won't think twice about hiring a Vietnamese 8-year-old to make their tchotchkiies.

There are plausible ways to fix this epic problem. For one, we could start paying the outsourced workers U.S. minimum wages. Often, sweatshops don't even pay a living wage, even though these people work in the most tedious, lengthy, badly ventilated, and abusive conditions. In Nike's Indonesian factories, workers are paid \$1 per day while being expected to work 65-hour weeks.

It's a very difficult thing to avoid sweatshop-made products altogether, because so many clothing companies use them. But just because you're part of the problem doesn't mean you can't be part of the solution. That said, standing on a soapbox in your made-in-China Adidas will still make you look a bit silly, but you can start checking the tags, at least.

We can keep capitalism without capitalizing on women and children in the Far East. They don't have a choice, while we do, as our economy is nothing to scoff at. Not everyone has free will; that's a terrible logical fallacy. How can you have the ability to choose in a world where you need money to survive, and these jobs are the only ways to get it, even if it's not nearly enough to get by? Also, the contracts are in English, and these non-English speakers are thus very easy to manipulate. Bettering sweatshop pay would not hurt our economy, and as a plus would help clean our greed-soaked conscience.

Picture this: You're walking down a beach and you see a child drowning in shallow water. You can swim, and the water isn't too violent. Can you be held morally responsible if you ignore this? Of course. You could have saved the child with no personal risk, but you decided to walk on. If the child dies, it's your fault. Think about that metaphor, it makes plenty of sense here.



### Stop complaining and face the facts; child labor is inevitable

By John Jennings

Toiling for hours on end, with no breaks, and bad working conditions may sound bad, but it is the price we pay for capitalism.

Many citizens stress that our economic system is based upon the fact that we are a free nation, and that capitalism is a symbol for the freedom of our country.

The problem is though, for those who want that freedom, that there will inevitably be child labor.

If the United States stays with its present doctrine regarding economic policies, then companies are virtually free to do whatever they wish, and are left to their own devices much of the time.

The government looks the other way for companies like Nike and Coca-Cola and lets them go to foreign countries to produce their items.

If the government truly wanted to crack down on child labor and working conditions, then they would require all companies to stay within the United States and abide by our country's policies. But that then, would no longer be capitalism, or at least *laissez faire*.

Citizens of this country cannot have it both ways.

We can either have a free economy and allow sweatshops and the like to occur, or we can crack down and take some of those freedoms away.

Either way someone is going to be angry.

Presently, I feel we should stay with the way we have it. Let's not try to fix something that is not broken. Yes, some children will be working in terrible conditions, but everyone makes their own choices.

Over time, people in this country have forgotten about personal responsibility. The fact is, everyone makes their own choices in their life, and while I do feel for the children who work for small wages with bad conditions, there are other options.

Some people will argue that these children don't have a choice, but they do. Everyone has free will and can exercise it if they so choose.

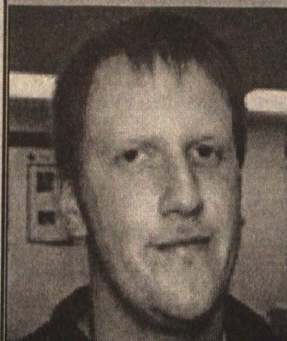
While the conditions that children suffer through are terrible, if the government were to crack down and police this sort of thing, not only would our economy suffer, but many goods would no longer be available, or prices would be much higher.

If you make Nike stop employing children, then their profits go down, and they must hire fewer workers, and in turn produce less. They will be forced to pay their workers more and in turn increase the price of their goods.

I have no problem with trying to end the suffering of working children, however there are consequences to this action that many fail to see.

If you want to put an end to child labor, you will also be putting an end to our economy as we know it.

It's not a bad thing to want to get rid of child labor, but then you cannot whine about higher prices.



### Get Your War On, By C.J. Hinojosa

## 'Senioritis' is at its worst during last weeks of high school

Disclaimer: Don't believe what you hear, or in this case, see. Everything you read is fiction. Even non-fiction, that's all lies too. "Juiced" by Jose Canseco? The whole thing's made up. Just like that encyclopedia gathering dust under your desk. None of it happened. Ever. Period.

Yeah, now you're questioning pretty much everything. You're like, the grocery store? Conspiracy. Friendster? Conspiracy. Public school? Conspiracy.

So I'm getting really tired of this whole school routine, the whole thing. Kind of like when I was 9 and my mom would buy all these boxes of Apple Jacks, like five or six at a time, and I, an only child, had to eat it all. No blueberry Mini Muffins with pulped-out orange juice, or anything like that. I liked them, but the deliciousness factor eventually wore off. So after awhile, of course, I wanted nothing to do with apples, jacks, or anyone named Jack until I was about 13. Such is high school, circa April 2005, for me.

Yes, senioritis has me like Michael Jackson's had the real Michael Jackson locked up somewhere far

beneath the Neverland Ranch since 1988. And I think I actually like it.

I find myself going to far greater measures to not do my homework than just simply being done with it. When grade reports are mailed, I guard the mailbox like Larry in his golf cart until the slip comes, and then I pounce on it, avoiding what's inside completely. Then I go to a house with a fireplace, and spread the ashes into the wind. They're not quite worthy of an urn on the mantle, so I give them a more fitting send-off.

As I'm writing this, 45 days of school still remain. Forty-five days until I leave high school forever and go to College Land, where I'm told there are lots of lollipops, chocolate unicorns, ska shows, awesomeness, and basketball. No worries, for I'm definitely going to take that seriously. Like one of those U of I engineer types: study like mad on the weekdays with my eyes on the prize, and then end up at every worthwhile party in sight on Holy Friday night, Sacred Saturday, and almost-but-not-quite-as-awesome Sunday.

I basically epitomized the phrase "junioritis" last year.

If I was your student, you knew it. Not something I'm proud of, but hey, you can't make the future better if you deny the past, or something. Like if you ask someone, "Do you ever fear you're completely cliché?" and they say, "Ya, but if life gives you lemons, you've got to make lemonade!"

There are a lot of things I never liked about high school. It being a prison didn't help much, or having a faceless name like "Community High School" that 58,203 other high schools have. Some unnamed teachers were Satan slash Hitler, some were a huge influence on me. But I've got too many good times in the bank to hate you, CHS.

The Grateful Dead found their way into many a 1970s high school yearbook, their songs becoming gold mines of goodbye quotes. I've pretty much never listened to the Dead, but I'm going to steal from them too: "What a long, strange trip it's been." And yet, it's still only April.



## Long distance relationships are among the hardest to maintain E-mail and the telephone help keep couples connected

By Katie Taylor

Life's path tends to pull people in different directions, including many high school couples, who are sometimes forced to reconsider their relationship because they end up attending different colleges in different cities, states, or even countries after high school.

This situation, commonly referred to as a long-distance relationship, leaves many couples with a problem. Is their relationship worth pursuing or should they forget about each other and part ways?

Teen relationships.com says that young couples tend to believe that physical space between them will not affect their relationship because they think their

feelings for each other are strong enough to endure the time apart. However, long distance relationships are more difficult to maintain than one would think.

According to relationship experts at relationship-talk.com, every relationship depends on communication, but long-distance ones cannot exist without it.

It is important for both parties to feel comfortable to talk or write to the other person. The quality of the relationship is more likely to increase if both people develop the ability to share feelings openly with each other.

Whether through e-mail or over the phone, couples need to express that they still care for

each other and keep each other updated about their lives.

Communication also includes seeing each other when possible, which is extremely important according to Miranda Ouseley, a 21-year-old college junior who braved a long distance relationship for three years.

"We saw each other on the weekends when we weren't busy studying," she said. "It was important because we got to see each other and talk in person."

Ouseley says that trust is also important in long distance relationships because partners have to depend on each other to remain faithful without being able to see each other frequently. Being paranoid and accusing will only raise doubts, insecurity and tension between a couple, which does not help the relationship.

Independence is equally important in a long distance relationship. Independence allows individuals to grow and change as while separated from their partner, which everyone needs.

It is, therefore, not wise for partners to expect that their significant other will always stay exactly the same as when the relationship started.

Although difficult, long distance relationships can be successful if both individuals in the relationship are willing to put in the effort that it takes to keep the relationship working.

"My relationship was successful because we worked at it and we loved each other," Ouseley said, who is now engaged. "If you've got that it can work out."

cross the line.

"Kissing to say goodbye is okay, but there is a definite line between affectionate and unacceptable," said Valaski.

Additionally, many students say they feel awkward when surrounded by couples who are publicly displaying their affection for one another.

However, despite the many uncomfortable situations students can be put in, the majority believes that PDA should be allowed in school.

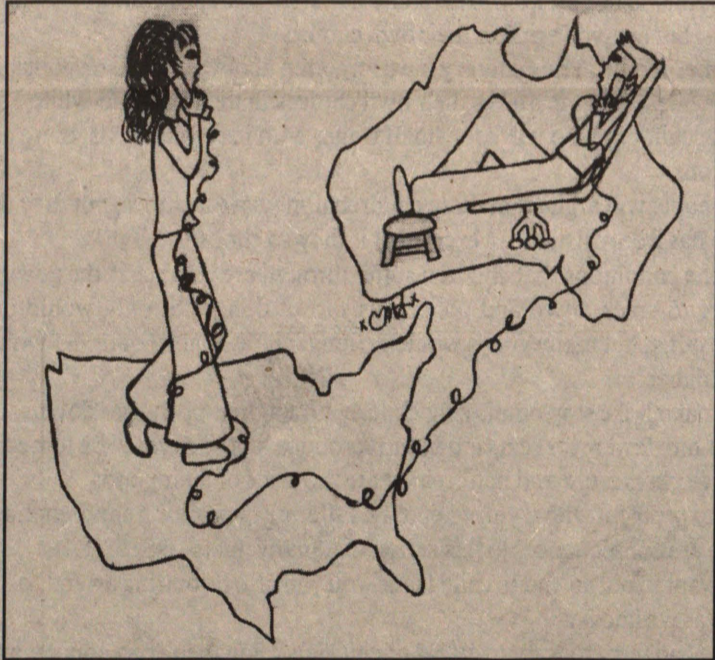
"(PDA should be allowed in school) because you can't hide how people feel about each other," said senior Bryan Loosli. "But I think people should be

considerate," added senior Bill Biring.

The school's official stance on PDA is that students should not participate in school.

"We understand that you're teenagers and that you will be in love, but we do have a policy in place in case things get out of hand," said dean Miguel Arroyo. "We don't have to enforce it often though."

As spring fever begins to plague the students and couples at school, PDA seems as though it is inevitable. Although its natural and somewhat endearing for "love to be in the air" just remember, as Valaski puts it, "there is a time and place for everything."



## School officials put a limit on the amount of public affection

Brittany Blanchard

As teenagers' maturity continues to grow, so does their comfort with affection.

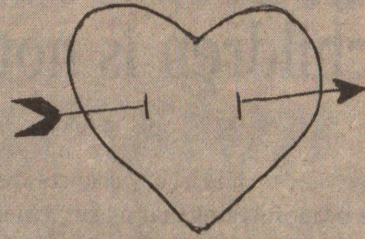
Public displays of affection (PDA) are becoming more prevalent in the halls at school with the progression of each class.

Although the term usually comes with negative connotations, a poll of students shows otherwise.

There are different degrees to PDA. It can range from simple hand holding and small kisses to severe groping and "tonsil hockey" in the hallway. So how much is too much?

Senior Tim Valaski says PDA isn't always bad, unless couples

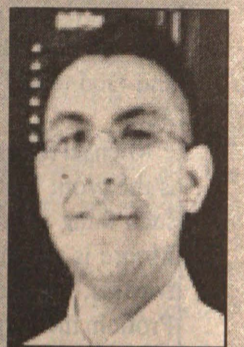
## What students think about



"Dating in high school is like a trial period where you can get to know yourself and other people" - Lora Vodicka (11)



"It's a good way to start to get ready for more serious relationships. I know some people don't take dating in high school seriously, but it's where everything starts." - Vince Czernik (12)



"When you make a decision about a relationship you should follow your heart, body, and soul." - Gerardo Serriteno (11)

## Teenagers learn the 'around' and real ve

### Students in abusive relationship are advised to seek help fast

By Lauren Krage

In any relationship, arguments and occasional annoyances with the other person are common. However, there may come a point when arguments become too heated and annoyances turn into resentment when the line between a healthy relationship and

a destructive one is crossed.

Vivian Walsh, social worker at Community High School for 10 years, recognizes this type of relationship as abuse, whether it be emotional or physical.

She said that, for the victim, abuse feels like any form of harassment and should not be ig-

### How does PDA affect students?

The results are shown in percentages

Do you participate in public displays of affection?  
76- yes 24- no

Does witnessing PDA of others make you feel uncomfortable?  
38- yes 62- no

Do you think students/staff make too big a deal over PDA?  
59- yes 41- no

Do you feel Community High School does not do enough to prevent PDA?  
34- yes 66- no

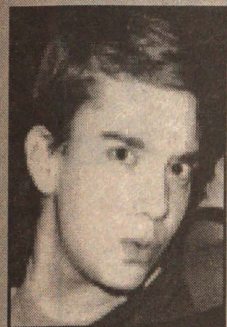
Do you feel PDA is indecent for a school setting?  
41- yes 59- no

Do you feel PDA is simply part of being a couple and should be allowed in all surroundings?  
68- yes 32- no

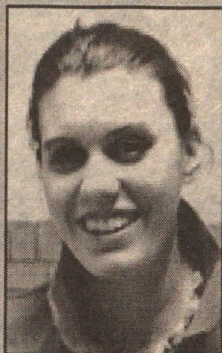
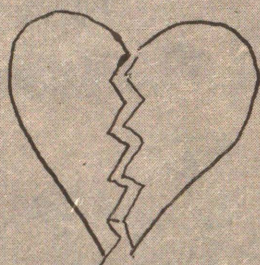
Twenty-nine students were surveyed in commons for their opinions



## high school relationships



"Dating in high school is pointless. It only causes drama." - David Taylor (11)



"High school romances are ironic because we all think ours is the one that will last forever, while everyone else knows it's not true." - Bridget Geraghty (12)



"Being too curious about things leads to mistrust so it's not worth it" - Tiffany Lorenzi (10)

## Dating helps students realize what they want out of future relationships

By Ellyn Fortino

High school is supposed to be a time when students are beginning to discover what they want out of a relationship, but sometimes they are unable to do this because of limitations set by parents.

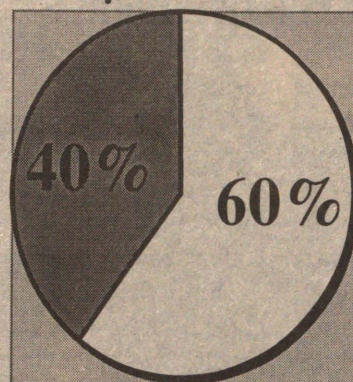
Maturity and responsibility is something that teenagers should have in order to handle a stable relationship.

According to a Lewis-Clark State College unit on divorce, 50 to 60 percent of marriages are likely to end in divorce.

Not all marriages end up in divorces however, but as the percentages show, quite a bit do. Maybe this loss of trust in the parents' relationships has made parents weary of letting their older child date, afraid that future problems will scar their children for life.

But as teenagers know, dating is just another way of finding out what is out there for them, in terms of "the one."

### How many high school couples believe they are actually in love?



100 couples were surveyed in commons for their opinion

Teens understand that chances are, they are not going to be stuck with this guy/girl for the rest of their lives.

"Dating gives most teens the chance to have a sense of security and a sense of love and it also give teens something that makes them feel good and whole inside," said psychology teacher Barbara Laimins.

Parents fear that their children may become hurt if they are involved in a relationship.

"As a parent, I didn't want to see my child hurt or used," said Laimins. "I think it's normal for parents to want to protect their children. Parents also hope that their children will make the right decisions about sex, so their fu-

ture is not compromised."

Even through the good, bad, and the ugly, dating is an important part of growing up and maturing.

There is not an exact age when a person should start dating. Parents should be aware of when their teen has a maturity level to understand what dating is all about.

"If a person is old enough to drive a car, then it would seem that he/she is mature enough to handle the pressures, ups and downs, and responsibilities that come from a relationship," said Laimins.

Before the age of 16 there are many benefits from just going out in a group said Laimins.

## The difference between 'joking verbal and physical abuse

ignored. Oftentimes, however, the victim of this treatment will defend her boyfriend and indeed ignore the situation because she does not want to believe that her boyfriend is an abuser.

"Often it's a concerned friend that will come to me because the victim doesn't clearly see the situation," Walsh said.

Regardless of how the occurrence of abuse is reported, whether it be by the victim, a friend, or parents, Walsh said that she talks directly to the victim to assess his/her situation and their relationship with the abuser.

The first step in dealing with the abuse is "drawing boundaries to define a clear line by saying, 'I don't want you talking to me that way,' or 'I don't want you touching me like that,'" Walsh said.

She also stressed the importance of using 'I' statements to demonstrate to the abuser that the victim, not anyone else, wants the abuse to stop.

If the victim is unable to prevent further abuse, Walsh said that she would contact the appropriate authorities, depending on the severity of the situation.

Walsh also said, "I don't want to sound like I'm defending the perpetrator, but they may not understand they're stepping over a boundary, and they think that's how they're supposed to act in a relationship."

To combat this state of mind, Walsh talks to the perpetrator in the relationship to enforce the idea that he/she has no right to take their emotions out on their boyfriend/girlfriend.

"Sometimes the perpetrator will say, 'I didn't mean to hurt her, but I was angry,'" Walsh said. "I have to make it clear that handling feelings and frustrations this way is not acceptable. Their feelings are their own, and they have to know that."

Though most relationships in this situation eventually end, some are able to transform into a healthy one. However, Walsh said, "I would never advise a person to stay with someone who has abused them. If a person steps over a boundary once, they are likely to do it again."

Whether or not the couple stays together, the victim can come out of the experience with a new, positive outlook on dating.

"An abusive situation is always traumatic, painful, and scary,"

said Walsh, "but the person can come out of it stronger, safer, and not necessarily traumatized for life. It causes people to evaluate future relationships more closely."

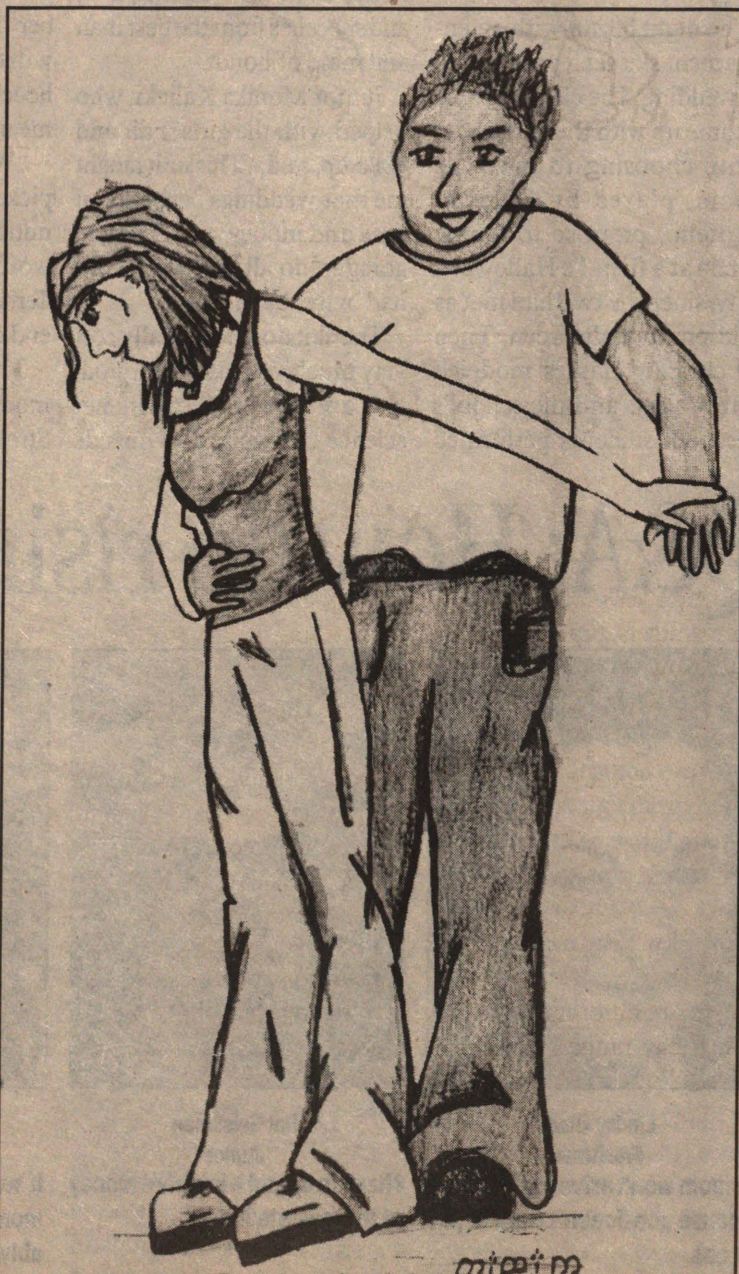
If the situation is not dealt with immediately, Walsh warned of the possibility of living with a long-term abusive relationship or marriage.

"Abuse impacts children to produce another generation of abusers," Walsh said.

To avoid such a harmful situation, Walsh suggests getting help early on in the relationship. Some warning signs to look for in a boyfriend or girlfriend are: excessive jealousy, possessive and/or controlling tendencies, a desire to isolate the person from friends and family, and a person unaware of physical boundaries who may act out anger on another person.

For anyone who is currently in an abusive relationship, Walsh said, "Come talk to me or any of the other social workers at school, and protect your own physical and emotional being."

Walsh also made it clear that anyone in need of help from an abusive relationship does have support. She said, "They're not alone."





# Paw Prints

## Contemporary life students are all grown up at mock wedding

### Students exhibit lessons they have learned during semester at family and consumer science night

By Kellie Virnich

In a joint effort of the entire family and consumer sciences department, the annual mock wedding took place in commons on April 7, the final project of the contemporary life's marriage unit.

Each class put together a portion of the presentation, though the focus remained the ceremony and reception, organized and run by the contemporary life students.

"It's important that it's not just the teacher doing the whole thing," said contemporary life teacher Patty Clifford. "The point of this whole unit is to show students exactly how much is involved with planning a wedding, and how important this part of life is."

*"If you're going to do that much work (for a wedding), you had better be in love."*

The night began with an engagement skit set a year before the wedding. The class was able to come up with their own scenario, choosing to have the groom, played by Gerardo Serriteno, propose to Gema Garcia at a friend's Halloween party, since the two had met as children on Halloween. Then the clothing classes modeled their projects and the school's preschool students performed

songs with the child development class.

"This is also family and consumer science night, so we give all the classes a chance to show the community what they do," Clifford said.

Though the ceremony included the lighting of a unity candle, vows by the couple, and a blessing from the minister, Clifford is always sure to keep any specific religion out of the activity. The other main focus, she said, is the relationship between two people, not the specifics of their faith.

At the reception, the foods 2 students displayed their wedding cake, and the audience participated in a cake raffle, buying tickets for 50 cents each and randomly winning cakes, cookies, and other desserts baked by the foods 1 classes.

Each student volunteered for different roles, from the bride and groom to the minister, and each was responsible for whatever his or her person would do in a real wedding. This included the couple's wedding vows, music from the wedding DJs, and speeches from the best man and maid of honor.

Junior Monika Kalicki, who helped with the girls' hair and makeup, said, "This unit taught me that weddings cost a lot of time and money, and if you're going to do all that work, you had better be in love."

The skit doesn't actually cost very much, as most of the products are part of the consumer science curricula, and outside

items, like dresses and tablecloths, were donated from local businesses.

The profits made from the student admission fee go towards the annual consumer science student scholarship. Every year, the teachers elect one student who has taken a variety of classes in that department to receive a scholarship for his or her post-secondary education.

"We like to help out students who were really involved in the department, so we try to choose someone each year that can really put the money to good use," said Clifford.



Photo courtesy of Cara Blevins

The wedding cake, made by foods 2 students, never used to be displayed to the audience, until Patty Clifford began to teach the class, and decided that their hard work should be seen.

## Advanced German students exhibit 'top speed' through their annual skits

By Ellyn Fortino

German three and four students erstaunt, or amazed, students and staff during the German plays.

Forty-five German students performed 15 different skits and plays that were mostly comedy during the annual March activity.

Every year a new word or phrase is chosen by the German students to use a certain number of times in the skits. The word this year was *hoechstgeschwindigkeit*, which means top speed.

"We hoped that the audience picked up and learned the pronunciation and meaning of the word," said German teacher Terry Strohm. "It seemed by the end of the show they did."

The German plays were more like a variety shows, said Strohm.

"They were able to show off music skills along with their acting skills," she said.

Best choreography, best use of sound/music, and best musical performance went to the Oompah Band, which consisted of Ashley Egert, Summer Hassan, Joshua Lundquist, and Dale Szul.

Frau Deutschland captured best display of talent and best overall performance. The skit included Alyssa Claude, Jason LeGear, Jeff Cisowski, Kelly Wdowiarz, Emily Doll, Matt Marvan, Nick Lelito, Nick Pietrobon, Deborah Corson, Egert, Ian Rewers, and Julien Benter.

The Lord of the Rings skit, comprised of Hassan, Benter, Corson, Jeff Burgress, Szul, Lundquist, Egert, Rewers, and Tom Harwood, won the title best costumes and best commer-

cial/movie trailer.

The best props used and the people's choice award went to the skit Top Gun, which consisted of Hassan, Benter, Corson, Burgress, Szul, Lundquist, Egert, Rewers, and Harwood.

The award for the best use of this year's word (*hoechstgeschwindigkeit*) went to Top Speed, which included Whitney McCaffrey, Brian Youngberg, Gwen Murphy, Eric Brown, Andy Lane, Daniel Martinez, and Jared Vasiliauskas.

Seniors Matt Marvan and Wdowiarz won best individual performances.

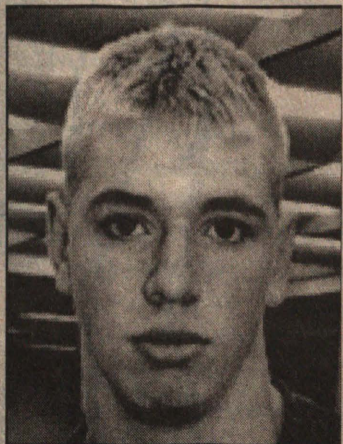
"This year's show was great," said Strohm. "We hope the audience had as much fun as we did. We're already looking forward to next year's performances."

## Q&A: How do rising gas prices affect you?



Lindsay Black  
Freshman

My mom won't drive me anymore because she doesn't want to pay for gas.



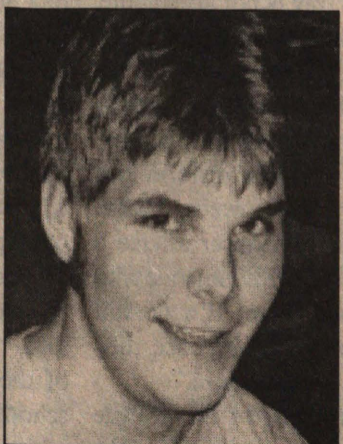
Pat Geissman  
Junior

I have to spend a lot more money at the gas station.



Rachelle Henning  
Sophomore

It won't affect me for two more months, and even then it probably won't because my dad will pay for my gas.



Glen Cawallader  
Senior

It doesn't affect me as much because I drive a mini-van that gets really good mileage.



Martha Kaczmarczyk  
Junior

It stinks because I have to pay more money for gas and have less for other things.



# Paw Prints

## College Column...

### Seniors should now focus on both national and local scholarships to get as much financial aid as they can

By John Jennings

April could be the worst month for seniors regarding colleges. Many students will be sweating it out about where they will be accepted, where they will be going, and how much it is going to cost.

This month is not only when most of the decisions about college are made, it is also the month when most of the local scholarships are due.

Head counselor Maura Bridges said, "it is important for seniors not to give up yet. They should keep trying for the local scholarships."

Bridges added that one of the worst parts about the local scholarships whose deadlines are coming up are that some students have already tried for a lot of big scholar-

ships and they get rejected and quit before the local ones start.

Applications for most of the local scholarships can be found in the guidance office, and many are available for online application as well.

"Students have a much better chance of winning a local scholarship simply because the pool of applicants is so much smaller, so don't give up," said Bridges.

Many seniors should also be receiving responses from colleges regarding admission, and then must choose which school to attend.

Students should weigh financial packages, talk with their parents, and even take another visit of the schools to help make their decision, said Bridges.

"While it might be the biggest decision of your life, you

shouldn't stress or worry, because the decision is only for one year, and not all four, because you can always transfer," said Bridges.

Bridges advises students to focus on the decision of where to go to college. Some of the areas a student should consider are the actual cost of the college, opportunities for employment near the college, how easy it is to switch majors, what kind of AP credit does your college accept, how safe the campus is, and what kind of lifestyle the college offers.

"Seniors should weigh the pros and cons to all of the colleges, they have already done the research, and they just need to choose and remember that college is what you make of it," said Bridges.



Photo by Lauren Krage

As well as dancing during the talent portion of Mr. Wildcat, winner Miguel Tapia also showed off his talent with soccer and basketballs.

## Miguel Tapia is crowned this year's Mr. Wildcat

### Though each contestant proved to be a formidable opponent, Tapia still came out on top

By Kellie Virnich

After charming both the audience and the judges with his sweet answer of the perfect date and controversial dancing, Miguel Tapia won the title of Mr. Wildcat for 2005.

While all of the contestants performed their best, the judges chose Tapia because he was so well-rounded, with good grades as well as many accomplishments on the school's soccer team.

*"All that really mattered to me was having a good time with my friends."*

"I won Mr. Wildcat because I had the total package," Tapia said. "I had all the attributes that were essential for the title."

Before the crowning though, many other surprises were in store for the show. Emcees Shawn Healy and Candace Kairys amused the crowd by arguing over who would win

the NCAA basketball tournament, Madison or Illinois, even performing their alma maters' school cheers. The cheerleaders, who hosted the contest, also performed a new routine on stage during intermission.

For two girls in the crowd, the contest also meant a date to prom. Contestants Jon Hall and Vince Czernik, during their talent and interview portions respectively, asked the ladies of their choices to go with them to prom.

Each contestant tried their hardest to win the crowd's affection, through thoughtful interview answers and messages to the school that made the audience coo each time. The talent section was varied and highly entertaining, with dancing, very different kinds of singing, and even stand-up comedy.

Tapia said that winning the competition wasn't really the whole point of participating in Mr. Wildcat for him. "All that really mattered to me was having a good time with my friends. It is an experience that I'll never forget," he said.

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## Student of the Month

### Bilingual transfer student and soccer player Maria Benitez scores with Student of the Month

By John Jennings

For her dedication in academics, going from the school's bilingual program to regular classes, and her involvement in activities such as Art Club and soccer, Maria Concepcion Benitez is the March Student of the Month.

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

The most recent accomplishment would be finishing up the Bilingual Art Club mural that is up at entrance C. I'm really proud of it. Another thing I am proud of would be adjusting to regular classes during my sophomore year after leaving the bilingual program. It was a little tough, but I pulled through.

**Who has been your favorite teacher in high school?**

I don't really have a favorite teacher. All my teachers have been great. I've gotten the chance to work with all the government teachers this year and they are awesome. My art and ceramics teacher Ms. Samaniego is awesome too. This school is just full of excellent teachers.

**What has been your favorite class in high school?**

I would have to say my psychology class last semester. That class really got me thinking about myself, my thoughts, ideas, and everything. I had a blast.

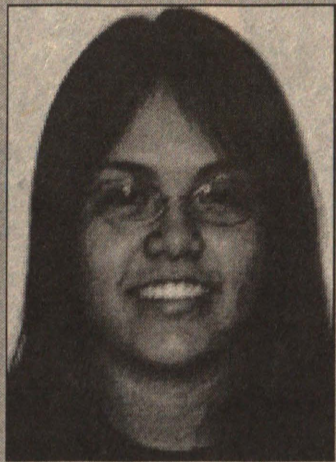


Photo by Sabrina Potirala

**What is your favorite school activity?**

I'm into very few school activities but I love them all. Soccer, Bilingual and regular Art Club, and going to Midnight Madness are all so much fun.

**What is your favorite memory during high school?**

Going to All Night Long last year! I had an amazing time. I'm definitely going this year.

**Where do you plan on going to college?**

I plan to attend either Loyola University or UIC. I'm not completely sure at this time.

**What do you want to major in?**

I want to major in biology. **What do you want to do for a living?**

I want to become a research biologist, maybe work for the government or in some independent research lab. Or maybe I will become a biology teacher. You never know.

**What is your favorite pastime?**

I really like drawing and anything that is not stressful. I also love movies, playing soccer, and reading fiction novels, although I haven't done that in a while.

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

Well, I think it's because of the dedication I put into everything I do. Commitment is a big thing for me and I try to take everything seriously but at the same time I try to have fun with it.

## Immigrants struggle to acclimate in America

*Though they may come for a better education and career, many Hispanics are unable to improve their situations*

By Maria Perez

Latino students face an uncertain future in West Chicago as they arrive from Mexico and try to assimilate into the American culture.

"Their dreams are not any different from anyone else. They want the same thing for their family and themselves that everybody else in West Chicago strives for," said Zoraida Laureano a juvenile delinquency specialist at Breaking Free, a prevention agency at Naperville.

Laureano works with students and the Hispanic community and she finds that most students would like the opportunity to finish and graduate from high school and go on to college. Yet that does not seem to be happening.

According to the Feb. 1, 2004 Education Digest, one out of three Latinos failed to finish high school and only 11 percent of the Latinos earned an undergraduate degree annually in the United States.

According to Laureano, the majority probably have an elementary school level of education and even some have achieved a bachelor's degree. Still their education level is dependent upon their economic status, because if they do not have enough money to sustain their family they are going to work instead of going to school.

Due to low wages for Latinos in West Chicago a lot of them have to work longer hours and two jobs, said Laureano.

Latinos encounter other barriers that stop them from succeeding in school. Recent arrivals from Latin America face the challenge of being looked down upon by Latino students that have already assimilated into the culture.

Laureano said that Community High School should have a mentor program that matches up Latino students that have assimilated into the culture with new arrivals or ESL students in order to mentor them in learning English and assimilating into the American culture.

"I believe it would be a benefit to Latino students to be

mentored by another Latino student that has been able to learn not just English but also the culture," said Laureano.

Since many Latinos' English proficiency is low, they confront the barrier that the ACT and SAT have to be taken in English. Laureano said that students would probably do well on the tests if they were in Spanish.

"Number one, there are a lot of Latino students that haven't learned the language and immersed themselves in the American culture that aren't going to be approached about plans after high school," said Laureano.

She said that when she was in high school she was never asked about her plans for the future. She was told about the concept of college, but it was never offered to her and that is still going on today.

"I have worked with students that are in that same situation in high school and have not been offered that opportunity," said Laureano.

Laureano said that parents want their children to get the best education possible. Yet many Latino parents have difficulty supporting their child during high school. Parents may not know how to help with homework because they cannot read or write at the level their child is studying, especially if it is in English and they do not know the language.

Not all Latino adults are giving up. Laureano knows an ESL teacher with 800 students and there is a waiting list for every adult ESL class provided at Community High School.

The school still struggles with getting parents involved though. Laureano said that Latino parents feel intimidated to participate in a school that does not speak their language.

Other factors that may prevent Latino parents from being involved in school are work constraints, fear of not being able to help their child due to their lack of formal education, and the lack of knowledge of the importance of parental involvement.

## Looking back in time...



Photo courtesy of Challenge archives

Thespians has not changed much from the '70s to the present-day club. The thespians have been putting on two plays and one musical every year almost ever since the school was opened.



# Paw Prints

## Students get to experience true Spanish culture firsthand over break with exchange to Soria

American exchange students and Spanish hosts realize that they are really not that different after all; though both cultures are unique, teens are all basically alike

By Lauren Krage

Despite obvious cultural differences, 20 of the school's students discovered the profound reality that teenagers are generally the same throughout the world during an exchange to Soria, Spain.

"I think that teenagers here and there are a lot different, but also a lot alike," said senior Lauren Koontz. "Their lifestyle is so different just because they live in a different culture, but teenagers everywhere seem to like the same things."

These students discovered firsthand exactly what it means to be a Spaniard on their exchange to Spain from March 24 to April 6.

ring to the vastly different schedule, "but it didn't take very long at all to get used to it, and by the end of the trip I actually really liked it."

**"A mom is a mom everywhere, and (my host mom) actually took care of me when I got sick."**

Though the group arrived in Madrid on March 24, they did not meet with their Spanish hosts in Soria until three days later because they wanted to be able to see the sights of Madrid

never see in their lifetime, and that was a big shock."

The Spanish hosts even traveled two and a half hours to Madrid to bring their guests back to their hometown and welcome them into their homes.

Sara Kufta said that it was like she was leaving a sister behind when the students returned to America.

"I loved my family. This exchange was absolutely the most amazing experience of my entire life. I would do anything to go back," she said.

Though the idea of living in another family's home for several days could have been intimidating, Koontz welcomed



One main difference between American and Spanish cultures is the eating schedule said Tara Dellutri, Spanish teacher and exchange chaperone and coordinator.

In Spain, the main meal of the day is eaten around 2-3 in the afternoon and dinner is put off until 10-11 at night, the time most American teenagers go to bed.

"At the beginning it was kind of difficult," said Koontz refer-

without interrupting the visit.

Junior Taylor Alperin especially enjoyed visiting the Prado Museum of Art because the Spanish 4 classes had been studying Spanish art for months prior to the visit, and seeing the actual paintings heightened her interest in the topic.

"To be in Spanish class and to learn about all these paintings, then to actually see them in real life was amazing," she said. "I saw things that people

the opportunity with open arms.

"I think that staying with a family really gives you a great sense of what the Spanish culture is actually like," she said.

Dellutri agreed that the rela-



tionships between hosts and visitors were successful.

**"This exchange was absolutely the most amazing experience of my entire life. I would do anything to go back."**

"In general they were good," she said. "There were a few people who didn't bond as well as others, but overall they were fine."

Koontz was one of the lucky travelers to have a good connection with her host.

"I bonded well with him because he stayed in my house in September and I already knew him," she said. "I don't think we actually have very much in common, but we understood (See Exchange page 16)"



Above right: Toledo Cathedral, the third largest cathedral in the world.

Above: The group of Spanish exchange students and many of their hosts in San Sebastian.

Right: View of Soria, the hosts' town where the exchange students stayed for a week.

\*All photos courtesy of Brittany Blanchard



## Exchange... (Continued from page 15)

each other well and got along because we both knew how hard it was to be thrown into a new culture and a new family."

Also difficult was communicating with a language barrier.

"Sometimes in the town it was difficult because the people who lived there didn't really know English," said Alperin. "The teenagers knew it pretty well, though, because there were a lot of opportunities to learn the language in school."

**"This has been the best exchange I have ever taken."**

Overall, however, Dellutri said, "they were able to communicate alright, but it was a

problem, especially when they were at home with the families."

Alperin agreed and said, "We used a lot of pictures and the dictionary to communicate, but a mom is a mom everywhere, and she actually took care of me when I got sick."

Though they only attended school in Spain for two days, the differences were obvious. The school in Soria is private and has about 700 students from preschool to high school, and instead of students switching classes, the teachers move from room to room.

Despite being faced with challenging and different situations, the trip was deemed successful by Dellutri.

She said, "This has been the best exchange trip I've ever taken because of the way it was planned and the group of kids that went."

## French students get a taste of American life

25 students share their homes for exchange

By Katie Taylor

The most powerful force in the promotion of international understanding and peace, according to the Rotary International Youth Exchange, is exposure to different cultures.

The foreign language department provided 25 Community High School students with this opportunity and the chance to share their culture with French exchange students, who arrived April 8.

The students, who came from Lycee Mou-nier in Grenoble, stayed for two weeks to learn about the American way of life.

"They sit and see these places

on TV and in pictures, but they really get to be here and experience it," said foreign language department chair Marjorie Appel.

Students were matched up with French students according to similarity and age, while others were paired up with their hosts from the exchange to Grenoble in 2004.

"Some of them already know each other from the last exchange, so they're already friends," Appel said.

Junior Janette Gomalez requested to host Dimitri Reynard after meeting him on the 2004 exchange.



Photo courtesy of Carissa Gerber

Carissa Gerber, Kim Wanous, and Kristin Klouda were not just hosts to their French guests but also friends and sisters by the time they left.

## Artist of the Month

Peggy Saul's paintings earn her Artist of the Month

By Bridget Geraghty

With her grandfather as her primary inspiration, Peggy Saul earns Artist of the Month for her painting.

**How did you first become interested in art?**

My grandfather was an artist, and I grew up watching, learning from and admiring him. When he passed away, I realized even more that I couldn't live without art in my life. I basically grew up around it, and I never really questioned why I loved it or the fact that I would do it for the rest of my life.

**Which media/medium do you prefer to use?**

I've spent this year learning new techniques and testing new media. I think painting with acrylics is a favorite of mine, but I really do like everything from drawing to sculpting.

**Is there a particular artist that has influenced your work?**

I love Norman Rockwell and Claude Monet. I look forward to learning about new artists in college, but as far as artists I



Photo courtesy of Peggy Saul

know, my grandfather and Mr. Exner have influenced me in ways they cannot imagine.

**Do you plan to study art after graduation?**

Yes, I want to do something in the field of advertising or cre-

ative marketing. I could see myself teaching when I am close to retirement, but I'd like to enter a competitive art field.

**Is anyone else in your family interested in art?**

Not really. I think when I was younger, part of the appeal was that it made me unique when compared to my siblings. My mom loves it and plans to take art classes once she has time since she won't have to go to my sporting events anymore.

**Do you have any advice to give students who are interested in art?**

I consider myself someone who needs to have control, but isn't afraid to ask for help or ask questions. The teachers have taught me so much and you can learn from other students in your class rather than competing with them. And do whatever you want while all the supplies are free.

"I'm so glad I got him last year," Gomalez said, who enjoyed sharing her culture with Reynard after seeing what his life was like.

On their first day at the school on April 11, the exchange students attended classes and took a tour of the building. The size of the school impressed Laurette Jullien, a sophomore from Grenoble, who explained that things in America are "very big and roomy" compared to her school of only 1,000 students.

"There are a lot more people in this school, but they are very nice," said Jullien.

Students and staff had the opportunity to welcome the students at the French exchange reception on April 11.

Principal John Highland welcomed the students in French, saying, "I think that through this program the students will see that our countries are very similar."

The exchange students had fun on their trip to Chicago on April 13, where they took a walking tour of the city and visited Navy Pier.

"Navy Pier was really fun," Jullien said. "Chi-

cago is a beautiful city."

They also visited Oak Park, went bowling, and took a walking tour of West Chicago.

Sophomore Carissa Gerber, benefited from hosting a student and learning from him.

"Having a French exchange student in my house was a culturally enriching experience," Gerber said.

On Friday, after the good-byes, they went back to Grenoble with the photos, stories, and memories of American life. Their hosts wished them well, and looked back on the experience fondly.

"It was an opportunity that not everyone receives," Gerber said. "I'm glad I got to participate in the program."



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## Latinos enfrentan diferente barreras en la comunidad

### Oportunidades para Latinos son limitadas por falta de sabeduría

Por Maria Perez

Los estudiantes Latinos enfrentan un futuro incierto en West Chicago cuando llegan de México y tratan de asimilarse en la cultura Americana.

"Sus sueños no son diferentes de cualquiera. Ellos se esfuerzan en la misma cosa para su familia y sí mismos que todos los demás en West Chicago," dijo Zoraida Laureano una especialista de delincuentes juveniles por Breaking Free.

Laureano trabaja con estudiantes y la comunidad Hispana y ella encuentra que la mayoría de los estudiantes les gustaría la oportunidad de terminar y graduarse de secundaria y seguir los estudios en la universidad. Pero, parece que eso no está pasando.

Según The Education Digest 1 de febrero 2001, uno de cada tres Latinos fallaron a terminar preparatoria y nada más 11 por ciento de los Latinos ganaron un bachillerato anualmente en los Estados Unidos.

¿Por qué está pasando en la comunidad Latina aquí en West Chicago?

Según a Laureano la mayoría probablemente tienen un tipo de nivel de educación primaria y algunos han ido a obtener su bachillerato. Su nivel de educación depende de su estatua económica porque si no tienen bastante dinero para su

familia ellos van a trabajar en vez de asistir a la escuela.

"Una gran porción de nuestra comunidad Latina en West Chicago no tienen otra opción que trabajar por el pago bajo que les pagan," dijo Laureano.

También Latinos enfrentan otros tipos de barreras que les prevenían de triunfar en la escuela.

Recién llegados de América Latina enfrentan el desafío de siendo percibidos mal por otros Latinos que ya se han asimilado a la cultura.

Laureano piensa que la Community High School debe de tener un programa de mentor que encuentra a estudiantes Latinos que se han asimilado a la cultura con recién llegados o estudiantes de ESL en orden de ayudarles a aprender ingles y asimilarse a la cultura Americana.

"Yo creo que sería un beneficio para los estudiantes Latinos ser mentor por otro estudiante Latino que ha podido aprender no nada más el ingles pero la cultura también," dijo Laureano.

Debido a que la competencia de ingles de muchos estudiantes Latinos es mal ellos enfrentan la barrera que el ACT y el SAT se tienen que tomar en ingles. Su preocupación es como van a tomar el examen que está en ingles en vez de español. Laure-

ano dijo que los estudiantes probablemente acertarían bien en los exámenes si estaban en español.

"Numero uno, hay muchos estudiantes Latinos que no han aprendido el lenguaje y ni sumergido en la cultura Americana que no van a ser acercados sobre sus planes después de preparatoria," dijo Laureano.

Ella dijo que cuando ella estaba en la preparatoria nunca le preguntaron sobre sus planes después de preparatoria.

Le dijeron sobre el concepto del colegio pero nunca se lo ofrecieron mas información y eso todavía está pasando hoy.

"Yo he trabajado con estudiantes que están en la misma situación en la preparatoria y no se las ha ofrecido esa oportunidad," dijo Laureano.

Laureano dijo que todos los padres quieren que sus hijos tengan la mejor educación posible.

Pero muchos padres Latinos tienen la dificultad de apoyar sus hijos durante preparatoria. A la mejor, los padres no saben como ayudar a sus hijos en hacer su tarea porque ellos no pueden leer o escribir al nivel que su hijo está estudiando, especialmente si está en ingles y ellos no saben el idioma.

No todos los padres o adultos Latinos se están renunciando. Laureano dijo que ella conoce a un maestro de ESL que tiene 800 estudiantes y hay una lista de espera para cada clase de ESL ofrecida en la Community



Foto por Maria Perez

Por su trabajo Zoraida Laureano conoce las necesidades y barreras de la comunidad y estudiantes Latinos.

High School.

Todavía la preparatoria lucha con involucrando padres. Ahorita en West Chicago Laureano dijo que padres Latinos se pueden sentir intimidados de participar en una escuela que no habla su lenguaje.

Otros factores que pueden prevenir la participación de padres Latinos es conflicto con tiempo de trabajo, el miedo de no poder ayudar a sus hijos por la falta de educación formal, y la falta de sabiduría de la importancia del apoyo de padres.

## Preguntas sobre inmigración y ciudadanía se terminaran

Por Maria Perez

La comunidad Latina tendrá la oportunidad de hacer sus preguntas sobre inmigración el 17 de mayo.

"Inmigración es muy complicado y muchos padres necesitan un tipo de ayuda con información sobre eso" dijo Norman Kane el coordinador de educación bilingüe.

Dos abogados de inmigración, Karolyn Eilers y Lorraine Leete, de la Midwest Immigration and Human Rights Center (MIHRC) tendrán una presentación en español sobre inmigración y ciudadanía en el

auditoria de la escuela de las 7 a 8 p.m. Kane dijo que ellos han trabajado con MIHRC antes cuando ellos vinieron abogados a dar una presentación hace unos años. La presentación explicará sobre la ciudadanía, diferentes leyes de inmigración, y asuntos que las personas deben enterarse mejor sobre, dijo Kane. La presentación es también para estudiantes y padres Latinos.

"La presentación es para cualquier padre que habla español y quiere saber sobre ciudadanía y la inmigración," dijo Kane.

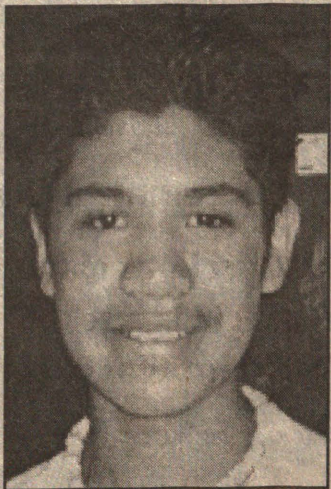
## Pregunta y Respuesta:

### ¿Qué quieres hacer después de la preparatoria?



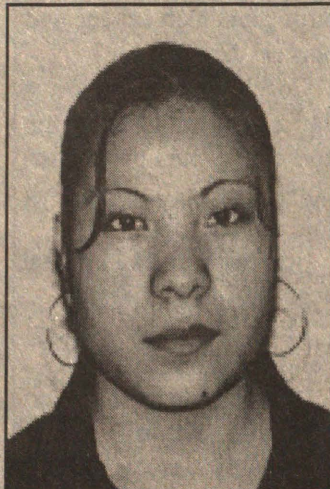
Valeria Farfán

Pienso estudiar en la universidad en México. Me gustaría estudiar medicina y quizás regresar a los Estados Unidos y engrosar la profesion.



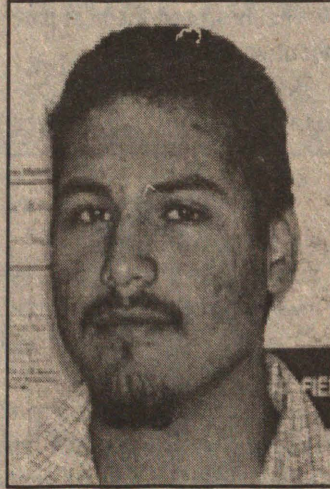
Giovanni Díaz

Yo voy a seguir estudiando en el colegio una licenatura porque me gusta los labores de los licenciados.



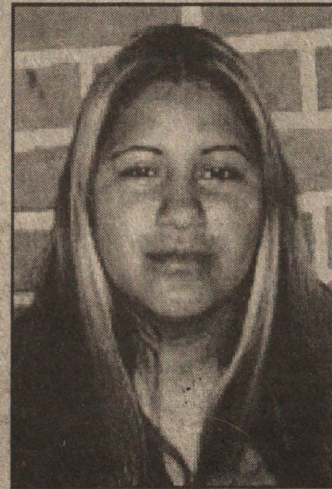
Eva Antonia

Yo quiero seguir estudiando en el colegio las leyes, para poder ayudar a los que necesitan nuestra ayuda.



Ramiro Juárez

Yo quiero estudiar la tecnología en computacion en el colegio porque me interesa esa profesion.



Dulce Galbán

Quiero ir al colegio y me gustaría ser una abogada porque me gustaría sacar los inocentes que estan en la carcel injustamente.



## Wildcat softball looks to 'restore the pride in 2005'

### The young and talented team try to fit the pieces together through hours of hard work and practice

By Sabrina Potirala

"A thing called love" is not the only thing the varsity girls softball team believes in. With hard work and dedication, the team believes that they will be able to perform well in the DVC.

After previous years of not performing to their full potential in conference, the varsity team's goal is to "restore the pride in 2005".

"We just started conference play so we have that as our main goal, but our regular goal is to always compete for the DVC championship," said varsity coach Jim Schaudt.

The team hopes to accomplish this by repeatedly practicing plays and drills. Some of these drills are individual,

while others are team oriented. One of the drills the girls practice is known as the "double bubble" which mainly focuses on helping infielders.

"We make sure everyone knows what to do in the many different situations that may come up. Preparation before the game is essential," said Schaudt.

Practicing drills is not the only thing the girls do before a game however.

"One of the songs we listen to is 'I believe in a thing called love' by The Darkness to get us pumped up before we go out and play," said varsity player Kari Johnson.

The team has already played a total of 19 games, and are currently 6-13.

"We could easily be 13-6. We've lost some close games and the players always give me 100 percent," said Schaudt.

Johnson hopes that the team will be able to pull it together in time.

"We are a really young team and we have a lot of talent, but it is still hard work getting it together," said Johnson.

Softball practices are every day, excluding Sundays, and usually last up to two hours. Practices are held on the field or in the fieldhouse, depending on the weather.

Despite the hard work, Johnson still enjoys the time she gets to spend with the team.

"We always have a lot of fun and we all have really good chemistry with each other," said Johnson.

Chemistry is not the only thing the the squad has.

"There are many different personalities which makes working with the girls very fun," said Schaudt.



Photo by Sabrina Potirala

Kristen Borsodi and the rest of the softball team want to improve upon past years and fully reach their potential.

## Seniors highlight boys track team

By Ellyn Fortino

Seniors Greg Callahan and Eric Hernandez won the triple jump and shot put respectively for the boys track team at a recent meet against Geneva.

Hernandez has hopes of making the state competition where he would like to finish in the top three. He also wants to beat the school's current shot put record.

"I am lifting hard and I practice a lot of techniques with my coach to help reach my goals," Hernandez said.

He already has accomplished receiving indoor all-state honors and placed second in the indoor state competition.

Callahan also has high hopes for the rest of the season. "I try hard, and I hate losing," said Callahan.

Overall, the team has put up a mediocre performance, but young talent seems to hold a promising future for the Wildcats.

"We work really hard and we'll be good in the next few years," Callahan said.

Hernandez added, "The team has done well this season but there is always room for improvement."

## Girls soccer keeps every game close

### Lady Wildcats learn to play as a team by overcoming the obstacle of welcoming nine new players

By Maria Perez

After a few lumpy starts, girls soccer is beginning to put the pieces together.

"We are like a giant puzzle in which we have the pieces, but it's just a matter of putting them where they belong," said girls soccer coach Julio Del Real.

Del Real said that they haven't been having a good season. They have had two wins, four losses, and one tie.

The Wheaton Warrenville South game was an even match, but, despite the girls playing a close game, they were not able to finish.

"We have never played Wheaton Warrenville South this close, and I felt the game could have gone either way," said Del Real.

York was also a tough competitor and came out with a 4-0 victory against the Wildcats. Del Real said that York gained that victory because they wanted it more, beat the players to the ball, and that it was early in the season.

"We are doing very well in the learning department, and if that continues we should be out of this slump very quickly," said Del Real.

Del Real said that the hardest part of the season was com-

ing together. Since nine out of the 18 team members are new, it takes a while for them to get used to each other.

So far, the team has been doing well adjusting to each other, learning how to play together, and learning the necessary skills that will make the team successful at the end, said Del Real.

"It always takes time for players to adjust to playing together, and the adjustment happens when they practice and play together for extended periods of time," said Del Real.

The preseason was hard on the team due to the excess amount of running the team had to do in order to get in good physical condition to meet the extreme running demands of the sport, said Del Real. Still, the team is at a disadvantage because they didn't practice ball skills.

"The team will always be at a disadvantage because the opposition will have possession of the ball more times, and possession means opportunities to score," said Del Real.

Yet, Del Real said that the team is fortunate because most of the girls play soccer year-round. That makes it easier for the girls to get into the swing of things for the school season.

## Athlete of the Month

### Seven years of volleyball lead Derek Jensen to awards including All-American player

By Doug Sieder

Derek Jensen has been selected Athlete of the Month for the month of April for his leadership and achievements on the volleyball court.

Who inspired you the most during the year?

The basketball team has inspired me the most during the year.

What plans do you have after high school (not sports)?

I plan on attending either Loyola or University of Illinois for pre-law.

Do you plan on playing any sports after high school?

If I go to Loyola I'll play volleyball.

What is your best sports memory?

My 16's club team finished

second at the Junior Olympics and I was awarded All-American.

What has been the best part about volleyball?

Being able to play at nationals against teams from all over

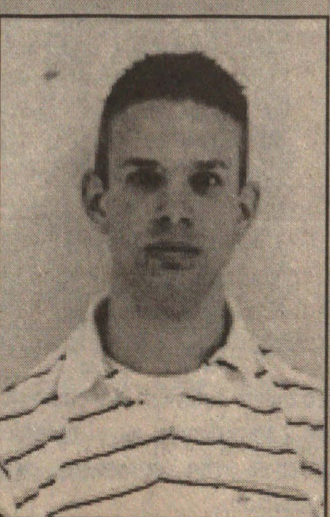


Photo by Doug Sieder

the country.

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

Coach Hasty has always had a lot of confidence in me and always puts me in positions where I can play a big role on the court.

How many years have you been involved in volleyball?

I have been playing volleyball for seven years.

What is your favorite sport other than volleyball?

I would have to say that my second favorite sport is pool volleyball.

Do you do anything special before each game?

I go to sleep before each game.



## Broken records and faster times improve girls track

### Senior Erika Kane and junior Abby Cole smash school records in shot put and triple jump

By Katie Taylor

Girls track started its outdoor season with faster times and better technique, with Erika Kane and Abby Cole both setting new school records.

Kane set a new record in the shot put with a throw of 33 feet and 11 inches, and Cole beat the record with a jump of 33 feet and 9 inches in the triple jump.

At the first invitational of the outdoor season at Glenbard South, the girls placed eighth as a whole, and individual members of the team had very successful performances.

Kane placed third in the shot put with a throw of 32 feet and 7 inches, and DeAnne Fitzenreider finished fifth in the 400 Meter Dash.

Cole placed second in the triple jump Raider Invitational and the Prospect relays on April 8, where the girls placed third overall against Warren, Wheeling, Rolling Meadows, Prospect, and Elk Grove.

The girls competed at DVC on March 19 for the indoor season, and despite their eighth place finish, coach Katerina Claiborne considered the meet one of the season's highlights.

"I couldn't be unhappy because two-thirds of the team got personal records," said Claiborne. "We were going up

against some amazing competition and they rose to that level."

Claiborne recognized Kristen Johansen for her sixth place finish in the shot put with a throw of 31 feet and 6.5 inches, which would have won junior varsity.

"It's awesome for a freshman to be that good," Claiborne said.

Claiborne looks back on the indoor season as a learning experience.

"Lots of people realized what their event is," she said. "Outdoor season is usually our focus, but indoor was a good opportunity to get in some training."

Sophomore Maggie Stremel, who is in her first year

of track, learned good running techniques that she hopes to apply during the outdoor season.

"I learned what event I am good at," she said. "For outdoor, I'll be able to focus on improving in the events that I like."

Claiborne is excited about using the bigger outdoor track and achieving faster times during the outdoor season.

She plans to help the girls focus on improving small details, like starts, relay exchanges, skills for field events, and mental toughness.

"They need to learn not to be afraid of pain and being tired," Claiborne said.

Overall, Claiborne wants the team to focus on improving their times during the outdoor season.

"They're a team of hard workers, and it will be fun to see them improving themselves. And of course, in the end, I hope they become runners for life," Claiborne said.

## Varsity volleyball struggles while JV team flourishes

By C.J. Hinojosa

Although they are 7-10 for the season and 0-6 in DVC play, the boys volleyball team is keeping its confidence level high by battling through close games and narrow defeats.

There have been many changes among the squad this year, with the departure of last year's seniors. Senior Derek Jensen has moved from setter

to outside hitter, a transition coach Kris Hasty said has gone quite well.

Hugo Saucedo is now the primary assist man, along with junior Joel Barker.

Their most recent match took place at home versus Naperville Central, and they lost in two games with scores of 25-21 and 25-15. Jensen netted four kills to go with six digs and three blocks, and Saucedo came up with seven assists, three digs, and an ace.

"We're a little inexperienced in some positions, and we're not very tall," said Hasty regarding her young team. "We're trying to be competitive, but we're not quite there yet."

Other recent games, such as those against Wheaton North and Naperville North, were close, and Hasty felt they definitely could've been won.

The JV team, coached by Melissa Acker, is doing very well, however, with an overall record of 13-2.

"They're good kids. They're excellent," Hasty said of all the volleyball players. "We have segments of good play, we just need to string them together and up our level of intensity."

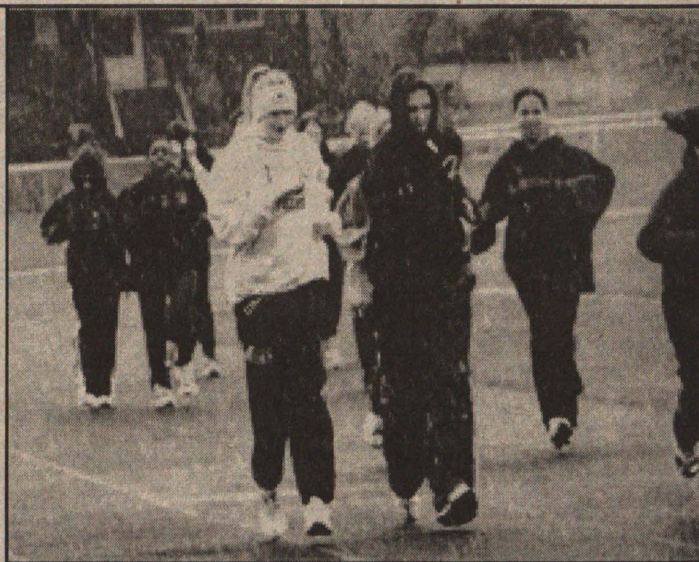


Photo by Maria Perez

The track team shows dedication by running through the rain.

## Tennis team has fun while working hard

### Eric Gotkowski leads with 5-3 record

By Jennifer Konewko

Boys tennis is off to a successful start by winning the Wildcat Quad on April 17, and with senior Eric Gotkowski leading the team with his 5-3 record in first singles.

"I think last year we had a lot more experience on the starting line up but everyone on the team loves the sport," said varsity coach Sione Moeaki. "We still have a lot of work to do, but the team is shaping up well," he said.

Moeaki hopes that the team will continue working hard at practice and improve their abilities on the court.

He anticipates a better performance at DVC this season, and hopes to gain enough points to enable the team to go to state.

"We do well in practice, but don't bring the skills from the practice to the game. We need to work on that," Moeaki said.

Moeaki praised Gotkowski

for his record and placing first at the Wildcat Quad, but Gotkowski thinks that other players such as Kurt Fuchs, Kyle Fuchs, Russell Wheeler, Bob Conard, and Jamon Malon deserve recognition as well.

"Kurt Fuchs is doing well. He has a lot of good strategies in his mind, and when he puts them to good use he definitely proves a strong opponent," Gotkowski said. "Russell and Jamon are really strengthening their skills as a team and should make a good showing this year."

Regarding his own play, Gotkowski said, "I have been keeping up pretty well with the competition and so far things are looking good."

Overall, Moeaki wants the tennis team to have fun but work hard.

"I love tennis because it's a fun game and it helps build skillful life," Moeaki said.

## Lacrosse improves skills week by week

By Doug Sieder

The West Chicago lacrosse team began their first year of association with the high school with a slow 3-9 start.

Since the season started late last month, however, player Brandon Kutilek says the team has improved each week.

"As each week goes by, we keep getting better and better," said Kutilek, who believes the team has a great shot at making the playoffs this year.

Kutilek feels the team's 3-9 record does not show how good they really are. He said it is hard to take some of the losses because they have been so close

and could have gone either way.

Another player, Dan Doremus, feels that one of the hardest parts about the lacrosse team was actually getting enough players to want to commit. He also felt that the lacrosse team has something to prove since it is not affiliated with the high school.

"It's much harder to be taken seriously since we're not directly connected to the school," said Doremus.

The team has beat Lane Tech, Schaumburg, and Waunakee.

The lacrosse team plays Tuesday at Waubensee Valley at 5 p.m.

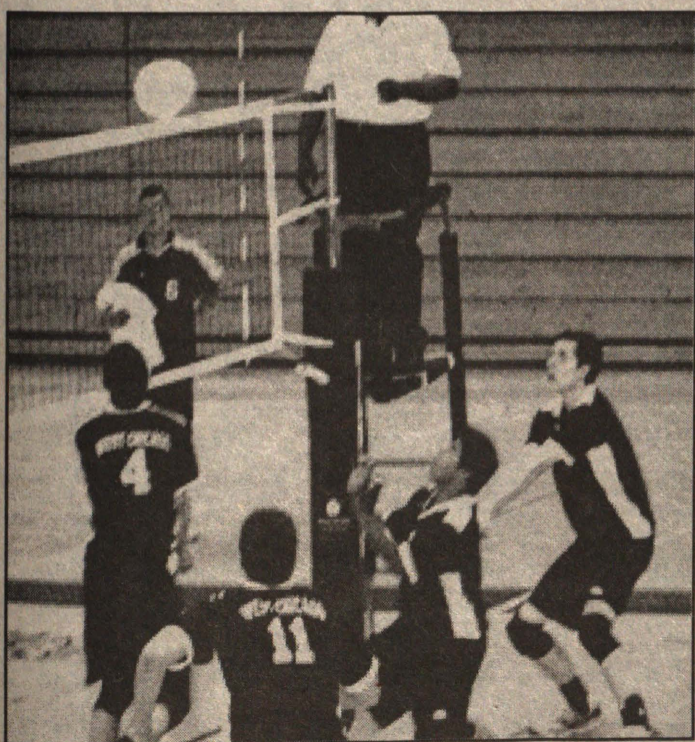


Photo by C.J. Hinojosa

The varsity volleyball team works hard to play competitively in the DVC as they battle through changes made within the team.



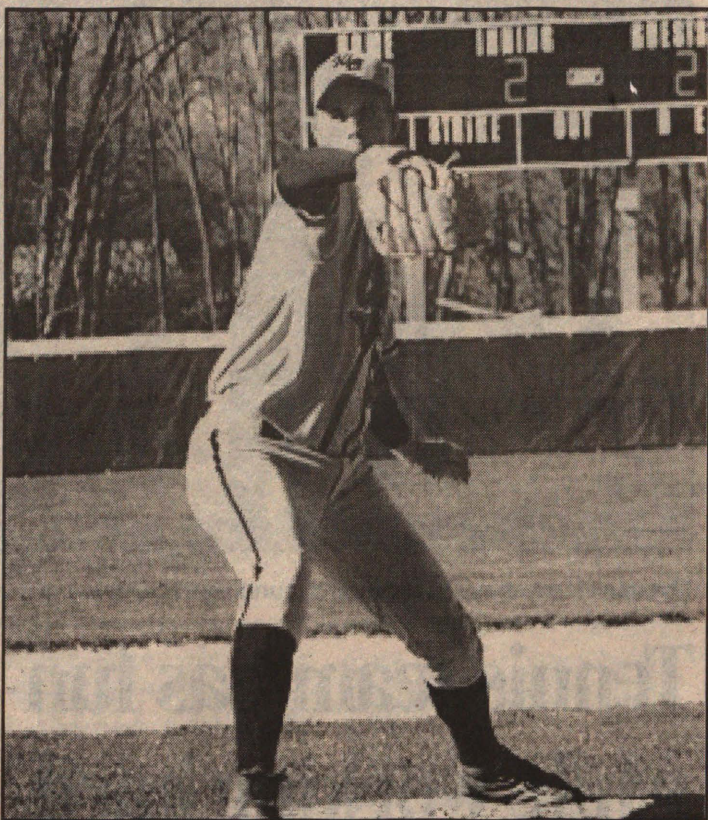


Photo by Maria Perez

Wildcat pitchers aid the team by holding leads late in the game. Eric Wyman leads the pitching staff with a 1.52 ERA.

## Consistent hitting sparks recent success for Wildcat baseball team

### Junior Royal Martinez leads the team with a .548 batting average

By Doug Sieder

The Wildcat baseball team has hit its way to an 8-5 record to start off the season.

The team started off hot with a 7-3 record going into the conference season, where they have dropped the first two out of three games.

Coach John Walters feels that the team's success has come from their hitting.

"We've definitely been hitting the ball as a team," said Walters.

Second baseman Danny Liszka also feels that the hitting has been the biggest aspect of their success this season, though he thought the pitchers would have the greatest affect on the team this year.

"I expected the pitching to carry the team this year, but our hitting has been solid," said Liszka.

He also added that the team is averaging about eight hits a game. They have four starters batting .343 or higher, and jun-

ior Royal Martinez has especially stood out with a .548 batting average, four homeruns, and 19 RBI's.

Walters knows the team still has a lot to work on, and he feels that consistency at the plate during conference games is one aspect that needs to be improved.

So far this year, the pitching has also had a huge effect on their season by holding the leads late in the game.

The Wildcat's number one starter, senior Luke Martin, has a 4-1 record so far, and sophomore Eric Wyman has a 1.62 ERA.

Third baseman Nick Lelito said he has been impressed by Wyman's performance so far.

"Eric has impressed me because I don't see many sophomores compete at the varsity level and have the success that he has," said Lelito.

## Badminton team aims to rise in DVC status

### Senior Ashley Egert and junior Kelsey Lesniak have hopes of attending state competition

By Lauren Krage

The badminton team is not just a group of girls daintily swinging rackets. They train six days a week during practices that consist of running, lifting weights, and footwork drills.

"Badminton is very physically demanding," said second

year head coach Jessica Inch.

So far, the varsity team has played five matches and won two of them, including an additional third place finish at a tournament.

"As a team we have been beaten," Inch said, "but our number one and two varsity players have held their own."

These two top players are Ashley Egert and Kelsey Lesniak, and each have hopes of going to the state competition.

"I'm really excited about the possibility of going to state," said Lesniak.

Inch added that Lesniak's game has dramatically improved since last year.

At this point in the season, Egert is undefeated in singles play, claiming wins from conference rivals Glenbard East and Wheaton Warrenville South.

The team as a whole has "worked pretty hard," Inch said, "but there's always more to do."

Specifically, Inch said the girls need to work on skills and footwork, but "for the most part, their attitudes are pretty good this year, we just need to refine their game."

She added that "The freshmen are starting to get really good at making contact with the birds."

In the long run, Inch said she hopes to "build the team to be a powerhouse in the badmin-

ton community." She added, "We're on our way."

The addition of two new coaches, Stephanie Mell and Bang Nguyen, adds to the hopes of improving the badminton team.

"These coaches are really enthusiastic about bringing this team to the top," Egert said.

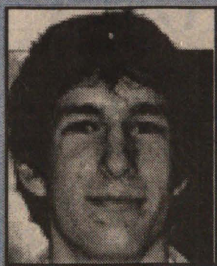
Inch added, "I'm excited to see what happens in the next few years."

### Sieder's Sermon

## NCAA tournament lives up to the title of March Madness

By Doug Sieder

Viewers got to experience arguably the best NCAA basketball tournament of all time



t h i s March. We got to see every-thing that we could

ask for from March Madness, from dramatic comebacks to overtime games, all the way to buzzer beaters and unimaginable upsets.

The madness began early in the afternoon on March 17 when the 12 seed University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee upset number five seed Alabama by 10 points. Unknowns Bucknell and Vermont also beat heavy hitters Kansas and Syracuse respectively.

The second round was just as entertaining with Wiscon-

sin-Milwaukee once again pulling off an upset against fourth seed Boston College.

But one of the greatest games ever played happened the night before when Wake Forest was shocked by West Virginia in double overtime, a game some people voted on ESPN.com to be one of the best ever played in all of college basketball.

The following weekend surprised everyone when Louisville was the first to upset a number one seed, Washington, in the tourney. The weekend also had Arizona beating Oklahoma State by a last second shot, causing the Wildcats to advance to the sweet sixteen.

As good as the beginning of the tournament was, nothing compared to the following weekend. Many ESPN analysts and sportswriters agreed that it was possibly the best weekend of college basketball ever played.

Three out of the four games

that weekend went into overtime, and the largest margin of victory was six points.

The first game was seventh seed West Virginia against fourth seed Louisville. West Virginia led by more than 20 points, but at the end of regulation Louisville tied it up and went on to win in overtime. I didn't think there was going to be a game as good as that one, but I was wrong.

Heavily favored Illinois went up against Arizona. It was neck and neck most of the first half, and in the second half Arizona pulled ahead. It looked all over with four minutes left as Arizona led by 15, but then one of the greatest comebacks started to evolve.

Illinois hit a pair of three pointers and eventually tied the game up and sent it into overtime. Illinois was up by one with 12 seconds left and didn't even get a shot off before the buzzer went off and

Illinois was headed to the final four.

The following day, heavily favored North Carolina went up against Wisconsin. This was probably the most boring game of the weekend, but Carolina only won by six.

Following that game was Kentucky vs. Michigan State, another nail biter, and also the most controversial game of the tourney. Patrick Sparks threw up a shot at the end of regulation that somehow went in.

The refs eventually ruled it a three, and the game went into double overtime, but Michigan State survived the call and won by six.

The final four was set with North Carolina vs. Michigan State and Louisville vs. Illinois. What is usually the best and most exciting round of the tournament was actually the dullest.

But these games birthed the matchup the country had been

waiting for since about February: the number one team in the nation, Illinois, against the number two team, North Carolina.

The game didn't start off like expected with North Carolina dominating almost every aspect of the game.

In the start of the second half, North Carolina continued to pull away, but then Illinois started to attempt another comeback.

Illinois had a couple of chances to win the game but couldn't connect on their three pointers, and North Carolina sank their free throws to secure the game.

I know that was a lot to swallow, but there has never been a tournament as exciting as the 2005 NCAA tournament, I hope all basketball fans out there didn't miss any of it because we won't have a tournament as exciting as this one again in a long time.