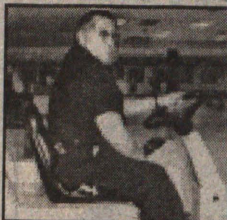




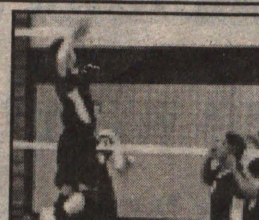
Student of the Month

See why Alyssa Claude was named April Student of the Month. PAGE 20



Good-Bye

Learn about all of this year's retiring district employees. PAGE 18-19



Game on

See how the boys volleyball team wrapped up its season. PAGE 24

Highest bidder sure to end up with masterpiece

By Brittany Blanchard

Members of the community will have the chance to bid on student and faculty produced artwork at the school's second annual art show and auction.

The show consists of artwork created by students as well as faculty and that has been on display all week. A silent auction will take place Thursday from 6:30-10 p.m.

"(The art show and auction) is a great opportunity for all students and staff to see the work students and faculty have produced all year and take some of it home," said teacher and art show coordinator Chris Bardey. "It also provides a big boost to students whose art is appreciated enough to be purchased by another person."

There are approximately 25-40 pieces up for auction and all works have a minimum bid amount set by the artist. Minimum bids are anywhere from \$2 to \$20 and all of the proceeds go to the artists.

Swim program sinks at meeting

By Doug Sieder

The West Chicago Sharks will not swim as a school-sponsored program any time soon as the Board of Education could not agree on bringing the team into the school.

Aquatics director Curt Herrin and Sharks director Dan Johnson presented the proposal to have the school sponsor the team at the May Board of Education meeting.

The proposal would promote off-season swimming to develop swimmers, and would encourage a feeder program for students, so they could get more students interested in swimming.

The board could not come to an agreement about the transportation of the swimmers. The school does not want to have to pay for a school bus to transport the swimmers to meets.

The board is going to rewrite the contract and vote on it at the June Board meeting.

Perserverance key to living for Pelzer

Author comes to share experience

By Sabrina Potirala

Dave Pelzer showed students that hate should not run your life, and gave students hope in solving their problems with his inspiring story.

Pelzer, the author of "A Child Called It", visited Community High School on May 13 to help share ways for teenagers to get through their problems.

Pelzer is the survivor of the third most extreme case of child abuse ever reported in California. His mother was a severe alcoholic who, as a result of her addiction, used Pelzer as a punching bag as well as emotionally torturing him.

Pelzer's main message was for people to take responsibility for their lives, and to do what they need to do in order to survive.

"People often ask me how I was able to get through what I went through, the answer is that I just did what I had to do to survive," said Pelzer.

Pelzer explained that if he



Photo by Sabrina Potirala

Author and motivational speaker Dave Pelzer urged all of the students at the assembly to make the most out of all the opportunities given to them and not make excuses for themselves. He took time after the presentations to autograph copies of his books.

lived through abuse, then people should get through any problem they are having.

He understands that life may be unfair at times, but the best thing to do is to "take the hit" and continue on.

"Life is unfair, it can be challenging, but everyone goes through it," said Pelzer.

Throughout his life, Pelzer has been able to turn what has happened to him into something positive.

"We are all in a race called life. Do not ever quit, even if you have to drag yourself to the end. I want to see you continuing to move on, even if your foot is broken," said Pelzer.

(See Pelzer page 4)



Photo by Katie Taylor

Botany students (from left to right) Elizabeth Garcia, Trisha Kimber, Suzanna Szafranski, and Ashley Hund work on the landscaping on the west side of the school that was made possible by a \$2,500 grant.

Hard work gives botany students aesthetic rewards

By Katie Taylor

The school's entrances received a face lift after botany classes installed native plants around entrances A, B, and C.

The classes started the project in March, after receiving a \$2,500 grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Students measured and designed landscapes, and botany teacher Corrie Steiglitz chose

three designs created by Norman Hedecki, Deborah Corson, and Erica Fatigatos to apply to the west entrances of the school.

They began installing the plants Tuesday.

"I wanted really to give (the students) this authentic experience to end up the year," Steiglitz said. "I couldn't pass it up."

(See Botany page 4)

School janitor fired after sexual harassment charges

Female student reports attack

By Brittany Blanchard

A custodian facing sexual assault charges was officially terminated by the Board of Education on May 17.

Following Francisco Pasillas's arrest on sexual assault charges, he had been placed on administrative leave following sexual harassment allegations involving a student.

Pasillas was taken into police custody May 4 on two counts of sexual assault of a minor. The 16-year-old female student filed a sexual harassment complaint with school officials May 3.

The assault allegedly took place May 2 at the school after an extra curricular activity that the student participated in.

The following day the student contacted Kimberly Chambers, the school's direc-

tor of human resources and sexual harassment officer.

"I interviewed (the student) and immediately turned the case over to the West Chicago Police Department via officer Zepeda," said Chambers.

Pasillas allegedly kissed and fondled the student while wrapping his arms around her preventing her from breaking free.

Pasillas was held on \$250,000 bond which he recently posted.

As ordered by a judge he will

be placed on an electronic home monitoring system and not allowed within 1,000 feet of the school.

Pasillas had worked for District 94 since 1996. A criminal background check completed prior to his employment showed no record of previous arrests.

According to Chambers there have been no similar incidents at Community High School involving sexual harassment of a minor in the past.

Discovery Channel comes to West Chicago with reptile show

The Simple Gifts Foundation fundraises to help those in need

By Kellie Virnich

For their first fundraiser, West Chicago's Simple Gifts Foundation hosted "Cold-Blooded Creatures," a famous reptile show, at West Chicago Middle School on May 15.

The event included alligators, pythons, and other creatures for local families to observe and in some cases touch first-hand.

Jim Nesci, who has appeared on 'The Tonight Show' and 'Oprah,' brings his famous reptiles all over the country, including Bubba, a 225 lb., 8 ft. alligator, and Samantha, a 160 lb., 16 ft. python.

Simple Gifts coordinator

Donna Swanson said that the organization received many compliments on the show.

"People loved how educational and hands-on the reptile show was," she said.

Over 300 people attended the show, greatly exceeding the group's hopes for at least 200, and they raised \$1,000 for their foundation.

Several local businesses sponsored children and families so that they could attend the event because they otherwise would not be able to afford it.

The Simple Gifts Foundation just began in February, and serves families all over DuPage

County.

They provide everything from transportation and rent money to baby care items and medical care.

The foundation also has a holiday program for needy children in the area, as well as providing materials and services for the disabled.

Swanson said that the organization is always looking for donations, and that there is a clothing donation box at the Sandpiper Restaurant on Rte. 59.

Their upcoming fundraisers include a car wash Murphy's Ace Hardware on June 4, a booth at Railroad Days in July, a community garage sale, and a golf outing on Oct. 7 at St. Andrew's Golf Course.

"We are also in the middle of planning a camera scavenger hunt for November, so watch for more news," Swanson said.

She asked that anyone who is interested in the organization contact her (630) 217-2489 or the West Chicago Police Dept. at (630) 293-2751.

Cass Streicher wins award for school involvement

By Brittany Blanchard

Cass Streicher received the honorable Distinguished Service Award from the Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (INSPRA) for her work in business related programs in the high school.

Streicher doubles as the career/technical education grant coordinator and the chair of the business/education partnership committee in addition to her role as a business teacher at the school.

"I was very pleased and proud, and surprised," said Streicher who was unaware that colleague Peggy Peach had nominated her until she received word she was selected for the honor.

INSPRA annually sponsors the distinguished service awards "in an effort to help honor deserving supporters of local districts." Anyone involved in education is eligible for an award in the administrator, board of education member, community member, faculty/certified staff, parent, support staff, or team categories.

Peach nominated Streicher in the administrative category for her work in Youth in Business and Industry Day in addition to her organization and support between the school and local businesses.

"Streicher was instrumental in organizing and supporting an ongoing partnership between our anatomy teacher and Central DuPage Hospital, our botany teacher and Ball Seed, Inc., and our child development teacher and West Chicago Elementary School District 33," wrote Peach in her nomination letter.

The partnership between the school and local businesses allows students to get hands-on experience without having to leave the classroom.

"The idea behind it was making an alliance between the school and the community at large because they were not separate entities," Streicher said.

Streicher received her award at the Distinguished Service Awards luncheon on Friday at the Five Seasons Club in Burr Ridge.

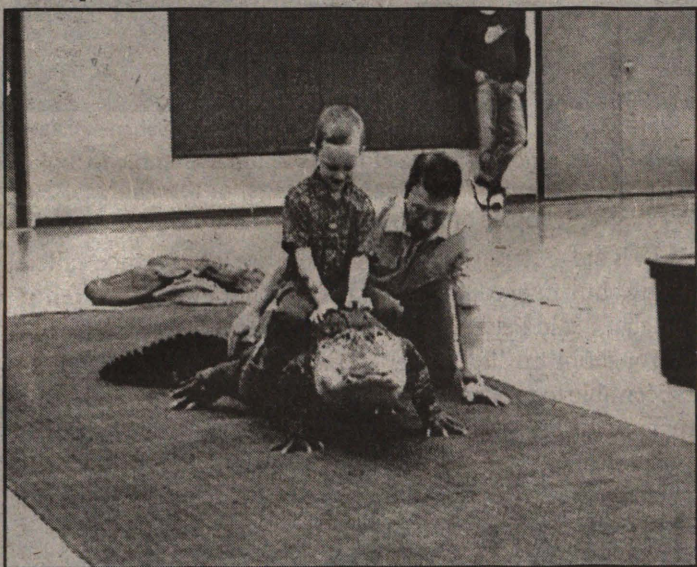


Photo courtesy of Donna Swanson

Jim Nesci helps guide an alligator as part of his traveling show, "Cold-Blooded Creatures," which was part of a fundraiser for the Simple Gifts Foundation, which was started in February.

Senior Emily Doll follows her brother's lead as she receives honorable mention

By Lauren Krage

Senior Emily Doll joined family tradition by receiving honorable mention for the Daily Herald Academic Team.

"My brother was also an honorable mention," Doll said, "so it's exciting that I could achieve the same award."

Though she wasn't placed on the actual team, honorable mention is not a bitter second place for Doll.

"I didn't quite make it on the team, but that's fine with me," Doll said with a smile.

Area schools selected top students from their schools to apply for the award. At Community High School, the counselors nominated students with a 32 ACT score or higher. Doll was one of this group, and she filled out an application in January.

Qualifications for the team are mostly academic, but extra-curricular activities are also considered. Doll listed accomplishments including a 4.0 GPA, a 34 on the ACT, and three years on the poms squad to elevate her to honorable mention status.

She found out in early May that she made the honorable mention list.

"There are a lot of accom-

plished students at our school," Doll said. "It's an honor to be picked out of all the seniors."

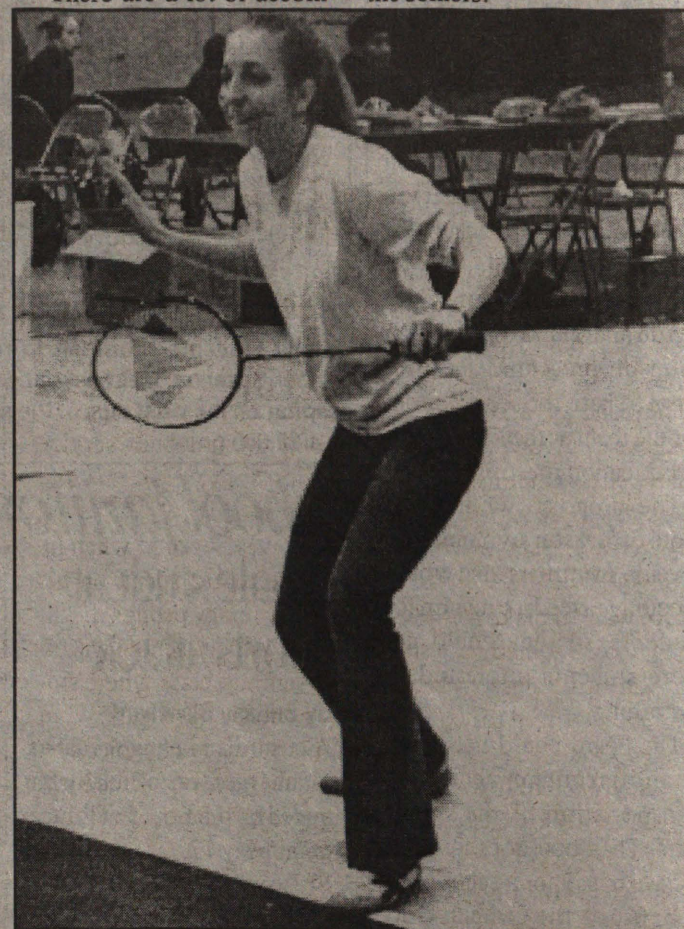


Photo by Lauren Krage

Emily Doll is not just academically qualified, but she does other activities like poms squad and she competed in the badminton challenge recently.

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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.

Wildcat Chronicle continues success

The staff followed previous years by placing well in competitions

By Ellyn Fortino

The Wildcat Chronicle received a first place award from the American Scholastic Press Association's (ASPA) annual newspaper competition for their first semester issues recently, along with nine other awards from the Northern Illinois Scholastic Press Association (NSPA).

"You have an excellent school newspaper, which shows the talent of your editors, reporters, writers, photographers, layout designers, and adviser," said ASPA.

Chronicle staff members also received awards from Northern Illinois School Press Association for their contributions to the paper.

Blue Ribbon Awards went to CJ Hinojosa for column writing, Kellie Virnich for sports writing, Brittany Rose for editorial cartoons, and Brittany Blanchard for photography and editorial writing.

"The awards the staff has won is proof that we are an excellent paper," said editor in chief John Jennings.

Earning Honorable Mention were Sabrina Potirala for news writing and graphics, Cristina Sarnelli for graphics, and Andrea Bradley for graphics.

The staff received a bronze certificate for their overall production.

"The nine awards at the Northern Illinois School Press Association is a record," said



Photo courtesy of Laura Kuehn

The Wildcat Chronicle second semester staff is comprised of (from left, front row) Katie Taylor, Ellyn Fortino, (from left, middle row), Maria Perez, Brittany Blanchard, Lauren Krage, Jenn Konewko, Kellie Virnich, Sabrina Potirala, (from left, back row), C.J. Hinojosa, John Jennings, Doug Sieder. They were awarded bronze status by the Northern Illinois Press Association and a first place by the American Scholastic Press Association, along with eight other personal awards.

faculty adviser Laura Kuehn. "That's pretty impressive for a staff that is trying to rebuild after losing all our seniors last

year. I'm very proud of the Chronicle staff."

An additional award came from the Illinois Women's

Press Association who awarded Brittany Blanchard an award for an outstanding article.

Students take initiative with project proposals

By Julie Youngwith

Patti Kozlowski hopes to better the community by encouraging students to get involved in community service while in class.

Kozlowski, family/consumer science teacher, and se-

safety.

After noticing the low literacy rates among Hispanics in West Chicago, students created a "how to use the library" video in Spanish, which was aired on the local cable channel.

"We want to make community service be something a student wants to do, not something that they are forced to do."

niors Robert Conard and Tony Sosa presented a proposal for a service learning policy at the Board of Education Committee of the Whole meeting May 3.

The concept, according to Kozlowski, involves curriculum-based community service. Through service learning, she hopes to encourage students to volunteer.

"We want to make community service be something a student wants to do, not something that they are forced to do," she said.

This year Kozlowski received a \$10,005 Serve and Learn grant to fund a variety of service events including a disaster training program where students from the school visited neighboring public schools and taught weather

This year, 10 students in Kozlowski's child development classes presented their unique methods of community service learning at a state convention.

Conard and Sosa also attended the national service learning convention in Long Beach, Calif..

Sosa was honored when he was selected to speak on his reading literacy proposal.

Next year, the school will offer a seminar class where students choose to participate in community service projects by assessing the needs of the community and school.

Many students support the new service learning idea.

"It is an effective way to not only get involved in what I'm learning, but also give back to the community," Conard said.



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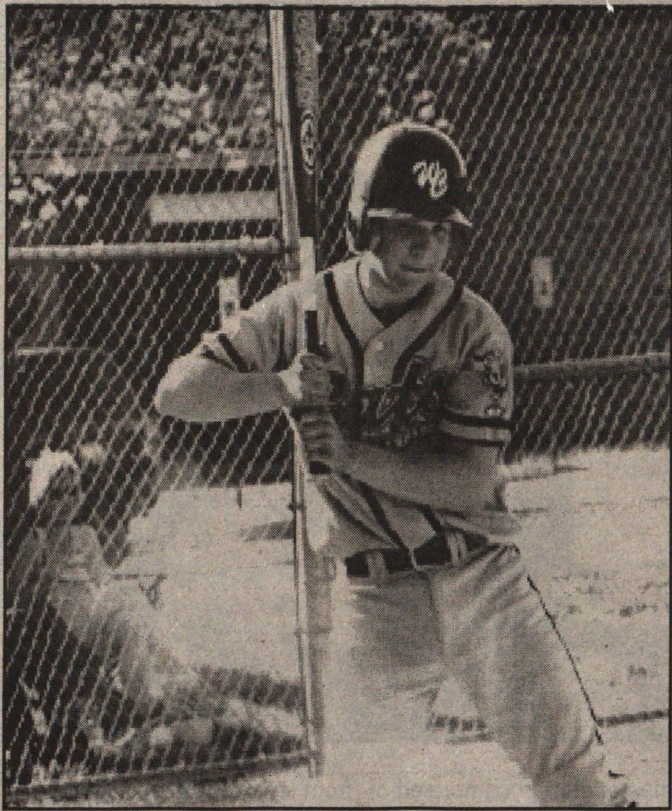


Photo by Maria Perez

Varsity player Danny Eckler and the rest of the team did not come away with a win at the DVC-ESCC challenge, but the promotion did raise money for the Ronald McDonald Foundation.

Wildcats lose challenge to Benet but charity benefits with proceeds

By Ellyn Fortino

This year's DVC-ESCC challenge was a grand slam for students and faculty who came to cheer on the varsity baseball team on May 21.

The Joliet Catholic vs. Naperville North game took place at Lewis University, following the Benet Academy vs. West Chicago game.

Joliet Catholic defeated Naperville North 7-3 and Benet Academy beat West Chicago 7-0.

The event was similar to a minor league baseball game with fan-fun participation games held between innings.

"Last year we won the game,

so I am not upset we lost this year because it evens itself out," said marketing teacher Daniel McCarthy, whose class coordinated the event.

Free programs created by the marketing class were given to everyone attending, and t-shirts promoting the event and concessions were sold. There was also a raffle held for miscellaneous items such as gift certificates to restaurants, autographed baseballs, gift packs from the Chicago Bulls and Miami Dolphins, and a White Sox travel bag.

Proceeds from the event will go to the Ronald McDonald foundation.

"As of right now we do not know how much money we raised from the event, but I'm confident we did well," said McCarthy. "Our main goal is to surpass the \$3,000 we donated last year to the March of Dimes."

Fans could participate in activities like "Dance for Your Supper," "Da Hoopie," and "The Incredible Race," held between innings of the games.

"It was really fun to see adults as well as kids participating," said McCarthy.

The students from the marketing class did everything from selling tickets and t-shirts to shagging balls at the event.

Pelzer... (Continued from page 1)

To help people continue on in life Pelzer advised they focus on the small things. According to Pelzer, if people are not able to do this and see the picture at the same time, then "we are damned if we do, damned if we don't."

Pelzer believes that a student's sole job in high school is to learn, to graduate, and to prepare for college.

"Everyone needs to start looking for opportunities for themselves and stop making excuses," said Pelzer.

But finding opportunities is not the only action Pelzer asked students to take. He strongly believes that people should love others for who they are, and not hate anyone.

"The worst thing that anyone can do is to hate. Hate is a cancer that spreads and kills one day at a time. If you hate now, you will hate forever," said Pelzer.

However, Pelzer does recognize this is a hard thing to do. Even though he has been

able to forgive his mother for the way she treated him, he still believes that she died a broken woman because of her hate.

"Do not end up the way she did. If you hate today then you are going to be all alone later in life," said Pelzer.

To reduce hate and negative feelings, Pelzer would like to see everyone give at least three compliments a day to others. He believes this will help to clear up any miscommunications between people.

"Miscommunication is the number one problem we have in the world. It creates all the problems and all of the hate," said Pelzer.

Pelzer was able to learn goodness out of a dark time in his life, and he hopes that his presentations will help others going through hard times.

"No matter what happens in life, you just have to do it and get through it," said Pelzer.

Botany... (Continued from page 1)

The botany classes, with assistance from the maintenance staff and plant supplier Earth Care, chose a variety of native plants for the landscape that are easy to maintain.

"It's going to be a different variety of plants; like a prairie. We can just plant them and let them go," Steiglitz said. "It's not going to look like typical trimmed back yards."

Botany classes not only designed the landscapes, but also prepared the area, cut the sod, and installed the plant material.

"We have spent a lot of time

and done a lot of hard work doing this," said botany student Ashley Hund. "Our school is so plain in the back, and we wanted to make it look nice so that when other schools come here through these entrances, it looks good."

Steiglitz and her classes look forward to seeing how their dedication to the project will improve the school's look.

"Everyone worked extremely hard," Steiglitz said. "I wouldn't have done it with any other classes from previous years. I have an awesome group."

AP English 3 students display work in hopes of inspiring others to read more

By Lauren Krage

Members of Jason Kling's AP English 3 class obtained valuable real world experience recently by sharing their knowledge of books with an audience at a literature symposium recently.

"It was good real world experience giving presentations like that," said class member Gwen Murphy. "It could apply to projects for a future job."

Members of Kling's class each read a novel of their choice written in the past 50 years to study in depth. They then chose a specific topic to speak on during the symposium, held May 16-18.

Topics for the symposium included "The Quest for Normalcy Is Not as Easy as it Seems," "Cult Members vs. Pop Culture Drones," and "DaVinci Dacoded."

The symposium was Kling's first attempt at such an event, and he plans to continue it in future years with more planning.

"It was kind of a last minute thing," said Kling. "I thought other students would enjoy it and come out with good ideas of books to read over the summer."

The purpose of the symposium, according to Kling, is to display the work of his AP students to the rest of the school, especially the younger grade levels.

Kling hopes to reach a wider audience in future years after this year's success.

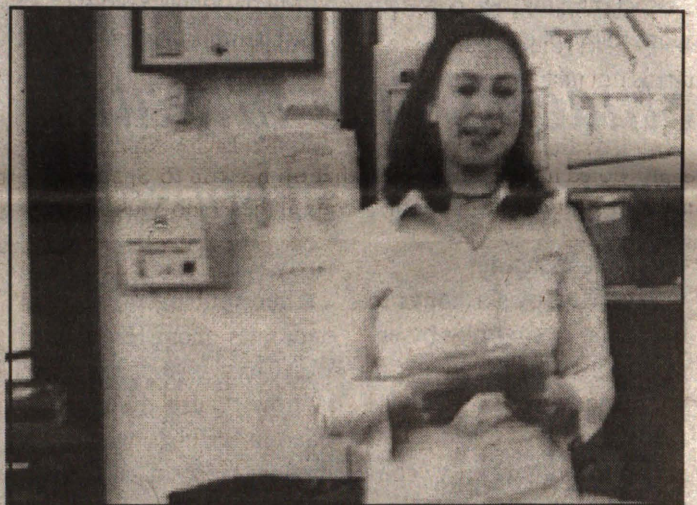
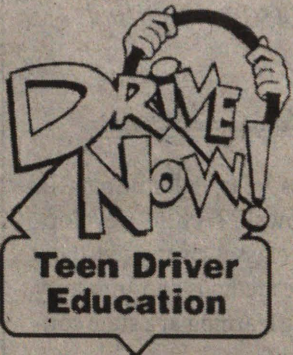


Photo by Lauren Krage

Junior Amy Axelrod was one of Jason Kling's AP English 3 students to be part of the symposium which was so successful that Kling plans to involve even more of his students next year.



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Project gives classes new outlook on art

Students appreciate art work after trying to imitate Spanish artists

By Kellie Virnich

As a final lesson in the Spanish art unit, Spanish 4 students created their own projects based on the artists and styles they studied third quarter.

Students could either copy a piece exactly, make their own interpretation of a style, or redesign an existing work in another style.

Spanish 4 teacher Susan Junkroski, who began the unit 10 years ago, said that actually creating art helps students understand the process better.

"When we were discussing the different periods, students kept saying that things 'aren't art' because they seemed too easy. But when they had to do it themselves, they began to see that it's not just slapping paint on paper."

She also said that art is very deeply rooted into Spanish culture, and studying it in depth

gives students "not only a knowledge of art, but a better grasp on Spanish life."

The French and German classes also do art units on the periods for which each culture was best known.

Junkroski said that studying art is something most students only get to do if they plan on going into a related career, so she likes to expose them to what they would not have experienced otherwise.

"I love art, and I want to open the door to it for my students," Junkroski said. "If they walk away loving it as much as I do, that's great. But even if they don't I've given them the opportunity to see something they might not have."

This unit has opened many students' eyes to the world of art. Junior Taylor Alperin said that on her trip to Spain, she cried at the Prado Museum af-



Photo by Kellie Virnich

Senior Bob Conard looks at Eric Gotkowski's interpretation of Salvador Dali's "Geopoliticus Child," one of the paintings that his Spanish 4 class studied.

ter seeing 'Las Meninas,' a painting she had just studied in Spanish class a few days before.

"I don't even know why I cried," Alperin said. "Seeing it in real life after studying it on a slide in class was just so surreal. The fact that I already knew something about it made it even more beautiful."

Junkroski realized when she began this unit that not every student would walk away as art

fanatics, but she said she has never had a student call it a waste of time.

"I think it's almost therapeutic for students just to sit and color for a period when their days are usually just spent sitting and absorbing facts. This unit lets them use a part of their brain that they usually can't in school," she said.

This year was different as the foreign language classes are

held on the third floor now so almost every student and many more teachers are able to see what the Spanish students have accomplished.

Junkroski said, "It has been a good change for the project, because now the students can get others' feedback on their hard work. They put part of themselves into their art, and they deserve to hear some reaction other than my own."

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Our View

President acts on obesity epidemic with a drastic budget cut in physical education

The new food pyramid shows a person going up stairs to symbolize physical activity. Exercise video star Denise Austin, a member of the President's Council on Physical Fitness, helped unveil the pyramid with Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns in a Webcast news conference with such enthusiasm that she got the media to stand and stretch.

Austin brought greetings from President George W. Bush, calling him "one of the fittest presidents ever in the history of the presidency. He's in the top 1 percent of men his age. He's committed to physical fitness and eating right every single day, so he's a fantastic example to all of us."

But Austin's buoyancy can not hide the deflating truth. The government tells people to cut the fat with fitness at the same time it is trimming fitness right out of the budget.

In President Bush's budget proposal for fiscal year 2006, he would cut federal funds for physical-education teachers and equipment from \$74 million to \$55 million.

That is just the top of a crumbling pyramid. The budget crunches in the states, due in part to White House priorities for war and tax cuts for the wealthy, continue to result in physical-education classes being stripped from schools all across the country. The percentage of high school students who participate in physical education dropped from 42 percent in 1991

to 28 percent in 2003, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Everyone knows that lack of physical activity, com-

that it will rapidly approach and could exceed the negative effect that ischemic heart disease or cancer has on life expectancy."

The report added, "if the negative effect of obesity on life expectancy continues to worsen, and current trends in prevalence suggest it will, then gains in health and longevity that have taken decades to achieve may be quickly reversed."

How fast could the gains be reversed? "Although estimating the negative effects of epidemics on the future course of life expectancy is problematic," the report said, "it has been established that infectious diseases, when they do emerge, can wipe out a century's worth of gains in health and longevity in less than one generation."

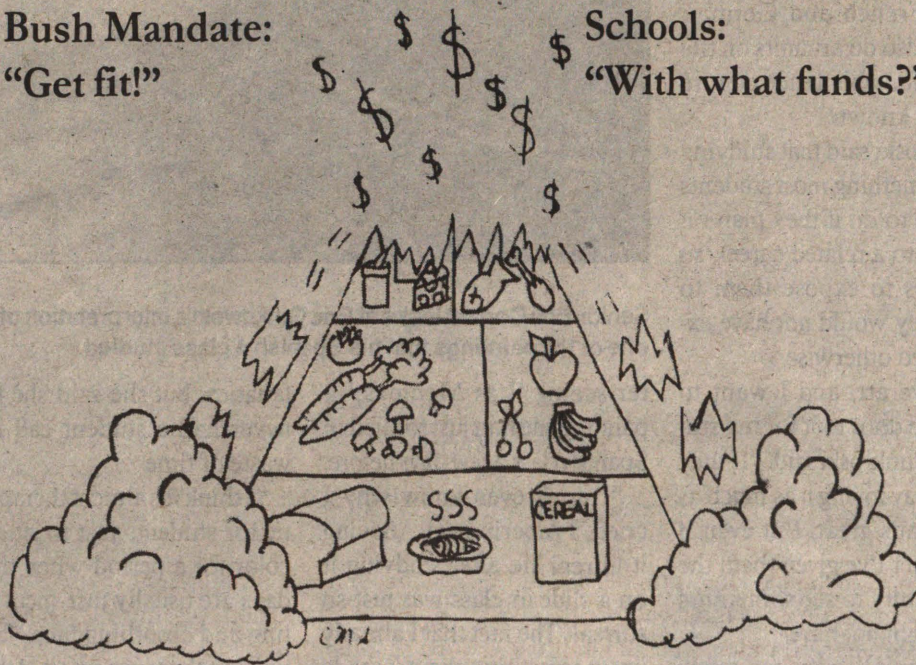
When one hears that, it makes the pyramid seem like a puny instrument, however well-meaning, to fight obesity. The best first step, if the president and Americans are committed to physical fitness, is to

send a message to America's children and parents that physical education will return to the schools. The classes were among the first to be cut during the mad dash toward standardized testing.

Now the truth is beginning to emerge. At the same time the government drives children up the ladder of achievement, now it is preparing the pyramid to be their tomb.

Bush Mandate:
"Get fit!"

Schools:
"With what funds?"



combined with the increase of junk food, is fueling an obesity crisis among young people. However, the government is not leading the way up the pyramid.

Last month, a special report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that obesity is now such a significant factor that "it is larger than the negative effect of all accidental deaths combined (accidents, homicide, and suicide), and there is reason to believe

Valedictorian honors should be awarded only to the student actually graduating at the top of the class; multiple valedictorians diminishes meaning

By Lauren Krage

On graduation day, almost 20 students will march across the stage, basking in the adoration of their peers and receiving recognition as superiors from all. Why do they deserve such praise? Because these are the valedictorians, and each has achieved the ultimate 4.0 throughout their high school years.

However, the large amount of students obtaining this honor completely devalues the meaning of valedictorian and begs the question: do they all deserve it?

Because of Community High School's non-weighted grading system, so many students will receive the school's

top honor due to their equal GPAs, but there are differences between each of the students beyond mere grade point average that suggest inequality.

With the current system, an AP English class looks, where GPA is concerned, the same as a regular English class. But if one valedictorian challenges him/

herself to take accelerated classes all four years of high school, and another chooses a slightly less demanding schedule, most would agree that the latter student deserves less recognition.

So why should they be considered equals when valedictorian status is being decided?

According to principal John Highland, the differences are miniscule, and he does not want to divide students who are so nearly equal.

"I don't like separating these students by such small points," he said.

He also said that the reason CHS does not choose just one valedictorian is because some students participate in many extra-curricular activities, preventing them from taking more classes than other students take with 4.0s.

Though this rationalization promotes equality between pure academics and the well-rounded student, it is not the purpose of the valedictorian title. He/she should be the one person who has experienced the absolute most success in the most difficult classes throughout their academic careers. Period.

Additionally, the vast difference between the number of valedictorians and salutatorians, the students with the second highest GPA, is startling. Where there are almost 20 valedictorians, there are only between

one and three salutatorians each year. Why is the number for the second best so small? There are several students who received only one B their entire stay at CHS, but some of their GPAs are slightly higher than most of the others because they have taken more classes, causing their grade average to be that much closer to perfection. Therefore, because the amount of classes taken affects salutatorians and not valedictorians, a more competitive atmosphere surrounds the salutatorian rank.

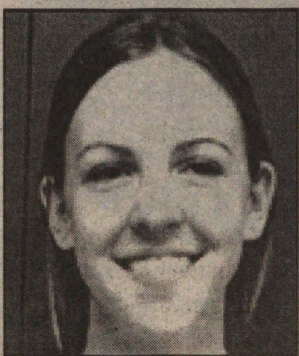
This statistic seems drastically unbalanced. There should be more competition involved with valedictorians than salutatorians because the former is supposed to be the hardest to achieve, yet this is not the case.

"This is just the history of our school. It's the way we've always done it," said Highland.

The school's system of awarding every student with a 4.0 valedictorian honors is flawed. More consideration of other aspects of students' academic careers such as amount of classes taken and difficulty of classes taken should affect the decision of valedictorian.

According to *wikipedic.com*, "the title of valedictorian is given to the top graduate of the entire graduating class of an educational institution."

Does this hold true at Community High School? Doubtful, very doubtful.



Point/Counterpoint

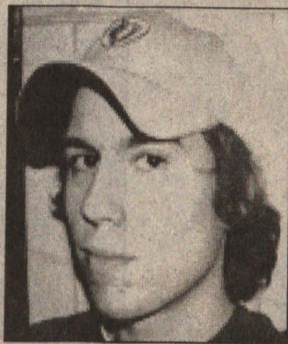
Opening our hearts and our doors; immigration in the land of the free

By C.J. Hinojosa

Some people say America should be more of a "global nation" than a republic, and just open its doors to whoever wants to live here. While that won't result in anarchy as some radicals fear, it's still probably not the best idea ever.

The predominantly Hispanic men, women and children that come to this country in backdoor ways are just looking for a better life, and it is a very, very long and difficult process to legally immigrate. Personally, I've got mixed feelings about just tearing down the figurative walls because of overpopulation and the threat of urban/economic sprawl, but hey, "This land is your land, this land is my land," et cetera et cetera.

Much of the fear and outspoken angst towards illegal immigrants is just racist paranoia; there are many Latino people in the U.S., but the way they are portrayed in TV and movies is one big stereotype. In these make believe projections of the idiot box, Mexican people are constantly shown as gang members, convicts, and overall, as "scary." When American people watch as much TV as they do, the line between reality and blue-screen fiction blurs. And when you start calling undocumented immigrants "illegal aliens," you've dehumanized them altogether.



Just because these people are "illegal immigrants" does not make them a threat. The word "illegal" carries such a negative connotation, but here the only crime committed is crossing into another country's borders without filling out a mountain of paperwork; drugs are not being trafficked, murder isn't the case.

Let's face it, our economy is extremely well-to-do, attracting those who work in sweatshops; factories where women workers are beaten and raped on a regular basis. Here there's a substantial minimum wage and fair, ethical treatment.

Hispanic people are traditionally very family-orientated, often living with members of their extended family under the same roof. I know a man who came here from Mexico to landscape for three years, hoping to earn enough money to buy his mother a home down there. His face just beamed with sincerity and love when he told me, and I was all for that.

The Border Patrol, most notably in Texas, is very well equipped. It's pretty much impossible to swim across the Rio Grande and expect to start a new American life; you won't make it very far without getting checked. And the last thing we need are vigilante groups like the Minuteman Project, a bunch of Southern neo-Nazis patrolling the river at their own discretion with guns for monetary rewards. How is that good?

I strongly encourage legal immigration over just walking in; it helps everyone out with, well, everything... however I don't think we should simply kick someone out just because they did not have access to the legalization process.

Illegal immigration hurts the United States and should be greatly limited

By John Jennings

Illegal immigration plagues our country and legal American citizens are paying for it.

I have no problem with legal immigration as it brings the best and brightest to our country, but I do have a problem with illegal immigration, as it is a detriment to our society.

The 2000 census estimated the number of illegal immigrants living in the United States to be between 8 and 10 million. Some of these illegal immigrants help themselves to jobs, an education, welfare, unemployment benefits and other resources that would otherwise be put towards other programs benefiting legal citizens.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, or INS, estimates that 275,000 illegal immigrants cross the border into the United States every year. We have only a certain amount of resources in this country, and the more people there are to share the resources with, the less there is for legal residents.

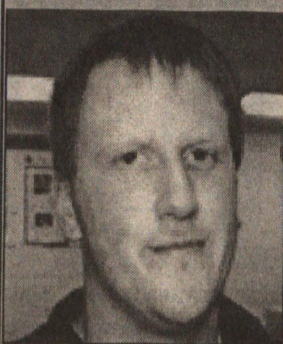
Some say that it is good for our economy to let in illegal immigrants. But our country built itself into a world power and one of the richest economies the world has ever seen well before the epidemic of illegal immigration. This is proof that we do not need illegal immigrants to have a good economy. Also, illegal immigrants take up taxpayer money by sending their children to school and all of the other benefits they receive without being a citizen.

Those that encourage illegal immigration say that those immigrants do the jobs that Americans will not do. But when illegal immigration was a non-issue, the lawns still got mowed, the houses were still cleaned, and the garbage was still picked up. Jobs that people say Americans will not do got done just fine without the help of illegal immigrants.

Another line always spoken when talking about illegal immigration is, "This is a nation of immigrants." No, this is not a nation of immigrants. At one time we might have been a nation of immigrants, but that is no longer the case.

Yes, our ancestors were immigrants, but 88.9 percent of all people living in the United States were born here, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, meaning they are not immigrants. Yes, it is true that we are all descended from immigrants, but so is everyone else. Virtually no one today is living exactly where their earliest ancestors were born.

Our country's focus on always being politically correct and never wanting to hurt anyone is hurting our country and its citizens. This focus on trying to please everyone by allowing illegal immigrants to stream across the border will hurt future generations, and may end up hurting us as well.



Get Your War On, By C.J. Hinojosa

Saying goodbye to high school and welcoming new beginnings

By now, my final column of the year and ever here, you may be expecting more pop culture-laden angst, calls to action, nostalgia, preaching, the First Amendment in action, or you plain just don't care. Whatever's cool with me; everybody got their something.

The fact is, though, I've got writer's block. I just can't think of anything worth writing to fill up this space. I think I'm justified, however. Although the weather tells me otherwise, it's mid-May, and this means two things: The beginning of an endless summer and the end of high school, an era equal parts doing time and well, doing more time.

Around now you just want to drift into electric relaxation and indulge in the awesomeness of yard shows, house parties, pretending you're not in the Midwest, ice cubes, and the finer things in life (whatever those are), but you just can't completely blow these last 12 days off, no no no. Nowadays, us Seniors, high and mighty though we be, must partake in the High School Finals Week From Hell one last time. They didn't do that in the past, uh-uh; it seems we pretty much got the shaft. Plus, some of us still have to get out of bed to pass PE and all those classes where "senioritis" proved to be a malignant tumor... no names will be named.

See, I just don't have the energy to write about politics as I once did; one thing this year taught me is that politics are stupid and bitter and full of argument after argument between white white-collar men and the occasional uptight old lady. Things go nowhere there, and even though the mainstream mindset seems to be hell-bent on change these days, they don't know what they're changing, or how to get anything done. Also, I don't want to preach. I'd hate to force my ideas down the throats of others; I'll just put it out there and if they don't like it, then that's cool. We're all friends here, so viva viva viva peace, love, and sonic youth (the band and the spirit)! Right?

I learned, or was reminded of, tons of timeless lessons this year. We all did. Some of mine: Not everyone's going to be in love with your tastes in art. At 18, you feel young, but freakishly old at the same time. American consumerism is a disease that spreads lovelessness, takes precedence over the real meaning of holidays, and waters down humanity, sending them like cattle to local Wal-Marts and Targets to buy discount items they don't need for the sake of a sale. Music is my radar. Girls are awesome. Authority doesn't always know best. And finally, of course, the obligatory "Throw away your television, the radio sucks, computers cause insomnia, boxes brainwash," though cliché, needs to be said. The O.C. created a wa-

tered-down version of me and named him Seth Cohen, and now everyone's catching up ("Indie music," as the kids call it, has become all the rage-I had the head start, suckas). When people are talking about MySpace in the halls, I wonder how they find making friends they'll never meet with empty quotes from lame emo ballads more attractive than living real life and being human. It's the biggest con since Genghis, much like our current Commander and Thief.

The only thing I have to say to the underclassmen is, take a class taught by Mr. Turnbaugh, the man's class is a revolution.

Even if I don't know you, and you don't know me, and we're just strangers in the hallway avoiding eye contact and screaming at different people in different directions, or we once had 4th grade together, and our only association is that we're both in the 12th grade at the same high school, I wish you good luck and that you'll forever live the good life in the future. Some of you I won't miss much, or at all, but a lot of you I will. It's about time we left this place. Ciao, I'm gone like Vaughn, and my aviator shades and I are sprinting into the sunset and not looking back.

Farewell Seniors

Parents send
messages to
their graduates

To our 99% girl-Rachel,
We are 100% sure that we are proud of you. 100% sure
of what a great person you are and 200% sure that we will
miss you next year. We're 99.9% sure that our loss will be
University of Iowa's gain.

Love,
Mom and Dad

C
L
A



Alli-
Congratulations on a job well
done. Good luck and best wishes
at UIUC. Enjoy the experience!
Mom, Dad and the boys

Best of luck Jillers. We will miss your humor and fairy
walks.
Love,
Your family



Hey Austin,
You have always had great spirit, always fidgeting,
determined, fun and yes, stubborn! You have great
friends and it has been a pleasure to watch you grow
up. Dream big dreams because I know you can do any-
thing you set your mind to. I'm very proud of you.

Love,
Mom and Taylor

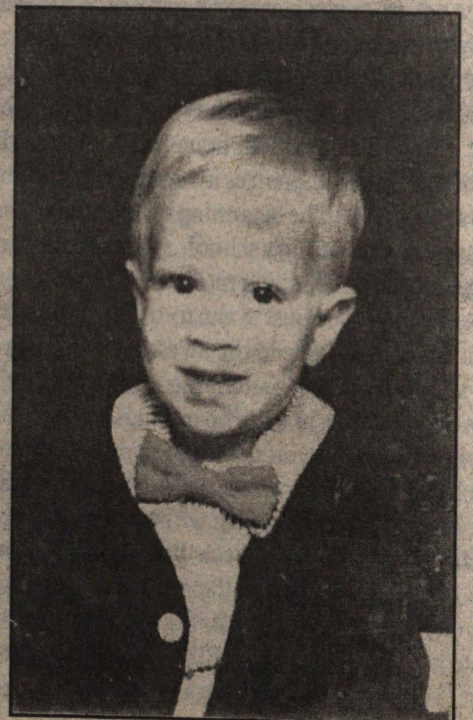
Eric,
We are so proud of you and wish you the
very best at University of Illinois!

Love,
Mom and Dad



Congratulations Michael! We always knew you'd fill
those shoes.

Love,
Mom, Dad and Matt



Farewell Seniors



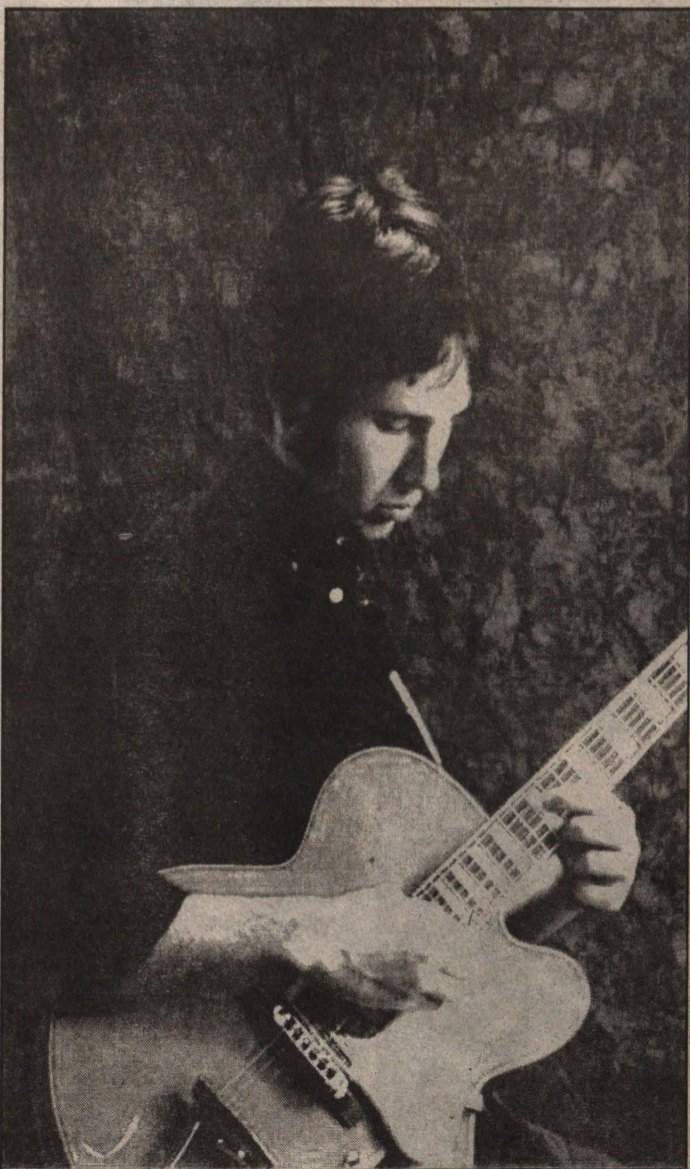
Dan,
You never fail to amaze us! We're proud of you!
Love you,
Mom and Dad



Kari-Ane,
Where did the years go? Congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future. We are proud of you!
Love, Mom and Bruce

O
F

Abby,
You have set a high standard for yourself and a pattern for your brother to follow. Congratulations on your accomplishments without a cappella.
Love,
Dad and Mom



Hey Gusterdude,
You are a son to be proud of. Rock on John!
Love,
Mom and Dad

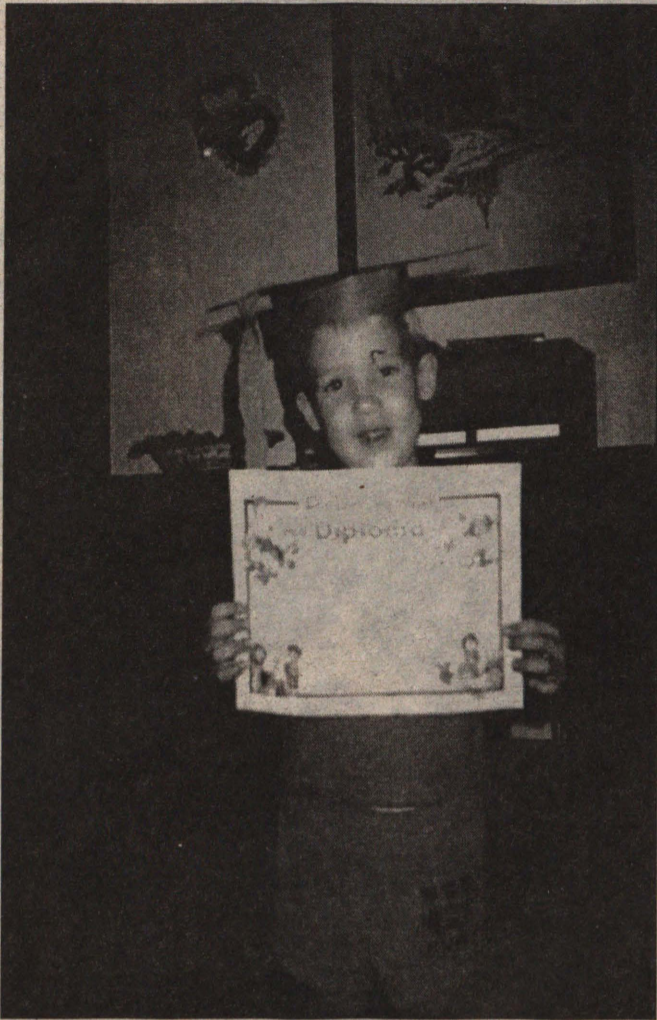


Peanut,
Best wishes as you prepare to travel down the road to becoming an adult, continuing your education and being independent. What you have accomplished through your early years has been more than what we have ever imagined. Keep setting and reaching your goals. We are very proud of you.
Love,
Mom and Dad

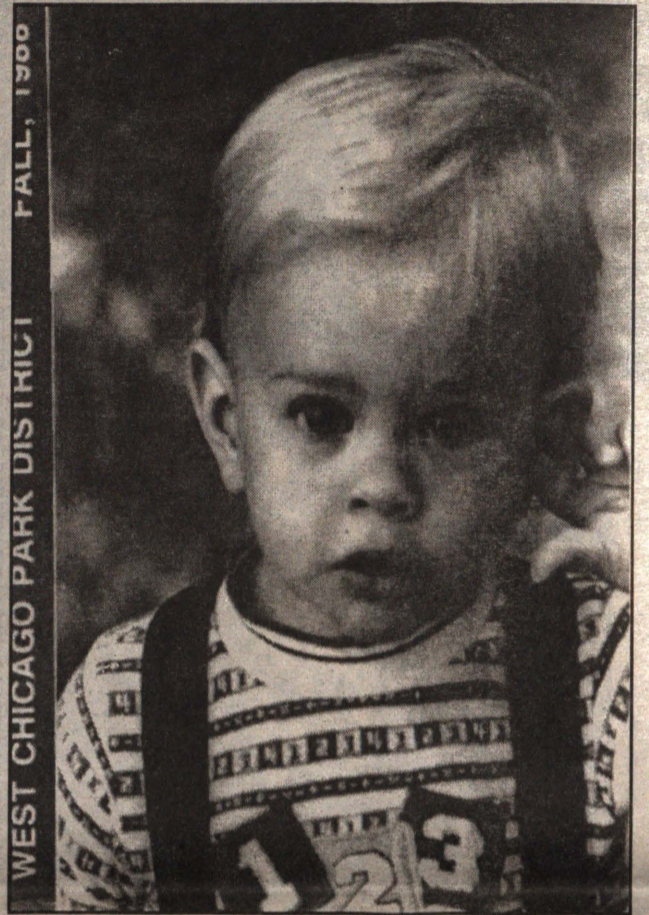
O
5



Farewell Seniors



From preschool graduation to high school graduation-where did the years go? Congratulations Drew!
We love you!
Mom, Dad and Cody



You've always been newsworthy! Your dedication and hard work are admired and appreciated.
With love,
Dad, Mom, Jeremy, and Stacey



Jonathan,
Congratulations on a great four years.
We love you!
Dad and Mom



C.J.,
We know you will accomplish many great things! We are proud of who you are! Congratulations!
Love,
Your Family

Farewell Seniors



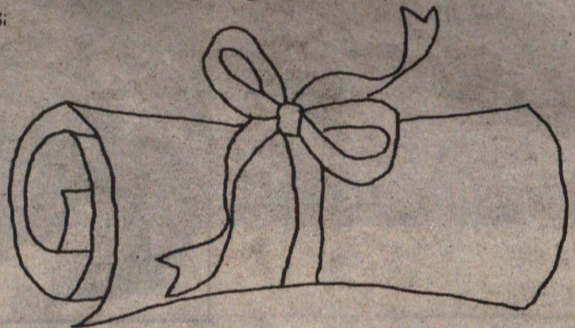
...Watching your life onwardly leaving a taste of your future warms. Now passing WCCHS you are now an adult and always our baby girl...



Dear Ashley and Dustin,
See... you did look alike! (You even liked each other!) Where did the years go?! Congratulations! I wish you both the very best, whatever road you follow. (Probably opposite ones! LOL!) I'll always be here for you. I love you both very much.
Mom



Dear Jamon,
As you graduate from We-go High remember, don't BEE dumb! Mom and Dad s:



Dancin' Dolly



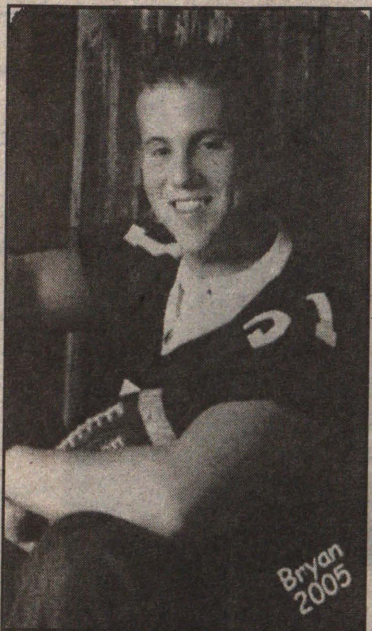
Friends since pre-school
Friends in "Tiny Toes"
May you be friends forever
As your high school career
comes to a close.

To our only daughters,
We love you and are so proud
of you.

Congratulations!
Mom and Dad Doll
Mom and Dad Yormark



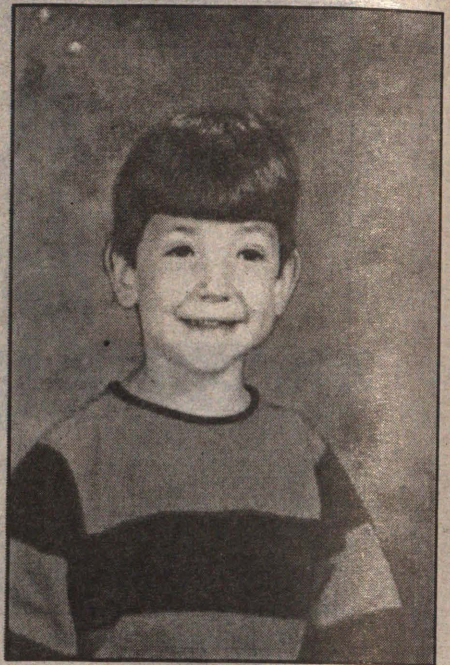
Nana-
Still stylish and cute as ever



Congratulations Bryan Loosli! You have worked so hard through high school and have achieved excellent results in everything you have done. Although we are not ready to let you go, good luck at University of Illinois, Champaign. We are very proud of you. We love you very much!
Mom and Dad

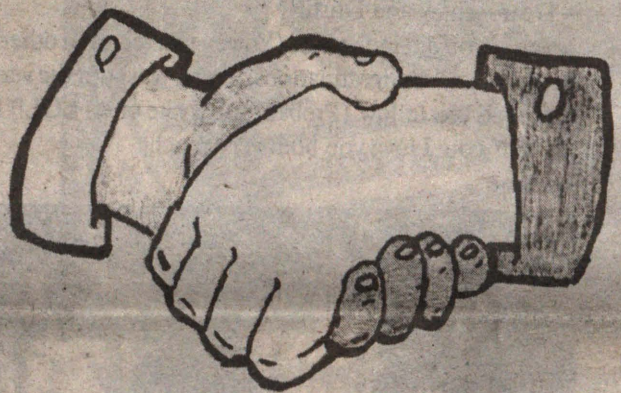
Congratulations Jeff! We are proud of you and all your hard work. You're the BEST. We love you-
Mom, Jenny, Melanie

Jeff,
Congratulations and good luck. You're my favorite brother. I love you.
Go Braves-
Erin



... In form and moving, how express and admirable, in action how like an angel, in apprehension how like a god...

Congratulations Matt Sauter! We are proud of you! We thank God for the gift of you. Best wishes for a great college experience.
Love,
Dad and Mom



Dear Ryan,
Good luck on your new career as a college student! Hope you enjoy it as much as your brothers have. Work hard!
Love,
Mom and Dad

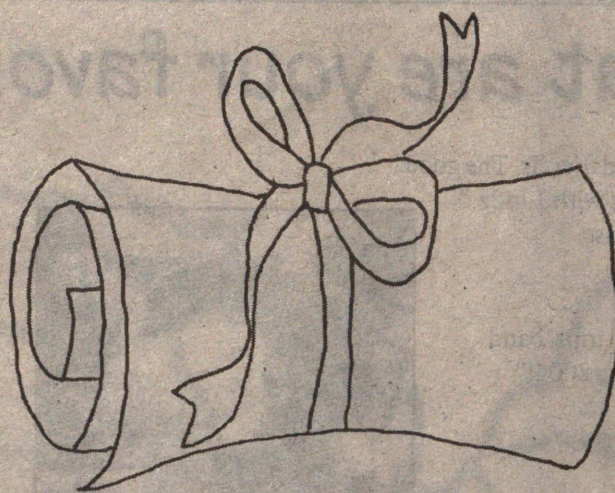
Brandi,
You've grown to be a terrific young lady, daughter, and are a hope for our future. You bring light and happiness wherever you go, and we know you will continue to do well wherever your road leads you!
Love,
Mom and Dad

Mallory Russo,
Our princess is all grown up! Congratulations and best of everything to you at Iowa. We are so proud of you and love you very much.
Love,
Dad & Debbie



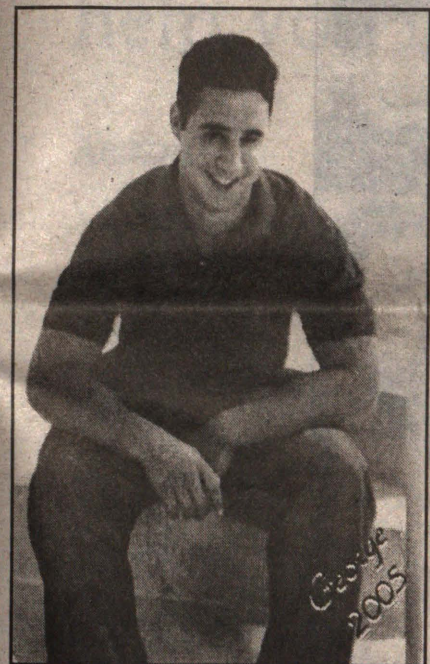
It was just yesterday that your hair was that blonde! We're very proud of you and we love you.
Dad and Mom

Seniors



Our sweet little Julie is now a lovely lady! We are so proud of you!

Love,
Mom & Dad



George,
Cawabunga! From Turtles, Power Rangers, Ghostbusters, soccer, football, exams, friends and life you're on your way and we're so proud.

Love you,
Mom and Angel



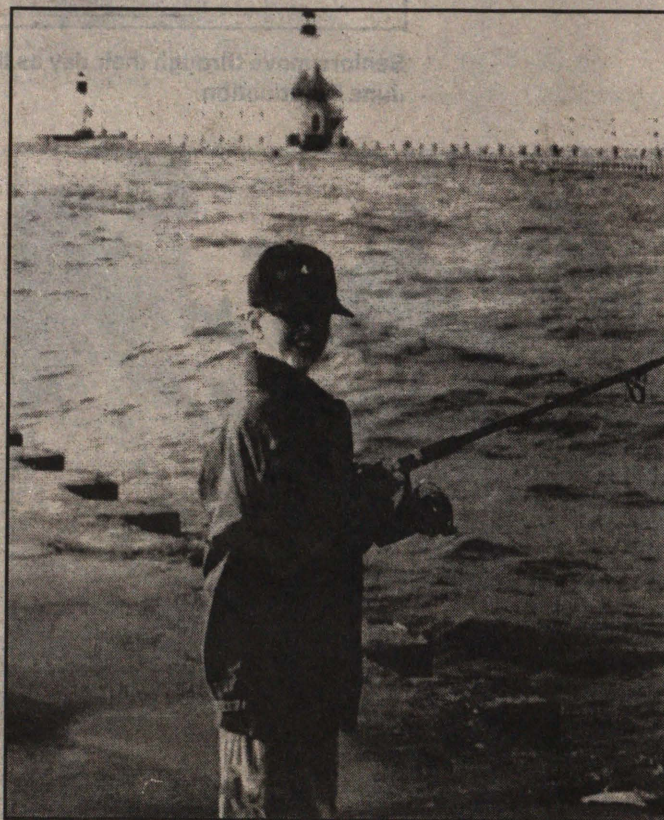
Matt,
We love you and are so proud of you! Good luck at University of Iowa next year. Have fun and study hard!

Love,
Mom and Dad



Marisa,
Wow, where has the time gone? We are all so proud of you and all of your accomplishments. Your hard work and determination has paid off. Congratulations on your acceptance to Arizona State University. Be happy, have fun, and continue to follow your dreams.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Dom, Chrissy,
Johnny and little Johnny



Dear Mike,
1,2,4,8,9, (inside joke). Where DID all those years go? The journey of childhood has ended. You've received your roots, now spread your wings! Congratulations! We're so proud of you! (DML!)

Love,
Mom and Dad

Farewell Seniors

What are your favorite memories of We-go?

"Parties and friends. The good old civic days with Lindz."

-Karin Chase

"All the band trips, band camp, and prom 2004!"

-Katie Ulin

"There are too many to choose from! My favorites have always been bonding with my track and cross-country teammates, from telling ghost stories at sectionals to (secretly) camping in coach Claiborne's backyard. We always have fun together. They are some of my best friends and I will miss them!"

-Kelly Wdowiarz

"Plays, musicals, variety show (Kaitlyn is my dawg), football/basketball games and getting to spend four more great years with my best friend in the whole world, Peggy!"

-Mallory Russo



Photo by Lauren Krage

Katie Boland daydreams about the last day of school.

"Being a part of The Squad at the basketball games and rushing the court after beating West Aurora!"

-Dana Yormark

"Favorite memory was definitely beating West Aurora twice, and rushing the court. It was amazing."

-Carissa Adamson

"Meeting my best friends Laura Hahn and Laura Tan."

-Hilary Tennant

"Playing football for four years, and my sophomore year when we beat Naperville Central to get in the playoffs"

-George Chiarito

"Homecomings, winning Powder Puff both years!"

-Katie Boland



Photo by Lauren Krage

Seniors move through their day as the school year comes to an end. The hallway will empty out after the June 5 graduation.

"Playing football."
-Bryan Loosli

"T-ping in We-go that the seniors did homecoming week and all of the home football and basketball games and tailgating before."

-Andria Bernard

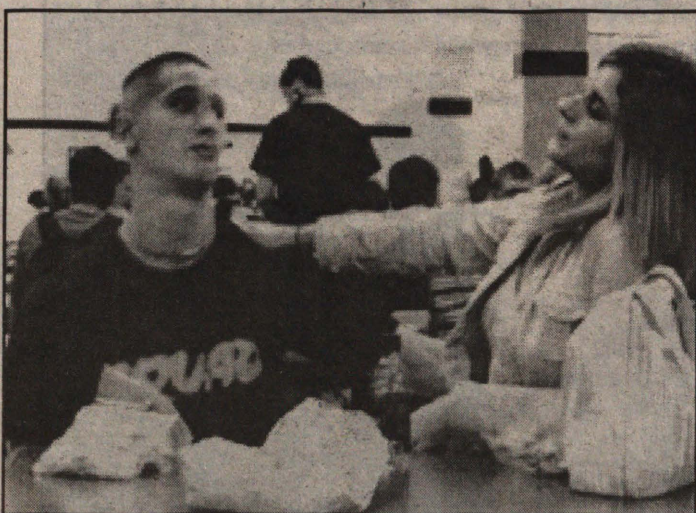


Photo by Lauren Krage

Seniors Vince Czernik and Lauren Koontz enjoy a brief break from their busy days.

"Working tech crew for the plays."

-Summer Hassan

"Prom, all of the dances, and just hanging out with friends."

-Kristen Betts

"'05 B-ball season, beating West Aurora, and hanging out with my friends."

-Amanda Schwinn

"The last football game at Glenbard East."

-Tim Valaski

"Hanging out with my friends, meeting new people."

-Nicole Chudoba

"Winning conference for soccer, in the game against Naperville Central."

-Bruce Janek

"My tampon costume."

-Ian Holmes

"Frolicking outside during pit practice for the spring musicals... Actually, I'd have to say my favorite memory will always have to be Mrs. Branch and her inside orchestra jokes... like the muscle lady and chandler's orange trees."

-Jill Musick

"This year's cheerleading squad. We had so much fun and we did really good. Plus, we got to cheer for an amazing basketball team!"

-Lindsay Pater



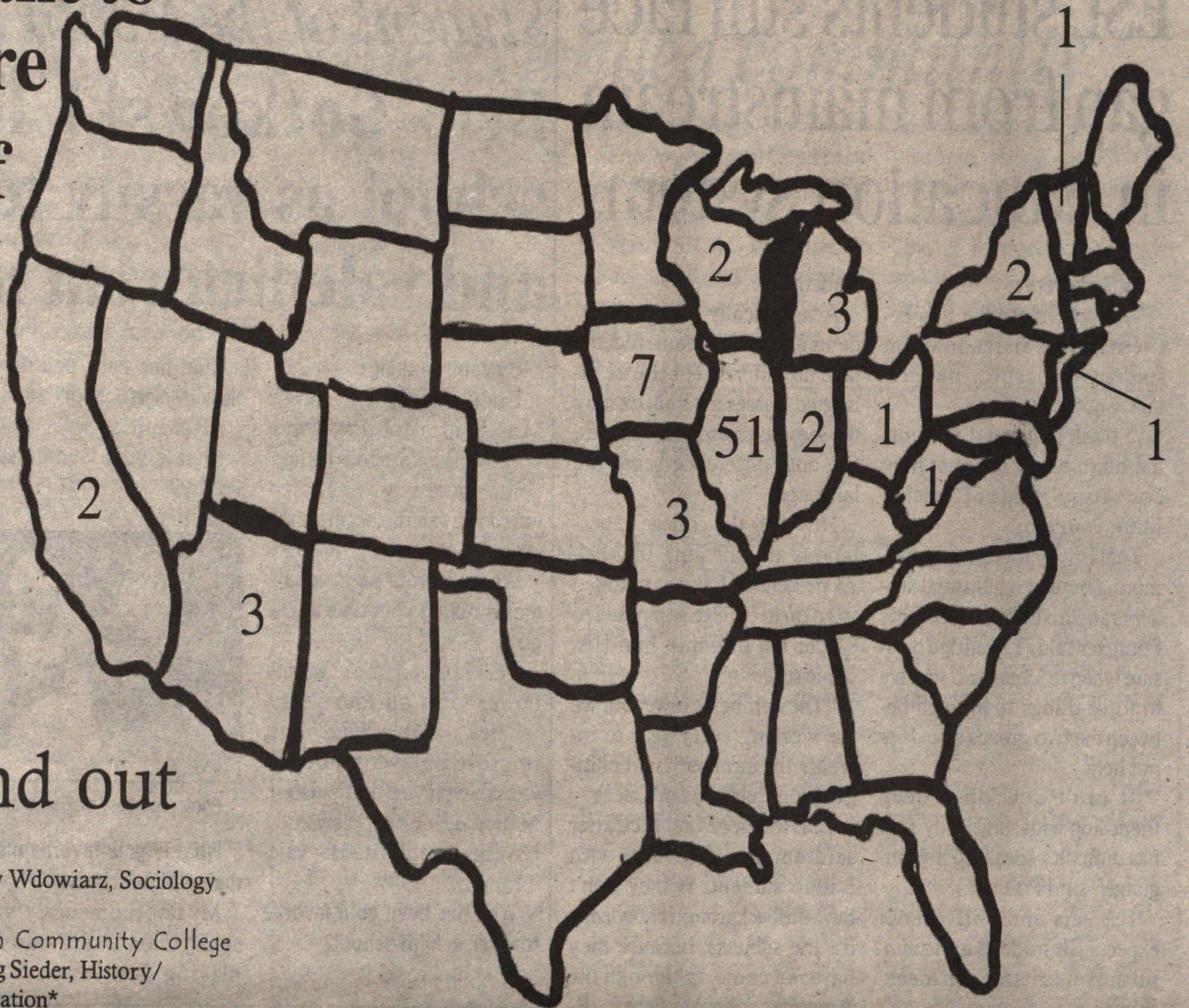
Photo by Lauren Krage

Seniors Micah Hitchcock and Amanda Schwinn meet each other in the hallway before going to class.

Farewell Seniors

Do you want to know where the class of 2005 will be next year?

Use this guide to help you find out



ARIZONA

Arizona State University
Larry Christatos, English/
Psychology
Hilary Tennant, Elementary
Education
Lauren Koontz, Secondary
Education/Spanish

CALIFORNIA

Azusa Pacific University
Jamon Siefert, Cinema and
Broadcasting arts

Loyola Marymount
Matt Mahoney, History/
Education

DELAWARE

University of Delaware
Vicki Lawn, Physical Therapy

ILLINOIS

Augustana College
Melissa Johansen, Undecided
Mary Harms, Biology

College of DuPage
Sam Corriero, Undecided
Maricela Ballines, Undecided
Nicole Chudoba, English
Adrienne Sanchez, Education
Katie Ulin, Physical Therapy
Erika Kane, Veterinarian
Caitlin Riermaier, Dance and
Musical Theater

Columbia College
Bridget Rood, Cultural
Studies

Eastern Illinois University
Tilia Detrick, Special Educa-
tion with a minor in History

Kelly Wdowiarz, Sociology

Elgin Community College
Doug Sieder, History/
Education*

Illinois State University
Lindsay Pater, Psychology
Amanda Schwinn, Education
Valerie Cirone, Undecided
Nicole Klingberg, Teaching,
Special Education
Katie Boland, Early Child-
hood Education
Kristen Betts, English

Judson College
Glen Cadwallader, Secondary
Education

Loyola University Chi-
cago
Alexa Kipp, International
Business and French
Michael Olesiak, Pre-Med

Millikin University
Lauren Krage, English-Writing
Bruce Janek, Business
Management

North Central College
Jeff Cisowski, Business*
Megan Andracki, Marketing
Becky Bonarek, English

Northern Illinois Univer-
sity
Tim Valaski, Engineering
Kenny Tinnes, Accounting
Ryan Morris, Accounting

Southern Illinois Univer-
sity
Jill Walkoe, Pre-Med/
Psychology

Josef Station, Business
Corinne Golzer, Education/
Nursing
Tiffany Nitti, Pre-Med

University of Illinois
Jeff Burgess, Aeronautical
Engineering
John Jennings, Secondary
Education
Nick Lelito, Biology
Rosemarie Venen, Archite-
cture
Ryan Woodbury, Physics/
Engineering
Peggy Saul, Art
Bryan Loosli, Kinesiology
Laura Hahn, Undecided
Dana Yormark, Undecided
Deborah Corson, Account-
ing/International Business/
German

University of Illinois
Chicago
Summer Hassan, Pre-Med
Briana Jakubik, Psychology
Erik Hernandez, Physical
Therapy

Western Illinois Univer-
sity
Andria Bernard, Communi-
cations
Paula Mazzola, Law En-
forcement and Justice
Administration
George Chiarito, Law
Enforcement

Wheaton College
Jill Musick, Music Educa-
tion

INDIANA

Goshen College
C.J. Hinojosa, Communica-
tions

Notre Dame
Chris Carrington, History

IOWA

University of Iowa
Alyssa Claude, Radiology
Technician
Jessica Boyd, Finance
Mallory Russo, Dance
Carissa Adamson, Pre-Dental
Heidi Colliander, Undecided
Emily Gherke, Education

Iowa State University
Anthony McNerney, Archi-
tecture

MICHIGAN

Central Michigan Univer-
sity
Jeff Gilbert, Computer
Networking*

Hope College
Karin Chase, Nursing
Karin Sweas, Elementary
Education

MILITARY

Ian Holmes, Army

MISSOURI

Drury College
Shelly Krueger, Design

Lindenwood University
Austin Monroe, Political
Science (Pre-law)

Universtiy of Missouri at
Columbia
Brienne Nadolny, Pediatric
Oncology Nursing

NEW YORK

Loras College
Melissa Buckles-Haley,
Social Work and Spanish

The Kings College
Lilli Cassidy, Undecided

OHIO

Ohio Wesleyan University
Madeline Foote, Undecided

VERMONT

Norwich University
Keil Fuchs, Studies in War
and Peace

WEST VIRGINIA

Meredith Manor Interna-
tional Equestrian Center
Michele Lovel, Horseback
Riding Instruction and
Training

WISCONSIN

Marquette University
Merium Koch, Undecided

St. Norbert College
Erica Fatigato, Communica-
tions

*- full scholarship

ESL students still face gap from mainstream in education system

By Maria Perez

Trying to close the gap between Latinos and mainstream students is desired, but certainly not easy.

"I think in general students are intimidated by what they don't know," said ESL teacher Mark Poulterer.

That is why there is no intermixing between bilingual students and mainstream students Poulterer said. The added pressure when teachers and staff try to force things to happen between the two groups also does not help.

"I can't develop a deep friendship with somebody who has difficulty speaking my language," said Poulterer.

Teachers and staff cannot expect ESL students and mainstream students to form friendships.

"Still, being acquaintances would be great," said Poulterer. That way bilingual students and mainstream students can get to know each others' backgrounds.

Being intimidated by the unknown limits bilingual students. They will not join extracurriculars or take certain elective classes because they feel that they are not welcomed or comfortable.

"It is not that they are too busy or wouldn't come to an activity, it is that they need to have a relationship with the adviser," said Poulterer.

Knowing the adviser or knowing their friends are in the club or activity would help the

students.

Academically bilingual students and mainstream students face no difference, because bilingual classes are built exactly the same as mainstream classes, the only difference being the language.

However the college expectations are different. In 2004, 73 percent of Latinos planned to go on to college compared to 84 percent of white, non-Hispanic students.

"The number is lower but we are working every year to increase the number," said bilingual counselor Susan Ciseck.

ESL teacher Mary McCarter said another difficulty with Latino students is they don't have the background knowledge for the subjects, because they have not come up through the American school system.

"There might be different concepts that are not introduced to them in their native language and school," said McCarter.

More divisions separate bilingual students from each other. Differences exist between the newcomers, students who have acclimated a little more, students who have been in the United States for years, and students who have parents that speak English better.

"There is a huge number of different groups. I think we are never going to make this school into this mix of people becoming friends with other people like them but that is okay," said Poulterer.

One group that faces the big-

Student of the Month

Eric Gotkowski leaves high school as varsity tennis player and valedictorian nominee

By John Jennings

Eric Gotkowski takes home May Student of the Month honors as he continues his academic success by being nominated as a valedictorian for the class of 2005.

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

I have played on the varsity tennis team all four years, where I was selected as most improved player and most valuable player. I am also in National Honor Society and I have been nominated for valedictorian.

Who has been your favorite teacher in high school?
Ms. Junkroski

What has been your favorite class in high school?

AP chemistry

What is your favorite school activity?

Tennis.

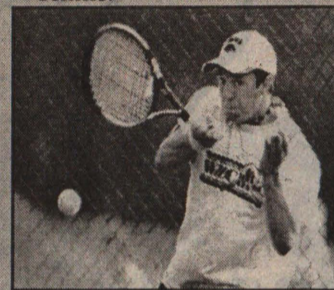


Photo courtesy of Eric Gotkowski

What is your favorite memory during high school?

My favorite memory was the spring 2004 tennis season and playing doubles with Ryan

Masschelin.

What will you do after high school?

I'm going to the University of Illinois and I want to major in chemical or biomolecular engineering.

What do you want to do for a living?

Research and development at a biotechnology company.

What is your favorite pastime?

Making movies with my friends in the summer and having bonfires every night.

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

Hard work and perseverance.

gest gap between other students is new arrivals at the Welcome Center. The Welcome Center helps students with basic life skills to adapt to the community and improve their academic abilities.

The three areas of focus are academics where they learn basic concepts, health issues for vaccinations and other medical concerns, and the social area where they learn how to function in the American school system, said Welcome Center director Carlos Osorio.

Academically Welcome Center high school students have to study at kindergarten level or two years below their grade level. Many of the Latin

American students come from rural areas with no formal education and are illiterate in their own language, said Osorio. Other times the students have not gone to school for two to three years in their country before coming here.

This leaves the Welcome Center responsible for teaching basic concepts to new arrivals in a year. Students are then transferred to the bilingual high school curriculum or to surrounding elementary or middle school systems depending on their age and level.

"Some of the students are crying during the first week here because they feel uncomfortable because they are living in a dif-

ferent place and environment," said Osorio.

On top of that students do not understand the concept of space, numbers, historical time and places. When teaching the students Osorio has to give mini lessons on other topics to make sure the students understand what they are doing.

At the same time, students don't have a typical life in the United States. Their parents might put limitations on them because of cultural beliefs.

They struggle with the language, and some help their parents with household duties and work to save money to bring the rest of the family from Latin America.

Q&A: What are your plans for summer?



Lora Vodicka
Junior

I have to find a job, go on lots of college visits, and practice color guard



Abby Sherby
Sophomore

I'm traveling to Europe, and I'm going to have so much fun.



Liz Goodin
Senior

My friend's wedding is this summer in Texas, and I'm also going camping.



Dan Dyrdr
Junior

I'm going to get off my butt and get a job. I need money.



Joanne Erikson
Freshman

I'm going on vacation to Ohio.

Paw Prints

West DuPage Resource Center connects needy people to services throughout the extended community

By Katie Taylor

The West DuPage Community Resource Center (WDCRC) believes that "two heads are better than one" when helping connect disadvantaged citizens with organizations that can facilitate their needs, and encourages teens to volunteer with them to give back to the community.

"I think the teens that have helped in the past would say that it was fun to be there with other students and that helping families was worthwhile," said treasurer Marie Doll. "We would love to have students regularly now that we have hired our first employee."

The WDCRC recently received a \$25,000 grant from United Way that allowed them to hire their first employee.

"We have been run by all volunteers, so it will be great to have her there to better advertise the center so anyone can come in for help," Doll said.

They partner with agencies and organizations to enhance the health and well being of those living in the western DuPage County area.

"Sometimes it's really hard to find out where to go for what you need," said Doll. "We work to better coordinate the services that people need, and tell them where to go."

The WDCRC is located at the Fox Community Center,

306 Main St., West Chicago, and has been a multilingual and non-profit organization since the summer of 2003.

The WDCRC also sponsors forums, including the teen mom forum, the literacy forum, and the people helping people forum, where volunteers discuss needs for each specific forum and take action.

The people helping people forum sponsored a turkey giveaway in the fall of 2004 that provided 300 dinners for unfortunate families in the area. Fifteen Community High School students involved with the WDCRC participated at the event.

Doll asks that students help with the coat giveaway that the WDCRC will sponsor in the fall for children of West DuPage. They have already collected 400 coats, and hope to accumulate over 2,000.

"We have all kinds of people doing all kinds of good things for the community," Doll said. "To be a good citizen you must give back to the community in which you live."

Doll encourages students to come to the resource center where she works with teen moms and the students from the Welcome Center at the high school as well as the students involved with WeGot Character.

"Our mission is to provide the

community with the information or referrals for what they need," Doll said. "Anyone who needs help can get connected to the right agencies."

The Young Women's Christian Association uses the WDCRC to conduct classes for the community, such as ESL,

parenting, and childcare.

The Prairie Legal Center also comes to the WDCRC to offer low fee legal services.

The WDCRC can assist in filling out forms and applications, understanding notices and bills, information on how to write checks, interpretation

and translation, and how to apply for drivers licenses or identification, vehicle stickers, etc.

The WDCRC embraces the "pay it forward" philosophy, and encourage those who are helped to pass along assistance or encouragement to others as they are able.

College Column...

Focus shifts to next year's seniors

By John Jennings

Many seniors are already done with their college searches and know where they will go in the fall. For all of those students, now begins the process of answering letters from their chosen college.

Head counselor Maura Bridges said, "After being accepted, most of the colleges will be sending letters that have to do with health information, requesting a roommate, choosing a dorm and a meal plan, and many other forms as well."

Seniors will be spending the next few months responding to all of these questions and filling out the paperwork that accompanies these letters.

Many seniors will also be attending some form of orientation during the summer to get better acquainted with the

school they are attending.

"Most colleges have something planned in the summer for incoming freshmen to attend as far as orientation and choosing classes," said Bridges.

The focus for seniors now turns not only to college, but to life after college and careers. There was an assembly for all seniors on May 17 called, Making College and Career Count, which focused on college but also on life and possible careers outside of college.

"Some of the topics that were discussed during the assembly were things like what employers are going to look for when you apply for a job," said Bridges.

The counseling department has also met with juniors about college and career goals.

Bridges said, "This is the research and visit portion of their

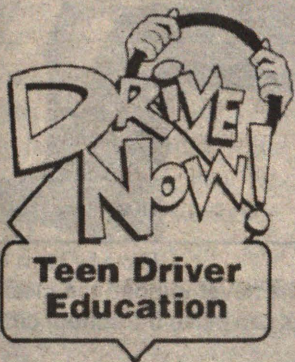
life. They should be making college searches and visiting them, and they should be job shadowing and just exploring all of their options."

The juniors have also concluded taking the ACT test for either the first or second time along with the PSAEs.

Regarding retaking the test, Bridges advised, "If they feel they might do a better job then go for it, but usually the second score is only one or two points different than the first."

Also, for students thinking about taking the SAT, Bridges said that it is probably not necessary.

"Only 11 schools require the SAT for an application, and most students do about the same on both, so it really makes no difference if you take it unless you test better on one," said Bridges.



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Peeking into the past... Varsity Cheerleaders



Sue Harrison; Becky Havlin; Kathy Neumeister, substitute; Maryanne Thompson; Paula Kuhl, captain.

Photo courtesy of Challenge archives

The 1965 cheerleading squads at We-go were quite different than they are today. The uniforms were obviously a bit more modest, sporting plaid skirts that haven't been seen since the mid 1980s, and the girls were divided into three squads: varsity (shown here), frosh-soph, and wrestling, each made up of only five girls.

Paw Prints

The school says good-bye to several staff members who are moving on

Kroger will continue to teach after career ends

By Ellyn Fortino

Special education teacher Patricia Kroger, has taught for 19 years at Community High and has much to look forward to after retiring this year.

For 28 summers, Kroger and her husband taught art at an Easter Seals camp for children who have physical disabilities in Illinois.

"After retiring I would like to volunteer at a similar camp if the opportunity arrives," said Kroger.

Kroger is looking forward to having more time for other interests too. "I'm interested in adult literacy programs, and at some point I plan to get involved in hospice work," she said.

Kroger also intends to travel and spend more time with her family and friends. "I am going to Ireland in June, and I'm very excited," she said.

Kroger's feelings about retiring are mixed. "I love working with high schoolers and my wonderful colleagues," she said. "I will definitely miss everyone here at Community High."

Kroger has accomplished many goals while teaching, but says that her main accomplishment is helping students discover who they are.

"I have worked hard at helping students find their gifts and the people they will be when they are older," Kroger said.

Kroger encourages new teachers coming to Community High to accept students for who they are and make them feel welcomed everyday.

"Teachers will learn more from students than anywhere else," said Kroger. "They taught me more about life than I ever thought possible."

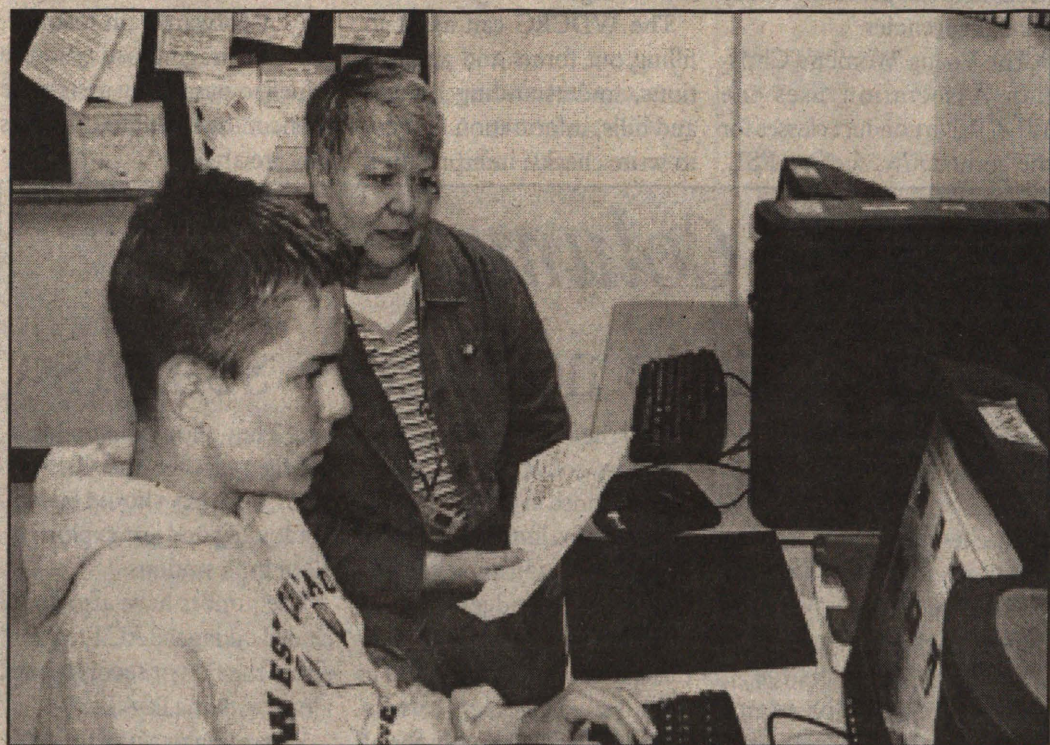


Photo by Ellyn Fortino

Patricia Kroger helps freshman Tom Grewell in the Academic Resource Center, as she has done for 19 years at Community High School.

After 25 years of service, custodian Bagnigno Orozco leaves the school

By Maria Perez

Custodian Bagnigno Orozco will soon ride around commons for the last time.

After 25 years Orozco is retiring, handing over his floor cleaning machine and broom to another.

Orozco started working at Community High School on April 4, 1980, right before spring break.

He stayed because he liked the teachers, all the students, and his bosses, because they were kind to him.

Cleaning brings Orozco pleasure. He said he gets satisfaction when he sees the bathroom and the cafeteria clean ready for the next day.

Before he worked as a custodian at the school Orozco worked as a custodian at a nursing home. Orozco said that there was no difference working at nursing home or the school because it is the same type of cleaning work except for the difference in age of the people at the facilities.

After working at Manchester Manor, another retirement home, Orozco saw an ad in the West Chicago Press and that's how he got a job here. Due to his previous work in a retirement home he had no difficulty getting hired.

Orozco was born in Mexico and he lived in Puebla, Puebla until he was 38.

He came to the United States for a better economic position for himself and a brighter future his children.

In Mexico the highest level of education Orozco received was middle school.

"In Mexico having a career is hard sometimes because there isn't anything economically and my parents did their best to support me," said Orozco.

In Mexico he worked in banking.

"That job earned less than what I get paid now and I don't speak or write English perfectly," said Orozco. "I learned that there was a better future here in the U.S. and I decided to work here."

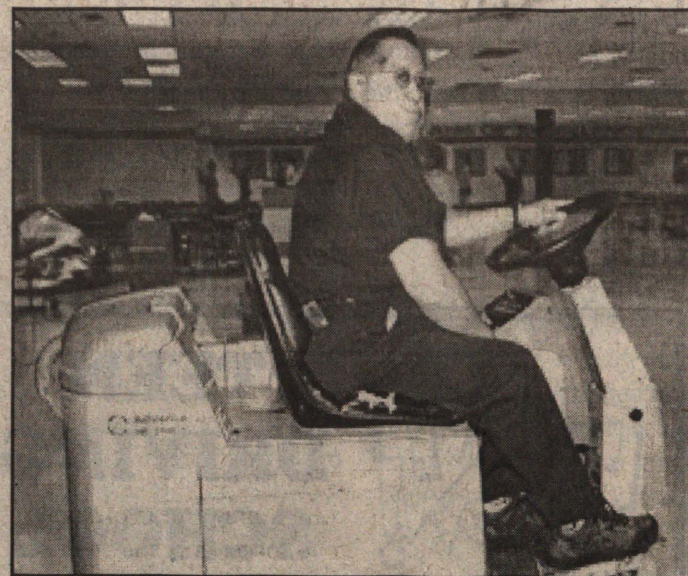


Photo by Maria Perez

Custodian Bagnigno said that he never minded the cleaning, but felt bad that so few students can make the school dirty for the rest.

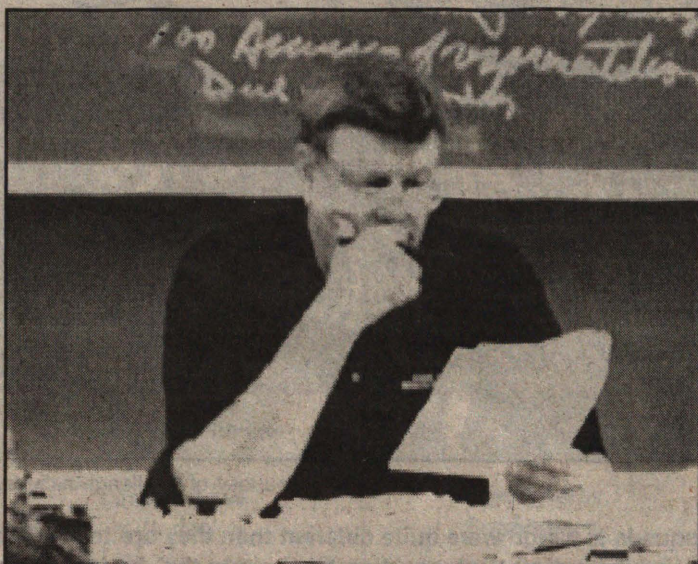


Photo by Ken Cole

Biology teacher Allan Fickau has taught teenagers that are grandchildren of his former students.

Fickau says it's time to move on

By Ken Cole

After teaching biology for 34 years at the high school, Allan Fickau has decided that it is now time to move on.

As an older member of the faculty he has seen a number of changes in the administration.

"Teaching has gotten quite a bit easier over the years, we used to have to do so much more. Computers really made a huge change," said Fickau.

Fickau had many memorable experiences at West Chicago.

"My favorite memories at West Chicago are when stu-

dents come back to my classroom and thank me for teaching them what I did," said Fickau. "I really enjoy it when they come back."

He decided it was the right time for him to retire, since his retirement plans were finished and put together.

"It is just time for me to move on," said Fickau. "I'm going to miss teaching, I really am."

Fickau has found only one downside to teaching.

"I just don't like grading all those papers. Teaching is a great experience, but having to grade

all those papers is just a real pain," said Fickau.

Fellow biology teacher Melissa Bortnick said Fickau will be missed in his retirement.

"We'll really miss him. He's a great teacher," said Bortnick.

Students, not just teachers will hate to see Fickau go.

"He taught me everything I know about biology," said former student Kelsey Monroe.

Fickau plans to spend his well-earned retirement hunting and fishing. Fickau also plans to fix up his house and log cabin that he built over 20 years ago.

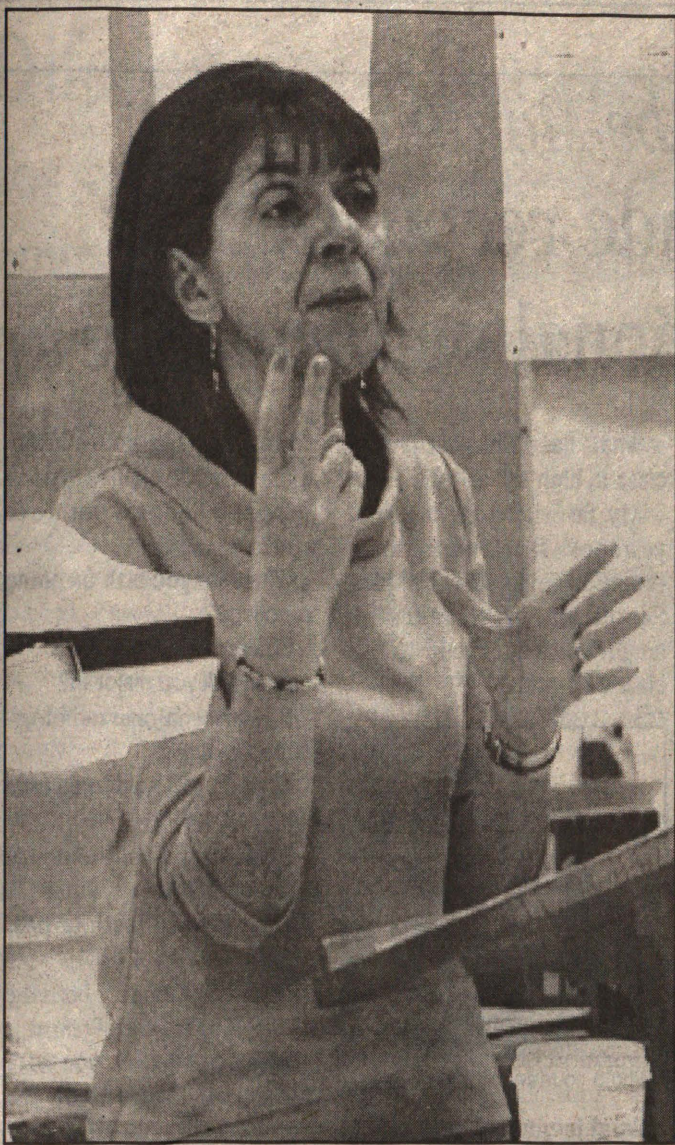


Photo by Julie Youngwith

Besides teaching at Community High School, Cass Streicher has also taught at an all-girls school and several colleges.

Streicher leaves business behind to focus on family

By Julie Youngwith

After 34 years, business teacher Cass Streicher will close out her last spreadsheet and focus on family, friends and yoga.

Streicher is retiring from a career she had not considered when she graduated from college at Northern Illinois University. After graduation she worked in business for six months before deciding that it was not for her.

With this knowledge, Streicher went back to school to get her teaching certificate and has been teaching ever since.

One particular teacher during her college masters' program at Northern Illinois University really pushed her.

"He was demanding but incredibly encouraging," she said.

The first school she taught at was a private girls school.

"It was very easy teaching there. The students were very motivated and had camaraderie," said Streicher.

When she started teaching at

a co-ed school she found teaching more challenging because there was so much more going on in the students' lives.

Streicher has taught at a variety of schools including the Technology Center of DuPage and Harper College.

She said her favorite school has been West Chicago, where she has taught many classes in the business curriculum for the past 20 years.

"The students here are much more realistic and sincere about their feelings," Streicher said.

But Streicher admits that current students are much more

stressed out than past students.

"These kids have so much on their plates to be stressed out about," she said.

At a parent teacher conference for her marketing class several years ago Streicher was surprised when she realized that she was teaching a child of a former student.

Streicher said that she really loves her job, but she has been teaching for a long time and wants to leave when she is still happy.

"I will miss my students the most," Streicher said. "They are really great."

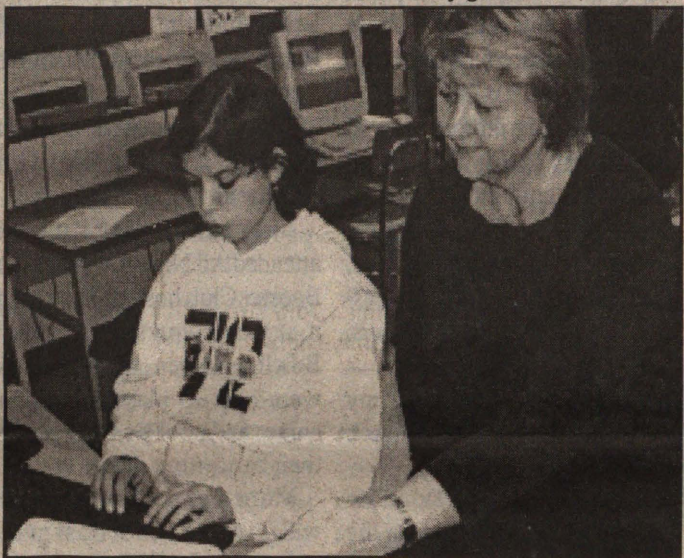


Photo by Elyn Fortino

Soon after the end of the school year, Lenore Hrejsa will join her husband on the Panama Canal.

Studies programs and coaching become Kosek's lasting legacy

By David Thomas

At the end of the school year, English teacher Wayne Kosek will say goodbye to the school that has employed him for more than three decades.

He's been around long enough to remember when the science hallways were the "new" addition to the building.

Since Kosek started teaching at CHS, he has taught every English class except British/world lit., advanced placement English 4, and writing workshop.

"It's time to move on," said Kosek. "I'll miss my colleagues

and the students. But after 37 years, it's time to move on."

Kosek has done more than teach here. He was the dean of students in the '80s and advised Pep Club. He's also coached boys/girls basketball, tennis, soccer, and boys cross-country.

He says he remembers the boys soccer team beating Wheaton-Warrenville South in the conference championship.

"I'll never forget the look on Mr. Kimrey's (dean of students and soccer coach at the time) face. He had such a satisfied look," Kosek said.

Although he might not coach soccer again, the sport is not leaving Kosek. Once retired, Kosek plans to travel the Midwest and watch his kids play soccer against different college teams.

Academically, Kosek says his best memory—and contribution—was the development of the interdisciplinary program, which has led to global, world, and American studies classes. Kosek always believed that classes like history and literature should be taught together.

"It's enriching for the students to have two teachers in the classroom at the same time offering different viewpoints on the same topic," Kosek said.

In addition, it's beneficial for both of the teachers because the teacher can get instant professional feedback from the other teacher.

Even though he's retiring, Kosek's not settling down for good. In addition to watching his kids' soccer games, he plans to volunteer at libraries and food pantries. Then, after his wife retires in a few years, they'll travel back to Scotland, a country Kosek and his wife fell in love with after chaperoning one of the school-sponsored history tours.

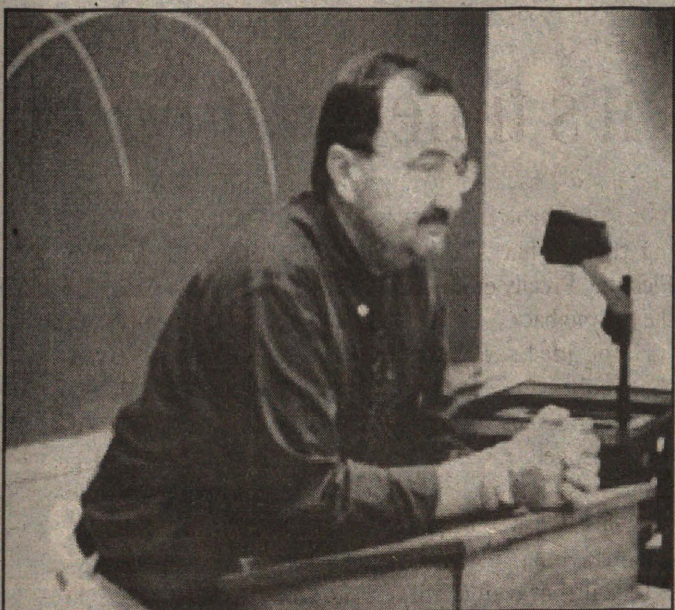


Photo by David Thomas

Before his retirement, Kosek developed the school's interdisciplinary program, combining social studies with English.

Bridge and quilting replace paperwork in Hrejsa's future

By Michele Lovel

For her first two months at Community High School, Lenore Hrejsa was confused and lost at times as she tried to learn the ways of the large school.

She could not remember where rooms were or all the students' names in her classes. But all of that has changed and after 12 years she certainly knows her way around.

However, Hrejsa has decided to retire from teaching and move on to a more restful life. She plans to spend her days traveling, making quilts, and playing a lot more bridge.

The first stop is the Panama Canal with her husband to help take her mind off not returning to school in August. Hrejsa has wanted to see the Panama Canal since she was little.

"There are some things that I won't miss, like the paperwork, and the reports," Hrejsa said.

But she said she will certainly miss the students and staff.

"The best part about being here is the love, support and camaraderie of the department that I work in," Hrejsa said.

Before Hrejsa came to CHS she taught English at a private school for 13 years. She left seeking new challenges.

"I love the diversity at CHS and have especially enjoyed watching my students grow and mature from scared little ninth graders to responsible and competent graduates," she said.

Throwing parties and joking around with other staff members brings fond memories. Laughing, Hrejsa joked about how she's only invited to staff parties if she brings her "famous" artichoke dip.

With all the good and bad times, Hrejsa has learned her way around and will always remember her students.

Driver education instructor Dick Howard will also be retiring, however, he declined an interview.

Shining the spotlight Hollywood prom debuts as a red carpet event

By Jennifer Konewko

It was not celebrity actors and musicians walking down the red carpet at prom, but the students of Community High School.

Juniors and seniors congregated at the Carlisle on April 29 for the Hollywood-themed prom.

After nominating and voting for their choices for a prom song, the upperclassmen chose Edwin McCain's "These Are the Moments."

Crowned as prom king and queen were Joffery Benter and Marilyn Jacques. On the court were Ryan Foytik, Eric Weichert, Dennis Rocha, Kevin Grobe, Sara Kufra, Jessica Crawford, Brittney Peters, and Lindsey Wheeland.

Junior class president Amy Ackerman knows how much prom means to students.

"I think it's a milestone for seniors because it's really the

last major event they get to enjoy before graduation," she said. "For the juniors, it is a big deal because we're the ones on prom court, and most of us have never attended such a spectacular event."

Ackerman worked with a small group of student council members, including Lauren Buscemi, Mary Hesterman, Eric Lindner, Tracey Opel, Ryan Foytik, and Danielle Romano.

"It was done with a small team, but we came out big," said Ackerman.

After prom, many students attended All Night Long, which Booster Club hosted. They held it at Gameworks, rather than Bowling Green, and students were able to play free video games and pool, as well as have their caricatures drawn.

Money earned from prom will go to the senior class gift.

Student of the Month

Alyssa Claude recognized for her exceptional performance

By John Jennings

Alyssa Claude catches April's Student of the Month award for her achievements in outside activities such as softball and Future Business Leaders of America and for her academic superiority.

What are your accomplishments during your time in high school?

My accomplishments would have to be winning the DuPage Valley Conference for junior varsity softball my freshman year and placing first in state this year for emerging business issues in FBLA, qualifying me to go to nationals at Disney World.

Who has been your favorite teacher in high school?

I have three. Mrs. Arnold, Miss Blume, and Mrs. Santella because they have all helped me be successful in so many different ways. They have always believed in me.

What has been your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class has to be yearbook. It involves so much that I love to do and Mrs. Santella always makes me laugh. I look forward to that class every day.



Photo courtesy of Alyssa Claude

What is your favorite school activity?

Definitely softball. The girls are so great and there is never a dull moment going to practice or games.

What is your favorite memory during high school?

Hosting a German student and having the chance to go to Germany and stay for three weeks.

Where do you plan on going to college?

University of Iowa.

What will you major in?

I want to major in radiological technology.

What do you want to do for a living?

I want to be a radiological technician.

What is your favorite pastime?

Playing softball for both the school and my travel team.

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

I have worked hard all four years of high school and I have been involved with so many extracurricular activities all while maintaining a 3.5 grade point average and over. It's a lot of work, but it pays off.

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NO USE FOR A NAME • ATREYU • COCO BODELLO
MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK • HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS
BIGgie AND THE FULL EFFECT • M4M
THE KINSON • BLDOWN SOUNDCLASH
FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND • THE BLEED
SACRIN • HALIFAX • GYM CLASS HEROES
AMBER PACIFIC • HORRORPOPS
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COME ALL SUMMER • BOUNDEYE
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BUTANE • BSC • VALENTI THORP
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GREELY ESTATES • THE MATCHES

Q101 SATURDAY, JULY 23

Diferencias y limitaciones se notan entre estudiantes

Los estudiantes bilingües son limitados por la falta de una educación formal en México

Por María Pérez

Latinos enfrentan una diferencia entre ellos y los estudiantes mainstream entre que ellos luchan socialmente y académicamente.

"Yo pienso que en general los estudiantes están intimidados por lo que ellos no saben," dijo maestro de ESL Mark Poulterer.

Por eso no hay interacciones entre estudiantes bilingües y estudiantes mainstream, Poulterer dijo. Luego hay la presión agregada cuando maestros y personal tratan de forzar que mezclar los dos grupos.

"Yo no puedo aforar una profunda amistad con alguien que tiene dificultad hablando mi lenguaje," dijo Poulterer.

Los maestros y personal no pueden esperar que los estudiantes de ESL y los estudiantes mainstream formen amistades bajo condiciones forzadas. Todavía conociéndose sería agradable, dijo Poulterer. Así los estudiantes bilingües y los estudiantes mainstream pueden aprender de cada sobre las vidas.

Dado a esta intimidación, los estudiantes bilingües se limitan a ellos mismos. Ellos no participan en extracurriculares ni tomar ciertos electivos

porque no se sienten cómodos o bienvenidos.

"No es que están muy ocupados o no vendrán a una actividad, es que ellos necesitan conocer bien el consejero de la actividad," dijo Poulterer.

Conocer el consejero o saber que sus amigos participen en el club o la actividad ya ayudaría a estudiantes.

Académicamente los estudiantes bilingües y los estudiantes mainstream no enfrentan una diferencia, porque las clases bilingües son iguales a las clases regulares nada mas el idioma es diferente. Sin embargo, las esperanzas del colegio son diferentes. En 2004, 73 por ciento de Latinos planearon a ir a colegio comparado a 84 por ciento de estudiantes angloamericanos, no-hispano.

"El numero es más bajo, pero nosotros estamos trabajando cada año para aumentar el numero," dijo la consejera bilingüe Susan Ciseck.

La maestra de ESL Mary McCarter, dijo que la otra dificultad que enfrentan con estudiantes Latinos es que no tienen la preparación fundamental en las materias, porque no han asistido clases en el sistema escolar Americano.

"Puede haber diferentes conceptos que no fueron introducidos a ellos en su lenguaje natal o la escuela," dijo McCarter.

Hay más divisiones que separan estudiantes bilingües de los demás.

Las diferencias existen también entre los recién llegados, los estudiantes que han aculturado un poquito más, los estudiantes que han estado en los Estados Unidos por años, y los estudiantes que tienen padres que hablan ingles mejor.

"Hay muchos grupos distintos. Yo pienso que nosotros nunca vamos a hacer que esta escuela sea una mezcla de gente haciéndose amigos con toda otra gente, pero eso esta bien," dijo Poulterer.

Uno de los grupos que enfrenta la diferencia mayormente entre otros estudiantes son los recién llegados en el Welcome Center. El Welcome Center ayuda a estudiantes con las habilidades básicas de vida para adaptarse a la comunidad y mejorar sus destrezas académicas. Las tres áreas de foco son las materias donde aprenden conceptos básicos, asuntos de salud con respeto a las vacunas y otras preocupaciones médicas, y la área social donde aprenden a funcionar en un sistema de escuela Americano y mejorar su autoestima, dijo director del Welcome Center Carlos Osorio.

Académicamente los estudiantes de la preparatoria en

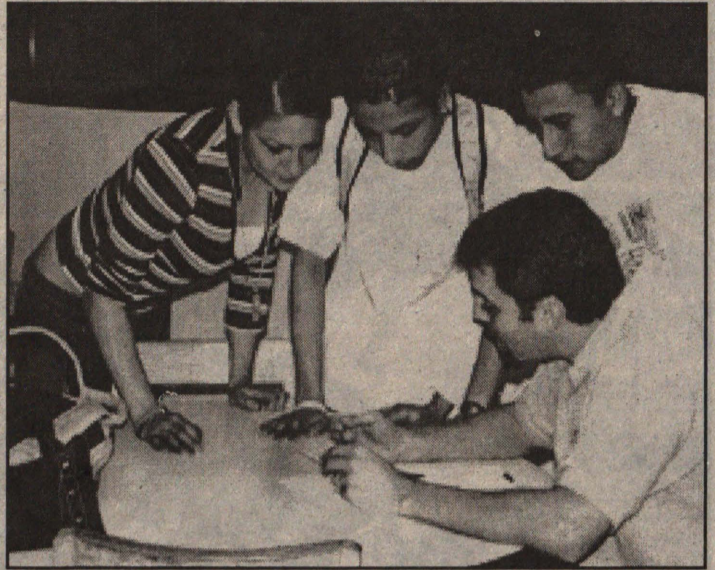


Foto por Maria Perez

Mark Poulterer (izquierda) trabaja con estudiantes bilingües Valeria Farfán, Christian Ríos, y Ramón Salgado (de derecha a izquierda) para que sigan académicamente por la falta de Hispanos entrando a colegios.

el Welcome Center tienen que estudiar a un nivel de kindergarten o dos años bajo su nivel de escuela. Muchos de los estudiantes de América Latina vienen de áreas rurales sin una educación formal y analfabetos, dijo Osorio. Otras veces los estudiantes no han ido a la escuela por dos o tres años en su país antes de venir aquí.

Esto deja al Welcome Center la responsabilidad de enseñar los conceptos básicos a los recién llegados en un año. Los estudiantes nada más están en el Welcome Center un año y luego son transferidos a curriculum bilingüe de la preparatoria o las escuelas de la primaria o secundaria, dependiendo un su edad y nivel académico.

"Algunos de los estudiantes están llorando durante su primera semana porque se

sienten incómodos porque están viviendo en un diferente lugar y ambiente," dijo Osorio.

Encima de eso los estudiantes no entienden el concepto de espacio, números, tiempo histórico, y sobre el mundo. Cuando Osoria está enseñando a los estudiantes, tiene que dar lecciones cortas sobre otros temas para asegurarse que los estudiantes entienden lo que están haciendo.

Al mismo tiempo los estudiantes no tienen una vida típica de un adolescente en los Estados Unidos. Sus padres a la mejor ponen limitaciones sobre ellos por sus creencias culturales, ellos tienen dificultades con el lenguaje, algunos ayudan a sus padres con trabajos caseros y trabajan para guardar dinero para traer toda la familia de América Latina.

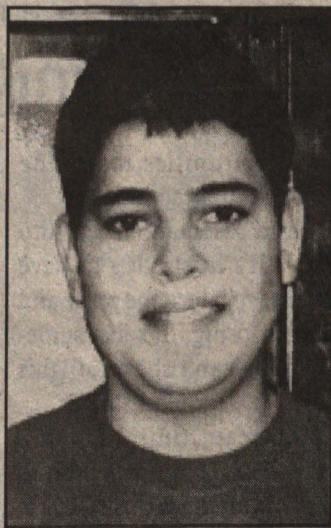
Pregunta y Respuesta:

¿Crees que es facil transferirse de clases bilingües a clases regulares?



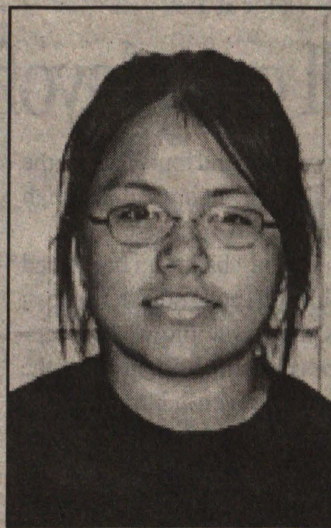
Jasmin Gatica

No es facil porque es más complicado. En ESL estás aprendiendo ingles apenas y sería un poquito difícil pero, a la misma vez sería una buena idea porque impulsaría a uno a aprender el ingles.



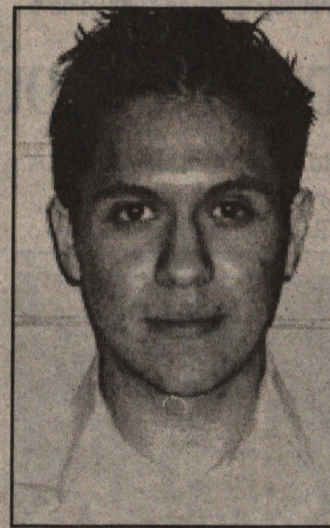
Jose Ortiz

Sí cuando yo me transferí era más facil para mí. Las maestras no son tan difíciles y comprenden más y eso me pasó a mí.



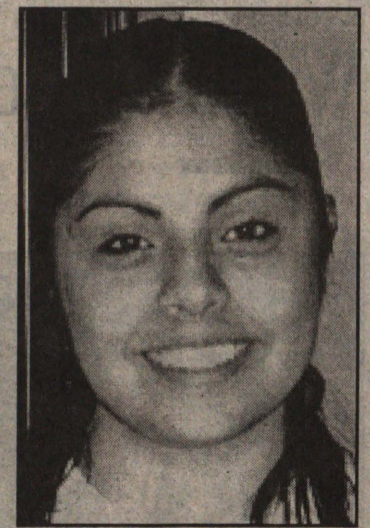
Maria Concepción Benítez

No es facil porque al principio nunca es. Te da miedo porque nunca tienes la confianza de contestar preguntas o con los demás estudiantes porque es muy diferente de clases de ESL.



Miguel Tapia

Yo creo que depende en el estudiante. Depende en que tan bien están preparados y dispuestos a seguir estudiando. Pero aparte de eso sí está un poco difícil.



Lorena Hernandez

Yo pienso que al principio es un poco difícil, pero despues te acostumbras y no te das cuenta de ningún cambio.

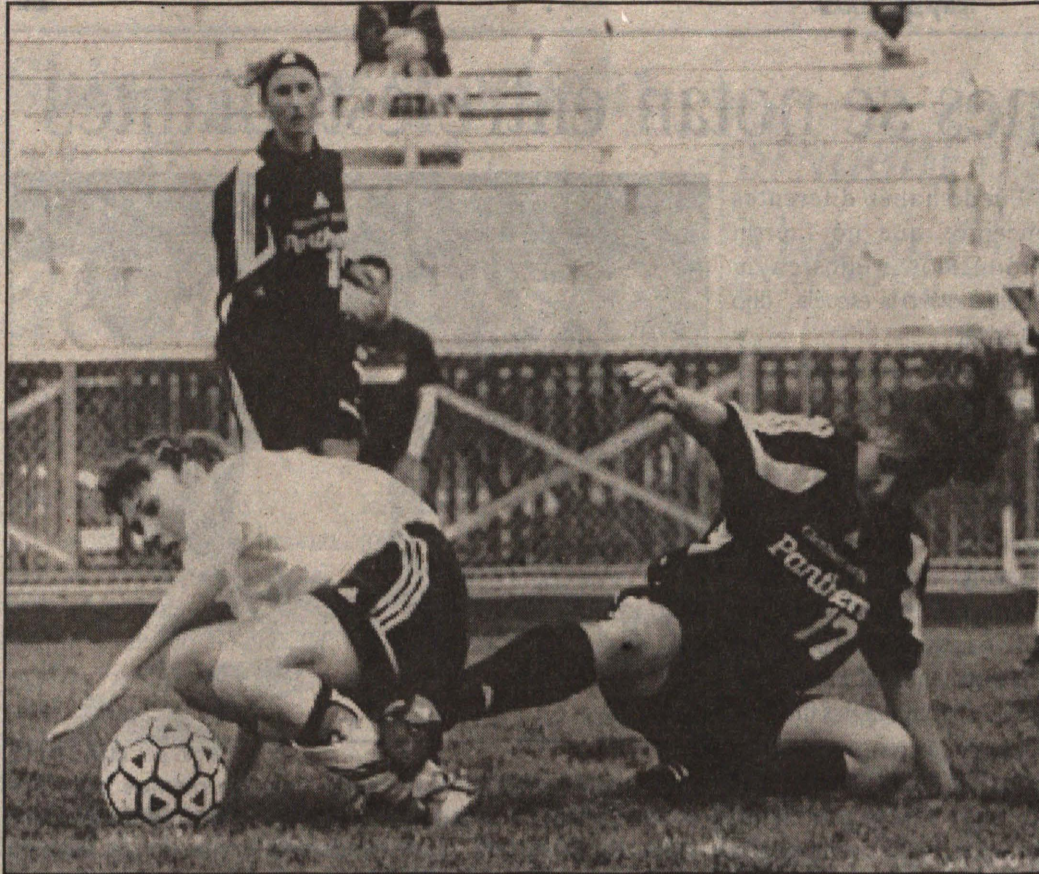


Photo by Maria Perez

Sarah Scardamaglia helped the soccer team place third in the DVC and win 10 games overall.

Despite early playoff exit, team meets goal

Girls soccer placed third in the DVC for the first time in school history

By Maria Perez

The girls soccer team lost at the regional semi-finals to Geneva Tuesday 4-1, ending a successful season.

"Geneva is a very good team with lots of quality players. However, I felt we could have matched them quite well," said coach Julio Del Real.

Previously, the Wildcats won their first postseason game, 8-0, against Addison Trail.

This victory achieved the team's goal of winning 10 games in the season.

"It was definitely a team effort. We had a lot of players that contributed to the win," said Del Real. "Even though we did not play great, the team played well enough to get an easy win."

In the regular season, the Wildcats ended with nine wins, seven losses, and four ties. They placed third in the DVC, the highest placement ever.

Though the team actually did not win as many games as last season, they ended strong with seven wins and two ties.

"I wish we could have played a bit more aggressively in some of the games because this probably was the team that could have gotten as close to the top as we have ever been," said Del Real.

Del Real said he felt one of their losses and two of their ties should have been wins.

"We expected to improve the way they played as individuals and as a team, and I can say everyone improved in both aspects," said Del Real.

Hernandez and Callahan head for state

By Katie Taylor

Boys track will finish the season with its top athletes, Erik Hernandez and Greg Callahan, heading to state Friday and Saturday after qualifying at sectionals May 20.

Hernandez won the shot put with a throw of 54 feet, 5 1/2 inches

Callahan placed fourth in the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 39.84 seconds.

Ken Klein broke his own sophomore record in the 110m high hurdles.

Sophomore Jim Foreman placed fourth in the pole vault.

Coach Paul McLeland was disappointed with the team's ninth place finish and hoped for more qualifications.

"I hoped more guys would qualify and was aiming for top six team," he said. "(There were) only four personal bests, so that was disappointing."

At DVC May 13, Hernandez placed first in the shot put with

a throw of 55 feet, 5 inches, making him an all-conference champion.

"It felt really good because I

was horrible at conference last year, and it was my best outdoor throw so far," said Hernandez.

Lacrosse team hot with recent win streak

By Ellyn Fortino

The West Chicago lacrosse team has a lot to be proud of as they won their first playoff game 11-1 against Mather-Chicago Tuesday.

This win was the first postseason victory for the team in their first regular season associated with the high school.

The team won five out of the final six games of the regular season, most recently against Champaign Centennial on May 21, 16-3. Overall the team's record was 7-16.

"The team has accomplished a lot this year," said captain Dan Doremus. "Four years ago I would never have thought the other captains and I would have

helped put a lacrosse team together in West Chicago."

Although there is a lack of people on the team, they are confident that they will continue doing well in the postseason.

"We work very well together as a team," Doremus said. "I am excited to for the rest of the playoffs."

The team looks forward to having another lacrosse season next year.

"The JV team has played very well this season," said Doremus. "I am excited to see how they will do next year."

The next playoff game will be Friday against St. Viator at St. Viator at 5:30 p.m..



Photo by Ellyn Fortino

Micah Hitchcock and other senior players strived to lead the lacrosse team in its successful first season.

Wildcat baseball can't pull out playoff victory, finishes season

By Doug Sieder

West Chicago's season ended on Tuesday when they lost 10-

4 to Geneva in the state AA playoffs.

Roel Martinez had two

homeruns and four RBIs for the Wildcats, but it wasn't enough for the win.

The baseball team hasn't had a lot of happy endings this year, as they have blown five conference game leads in either the sixth or seventh inning.

On May 17, the Wildcats had a 13-5 lead against Glenbard East in the seventh but gave up 10 runs in the inning to lose the game 15-13.

"Our biggest problem this year is our inability to close out games," said head coach John Walters. He added that the team had multiple problems happen to them, and there were

no opportunities to fix the problems in practice.

Third baseman Nick Lelito said, "It's frustrating to have the lead so late in the game and end up losing. It's just something we can't shake off this year."

The team finished 13-18 overall and 6-12 in conference. Even though they haven't won many conference games, many of the games they did win were important successes.

When the Cats met Naperville North, they took a win and knocked Naperville out of its first place position. A week later, the team beat Naperville Central, who was first place at that time.

Taking on and defeating top ranked teams like Naperville proves the team's ability, Lelito said, adding that even though their record was not the best, it is not something to be ashamed of.



Photo by Doug Sieder

Luke Martin, the Wildcat's number one pitcher, pitched against Geneva in the final game of the season Tuesday.

Correction

Erika Kane achieved the top shot put throw in the last five years. The April issue incorrectly stated that she set a school record. The Wildcat Chronicle apologizes for the error.

Boys tennis team tries to find its place among state contenders

By John Jennings

The boys tennis team has experienced their share of difficulties, including competing in what is regarded as one of the toughest conferences in the state with such powerhouses as Naperville North, Naperville Central, and Wheaton-Warrenville South.

With a record of 0-8 in DVC and about a .500 record out of conference, the team feels that they played well overall, but need to do better in conference.

Varsity player Jeff Cisowski characterized the season as one for rebuilding.

"This year was a rebuilding year for our team. Many of the team's top players are seniors and will be moving on next year, so the team focused on rebuilding and getting talented players into the program," Cisowski said.

A positive attitude and dedication to the sport helped the team at matches.

"Our strengths this season was our attitude towards playing the games," said varsity player Jeff Burgess.

Cisowski agreed by saying the team was full of hard work-

ers who were tenacious and had a good attitude.

The high point of the season came when the team defended their home court by taking first place in a tournament held at home against Montini, Lisle, and Dundee Crown.

The competitive seasons helped some team members achieve their best season.

Burgess said, "It was my best season yet. I won more matches this season than I ever have, and I had a lot of competitive matches against good, state-ranked opponents."

The same held true for Cisowski who felt his serve had dramatically improved. In addition, he felt the season was successful. "With what we had, we did very well. The season was productive and my skills have increased the most," he said.

Both Cisowski and Burgess felt the team was hurt by a lack of off-season training in the form of private lessons.

"We were untrained, or we had a lack of formal training. We didn't take lessons in the off-season and were therefore not being coached," said

Cisowski.

Burgess agreed saying that if he could go back he would have played more tennis outside of the tennis team and would have liked to take lessons during the off-season.

Even though the team had many trials over the course of the year, the season was fun.

"This year was one of the best yet. Our team has fun with each match and we take pride in winning and having fun," said Burgess.



Photo by Lauren Krage

Eric Gotkowski, one of the experienced seniors, lead the tennis team with the top record.

State competition meets expectations

By Lauren Krage

Senior Ashley Egert and junior Kelsey Lesniak met their ultimate goal for the badminton season: competing at the state competition on May 14.

Though neither played in the finals, Egert made it to the third round and Lesniak to the second.

"It was harder than I expected," said Lesniak, though she was excited to make it as far as she did. Next year, she hopes to make it to the third round.

Overall, the results of the season as a team were mixed. They did not win any DVC matches, but the goal of team improvement was met.

"Everyone improved a lot as a team," Egert said.

At the end of the regular season, the badminton team challenged people in the school to a match for the Badminton Challenge. It turns out that no one was able to beat the badminton girls.

Young stars learn the meaning of success

Despite sending no one to state, girls track looks to the future for improved motivation and team performance

By Lauren Krage

After placing eighth in the DVC and failing to send anyone to state, Lady Wildcat track is looking to the future for improvement as a team.

"When the younger team members were at sectionals, they really saw what it means to qualify for state," said coach Katerina Claiborne. "They came out of the meet really focused and motivated to go into next year with higher expectations."

Two girls, senior Megan Forbrook and junior Abby Cole, earned the only two points for the Wildcats at the sectional meet on May 13 by placing sixth in their respective events. Forbrook jumped 5 feet in the high jump, and Cole jumped 33 feet, 8 inches in the triple jump.

Forbrook missed the state cut by only one high jump attempt. "It's really disappointing to miss state by one attempt," she said.

Claiborne attributed the lack of team success at sectionals to the fact that the meet was so large and full of highly competitive schools.

"To score well at a big meet like sectionals, you need super-

stars," Claiborne said. She also added that no one on the Wildcat team placed last in any event.

Overall, Claiborne deemed the season a success.

"If you look at the results, you would think that we didn't do that well," said Claiborne. "But in the end, if you look at the improvement of the team, the season was a success."

Forbrook added, "Everyone had individual goals, and a lot of people achieved those goals which is awesome."

As for next season, Claiborne hopes the achievements of the younger members of the team will provide better meet results.

Some of these future prospects include Kelly Murphy, who broke the freshman/sophomore 300 hurdle school record, freshman Heather Olsen, the top mile runner, junior Kally Mateas, the second best mile runner, Cole, and the all the sprint relay teams.

"We're really going to miss all the seniors, but it's exciting to have so many of our top athletes returning," Claiborne said. "Hopefully they will come back hungrier for more next year."

Athlete of the Month

'Eye of the Tiger' and special routine help pump soccer player Mary Harms as she psyches herself for games

Harms plans to play soccer at Augustana College

By Doug Sieder

Mary Harms has been selected Athlete of the Month for her accomplishments in soccer.

Who inspired you the most during the year?

My club coach, Conga, inspires me the most. He always pushes me to play to the best of my ability and encourages me to continue to grow as a player.

What plans do you have after high school not related to sports?

I plan on going to Augustana College and major in biology to become a physical therapist.

Do you plan on playing any sports after high school?

I plan on playing on the women's soccer team at Augustana College next year.

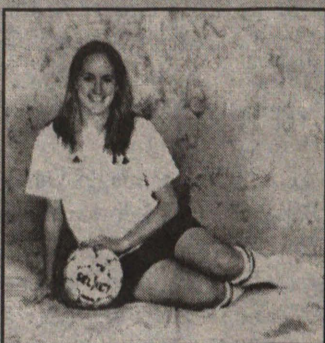


Photo courtesy of Mary Harms

What is your best sports memory?

Going to Brazil to play soccer with my team and winning three on three nationals

What has been the best part about soccer?

The bonding between your teammates and just being able to play the game.

What coaches have helped you achieve your goals throughout high school, and

how did they help you?

Cesar Gomez has helped me all through high school by pushing me harder than I ever thought I could go so I could become a better player. He has been an amazing coach and has helped me achieve the goals I've set for myself throughout high school.

How many years have you been involved in soccer?

13 years.

What is your favorite sport other than soccer?

College basketball.

Do you do anything special before each game?

I have a routine I have to go through before each game. I put my socks, shinguards, and shoes on in a certain way. Before I warm up, I listen to "Eye of the Tiger" as my pump up song, then I'm ready to play.

Wildcat volleyball loses hard-fought match, ending season

Future looks bright as JV team finishes season with 26-5 record, taking second in DVC



Photo by C.J. Hinojosa

Seniors on the boys volleyball team, including number 4 Matt Vangorkom, were honored on senior night for their performance throughout the years.

By C.J. Hinojosa

The boys volleyball team ended their playoff run Tuesday in the first round of regionals.

Host St. Francis took out the Wildcats in two games, winning 25-18 and a hard-fought 27-25.

"It's anybody's ballgame in the playoffs," head coach Kris Hasty said a few days before the match. "We've got as good a chance as anyone, regardless of record."

Previously, the Wildcats put the cork on their regular season with their first DVC victory, defeating Glenbard North in two games May 19 at home.

Overall, the team wrapped up the season 12-23 and 1-13 in the powerhouse DuPage Valley Conference.

Hasty noted that some strong play happened towards the end of the regular season, and they "took a game away" from Naperville Central after tearing it up in tournaments at Waukegan and St. Charles.

The win over Glenbard

North occurred on senior night, with all seniors Derek Jensen, Matt Vangorkom, Hugo Saucedo, Jon Kurtz and Gary Koester starting and Bishop Gym decorated with banners and streamers in honor of their final game here. Hasty applauds Jensen's efforts as a four-year varsity player.

"Derek did a great job this year, and I wish him well at Loyola," she said. "He gives 100 percent every point; I commend him for his competitive spirit. We have a great group of kids that really work hard in practice, we just need to sustain it for entire match."

The JV team finished with a powerful second place in conference, sporting a 26-5 record to be reckoned with.

"We have defied expectations by winning lots of games this year," said sophomore Peter Wierenga.

Hasty is excited about next year's varsity squad, which will draw players from this season's JV, but stresses that they really need to train hard.

Practice makes perfect for softball team

Softball players credit wins with good performance in warm-ups

By Sabrina Potirala

Experience and speed were the keys to winning for the girls softball team.

With a record of 8-25 in the DVC and a record of 2-12 in conference, the girls softball team feels they played well.

According to varsity player Kari Johnson, many of the girls on the team thought that their performance depended on the warm-up.

"We won games, and the games that we didn't win were really close. It all depended on what type of warm-up we had before the game. If it was a good warm up we played well, and if it was a bad warm-up we played sloppy. But we put up a good fight," said Johnson.

Before games, the team warmed up by repeatedly practicing plays and drills. Some were individual, while others were team oriented.

"Some of the drills were tough, but they got us prepared mentally and physically before a game," said Johnson.

During practices, the team would practice drills that they needed to improve in order to perform well during a game.

Assistant varsity coach Laurie Davidson believed that, despite the age of the team, they still performed well.

"Our team this year was experienced. We had a very ex-

perienced outfield and we also had speed on the bases, which is something we had never had before," said Davidson.

The young players on the team stepped up to the plate, Johnson said.

"This year was a huge experience for the underclassmen, and I think that they did really well for playing on a varsity team. I also think that the seniors and juniors did very good this year as well," said Johnson.

Johnson is left with a bitter-sweet feeling because many girls will be leaving the team.

"Our team has a lot of seniors on it, and they won't be here next year. I am going to miss them," said Johnson.

Even though the varsity softball season is ending, many girls are looking forward to trying out for next year.

"I am definitely looking forward to next year, I can't wait to meet some of the new people," said Johnson.

According to Davidson, the coaches look for many qualities in players during try-outs. Some of these qualities include whether or not the girls seem like they want to be coached, good grades, team unity, and the amount of Wildcat pride they have.

Davidson said that there are always a lot of competitive

players at try-outs.

"It is always a tough call when it comes down to deciding who will make the team. We always have a lot of quality players to consider," said Davidson.

Sieder's Sermon

The plague of the Cubs: five reasons why the North Side can't seem to win

By Doug Sieder

Two months ago, this column pointed out how the White Sox did not want to resign Magglio Ordonez because of his high salary demands and injuries,

and how the Cubs wanted to cut Sammy Sosa loose because he was a cancer in the clubhouse.

Now it's over 40 games into the season, and Ordonez is already hurt, almost as bad as his team who is 20-22 and nine games behind his former team, my beloved White Sox.

Maybe Ordonez should have taken less money to be on the better team. Just a thought.

But there has been even more laughter this year aimed towards the Cubs, and no one

has been laughing harder than former Cub, Sammy Sosa. He and his Baltimore Orioles are currently first place in the AL East.

Since Sosa's departure, the Cubs have been plagued with problems. So what exactly is happening on the North Side? Here's what I think.

One: Cubs manager Dusty Baker does not know what to do with the leadoff spot. He has Corey Patterson leading off, and he is definitely not a leadoff man. He never lead off full-time for the Cubs during his career, except for now.

Two: Their fielding has been terrible. They already are second in the MLB with 29 errors. They've lost quite a few games this year because of crucial errors.

Three: They have no closer. Their bullpen is in such a mess that they are now considering moving Kerry Wood into the closer role. He has been a starter his whole life, but man-

agement is just that desperate.

Four: They have a player by the name of LaTroy Hawkins. He's the reason they're so desperate for a new closer and has helped demolish the spirits and hopes of many Cub fans already. He has blown five save opportunities this year and has four losses with one win. He has given up three homeruns in 15 innings of work this year alone.

Five: They just can't finish games. They blew two games in the ninth inning in consecutive days, and then one earlier in the season. The Cubs need to find a way to finish off games.

Maybe if the Cubs could finish, they would not have had the White Sox trample them May 20-22 when the Sox beat the Cubs two out of three.

Instead of trying to figure out how to fix the Cubs everyone should look to the South Side of town and watch a real baseball team.

