



Students and staff aid hurricane victims

Though far from the effects of Katrina, the school has begun many relief efforts

By Kellie Virnich

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, staff and students have worked together in many ways to help the victims.

Several groups and individuals throughout the school have collected money and supplies, as well as volunteered and encouraged others to do so. Together, the groups have collected over \$2,100, boxes of non-perishable foods and other survival supplies, and logged many hours volunteering.

The first group to react to the tragedy was Key Club, which held an emergency meeting the morning after Katrina hit. After making T-shirts and signs, the members collected money from students and staff in classes, during lunch in commons and at the football game on Sept. 2.

They originally wanted to collect food and clothing as well, but when adviser Ward Rau contacted several organizations about doing so, they told him that there was no way for them to deliver the supplies, and that money would be more appreciated at that time.

After two weeks of collecting, Rau turned over \$2,100 to the American Red Cross, which will go towards providing relief for the displaced victims.

English teacher Katie Jones collected over \$200 from her English classes alone, after a class heard about the collection over the announcements.

Many of the students said that they didn't know where to donate money in commons, but that they were interested in donating, so Jones started a fund immediately, and received

money from most of her students, including her other two English classes.

"Every year, I'm impressed with the abilities of my sophomores, and this year is no different," she said. "I nearly teared up when my third hour decided to collect money as a class for the hurricane relief fund. It wasn't mandatory, of course, but so

many students dug into their pockets for lunch money and allowances."

Helping the cause has not come only in money and supplies, however. Science department chair Patricia Carrow recently sent out a bulletin to all teachers asking for their time and effort at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Volunteers sort food, pack it into boxes,

or even wash off packages that will be sent to Louisiana and surrounding areas where the refugees are being kept.

She said, "I know that many people up here feel helpless, and want to give something back. Volunteering to help prepare food and supplies is a way people can help without getting too personal or involved."

(See Hurricane page 2)



Photo by Julie Youngwith

English teacher Katie Jones almost cried at the selflessness of her third hour class, who volunteered their lunch money and allowances toward Key Club's hurricane relief fund.

Board plans on making many cuts next year

By David Thomas

Cuts amounting to \$100,000 in technology spending and employee benefits is expected as the Board of Education tries to stabilize a deficit that exceeds \$1 million.

Included in the cut is a 50 percent reduction of budgets for conferences, conventions and field trips.

A revised budget of \$32 million with an operating deficit of \$1.5 million was presented to the Board for formal action on Tuesday. The deficit was increased to anticipate the rising cost of utilities such as electricity and fuel oil, both of which are connected to the price of gasoline.

Supt. Lee Rieck said the cuts were regretful but needed.

"Ideally, you wish you wouldn't have to, but realisti-

cally, you do," said Rieck.

One of the main causes for the increase in spending includes rising enrollment, which increased the need for more staff. Other factors include rising health care costs and debt.

However, according to Barbara Laimins, the president of the Teacher's Association, there were also a lot of "one-time" costs. Those costs include the replacing of a portion of the school roof, student placement for special education, and retirement costs for teachers.

The cuts, especially those in employee benefits, travel, conferences, conventions, and field trips, come at a contentious time since this is the last year for the teachers' current contract. According to Laimins, the financial status of the district will be an issue during contract nego-

tiations.

"We have to make sure teachers can provide quality education for the kids. I can teach kids without a computer, but is that a quality education?" asked Laimins. "The neat thing about teachers here is that they want to do the very best job they can. They'll get frustrated if financial cuts get in the way of doing that job."

However, according to assistant superintendent of business Dan McCarthy, District 94 is not alone in terms of finance problems.

"Many districts are facing these types of problems," said McCarthy. "This is something we hope to correct."

However, Rieck is positive that the cuts won't occupy the negotiations.

"I suppose there's always the potential," said Rieck. "But there are more significant issues at hand, including salaries, health care premiums and benefits."

No decisions have been made regarding whether or not school programs will be limited or cut. McCarthy said cutting programs is "a situation we'll be addressing."

"Balancing a budget is very difficult based on the limitations we adhere to," said McCarthy.

The limitations include the property tax cap, which limits the revenue to the school.

"Because the property tax cap has been in effect for a number of years, that has impacted the amount of money we get from the government," said McCarthy. "With revenue

limited and expenditures increasing, it becomes difficult to make end's meet."

The Board will also undergo changes. According to Rieck, more information regarding grants, benefits, departmental budget summaries, and other areas will be provided to the Board.

"It's my seventh year here as superintendent and I've always been surprised at the scarcity of the information the Board has had on budgets," said Rieck. "We've been stepping up on what's considered to be standard operating procedure. Of course, anytime you have a deficit, more information answers questions."

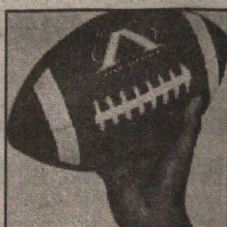
In addition, the central office staff will hold monthly meetings to monitor department expenditures.

IN THIS ISSUE...

News	page 1
Perspectives	page 6
Centerspread	page 8
Features	page 10
Entertainment	page 13
Sports	page 15

NEWS

Homecoming kicks off with coronation on Friday, page 2



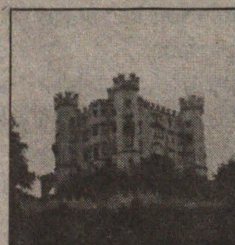
ENTERTAINMENT



Is Emily really possessed? David reveals all, page 13

PAW PRINTS

Students experience German culture first-hand, page 10



Homecoming brings school into the new century with week of celebration

Activities occupy students from coronation to dance

By Brittany Blanchard

Homecoming festivities will take place Monday through Oct. 1, in celebration of "The Next 100 Years."

Student council adviser Kim Maloney is excited about homecoming and says the students are looking to begin the next century at the school with a bang.

Activities will include an inaugural dodgeball tournament on Monday from 6-9 p.m. where all teams are required to represent the Disney theme.

The powder puff game and outdoor pep rally is Wednesday from 6:45-9 p.m. For \$1 students can attend Movie Night on Thursday at 7 p.m. in

the auditorium to watch "Friday Night Lights." On Friday the food fest will take place from 12:30-1:30 p.m., as well as the homecoming float parade from 1:30-3 p.m. and the football game against Naperville Central on Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Finally, the week will conclude with the annual homecoming dance on Oct. 1 from 7-10 p.m. in the Bishop gym.

Tickets will be on sale in commons during all lunch hours starting Monday for \$8 and available for purchase at the door for \$10.

Student Council president, Tracy Opel, encouraged all students to take advantage of the homecoming events.

"This year is not going to be your typical homecoming," said Opel. "We have a new group of students in Student Council bringing fresh ideas to this year's festivities."

Opel said that Student Council is particularly excited about the music at the dance.

"We're going to have an awesome DJ this year. He is going to turn our gymnasium into a dance club by supplying way more equipment than past DJs including lots of colorful light special effects," said Opel.

Student Council has also organized numerous spirit days throughout the week beginning with class colors and crazy hair day on Monday.

Tuesday is prince/princess day, Wednesday is Woody's roundup where students can dress up in western attire while Thursday will be favorite Disney character day. Friday is the classic blue and white spirit day.

Although Opel knows that following last year's centennial celebration is a difficult task, she is confident that this year's homecoming will be a success.

"We've worked really hard to put together a homecoming week that everyone will enjoy," said Opel. "We're really pumped about it and hope that the students will be equally as excited."



Photo by C.J. Hinojosa

In 2004 students crowned Rocco Clark and Emily Gerhke as homecoming king and queen. Who will replace them this year?

Faculty rallies behind 'Pirates of the Caribbean' themed float for homecoming parade

By David Thomas

For the first time in at least 15 years, teachers will have their own float for the homecoming parade.

Like the students, the teachers' float will follow the Disney theme, and they have chosen "Pirates of the Caribbean."

"We are going to be doing the Disney theme just like the other the floats," said special education teacher Linda Gilbert. "We're very excited about it."

The idea originated with social studies teacher Barbara Laimins, who said a lot of teachers were talking about making a float and how fun it would be.

"We have a lot of new teachers with energy and a lot of

experienced teachers who like seeing students involved in activities," said Laimins.

Much of the faculty is supporting the float. Gilbert said that all departments are represented and at least 20 teachers are lined up to help build it.

World geography teacher Mitch McKenna is especially looking forward to the experience.

"We're looking to show all the students just how creative we can be," he said.

Even students are interested in seeing the float.

"I think it's good that teachers can express themselves," said junior Whitney Pugh.

Float construction will begin during homecoming week.

Hurricane... (continued from page 1)

Carow added that the NIFB has extended their hours open to volunteers to 6-9 every Tuesday and Thursday evening in September. The organization also encourages businesses and groups to come in together, and that anyone over 16 is welcome.

Individual students are also joining in the effort, collecting various goods to aid the hurricane victims.

Sophomore Jose Juan is collecting food and other survival items in the Welcome Center, and will send it to nearby relocated families.

Ashton Swinney, a freshman, is also collecting items as a Boy Scout service project, but instead of food and clothes, he is concentrating on toys and games for the thousands of children crowding relief centers.

"They are in need of everything, but I want to collect toys and things for all of those lonely children to play," Swinney wrote in his flyer, asking contributors to drop off stuffed animals, coloring supplies, and small games in the specified bins in commons. He is collecting until Friday.

Saturday school forces teens to use up free time rather than school days

New detention policy receives mixed reviews from students

By Julie Youngwith

Administrators applaud, but students are less than enthusiastic about a new Saturday detention policy

Saturday detention provides discipline for students who violate school rules.

The idea came from several surrounding schools that had positive experiences with Saturday school.

The detentions will be on Saturday mornings from 8 to 11, and will be supervised by a dean's assistant.

Assistant Principal Josh Chambers described Saturday detentions as a step higher than a regular detention, but not as bad as a suspension.

If a student does not show up at Saturday school they will receive an automatic three day in-school suspension.

Chambers said that no students will be permitted to sleep, eat or listen to music while serving their time, but they are allowed to read and work on their homework.

"If you look at it, Saturday detention is actually a three hour opportunity for students to get their work done," said Chambers.

Many students who have already experienced the Saturday detentions view it as a positive experience.

"If they really wanted to put a damper on my day they should have made us come earlier or stare at a wall for those three hours. I really got a lot done and I didn't mind going at all," said senior Lauren Buscemi.

Some students already are impressed with the flexibility

of the detention.

A few students had prior commitments when they were assigned their Saturday detention like a cross country invitational, golf tournament and NASCAR tickets.

The administration allowed the students to serve their detentions on another Saturday.

But, not all students agree with the new Saturday detentions.

"I don't think that Saturday school is going to solve any problems in behavior. Our school should just stick to regular detentions," said senior Danielle Pappas.

In addition to Saturday school, the school has changed when students can serve detentions. This year students may only serve detentions before or after school.

Homecoming Flowers from-



Winfield
FLOWER SHOPPE

Order on-line at:
www.winfieldflowershoppe.com

**Click the "Dance Flower" tab,
Then - Lady's or Men's
(10% discount for ordering on-line)**

Or call: 630.668.8460

**Os 118 Winfield Road
Winfield, IL 60190**

School passes Bush's AYP for first time

Focus on assessments and specialized groups helps raise student test scores

By Sabrina Potirala

Results from last year's Prairie State Exam showed that Community High School passed the Annual Yearly Progress Report.

The federal government set the two target goals for the school to increase reading and math scores by 10 percent.

The school was able to surpass these goals with 55.7 percent of students meeting or exceeding standards in reading; 54.9 percent of students meeting or exceeding in math; and 56.1 percent of students meeting or exceeding standards in science.

"It truly is a significant improvement that the school made, we have come a long way," said Principal John High-

land.

Highland hopes that the school will be able to raise test scores by another 10 percent by next year, something he believes is a realistic goal.

"We were able to identify the children that need improvement on their literary skills, and have set up smaller learning communities to better prepare them for the test," said Highland.

The smaller learning communities consist of freshmen and sophomores who need support with reading. Highland believes students who read better have a better chance of succeeding on the Prairie State Exam.

"The school should also provide some type of class after

school to help students prepare for the test. It would greatly benefit improvement among the school," said senior Ben Seanor.

Another way that the school is trying to help raise test scores includes focusing more on the student assessments.

"Teachers are really working hard to achieve improvement among students," said Highland.

The Regional Office of Education critiqued the school improvement plan, and the school received praise for the ideas that are being used.

"We know that we will be

able to succeed in reaching our goals for the future," said Highland.

A skills test that all students are required to take will help to determine what teachers need to focus on in order to help students succeed on the PSAE in April.

"The teachers are talented and gifted, but they can only do so much. It is important for the students to have good attendance so they do not miss out on activities during class. It is also encouraged for students to read at home and participate in more activities," said Highland.

Students get the chance for a wider choice in science

By David Thomas

Students will have the option of choosing two new science classes for their schedule's next year: AP biology and earth science.

AP biology will cover areas such as molecules and cells, heredity, evolution, organisms and populations. Earth science will cover geology, astronomy, and meteorology.

"We wanted to fill the gaps academic-wise and the interests of students," said department chair and science teacher Patricia Carrow. "The Prairie State Exams have several questions that relate to earth science."

According to Carrow, AP biology is the only life science that gives college credit. Although human anatomy and physiology is a life science and a college level course, it does not earn college credit for students.

Several science teachers have already expressed enthusiasm over the new classes.

"Earth science is probably the 'missing science' because other schools already offer it as a class," said chemistry teacher Suzanne Burchacki. She also added that AP biology is also helpful for students seeking a career in medicine.

Students' reactions to the new classes have been positive.

"I definitely would have taken AP biology, but I'm graduating this year," said senior Carol Fortman.

But despite the new classes, some students say they will not be changing their plans.

"I believe that, for some people, the classes will be great to expand their knowledge. But for me, whose not partaking in a career in science, I don't care," said junior Cameron Jimmo.

Both classes will require biology as a prerequisite. Chemistry is needed to take AP biology, while earth science requires chemistry, physics, or physical science.

The department chose the classes after reviewing and comparing the state's education goals to the school's curriculum.

Both classes will be lab classes, and meet the school's graduation requirements.

New freshmen take heavier class loads for steeper requirements

By Ellyn Fortino

This year's freshmen may have an even larger backpack to carry than previous years due to new state graduation requirements.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed legislation on Aug. 24 that raises state graduation standards for the first time in 21 years, requiring students to take more math, English, science, and writing courses to graduate.

Schools must now offer basic algebra and coursework with geometry content, though many districts already do.

Freshmen, must take a minimum of three years of math and four years of English, two years of science, two intensive writing courses, and 18 credits to graduate.

"Eighty-four percent of students that graduated last year already met all of these requirements," said head counselor Maura Bridges. "I don't think this will be a problem for students, because more than half of them are already doing it."

High schools in Illinois will not have to develop new courses to meet the writing intensive requirement, but they may need to modify existing classes to meet state standards.

One of the concerns about adding more requirements is that students will have less time for elective courses, such as fine arts and music, Bridges

said.

"Some students stay in school because of the electives," she said. "My biggest fear is that students will lose their interest in school and they will not be able to experience different opportunities to help them in their future careers."

Junior Chris Valaski said that she is glad that the new graduation standards will not effect her graduating class.

"The school day would be a lot more boring without as many electives," she said.

The new standards are not fair for the people that are working hard already and taking enriched courses, said freshman Kristin Beres.

"Students want to get into a good college so they take enriched courses but now they are put in the same level as everyone else," she said.

The results of an Illinois State Board of Education survey in spring showed that 83 percent of districts questioned didn't meet the new standards. Several districts, including some in suburban Chicago, complained that the survey was misleading because most of their students met the heftier workload by choice if not by mandate.

"The new standards are unfair because I won't have any time to take the classes that I actually want to take," said freshman Jake Bradley,

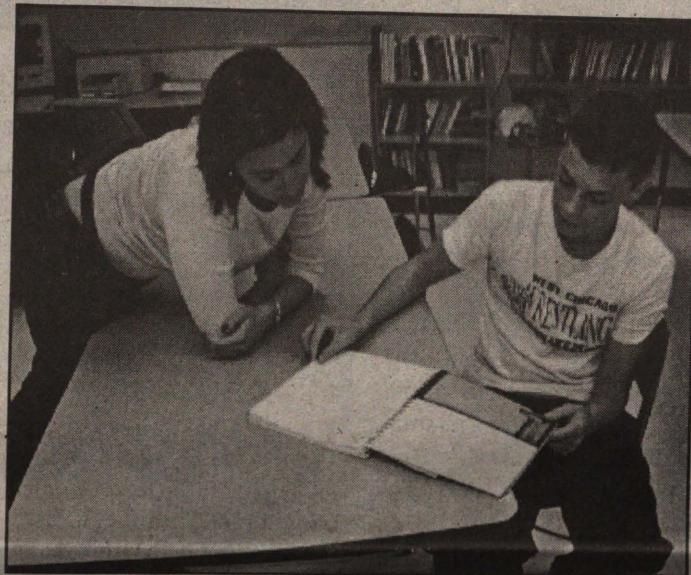


Photo by Sabrina Potirala

To continue raising test scores, teachers focus on assessing students accurately to gauge which areas need improvement.

Though Kiwanis is no more, Key Club continues serving the community

By Ellyn Fortino

Over the years the West Chicago Kiwanis, a community service organization, satisfied the community's hunger by serving up fish fries and spaghetti dinners and hosting the Firemen's Chili Cook Off competition. However, the Kiwanis, which supported the school's Key Club, will cease to exist as of Sept. 30.

Key Club adviser Ward Rau said that it was increasingly difficult to maintain the organization because of the small number of people that were dedicated to it.

"It's sad. I don't like to see a community service program disappear," he said.

Although Key Club worked with Kiwanis for many events during the year, Rau said that the club will keep going. "We're not dependent on them, so we will continue," he said. "We also still have the Rotary Club and the Lions Club here in West Chicago."

Key Club will still run the Halloween parade with help from the West Chicago Park District. However, Rau believes that February's chili cook off and March's fish fry

will not happen. "They are really fun events," he said. "I don't know if we will be able to continue them without the help of Kiwanis."

Junior Audrey Thar said that it is sad that many new people at the school will not be able to participate or attend the events that Kiwanis helped run.

"I just joined the club this year and it's sad that I won't be able to help out with the events that Key Club and Kiwanis partnered up with together," Thar said.

Senior Kelly Jezior, part of the club's officer team regrets the loss of the Kiwanis' support. "It's really unfortunate, because not only will the community lose a service organization, but they will also lose out on the activities Key Club won't be able to provide without their help."

But the group of adults involved in Kiwanis will still find ways to help out in the community.

"I've appreciated all the help that Key Club has received from Kiwanis, and I hope that we will still keep in touch with the members," Rau said

Edline makes grades available to parents

By David Thomas

Students and parents will be able to look up grades on the Internet, as part of a new program the school is participating in this year.

Edline, a Chicago-based program, allows teachers to post their grades and assignments on individual web pages. Both students and parents with a login code can access the web pages.

"We're constantly trying to reach out to parents and make them more aware," said Principal John Highland.

According to Highland, Edline will enhance communication between teachers and parents. The intended result is that grades will improve.

"[Parents] will support us better when they know what's going on," he said.

In addition to grades, teachers will have to post the course syllabus, contact information, and a link to the student planner. Some teachers, however, have begun to customize their web pages.

"[Edline] allows for a lot of

growth," said computer operator Nicole Haley. "Some teachers are taking their pages further. Some are adding assignments, practice tests, links to interesting web sites and such."

The program is also safe from hackers. Edline is "a utility." The grade postings are copies of the grades, preventing hackers from changing them. Also, their first and last names and their student ID numbers identify students. No personal information, such as addresses or phone numbers, is used.

Student reaction to Edline has been positive, although some have expressed reservations over the fact that parents will be able to see their grades and attendance records.

"I think it's a good program because it will encourage students to give good effort," said senior Kayla Harris.

Students will activate their accounts on Friday or Sept. 30, in their English and social studies classes. Students absent either day should visit the LRC during a free period.



Photo courtesy of Miguel Arroyo

On Sept. 16, students and faculty celebrated Mexican Independence Day in the Welcome Center, with everything from festive food to music. The Spanish 4 students also came by to learn about the history behind the festivities. "Everything is really great about this holiday," said Welcome Center director Miguel Arroyo. "Most people don't know that I am actually Puerto Rican not Mexican, but I still love celebrating this holiday. Us Latinos get along very well and it's great that we can celebrate together." The students in the Welcome Center gave presentations on important figures in the revolution and sang the Mexican National Anthem.

New rules let more students join NHS

By Julie Youngwith

Thanks to a change in the National Honor Society's selection procedure, seniors still have an opportunity to add the prestigious title to their college applications.

NHS changed its application process to the fall instead of spring so that more students will be able to participate throughout the year.

Adviser Katie Jones said that many high schools offer NHS to both juniors and seniors so that twice as many people can participate in the program.

"By changing the application process to fall not only do we benefit our community by having more members out in the community helping, but we benefit the students as well. The new seniors coming into the program will be able to put National Honor Society on their college and scholarship applications," said Jones.

According to adviser Catherine Jaeger, newly inducted seniors now will be able to participate in NHS activities throughout the year, instead of the last two weeks of school as in the past.

Many seniors who were not accepted into NHS last spring are excited about getting an-

other chance.

"I'm glad that NHS changed their selection process to the fall because not only do I have another chance to get in, but I can also be more involved with the activities throughout the year," said senior Martha Kaczmarczyk.

The juniors that are now given the chance to be in NHS are happy about the change as well.

"NHS changing their selection process so that juniors can be in it is a really good idea because then I can be in it for a longer time," said junior Jessica Leeseberg.

Not all students agree with the change.

"I'm happy the seniors that get in will be able to be in NHS this year, but I'm disappointed that juniors will be in it because in the past NHS has been something that only seniors have done," said senior Chris Jelen.

The selection process for the new members has started and the new members will be inducted at the ceremony Oct. 20.

NHS sponsors activities such as Frosty Fest, turkey giveaway at Thanksgiving and assists Key Club in leaf raking for the elderly.

School raises security at football games to curb teen drinking

By Brittany Blanchard

An additional police presence is one of the changes students will notice when they attend home football games.

Following a recent underage drinking incident, and in accordance with Naperville Central High School's latest decision to have police officers performing breathalyzers at the football games, and persons under the age of 21 will no longer be permitted to bring any outside beverages inside the stadium.

Additionally, although there are always police officers present at home sporting events, officers will now cover each entrance, and more prominently throughout the stadium.

Principal John Highland said the administration is simply trying to be more vigilant.

"We have an occasional problem but there is always potential for kids to bring things into the games that they shouldn't," said Highland. "We're just trying to minimize that potential."

Pete Martino, dean of students, said that breathalyzers were considered but ruled unnecessary because even if the procedure was performed at random, there is no guarantee catching anyone drinking.

We are always at full administration and security at 100 percent of our sporting

events, home and away," Martino said. "We do have police officers that have the ability to give breathalyzers if necessary."

For now administrators and security are simply going to

keep their eyes and ears open and act appropriately if the need arises.

"We know we have good kids here, we're just trying to support the safety and security of the school," said Martino.



Photo by T.J. Goodwin

Those planning to attend future Wildcat home games will soon notice an increase in police security both at the gates and around the field during the game. Guards will also be banning everyone under 21 from bringing outside beverages into the stadium.

Students take gym class to new heights

Recent additions to the field house allow Wildcats to explore new physical education equipment

By Andrea Bradley

Wildcats are climbing to bigger and better things in physical education classes, with the recent additions of a high ropes course and rock climbing wall.

Grant money was spent for the high ropes course, a challenging maze that hangs from the field house ceiling.

Physical education students must conquer the course using the new team building skills they have acquired.

P.E. teachers worked on team building activities since the beginning of the year to bring trust and friendships between their students.

With this teamwork, the teachers hope to have a safe, fun year with the new high ropes equipment.

Many students had a glimpse of the other new equipment in the field house last year: Two rock climbing walls.

Although the school has had them for a year, teachers were still being trained on how to properly use them.

Since the school is one of the few in the area to have equipment like this, many of the teachers were unfamiliar with safety concerns and the set-up. Teachers first learned the ropes.

They learned to tie safety knots, put on harnesses, and use other safety tools like helmets.

Not only the teachers were trained, students in P.E. classes also spent days learning how to protect themselves, as well as their fellow peers.

"Tying the ropes to the harnesses was the hardest to learn, but we practiced it until we got it, 100 knots later," said senior Mickey Petrusaitis. "Even though it's hard, it is a lot of fun," he added.

All rock climbing gym classes spent a day with a rock climbing specialist learning how to act during days that they climb.

The classes are split into groups of five. Each member of the group has a specific job.

There is a climber, two people in charge of the rope, an anchor, and a coach, who makes sure everyone is safe.

Although teachers are responsible for their students, most responsibility goes to the students.

"You all have to watch out for one another. You are the number one person in charge of your safety. And then it's up to your classmates," said Bill Quinn, the climbing expert.

Teamwork is also important when the students move onto the high ropes course.

Just like with the climbing wall, students will be tied into harnesses, but will be hanging much higher above the ground.

Students will also be trained how to use the high ropes course once the gym classes enter the roping climbing unit.

Although student and teachers alike are excited for the course, the students must concentrate on climbing the wall first, and that means trusting each other with every step.

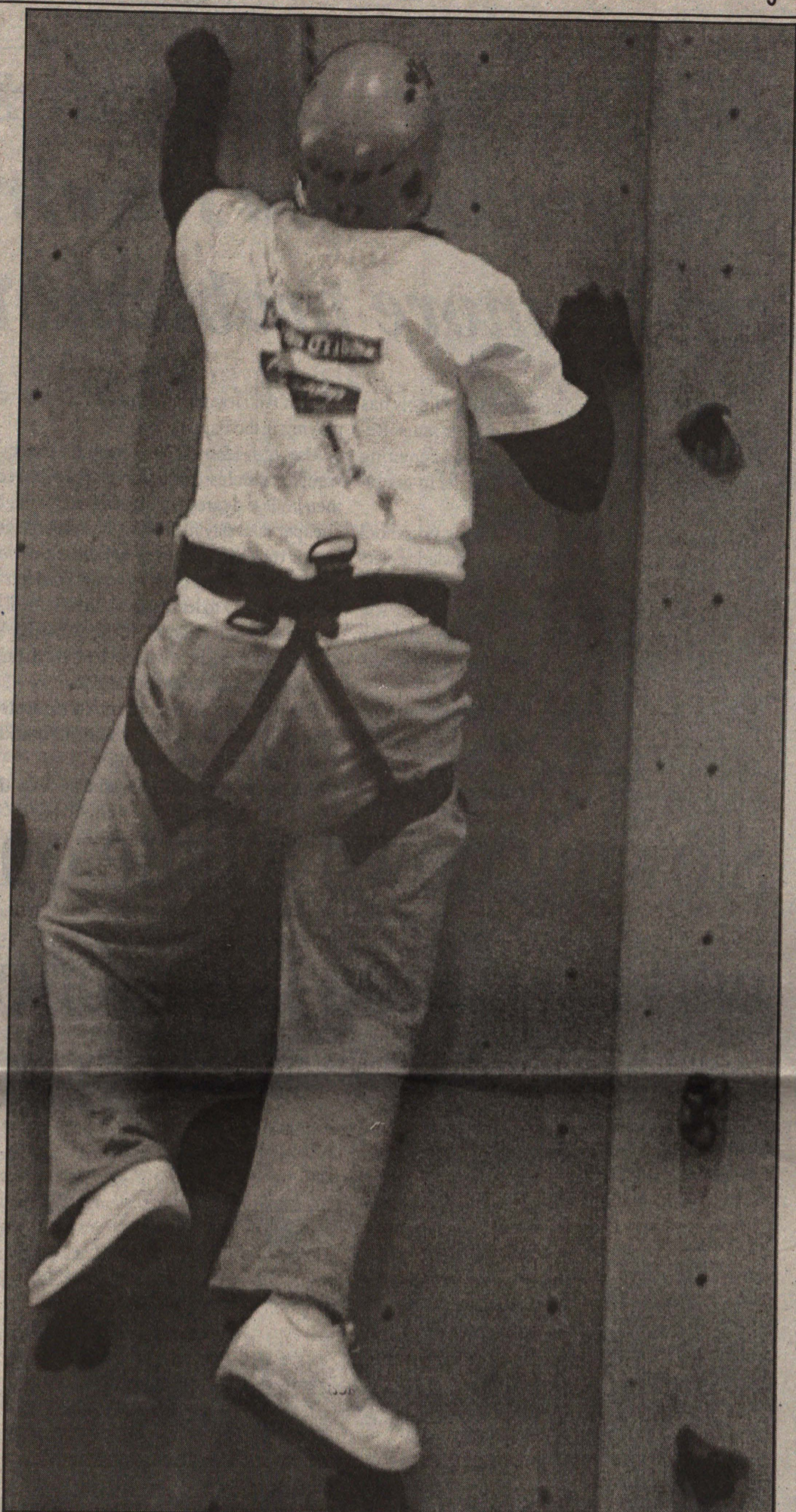


Photo by Andrea Bradley

The rock climbing wall teaches students to trust one another. A physical education student tests out the new wall.

Student journalists awarded for hard work

By Brittany Blanchard

Last year's Wildcat Chronicle staff received awards from two esteemed high school press associations for journalistic achievement.

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association awarded the Chronicle the Silver Medallist Award while the Quill and Scroll International Honorary Society for High School Journalism honored the Chronicle with the International First Place Award: Superior Achievement.

Adviser Laura Kuehn is grateful for the acknowledgment.

"It's always good to have the

students' hard work recognized and having two prestigious organizations take notice of that hard work is an honor," Kuehn said.

Judges from the Quill and Scroll Society said that the Chronicle "has the key to a sound newspaper and excellent coverage."

Principal John Highland says he looks forward to reading each new issue of the Chronicle and is impressed with reporters' abilities to write objectively.

"I continue to be tremendously impressed at the quality of the newspaper and the professionalism at which it is

produced," Highland said.

With only a few seniors departing last year, the Chronicle's current staff is a relatively seasoned group of reporters and editors. Editors this year include editor-in-chief Kellie Virnich, perspectives editor Brittany Blanchard, features editor Sabrina Potirala, sports editor Andrea Bradley, special sections editor Cristina Sarnelli, and entertainment editor David Thomas.

"This year I hope the staff will continually improve and bring fresh new ideas to the overall look and content of the paper," said Kuehn.



Photo by TJ Goodwin

The paper received the Silver Medallist Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and the International First Place Award: Superior Achievement from the Quill and Scroll International Honorary Society for High School Journalism. Staff members who contributed to the awards are (back) Kellie Virnich, Andrea Bradley, Ellyn Fortino, Sabrina Potirala (front) Katie Taylor, Brittany Blanchard, Cristina Sarnelli.

Our View

New graduation requirements create more problems than solutions

Talk of new graduation standards in Illinois has this year's freshmen on the edge of their seats. Recently, Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed a law requiring students to earn two more credits in order to graduate.

Passing this law is an attempt to bring up school PSAT scores, but this plan fails to acknowledge electives.

Although there will still be enough time for students to have electives, the choices will be cut down due to the lack of time available in their daily schedules.

Since the requirement states that students must have a minimum of four years of English, three years of math, three of science, and one extensive writing course, this can cut Spanish out of the schedule of a

student who loves the language, but who also enjoys playing in the band.

Also, high school is free education and students may want to take classes that can help them specifically in their college degree. Taking electives in high school is cheaper than paying to take them in college.

Not only will electives will be cut down, but enrollment at TCD will be lowered. Students who want to attend TCD to learn legislature that will help them pursue their careers, may not be able to go. With more required classes, there will not be enough time to board a bus, take classes, and come back.

The new laws do not only effect students with multiple electives, but it effects students who are already busy with other school work.

Before the legislature passed this law, the govern-

ment should have considered the students who are currently working hard to get into good colleges. Some students already have a full load of homework due to enriched and advanced placement classes. It does not seem fair to these students who will now have to pile more classes onto their already busy schedule.

Junior and senior year is a time when students start taking on other responsibilities such as varsity sports and after school jobs. With more classes required, there will come more homework. Students may not be able to get a free period for that extra work.

With the new No Child Left Behind laws, adding graduation requirements may seem like a good idea, but more classes will not help. Students need their electives to help them make career choices in the future, and have fun while in school.

Slowing down a little on the streets can end up saving big money at the pumps

If you could save 15 cents a gallon by filling up at a gas station a few minutes out of your way, would you do it? In these days of \$3.00 a gallon gasoline, most people probably would.

But how many teen drivers would cut back their highway speeds by 5 mph to save the same amount?

They could, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

For every 5 mph a motorist drives above 60 mph, the gas wasted is equal to shelling out an extra 15 cents a gallon. So zooming along at 75 mph is like spending 45 extra cents a gallon.

Since gas prices are unlikely to go below \$2.00 anything at all that will help drivers save money is good. Especially for teen drivers who have to purchase their own gas.

The government says driving faster than about 60 mph sends your car's fuel efficiency tumbling by 7 percent to 23 percent.

By the time you're doing 75 mph, you're getting about the same gas mileage as you would at 25 mph - in other words, you're getting city-driving mileage at highway speeds.

The best solution for the long haul is to build and buy more fuel efficient automobiles. For now, while motorists wait for their old cars to croak, here's some more tips the Energy Department recommends for saving money at the gas pump.

Crank those windows up and turn on the AC, especially when driving above 40 mph, when the air flowing through the windows increases aerodynamic drag, according to Consumer Reports.

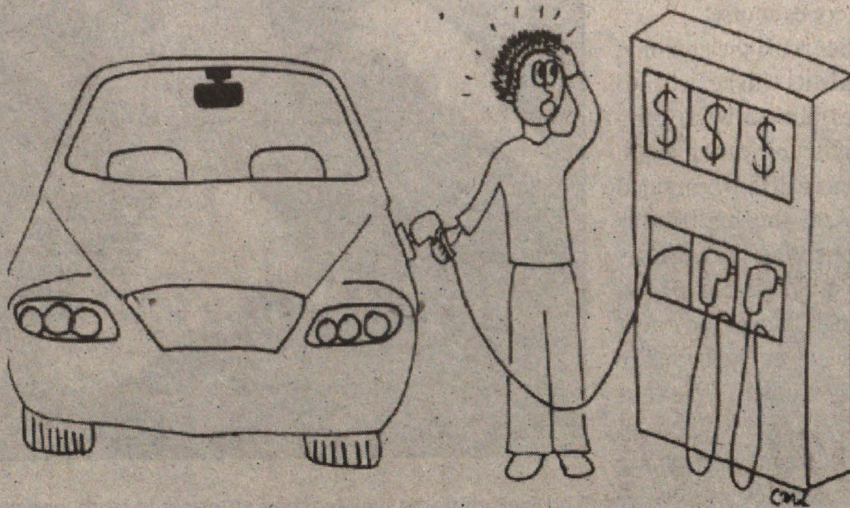
At slower speeds however, shut off the AC to save gas and enjoy the fresh air.

Aggressive driving, including "jack-rabbit," sudden starts and stops, can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and up to 5 percent in city driving.

Driving more gently can save the equivalent of 15 to 51 cents a gallon, the Department of Energy says.

Lastly, use cruise. Cruise control can save gasoline where the land ahead is flat, according to Edmunds.com, an

automotive consumer site. In hilly country you'll burn more gas going uphill on cruise control, so switch it off.



Wildcat Chronicle
326 Joliet Street
West Chicago, IL 60185
(630)876-6360

Editor in Chief
and News Editor:
Perspectives Editor:
Paw Prints Editor
and Advertising Manager:
Sports Editor:
Special Sections Editor:
Entertainment Editor:
Graphics Editor:
Artists:
Reporters:

Kellie Virnich
Brittany Blanchard

Sabrina Potirala
Andrea Bradley
Cristina Sarnelli
David Thomas
T.J. Goodwin
Cristina Sarnelli, Sabrina Potirala
Katie Taylor, Ellyn Fortino, Julie Youngwith

Adviser: Laura Kuehn



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. Letters to the editor may be e-mailed to Laura Kuehn at lkuehn@d94.org or delivered to Room 319 before or after school.

Today's teens need to take more interest in important problems

With dire situations around the world, students need to start informing themselves on real issues

By Katie Taylor

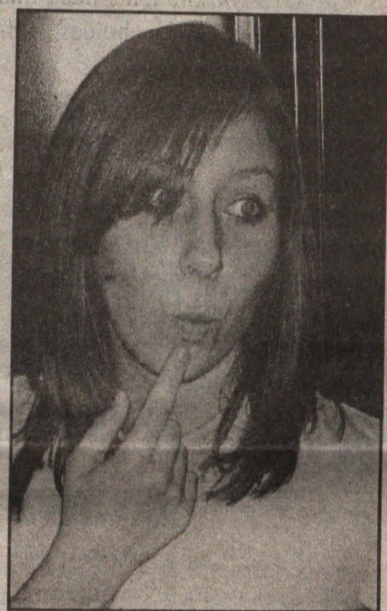
After long hours of searching the Net for something to write about in this column, I couldn't find an issue that I thought teenagers would care about. And then it struck me. That is the problem!

Teens don't seem to care about the issues, whether they are political or not.

World issues don't seem to be able to pull teenagers

away from their instant messaging, TV shows or some other shallow endeavors.

"It's not like I don't care, I do, but we have become so bent on becoming amused that we would rather watch the next joke cracked on "Family Guy" rather than sit down and actually find out what is happen-



ing to other people," said junior Kevin Michaelson. "To be honest I get enough reading and work in school to want to sit down and specifically search out "true"

news, which isn't so easy to find because every other article is about A: something that is going on in Hollywood or B: some other entertainment oriented subject."

Gas prices might be a place to start, because it affects the cash wad, but the reasons why the prices are high don't matter to most teens. We worry about how we're going to pay for gas to drive around with friends when soldiers are dying in Iraq.

It is amazing how shallow teenagers are sometimes, when there are so many things that we should care about.

I mean, just look on the news lately. Thousands of people lost every single thing that they owned in hurricane Katrina. And here we are, getting angry just because our iPod won't work.

So here are my tips on how to become more informed. Who knows, maybe once teens figure out what's going on in the world, they might care about an issue enough to do something about it.

Watch the news, or read it, investigate, listen to your teachers, or parents, anybody, maybe even me. I'm not perfect, but, hey, I'm trying to inform myself. Teenagers need to look at the news and get some perspective about the war, gas prices, poverty, or one of the countless other issues around the world.

What I am saying is, we can't live in our sheltered worlds if we want to accomplish anything. My favorite writer, Ray Bradbury, expressed this perfectly in "Fahrenheit 451." He wrote, "We need not to be let alone. We need to be really bothered once in a while. How long is it since you were really bothered? About something important, about something real?"

Schools should not mix education with faith

Teaching religion is a parent's job

By Sabrina Potirala

According to a recent poll taken by the Pew Research Center, 64 percent of parents believe that creationism should be taught with evolution, a finding that will likely spark more controversy about what is taught in schools.

Creationists believe that the earth and its life forms were created by God fewer than 10,000 years ago and that only very minor changes within various species have happened since creation and no new species have evolved or been created.

These views are often compared to the scientific view that states the origin of the universe occurred 15 billion years ago through an initial explosion, known as the Big Bang. Charles Darwin's theory of evolution also explains that natural selection caused gradual biological changes over time, therefore leading to the creation of mankind.

Creationist parents hope that their children will be able to learn both sides and make up their own minds. However, those people that do not believe in God

will feel like they are being forced to believe another view.

Human anatomy and physiology teacher Hank Murphy believes that conflicts will most likely arise when discussing the creation of mankind.

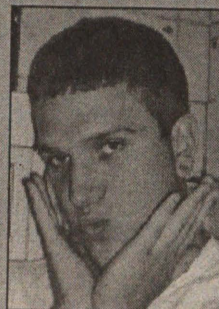
"For a few individuals that believe passionately in one view or the other, conflicts will begin to arise in the classroom. What they do not understand is that it is possible for both sides to co-exist," said Murphy.

The modern view adopted by the Supreme Court in the latter half of the 19th century is that no government, federal, state or local, can perform any action or make any policy which blatantly favors one faith or church over the others, or which favors belief in a god or supreme being over non-belief.

The United States is about freedom, and preaching to children about religion during school is offensive to other people's beliefs.

If parents want their children to learn about creationism, it should be their responsibility to take action and educate their child on the topic, not the schools. Parents can take their children to church to learn.

Question and Answer Who is your favorite Disney character?



Dan Brogan
Senior

"My favorite Disney character is Thumper from Bambi because he is cute as a button!"



Sarah Scardamaglia
Junior

"Jiminy Cricket because he had a good soul."



Ryan Crawford
Freshman

"Definitely Donald Duck because he talks funny."



Luis Pena
Junior

"Dumbo because he has big ears and knows how to fly."



Liz Showalter
Sophomore

"Goofy because he's really silly and fun. I'm a lot like him."



Gina Adduci
Junior

"Gus-Gus from Cinderella because he's cute."

New faces are wandering the halls as new teachers have been welcomed to the school. This month the Chronicle will introduce you to new teachers in English, social studies, math, ASL, and foreign language departments. Later in the year, we will introduce you to new teachers in music, art, PE, industrial arts, and business departments in October.



Photo by Elyn Fortino

Hello! My name is Dave Jennings. I assist students in the ASC. I also teach English 3C. I enjoy getting the opportunity to help those who need assistance.

Academics
Skills
Center

Math

$\pi \div \frac{2}{3} \times$	$\pi \div \frac{2}{3} \times$	$\pi \div \frac{2}{3} \times$	$\pi \div \frac{2}{3} \times$
Joy Tanimura teaches algebra 1, principles of algebra, and geometry. Her favorite theorem is CPCTC.	Angelica Espino teaches principles, geometry, and algebra. Her favorite theorem is Pythagorean theorem.	Lynn Ratzlaff teaches geometry C and advanced algebra. She has no favorite theorem.	Kinjal Thakkar teaches algebra 1 and advanced algebra. Her favorite theorem is Pythagorean theorem.
$+ \sqrt{5}$	$+ \sqrt{5}$	$+ \sqrt{5}$	$+ \sqrt{5}$
$\sqrt{3}$	$\sqrt{3}$	$\sqrt{3}$	$\sqrt{3}$
\div	\div	\div	\div
$\times \frac{1}{2} \% \pi$	$\times \frac{1}{2} \% \pi$	$\times \frac{1}{2} \% \pi$	$\times \frac{1}{2} \% \pi$

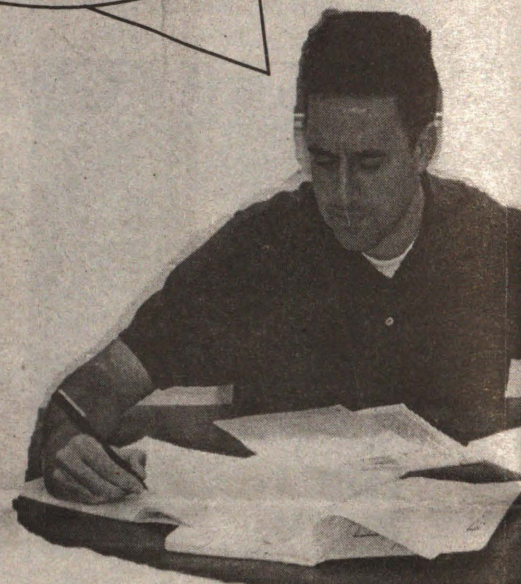


Photo by Julie Youngwith

Science

Anthony LaRue teaches biology and and sheltered biology. His favorite scientist is Einstein.

Jared Winquist teaches biology and chemistry. His favorite scientist is Darren Good.

Mike Fuys teaches biology and physical science. His favorite scientist is Mendel.

Jaclyn Riani teaches English 1 and 3C and communications 1. Her favorite book is "Wicked."

Julie Johnson teaches freshman English. Her favorite book is "Pride and Prejudice."

Mona Elleithee teaches sophomore English. There are too many favorite books for her to choose from.



Photo by Elyn Fortino



New Staff!

s. Thirty-two
ed into the
is featuring
C, science, and
ook for special
business

ademic
ls
ter

Social Studies



Marc Taylor teaches American history and psychology. His favorite historical figure is Jane Addams.

John Chisholm teaches world geography and American history. His favorite historical figure is Napoleon Bonaparte.

Mitch McKenna teaches world geography. One of his favorite historical figures is J.R.R. Tolkien.

Jana Jenson teaches American history and world geography. One of her favorite historical figures is Martin Luther King Jr.
(left)

Whitney Snyder teaches American history and government. Her favorite historical figure is Ghandi.
(right)

Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

ke Martin teaches English 3C, 3R, and 3E. His favorite book is "Trinity."
Julie Rose teaches broadcast 1, English 1E, and 3C. Her favorite book is "The Great Gatsby."
Adam Akin teaches English 1, 2, and 3. His favorite book is "The Great Gatsby."

Hi there!
My name is June Lincoln, and I teach German 1. Students should take German because it offers the opportunity to travel abroad both with the high school and individually after high school.

Foreign Language

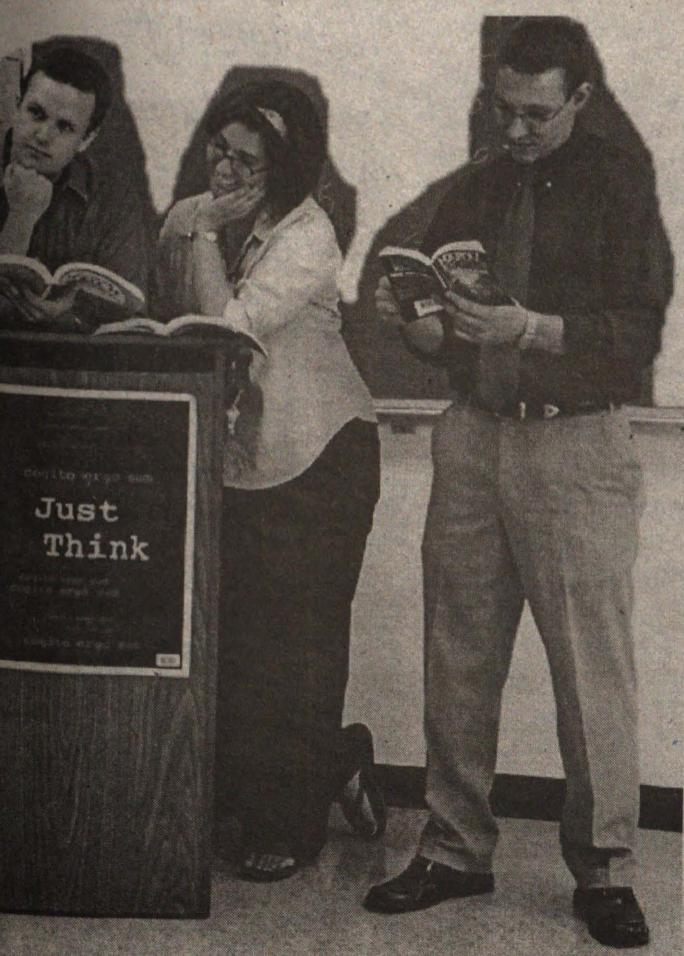


Photo by Julie Youngwith

E n g l i s h

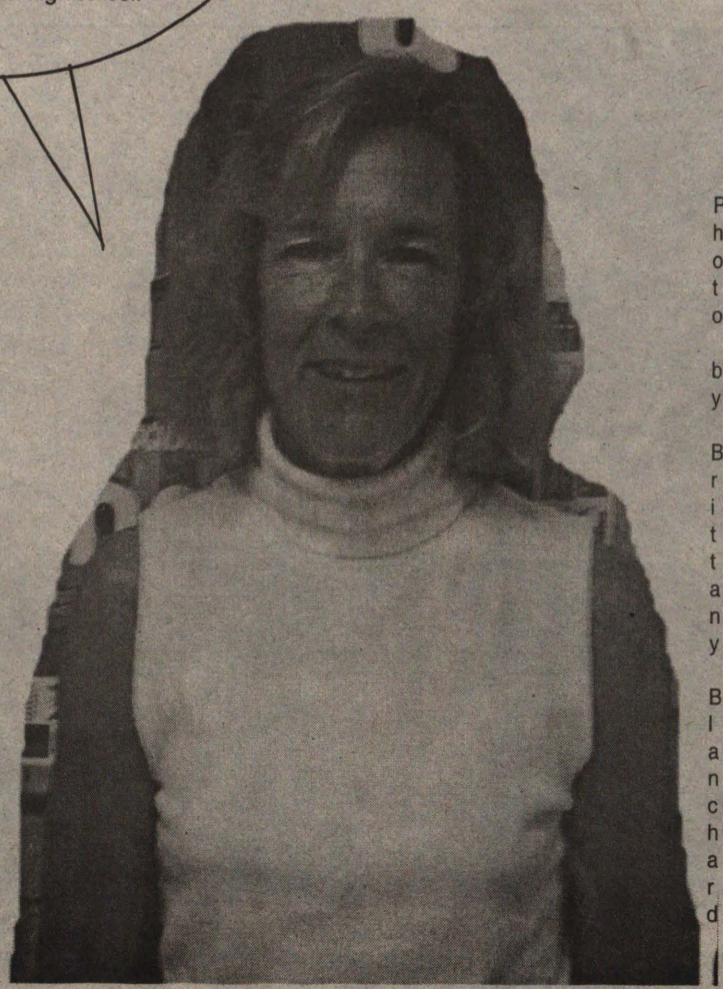


Photo by Brittany Blanchard

Foreign exchange students enjoy experiencing life in a new country

German host families offer hospitality that make people feel like kings

By Cristina Sarnelli

When it comes to hospitality, having a good time, and giving students a taste of a different culture, the Germans know best, according to students and teachers who went on the German exchange trip during summer.

In the program, students travel to Germany to get a taste of what life is like there.

They were also able to experience life as a German teenager, according to Terry Strohm, one of the German teachers who helped to organize the trip for German students.

"German hospitality is incredible, so we have big shoes to fill."

- Terry Strohm

From June 17 to July 8, seniors David Kelsey, Megan Larson, Haleigh Moreno, and Eric Wiechert; juniors Tim Kirincir, Ed Ford, Danny Rizzo, Brad Rathe, Merrick Doll, and Scott Lichtfuss. Former student Josh Lindquist and teachers Kristina Mallon and Jeanne Poe traveled to Gunzenhausen, Germany where they met their exchange families and lived with them.

Mallon became a chaperone after she heard another supervisor for the trip was needed. She decided it was the perfect opportunity to visit Germany. "I love the German culture and thought it would be a really good experience to go with students," she said.

One of the things that Wiechert remembers most about the trip was walking off the plane into the airport waiting area after they landed in Germany.

"Getting there was a surprise because our hosts were at the airport, and we didn't know they were going to be there," he said.

While there, the students attended school and did presentations. The school also took them on field trips to Munich and the Alps. Students also visited cities in such as Neuschwanstein, Gunzenhausen, Wurtzburg, Nurnberg, and Dachau.

Mallon said the group went into town where there was an open market on Thursdays. While they were there, they bought supplies for a picnic that they had later that same day.

Mallon also said that she enjoyed taking sunrise hikes up the mountains on the outskirts of Oberammergau.

"Although the sunrise was not as colorful as I had hoped, the views of the mountains and



Photo courtesy of Terry Strohm

The English Gardens in Munich is one of the most popular alongside the river Isar in Germany. This is one of the many places where the students toured.

town were just beautiful," Mallon said.

Although Mallon has been to Germany before, she was still able to learn many things from the trip.

"I have been to Germany numerous times, as my father is a German immigrant. However, I learned that they use different words for common things such as rolls in southern Germany than in western Germany, where I usually visit," said Mallon.

While the group did many activities together, the hosts also took the students out on their own time to some of their favorite spots.

"Most of the time was spent with host families, and each family did different activities with the students on the weekends," Mallon said.

These activities included visiting family or going into town to shop and buying materials or souvenirs.

"We went sailing and to a Renaissance fair. We would go into town to hang out with friends or grab some ice-cream.

We also would meet other relatives of the hosts," Wiechert said.

"The views of the mountains and town were just beautiful."

-Kristina Mallon

As for hospitality, Wiechert said, "I really liked how the hosts treated you like a king. They were constantly asking if you needed or wanted anything."

Strohm also agreed that German hospitality was incredible. She also said she hopes that the school will be just as welcoming when the German students come to West Chicago in April. This would help to mark the 25th anniversary of the German exchange program.

"German hospitality is incredible, so we have big shoes to fill," Strohm said.

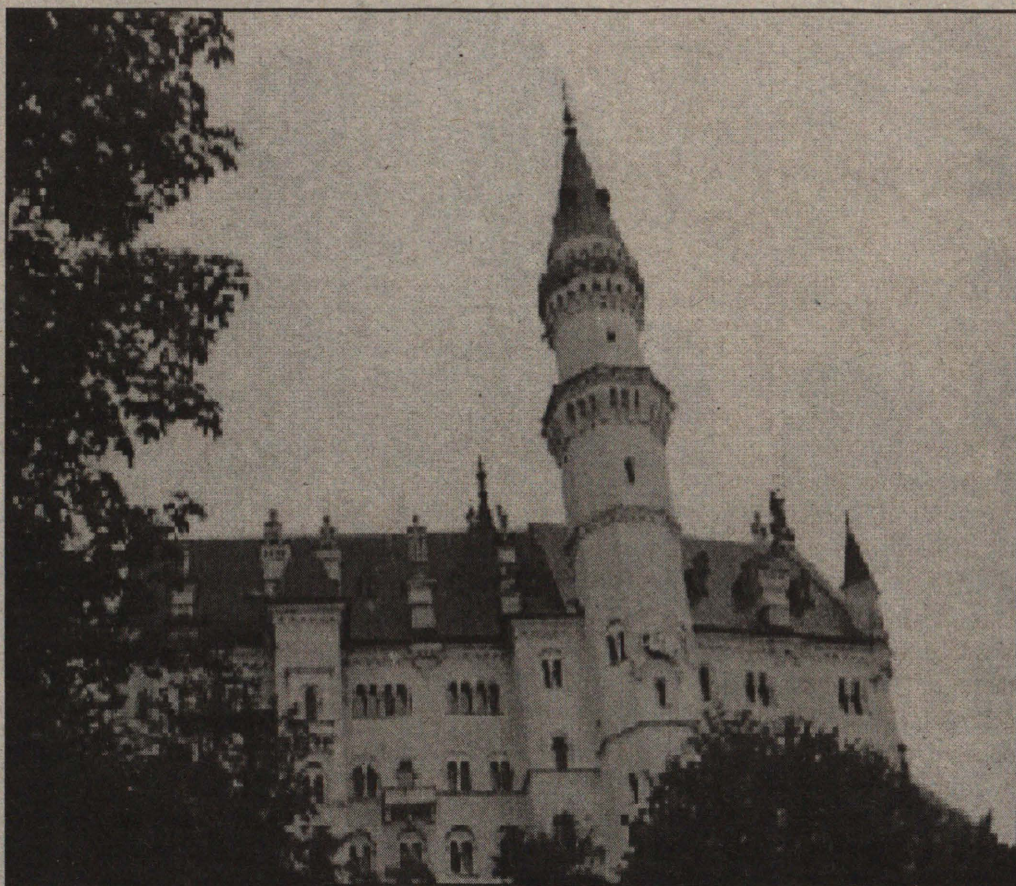


Photo courtesy of Terry Strohm

One of the many sights that the students visited was the Neuschwanstein castle in the Bavarian Alps. The castle was built for Louis II.

FBLA hopes to strengthen team

By Julie Youngwith

Several students word processed and networked their way to the FBLA nationals in Orlando in June.

Ten students attended different workshops and competitions June 23-28 while the advisers attended meetings to learn how to help the FBLA chapter grow and improve.

Senior Chris Jelen and graduate Heidi Colliander competed in partnership with business; junior Joe Majchrowski in word processing I; junior Ashley Conway in introduction to parliamentary procedures, senior Ryan Pinto in JAVA programming; graduate Jeff Cisowski in business law; graduates Megan Andracki and Alyssa Claude in emerging business issues; and graduate Nick Kuras in networking concepts.

Amy Axelrod, incoming Illinois State Treasurer, and advisers Nancy Blume and Maria Wirth also attended the conference which consisted of over

40 different events.

The events included multiple choice tests, computer skills, speeches and job interviews.

This year was the first time in four years that a Community High School student did not place at nationals.

"Some schools had one delegate while others had 20 so it is hard to compare how our schools did to the others," said Axelrod.

Students prepared for events by studying and taking sample tests. The tests showed the students what they needed to improve on before competitions.

FBLA members also had the opportunity to elect the national officer team and helped the Illinois officers promote the northern chapter of FBLA.

The club suffered a big loss when 27 out of 45 FBLA members graduated in June, so the club is eagerly recruiting new members.

"We especially need freshmen because there are certain

events that only they can participate in, so we are at a disadvantage if there are no freshmen," said Axelrod.

Axelrod encourages anyone who is interested in FBLA to attend meetings every second and fourth Thursday at 7:15 a.m. in room 198.

"FBLA is for anyone who wants a step ahead in their career and to learn leadership skills for the future," said Axelrod.

FBLA is involved in many fundraisers included a car wash on Saturday and the upcoming variety show on Oct. 27 and 28.

FBLA also is involved with many community service projects such as March of Dimes and Adopt-a-Family.

On Oct. 13, FBLA and business students are invited to join the West Chicago and Winfield Chamber of Commerce for breakfast. Students will have the opportunity to network with commerce members.



Photo courtesy of Maria Wirth
FBLA members attended nationals in Orlando. Traveling to Florida were (back), Nick Kuras, Joe Majchrowski, Heidi Colliander, Ryan Pinto, Chris Jelen, Jeff Cisowski, (front) Amy Axelrod, Alyssa Claude, Megan Andracki, and Ashley Conway.

College Column...

Seniors begin to narrow down college choices by sending early applications

By Kellie Virnich

Not only the beginning of the end for high school seniors, September is also the month where students planning on going to college should begin their application process.

The first step is narrowing down the list of colleges or universities they would consider attending. They should compare their choices online, arrange for visits to the campuses, and, once they have limited their prospective choices to five at the most, they should start applying right away.

Head counselor Maura Bridges urges students to start applying as soon as possible, so that they are not rushing around in December and January, the deadline for most universities, trying to get applications and transcripts in on time.

"Just do it early and get that hectic part of the process out of your way," she said. "You don't want to wait until the last minute to be asking your counselor for your transcripts, or teachers and coaches for recommendations."

Though some students may be tempted to apply to as many schools as possible, this is usually not the best option for them.

Not only can the application costs add up, but it is time-consuming, stressful, and simply unnecessary.

Students should limit their college applications to five, ranging from schools they know for sure they can get into to a school or two that might seem like a stretch to make it

into.

Bridges also advised seniors to visit as many of the campuses as possible, even if it is just a virtual visit through the computer.

"You wouldn't buy a car without seeing it, and you'll probably be spending at least four years of your life at whatever college you pick," said Bridges.

Counselors met with seniors Wednesday to guide them in the application process, and will meet with students individually in the upcoming weeks.

Counselors encourage students to discuss prospective schools with friends and family, but to make the ultimate decision on where to go to college alone. A school that one person absolutely adores might be a bad fit for his or her best friend.

"Don't pick a school just because your parents went there, or your best friend, or your boyfriend. Pick it because it feels right to you," Bridges said.

She encouraged students to use the resources provided by the school, as well as the Discover program. She also suggested taking a look at Fastweb, a site that narrows down both colleges and scholarship according to the individual student.

The school will talk to parents at Senior Parent Night on Oct. 5. There will also be other opportunities for college-bound students to learn about colleges at the National College Fairs at Navy Pier on Oct. 1 and 2, and at College of DuPage on Oct. 20.

Survey: Students looking for challenges

By Elyn Fortino

According to teens across the United States, over nine in 10 believe that providing more opportunities to take challenging courses would improve their education, a survey finds.

The nonprofit Horatio Alger Association, which provides college scholarships and mentoring to needy students, issued the annual report on youth attitudes, the State of Our Nation's Youth. The 2005-2006 report is a comprehensive study based on a survey of 1,005 young people between the ages of 13 and 19.

"We in the counseling department are always encouraging students to take math, science, English, and other chal-

lenging courses," said head counselor Maura Bridges. "The more you know, the better off you will be when you graduate high school."

Less than one-third of students say their school sets high academic expectations, and most students appeal to ideas that might add some hassle to their life, such as higher graduation standards and additional testing, according to the study.

"I think it would be a lot better having different more challenging classes," said junior Audrey Thar. "Sophomore year is better than junior year when it comes to classes because you have English 2C and 2E. Then you have the choice between topics and western

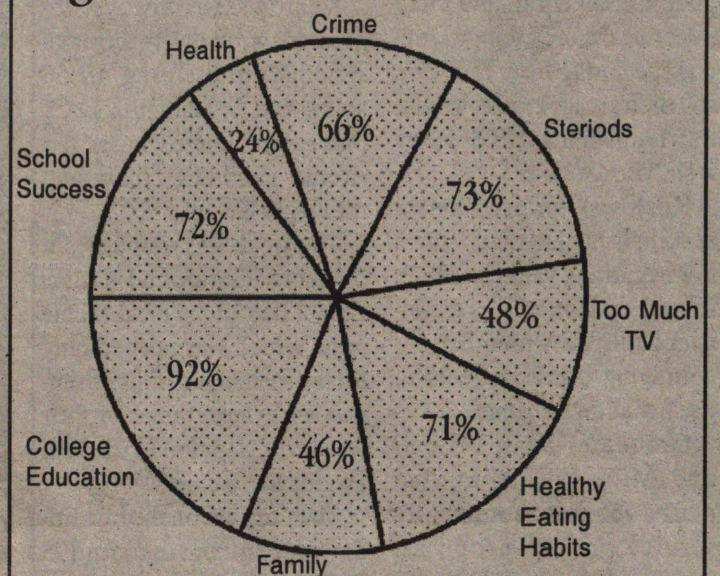
civics, but when you get to junior year you only have the choice of English 3C or AP3. There should be a middle class so you don't have to drop a level."

The State of Our Nation's Youth analyzes the varying types and levels of family and peer support American youths perceive, their outlook on numerous issues from education to social attitudes, and what these students see as the biggest obstacles in their lives as opposed to obstacles perceived by adults and educators.

Improving schools has also become an urgent topic in education, research shows many students are not ready for college or work after gradua-

tion. President Bush, governors, employers and colleges are asking for change, according to Horatioalger.com.

High school student concerns



Source: Horatio Alger Association

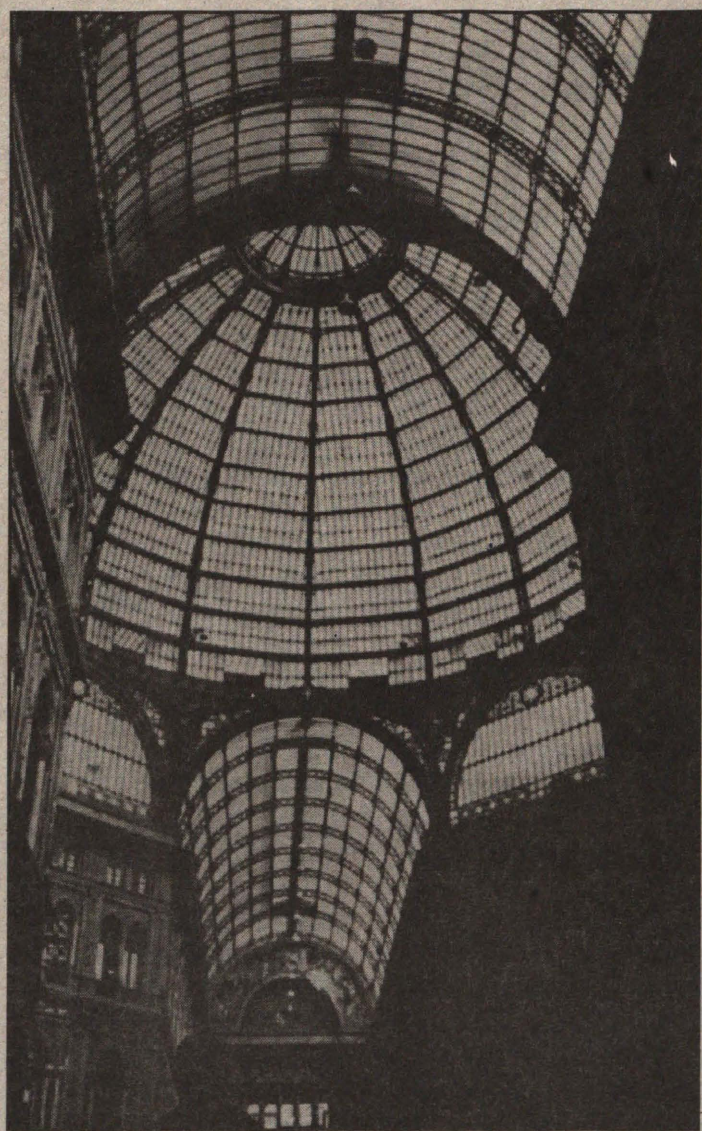


Photo by Kellie Virnich

Students enjoy sightseeing in a shopping center in Naples before taking a boat tour in Capri.

Adviser takes pride in Skills USA participants

By Kellie Virnich

Three students, representing teens who are not afraid of hard work, attended the National Skills USA competition in Kansas City, Mo. in June.

Skills USA adviser and consumer science teacher Patti Kozlowski said of her students, "Working with these kids inspires me, because they truly want to help improve their communities, and don't mind doing the work to accomplish it."

Junior Jenna Bodie competed in the extemporaneous speaking category, where students receive a topic only on arrival, in this case "What is the purpose of Skills USA?" and must prepare a short speech in five minutes.

"I was one of the youngest people competing, and I had never heard of extemporaneous speaking before this year, so I didn't really expect to win, but I still think I did pretty well," Bodie said.

Kozlowski praised her in accomplishing so much still in her beginning years as a high school student, and as a first-year Skills USA member, encouraging other students to use her as an example.

Graduates Sean Prisbell and Mike Liddicoat also placed for their community service project proposal. Their plan was to work with

the West Chicago Chamber of Commerce and collect food and supplies from the entire town, increasing the amount raised each year by a fixed percent.

Kozlowski expressed pride in her students' accomplishments.

"I love this organization because the students in it know that they have a purpose, and are very driven," she said.

The convention included a week of competitions, in everything from metalwork and childcare to commercial baking and fire fighting. Bodie said that she particularly liked the carpentry, as her father is a carpenter, so she was exposed to it all her life. She hopes to compete in technical drawing next summer, but still needs to learn more about machines.

Kozlowski is always impressed with the turnout of schools representing all 50 states and Washington D.C., plus several United States' territories including Guam and the Virgin Islands.

The week was rounded out by sightseeing around Kansas City, a day in the local theme park, which was opened only for the members of the convention, and a fancy dinner on their last day, a tradition Kozlowski awards her winners.

Meetings are on the first Friday every month in room 175 at 7:15 a.m.

Historical sites spark surreal experiences in travelers

Students cause an 'uproar' in the Sistine Chapel with their desire to take photographs

By Katie Taylor

Witnessing the ancient ruins of the Roman and Greek empires firsthand, students and staff traveled half way around the world for the summer's European history tour.

The group first traveled to Vatican City, causing a small upset by snapping photos of the Sistine Chapel, the Pope's personal apartments and gardens, and the Vatican's extensive museums, where they viewed ancient paintings, carvings and sculptures.

"I can't believe how many pictures I took," senior Terri Molo said. "I used up almost all of my memory card on my digital camera, and there was still so much that I didn't get. The guards kept freaking out when they saw all of our cameras, and we weren't supposed to take any pictures in the Sistine Chapel at all."

The students visited the holy site not long after the death of Pope John Paul II and coronation of Pope Benedict XVI, which was sentimental for some students.

"The kids really enjoyed going to the Vatican," said tour coordinator and social studies teacher Mary Ellen Daneels. "It had a lot of meaning for some of them."

In Rome, the students saw the Coliseum, the Pantheon, and

the original Senate building.

"Standing in the middle of ruins that had been there for thousands years, and seeing the Coliseum off in the distance, was absolutely surreal," said junior Rochelle Chacon. "I couldn't stop looking around in disbelief."

Although one student and teacher, who took a different flight, were delayed in Boston, they caught up with the rest of the group only a day and a half into the trip, and were still able to see nearly everything that the others had already visited before they arrived.

After a day of guided tours in the city, students were allowed to go off in small groups to revisit sites at their own leisure. They were also able to simply take in the atmosphere of Rome, its small graffiti-covered cafes and narrow cobblestone streets.

Before spending the day admiring the beautiful architecture and landscapes of Capri, an elite island off of Italy, the tour stopped in Naples to visit the famous fortresses from both ancient and recent times. Afterwards, they then boarded an overnight ferry, crossing the Aegean Sea to Greece as they slept.

Their first stop was the smaller town of Delphi, where their tour guide revealed that the

famed ancient oracles, who people thought could give prophecies, were found to have actually been suffering from delusions as a result of toxic gas inhalation.

Social studies teacher and chaperone Barbara Laimins said, "The whole trip was amazing, but my favorite spot had to be Delphi. It was so beautiful and serene that I can understand why Europeans at the time thought it was the center of the universe."

The students also took a cruise around the Greek islands of Mykonos, Patmos, and Rhodes, as well as stopping for a day in Turkey.

After rooming together and being in a group constantly for nearly two weeks, the group members understandably felt much closer than before the trip.

Senior Maria Cuevas said, "I think I enjoyed the cruise the most, because along with seeing even more places we have never seen before, we also got a lot of downtime where we could relax and get to know the other kids on the trip."

Their last destination was Athens, where the group visited the Acropolis and the Olympic stadium. The students were also able to split up for a few hours on their last full day to sightsee and shop on their own.

"It was always my dream to go to Europe, but once we were there it was so unbelievable," said senior Brittany Rose. "I would be standing in front of the Parthenon and still have to tell myself that I was actually in Rome."



Photo by Kellie Virnich

One of the historical sites that the European history tour students visited was the Trevi Fountain in Rome. The fountain is a popular tourist site, depicting a mythical scene involving Roman gods.

'Exorcism' is a breath of fresh air

Movie provokes intriguing questions regarding science and faith,

By David Thomas

Horror movies can go two ways. They're either (A) absolutely amazing and revolutionary, forever changing the way how horror and slasher movies are made. Or (B) they're eye-gougingly horrible. And with the way Hollywood is cranking out movies lately, almost everything seems to be option B.

But "Emily Rose" is a breath of fresh air. The visuals and special effects are just as impressive as the story, which was inspired by real-life events that forces questions regarding faith and science.

'She's stalked by Satan, and sees her classmates' faces melting.'

The movie opens up with the arrest of Father Moore (played by Tom Wilkinson), for being negligent in the care of a sick young girl.

That young girl was Emily Rose (Jennifer Carpenter). She was perfect in every way. She was kind, attractive, smart, and devoutly religious. She also won a full scholarship to college (her family's poor) and was studying to become a school teacher.

But she became sick. In a se-

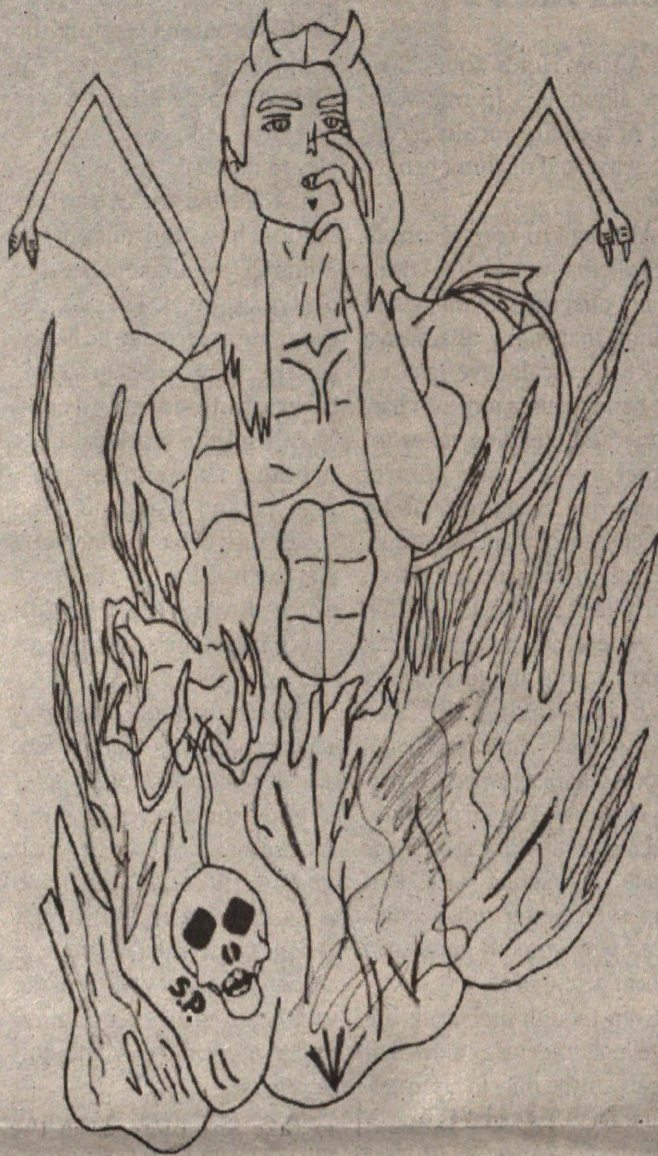
Movie: The Exorcism of Emily Rose
Visuals: A
Story: A-
Acting: B-
Overall: B+

ries of flashbacks spliced into the court scenes, we see Emily becoming increasingly psychotic and violent. She takes her medicine, but her condition worsens. She's stalked by Satan, and sees her classmates' faces melting. The family priest, Moore, recommends an exorcism. Everyone agrees, including the Catholic Church. The exorcism, however, fails. Soon afterwards, Emily dies, and a vital question is asked.

Was Emily Rose possessed by demons, or were her episodes caused by psychotic epilepsy?

Arguing for Moore is the ambitious lawyer Erin Bruner (Laura Linney). Her firm is hired by the archdiocese to prevent another scandal from rocking the church, and Bruner is chosen after her handling of a supposed "no-win" case. Bruner will make partner if she can persuade the stubborn Moore into accepting a plea bargain, which would reduce his sentence.

But Moore rejects the bargain. "I don't care about my reputation and I'm not afraid of



Was Emily Rose possessed by the devil, or did she suffer from epilepsy?

jail. All I care about is telling Emily Rose's story," Moore says to Bruner, a non-believer. But she does admire Moore's convictions, and through that, she says Moore will eventually testify.

From there, the trial begins. The prosecution, headed by the God-fearing attorney Ethan Thomas (Campbell Scott), produces medical expert after medical expert, relating

Emily's conditions to epilepsy. Bruner's defense consists of punching holes in the medical evidence, and bringing in doctors who "look at possession from a scientific view."

The ending is a bit weak. It's as if the movie expects the audience to use Emily's story to do something: To take action and start believing in Christ and ignore science! But, hey, endings aren't everything.

Top 10 high school movies

It's September, meaning school is in full swing. To start off the year, we're introducing our first Top 10 movie list. This month's theme, being September, is high school. Introducing: the Top 10 High School Movies, as chosen by the Chronicle staff.

1. The Breakfast Club (1985)
2. Mean Girls (2004)
3. Sixteen Candles (1984)
4. Ferris Bueller's Day Off
5. Grease (1978)
6. Clueless (1995)
7. Bring It On (2000)
8. Not Another Teen Movie (2001)
9. 10 Things I Hate About You (1999)
10. American Pie (1999)

Grading Scale

Just like in school, all movies, restaurants, and CDs are graded on a scale from A+ to F:

- A= Awesome
- B= Sweet
- C= Alright
- D= Could be worse
- F= Absolutely horrible

Local Italian restaurant creates ideal atmosphere for couples

Candlelight setting, friendly servers enhance romantic mood

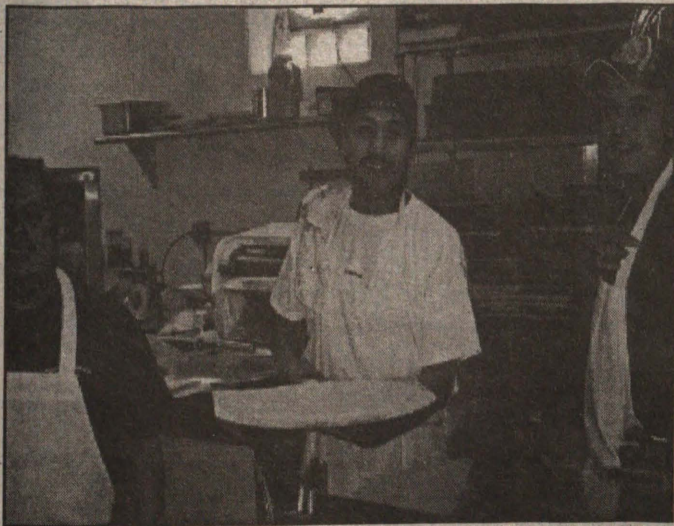


Photo by Sabrina Potirala

Santo Maria's Ristorante Italiano is located only a few blocks away from the high school.

By Sabrina Potirala

Santo Maria's Ristorante Italiano is a quiet neighborhood restaurant offering a romantic atmosphere with quality Italian food.

The restaurant is set in a cozy atmosphere without, surprisingly, any interruptions from passing cars on busy Washington street. The inside is decorated with many pictures of the

Santo Maria's
Ristorante Italiano
Atmosphere: A-
Service: A+
Food: B
Overall: A-

town and wide variety of plants and flowers brighten up the dimly lit atmosphere. The tables are set far enough apart so customers can enjoy a conversation without interruptions from others. Dinner was served over candlelight, which set the mood for a romantic evening. The only inconvenience is in order to reach the sitting area, customers must walk through the front of the kitchen. Despite this, the setting creates a nice place to eat.

Upon arrival, the guests are

greeted with a cheerful hello from the server, and then seated in a secluded area of the restaurant. The servers are extremely nice, and they constantly walk by the tables to make sure that customers are okay. When it comes down to ordering, the server explains the different Italian foods. He also engages in casual conversation with the customers. Servers rarely make a restaurant memorable, but the servers at Santo Maria's Ristorante Italiano did exactly that.

The menu offers a wide-variety of Italian foods that can be confusing to those who have never eaten at an Italian restaurant before. It is even possible for customers to create their own pasta by first selecting the type of pasta and sauce, then

their own ingredients. At a cost of \$6.25, a customer could enjoy a portabella brushetta as an appetizer. It tasted delicious, with the ingredients mixing together to create a unique flavor. The main course consisted of cheese ravioli with garlic sauce that was topped with fresh mushrooms, onions, basil, and garlic, for \$9.95. The food seemed a little bland, lacking in spices and herbs.

Santo Maria's is definitely a place to spend a romantic evening. The atmosphere and service were lovely, and the food did not disappoint either.

Santo Maria's Ristorante Italiano is located at 145 West Washington St., West Chicago. Hours: Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

'Effect' establishes new voice in music

Guitar and lyrics work for 10 Years on debut album: 'The Autumn Effect'

Band: 10 Years
 Album: "The Autumn Effect"
 Vocals: A-
 Rhythm: B
 Lyrical Content: A
 Overall: A-

By Cristina Sarnelli

10 Years has released an incredible debut album. The album's strongest characteristic, the vocals, blend perfectly with excellent guitar work and are accented with rhythmic bass and percussion, creating a harmonious echo throughout the entire album. The creative lyrics combined with the unique sound makes for a great listen anytime.

Five members make up the alternative rock band from Knoxville who recently released their first album "The Autumn Effect." The band members Jesse Hasek (vocals), Brian Vodinh (drums), Ryan "Tater" Johnson (guitar), Matt Wantland (guitar), and Lewis Cosby (bass) started the band three years ago and soon after recorded an EP record "Kill-

ing All that Holds You." Their new album is a 13 track CD, full of melodic vocals, eccentric guitar, and rhythmic percussion.

Although 10 Years is considered alternative rock, the vocals do not offer the screaming and yelling that many alternative rock band vocals have. Instead, the band focuses more on harmony and blending tones together to make one discreet sound that is more melodic rather than loud and shouting.

Hasek blends his voice with many back up vocals, creating an eerie echo that makes the band's sound unique. Tracks such as "Waking Up" and "Wasteland" display Hasek's resonating voice, especially during choruses. Drawn out notes accented with echoing back ups create an amazing sound that gets even better when combined with smooth guitar and upbeat percussion.

Even though the vocals are excellent, it seems at times that vocals are the only focus in certain tracks. "Insects" is one of these tracks where the guitar is

not nearly as powerful as it could be, and Hasek's voice gets too drawn out and long, and the song loses its momentum. All in all, the vocals are extremely powerful and are definitely a plus in the CD.

Just like the vocals, the percussion, bass, and guitar work in this CD are different than the usual rock sound. The bass and guitar are expected to be heavy, and the drums are expected to be crashing constantly. 10 Year's guitar work is a lot smoother and more original. Johnson and Wantland often accent each other's guitar melodies with different rhythms, which also adds to the echo effect that the entire album gives off.

The entrances into songs usually start off with mellow guitar tabs that eventually crescendo with the even bass and rhythmic drums, both of which are powerful, but not so much as to hide the vocals. In fact, at times it seems that there is not enough guitar work, that the vocals should be combined with stronger, more distinct guitar tabs.

However, the guitar work is not to go completely unnoticed.

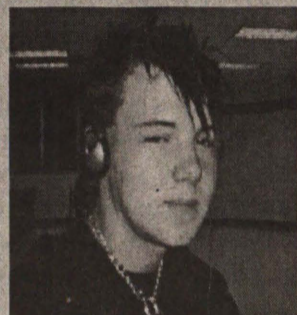
In "Seasons to Cycle" perhaps the most mellow and harmonious song in the entire album, the guitar blends perfectly with the vocals along with other orchestral instruments, and the percussion echoes in the background, creating the most beautiful sound on the album. The bass and guitar work, and the percussion only add more to the amazing vocals.

The lyrics give even more personality and feeling to 10 Years' first album. Emotions seem to be the main focus in the album. Lines such as "Leave me I'll shed my skin these scars will mend/ Don't worry about me the heart is supposed to bleed" in the song "Fault Line" and "Drunk on failures regrets/ Letters of silence confess burdens within" in the song "Cast It Out" seem to express the feelings of pain and suffering that people experience. The lyrics are deep and well written, each with its own emotional and heart felt meaning. Though it is hard to know for sure what each song means exactly, the listener can connect to many of the lines from the songs, and it is easy to see how much effort and time went into the album.

SONIC BITES



NAME:
Bri Rueshaw
 LISTENING TO:
Punk Goes 80s

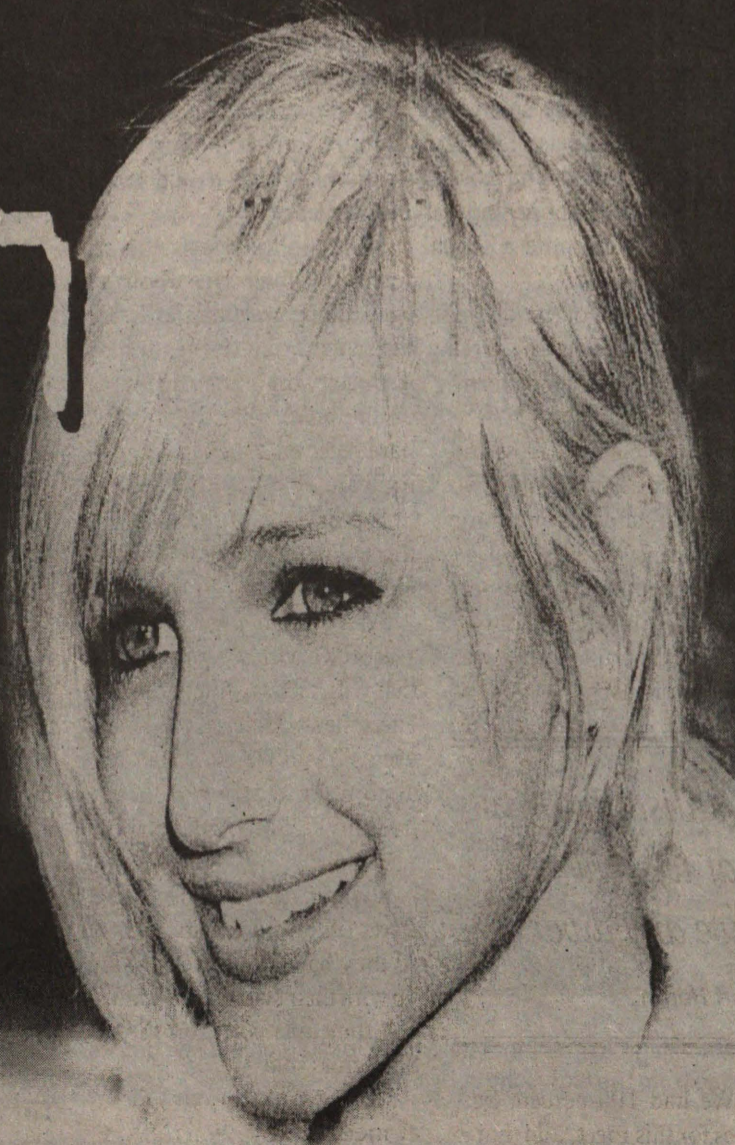


NAME:
John Pickens
 LISTENING TO:
Tiger Army

ashlee simpson

didn't steal your
"BOYFRIEND"

The First Single from
 Her New Album **I Am Me**



latest info/hear music: ashleesimpsonmusic.com

Album In Stores Oct. 18

Tennis wants DVC: Hesterman and Green still the dynamic duo

By Katie Taylor

Girls tennis hopes to swing its way to the top of the DVC standings with mental toughness and their knowledge of the game.

Despite a 6-1 loss against Naperville Central on Sept. 13, coach Sione Moeaki was happy with the performances of senior Mary Hesterman and junior Jen Green, who won first doubles.

"Mary and Jenny had the best performance," said Moeaki. "They played really well together."

Moeaki also recognized freshman Leigh Martino who placed fourth in singles, but lost in a tie breaker.

Hesterman and Green also played well at the District 88 invite Sept. 10, where they won the entire first doubles tournament. Moeaki has high hopes for Hesterman and Green.

"I hope for them to finish on the top two in the DVC and qualify down to state and do really well in finals," Moeaki said.

"They are great leaders for the team because they lead by example with their experience and hard work during off seasons."

Moeaki expects the team to improve their DVC standing from the 2004 season by perfecting skills, like ground strokes, backhand, and net game.

"We will try to win more matches and improve our skills and mental game," said Moeaki. "I demand hard work and practices, and I really emphasize the importance of mental preparation, techniques and mechanics."

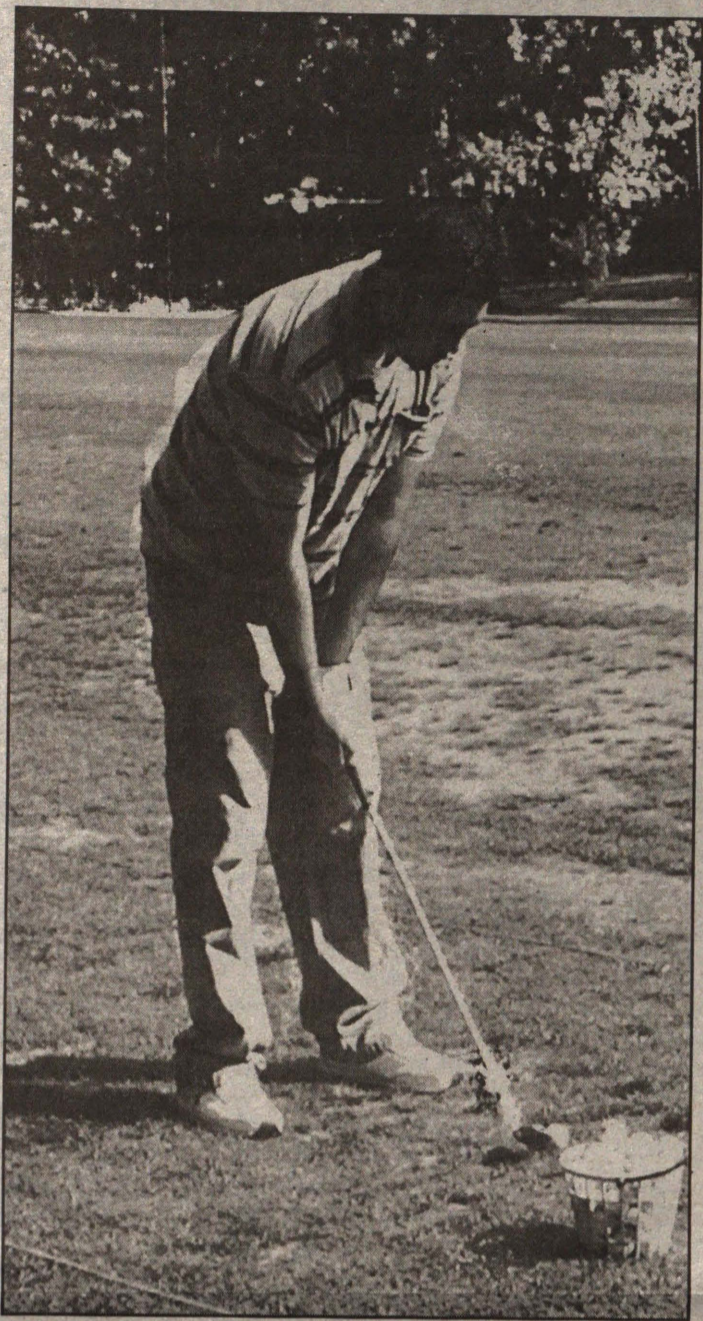


Photo by Julie Youngwith
Senior Oscar Medina practices hard at St. Andrew's driving range in hopes of improving his skills. The boys all have golf release and leave the school early to practice at the driving range or for tournament games.

Boys swing away and hope to go far

By Julie Youngwith

The strength of two 300-yard drivers, the experience of returning players, and new talent is driving the boy's golf team forward.

According to Coach Eric Lasky, golf team has been doing well in practice and he expects them to perform well at tournaments.

The team consists of two seniors, six juniors, and two sophomores who practice at St. Andrews Golf Course in West Chicago.

The returning varsity players are seniors Oscar Medina, Eric Lindner; junior Scott Staiton and sophomore Brandon Jones.

The new varsity golfers are juniors Matt Claude, Frank Gilberto, Matt Malone, Chris Savaglio, and sophomore Ryan Scheck.

Medina and Claude are hitting the ball out around 300 yards.

"Even though we only have two seniors, the team has plenty of experience that will give us a chance in the DVC," said Lindner.

New this year is the team's assistant coach, Brett Starck, a former West Chicago golf team member, who has worked at golf courses in Ireland and Scotland.

The boys have many tournaments this season. Since the start of the season, the boys put on a stellar performance at the Roger Alm Invitational in Salem, Wis.

Gilberto shot an amazing 76 in 18 holes, leading the team total of 333.

At a tournament, the four best player scores are added up and the team with the lowest score wins. Lasky would like the team's four best scores to be less than 160 in nine holes when at St. Andrew's, and under 165 when away.

"We tend to play better at St. Andrew's than we do at other courses," said Lasky.

Swim team strong despite the absence of diving team

By Ellyn Fortino

Even the loss of the diving team isn't stopping the girl's swimming team from performing well at meets.

Juniors Julia Shallcross and Katie Taylor swam within two seconds of state cuts at a home meet against York, Sept. 1.

Varsity swimmer of the meet was Shallcross and junior varsity swimmer of the meet was Kristen Johansen.

'It's disappointing that we will not have any divers.'

-Curt Herrin

season by simulating race strategies, lifting weights, and training twice a day. The team has also been working hard to make up the points that they could have received if they had a diving team.

The divers quit due to conflicts with their schedules said Herrin.

"With no diving team this season we will lose points and that will hurt us, but it will not effect the swimmer's individual events," said Herrin. "It's disappointing that we will not have any divers to represent our school."

Without divers, the team starts off far behind in meets so they have to try and catch up with their swimming events and they may come up short, Shallcross said.

"It isn't great for our scores at meets, but it won't affect how well we will still do in our individual events," Shallcross said.

Sept. 10 the team competed in an invitational at Hindsdale and placed eighth out of 12.

Junior Katie McLeland and senior Kelly Mateas placed second in the 2 by 200 and the 2 by 500 relay.

Taylor and Shallcross combined beat the record time for the 2 by 100 breast stroke but lost against two girls from The Latin School.

When the team is not in the pool they have pasta parties on Friday nights before invitationals. Also, they teach cheers to the new freshmen on the team.

"Kelly Mateas, the team captain has done a great job showing the freshmen what to do," Herrin said. "She really gets things done."

The team wants to beat the school record for the 400 free relay this season, and have more individual qualifiers than last year.

"We have potential make

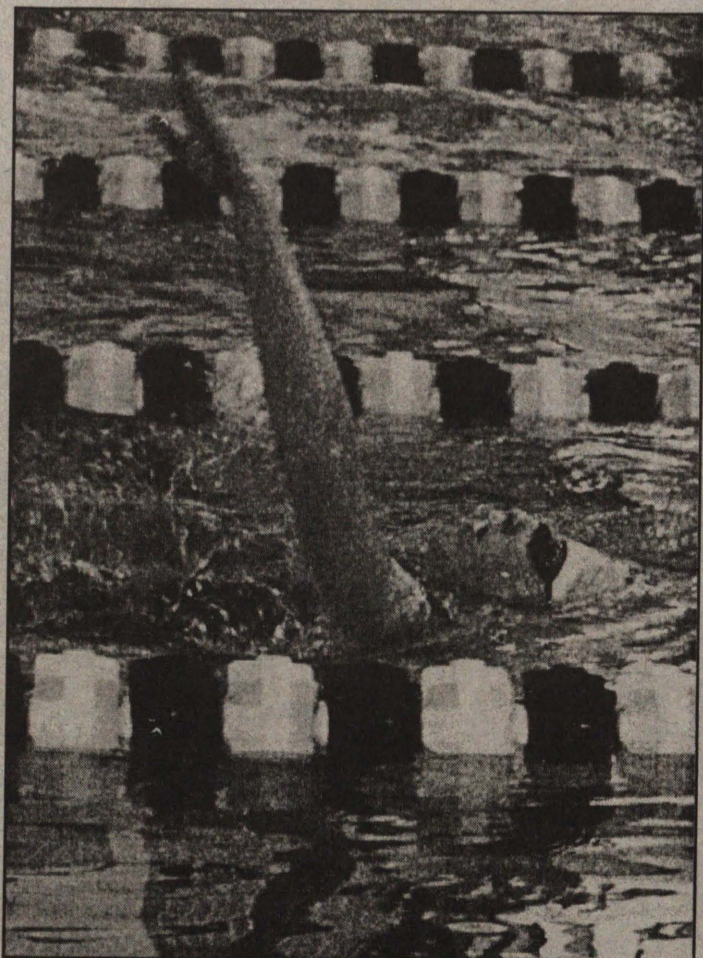


Photo By Ellyn Fortino
Freshman Caitlin MacDonald swims hard at a home meet. She swam the backstroke section of the relay.

five individual events," said Herrin.

The team encourages people to come out to the pool and see the new record board and state champion banners that the

team was able to buy from fundraising, said Herrin

"Swimming has the most state champions in the school and we want to show them off," he said.

Defense!

It is what makes team so strong, say coaches

By Andrea Bradley

Sharpening an already tough defense and fine-tuning offense are in the plans to shape the football team into contenders for play-offs later this season.

"Team performance has been good, but the team needs work," said offensive coach Pete Martino.

Martino is looking to improve on running the ball more effectively against their opponents.

Varsity players have been running the ball well so far, but there are some things that need to be better, he added.

Defensive coach Josh Chambers agrees with Martino that the team needs the most improvement on offense.

"The offense is inexperienced and young with many juniors who have a lot to learn," said Chambers. "We have a very aggressive and experienced defense. It was obvious during the first three weeks."

Defensive players Nick Nolte, Travis Saville, Jordan Meissner, all seniors, and juniors Geoff Wilson and Brad Hock have all really stood out



Photo by TJ Goodwin

Jerry Henning, an offensive varsity player, hustles down the field during an after school practice. The coaches want to improve the offensive side of the ball, and want the team to run the ball more efficiently. Practices are also spent on making strategies against opposing teams. Coach Pete Martino wants to be prepared for how other teams play.

to their coaches this season.

As for the offense, seniors Jim Siekmann, Jerry Henning, Mitch Bridges, and Dan Brogan received praise from their coaches.

The strength of the team is in the defense, but even they need to work on eliminating mistakes, said Martino.

During practices, the team focuses on exploiting the weakness of the other team. With this strategy, Martino hopes to go far.

"My goal is to make play-offs," he said.

Chambers would also like to see play-offs, but he wants each athlete to learn and enjoy the

sport too.

The Wildcats won their opener against Plainfield Central, but lost the away game against Glenbard North.

Even with the loss, the fans showed their support with school T-Shirts, sweatshirts, and wrist bands.

The Squad is once again

cheering on the team with Wildcats spelled out on their stomachs.

"The team is very appreciative of the support of the community and students. No matter how the team is doing, or what the weather is, there are always fans in the stands cheering us on," said Chambers.

Andie's Angle

Native American mascots get banned from the NCAA as coaches, teams, and tribes argue back

By Andrea Bradley

Hostile and abusive should not be the words to describe the use of Native American mascots for college sports teams.

But, the executives from the NCAA decided that there was enough reason to ban them.

The new ban affects 18 teams in the NCAA including Florida State (Seminoles), the University of Illinois (Fighting Illini), and Central Michigan University (Chippewas).

Mascots are not the only objects the NCAA wants to terminate.

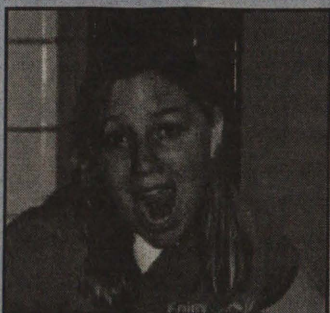
The new NCAA rules apply to uniforms, clothing, logos, and paraphanilia.

Talk about a damper on school spirit.

New rules will take place in the postseason, but will not affect cheerleading uniforms or any school merchandise until

Aug. 1, 2008.

At least the coaches have some time to fight for their



pride and honor.

Still, teams that are hosting any of the postseason events must cover their logos on the field and on their uniforms. The executives might as well tell them to go out onto the field without pride.

As for the season, the rules will not apply since the NCAA only controls tournaments, not regular season events.

Coaches are arguing against

the ban saying that the teams should be allowed to keep their mascots if they get permission from the president of that specific Native American group.

One coach has already taken action. The coach of the Florida State Seminoles went straight to the source: the Seminole Tribe of Florida Council. A representative, Max B. Osceola, told the coach that the Seminole group has formally endorsed the schools use of the mascot.

Osceola told the coach the NCAA does not have the right to tell them how to use their name, and what is good for them, or bad.

Osceola is right. The executives' do not know how the tribe feels. It is possible that the Native Americans do not mind the mascots. After all, a mascot is used to glorify a

team, not make fun of it.

Along with the Seminoles, the Chippewas feel the same way.

The Chippewa tribe endorses the Central Michigan University nickname and is more than happy to allow them to use their name.

It seems like the ban is only causing more hurt and embarrassment than the mascot. The NCAA is making it seem like they do not want any Native American references for other reasons. Other reasons such as embarrassment, and discrimination.

It sounds offensive for the NCAA to take out Native American mascots such as the Fighting Illini. Also, the ban is not applied fairly.

If the Fighting Illini have to go, then so do the Notre Dame Fighting Irish and the Ragin' Cajuns of the University of

Louisiana at Lafayette.

The reps from the NCAA have said that all racial, ethnic, and nation origin mascots will be banned by February, but obviously the Fighting Irish, or the Ragin' Cajuns do not fall into any of those categories.

This is more like discrimination than protection. Protection is making an ethnic group feel comfortable about themselves, not outcast them.

The Seminole Tribe went as far as to say that this ban is both outrageous and insulting.

The NCAA needs to leave mascots up to those who are being represented by them.

It is not their choice to say how someone feels about their heritage.

The NCAA needs to give up the battle and respect those Native Americans who they have offended.