



Block scheduling proposal would mean many changes for future students and staff

College type scheduling and placement in classes by EXPLORE test results among possible school adjustments

By David Thomas

A proposal is before the Board of Education that would completely change the school's schedule and possibly lay off some teachers.

Under the proposal, the current 10 hour schedule would be replaced with a "flexible floating block schedule." Instead, it would consist of seven 50-minute periods.

According to Supt. Lee Rieck, there are several factors that are driving this.

"Governor Blagojevich recently increased the graduation requirements for students," said Rieck. "With our current scheduling and the new requirements, students wouldn't be able to take as many elec-

tives. But this system allows them to do so."

In addition, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday would contain a class lasting 100 minutes. Those classes, dubbed 8M, 8W, and 8F in the proposal, would be classes based on student participation or core classes, depending on the student.

Also, one period on Friday would be reserved for "getting to know each student."

During this period, other activities such as assemblies and pep rallies, could be scheduled and shifted around during the day.

Despite the decreased number of periods, the school day would remain, in Rieck's opin-

M	T	W	Th	F
1	1	1	1	A
2	2	2	2	8F
3	3	3	3	
4	4	8W	4	4
5	5		5	5
8M	6	6	6	6
	7	7	7	7

Drawing by Cristina Sarnelli

This is how future student schedules might look if the proposal goes through. Each number represents a period, and there will also be an assembly each Friday, shown by the "A".

ion, "largely the same."

But the proposal does not stop at merely changing the schedule.

Also under the proposal, all students would be divided into three concrete academies. Those academies are the Fresh-

man Academy, the Foundation Academy, and the Future Academy.

(See Block schedule page 5)

Key Club begins busy season

By Brittany Blanchard

Key Club enters its busiest season with a Halloween parade for the community's spookiest youth on Oct. 29 as well as an all-day blood drive on Nov. 4.

The Halloween parade, which the club once co-hosted with Kiwanis before it disbanded, will also include various costume contests for different age groups, including most original and scariest costume.

Guidance counselor and club adviser Ward Rau said the park district-sponsored event is a fun way for anyone

who wishes to participate, even if they aren't a young child.

"(The Halloween parade) is an opportunity for little kids to get dressed up in Halloween costumes and participate in a parade and trick-or-treating in a safe and supervised environment," said Rau.

Key Club members are in charge of judging costumes and awarding the best dressed child and pet with prizes. However, everyone is a winner as all participants will leave the parade with goodie bags compliments of Key Club.

Key Club is also sponsoring a blood drive for all students

16 and older who wish to participate.

Heartland Blood Center will be at the school on Nov. 4 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. to draw the blood donations and then process it for use throughout the DuPage area.

Planning committee member Martha Kaczmarczyk encourages all eligible students to donate.

"Many students don't want to donate because they're scared it will hurt, but the pain is minimal and it is worth it to help save someone's life," she said.

(See Key Club page 3)



Photo by Kellie Virnich

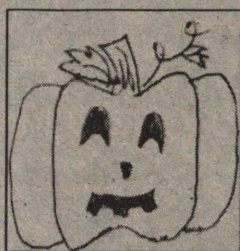
Key Club member Amy Axelrod draws attention to the club's fall blood drive in commons. Donors can aid up to three people with only a small amount of pain.

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Centerspread

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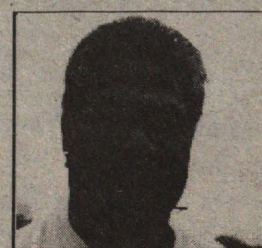
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Spooky Trail provides opportunities for both teenagers and families

Whether for volunteering or a good scare, the fall event includes everyone

By Sabrina Potirala

People who are looking to jump into the Halloween spirit can head to the ever-promising Spooky Trail.

Staying true to the name, Spooky Trail is a yearly tradition that is set along a path. As people walk through, they experience frightening scenes and moments of terror. Spooky Trail has been a tradition for 24 years.

"Every year we (West Chicago Park District) budget a certain amount of money for the Spooky Trail," said park district employee, Anna Rozalez.

Many new aspects are going to be added into Spooky Trail, including a sound system, an increase in gory scenes, and a hayride to and from the parking area.

Adam Jones, a 2005 graduate, has participated in Spooky Trail for six years. Jones is glad that he has the opportunity to take part in this event.

"I first got into helping with Spooky Trail while I was doing other things with the park district. I couldn't wait until I was old enough to participate in Spooky Trail," said Jones.

The Spooky Trail staff consists of volunteers that are students in high school or older. Anyone that meets these requirements can participate in Spooky Trail.

Jones suggests that people should take a risk and sign up, even if they seem unsure whether or not they want to do it.

"If they decided that it is not for them, then they won't have to come back next year. But



Photo by Julie Youngwith

Though there is a special trail for younger children, families and teens are also welcome to experience fun and frights at the West Chicago Park District organized event.

chances are they will enjoy it. Plus we are always looking for extra help," said Jones.

Rozalez agrees, and hopes that even if people do not volunteer for Spooky Trail they will at least show up and have a good time.

Jones enjoys many aspects about Spooky Trail, and plans

on continuing to participate.

"I love doing Spooky Trail because you get to scare people in a safe, family friendly environment. I also enjoy spending time with my friends," said Jones.

The park district organizes a pizza party for the Spooky Trail volunteers, something

else Jones says he enjoys.

Spooky Trail will be held in Reed Keppeler Park Oct. 28 and Oct. 29. A "pre-school" Spooky Trail for children will run from 6 until 6:30 p.m. and general admission begins at 6:30 and runs until 9 p.m. Anyone who is over 3-feet-tall will be charged a \$6 entrance fee.

School clubs rake in opportunities to help the local elderly

Reaching out to the community builds character for students

By Cristina Sarnelli

The West Chicago Youth Commission is sponsoring an annual leaf raking event to help students get involved with the community.

Kelly Mireault, chairperson of the West Chicago Youth Commission encourages students to get involved. "This event gives the youth an opportunity to help the elders of the community who have been here for a long time," she said.

Key Club, National Honor Society members, and any other students or adults who are interested can attend the event on Nov. 5 at the Helen Fox Center. Here they will be assigned yards to rake.

NHS sponsor Catherine Jaeger helped out with the event for two years and feels that it is an excellent opportunity for the students.

"It's great because the students get to meet members of the community," she said.

The leaf raking event has been going on for about 10

years. It is a volunteer project in which students go around West Chicago to rake yards for the elderly that are unable to do it themselves.

In the past, church organizations, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, football players, community service organizations, and other clubs from the school have volunteered to help with this event.

Ward Rau who advises Key Club believes that the event is a good way for students to build character.

"It is a good thing for students and adults to help others who are in need of help with no direct benefit coming back to them. It is a good habit to develop and through developing such habits, students develop good character. The community benefits from the service, and that's good enough for us," he said.

If you are interested in participating in the event, contact Mireault at wegoyouth@hotmail.com.

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Jones commits to be first Student of the Month

(Student of the Month is based on a solid academic history, commitment in extra-curricular activities, and community involvement. Students must be nominated by at least one staff member, and the final selection is made by the Student Activities Director and a committee made up of additional staff members.)

By Julie Youngwith

Senior Meg Jones is the September Student of the Month for her overwhelming involvement in school activities and commitment to the community.

Jones is involved in a variety of school activities including dance production, poms and National Honor Society. She is also the pep club president, and the concert choir secretary.

Although she is involved in many school activities, Jones says that dance production is her favorite.

"I love being in dance production because it allows me to do something I love with people I love," said Jones.

Outside of school Jones is

very committed to community service. She participates in her church's youth group, volunteers at Delnor Hospital and Pads and participated in the Walk for Well-ness.

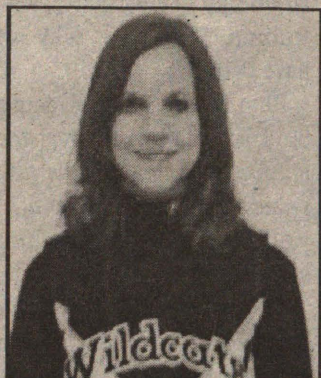


Photo by Julie Youngwith

Always committed to Spanish, Jones plans on teaching it.

"I put effort in to everything I do and I work hard at being a good role model," said Jones. Her favorite teacher was Vicky Virnos, her freshman Spanish teacher.

Jones' favorite memory was getting into the Spanish National Honor Society.

After high school Jones plans on going to a four year university where she will study to be a Spanish teacher.

Military official motivates FBLA and business classes to be better leaders

By Katie Taylor

Students learned how to be successful leaders from someone who knows.

Dave Grange, who served 30 years in the U.S. Army with a final position as Commanding General of the 1st Infantry Division, spoke to business students about how positions in the military required him to be a leader.

He also served as a Ranger, Green Beret, aviator, infantryman, and as a member of Delta Force.

According to Grange, leaders must provide vision, establish goals, set priorities, and get people fired up.

"A leader has to provide passion," Grange said. "You need to get people to be motivated to want to do things."

Another important aspect of leadership is integrity, according to Grange, who said that a good reputation is much easier to maintain than earning it back once it is lost. His good reputation was extremely important in the military as a commanding general.

Along with reputation, Grange believes that striving to improve oneself and one's organization is key to becoming a good leader.

"No matter how good you think you are, it is never as good as it could be," Grange said, stressing that leaders always have to ask themselves how they can improve. "My job as a leader is to make it better."

Grange said that to go about improving a business, or in his

case, the 1st Infantry Division, thinking outside of the box is necessary.

"People fear the unknown. Don't get hung up on the perimeters of your area," Grange said. "You can't get better at something unless you think outside of the area you work in. You have to always look for smarter, faster ways to do things."

Grange added that another crucial part of achieving great things and being a good leader is to work hard, especially under stressful situations. He stressed that giving 110 percent and preparing under stress is where the tough leaders come out.

Grange also believes that even as important as a company or division becomes, leaders should continue to focus on their most important resource: The people.

"No matter how high tech an organization is, it's not as important as the individual; the human spirit. The people are the most important resource," Grange said. "People don't serve technology, technology serves people."

Grange added that communication with other people is crucial in a division's success, loyalty, confidence, and potential.

However, communications by means of e-mail, according to Grange, are wrong if the topic matter is of importance.

"I like to look a person in the eye and see their reaction. I can't do that by e-mail," he said. "It is a useful tool but not substitution for talking face-to-

face with someone."

Grange said that time was the second most important resource, next to people, in successfully leading an organization. He said that one must master time, sometimes by doing things simultaneously.

Business teacher and FBLA adviser Maria Wirth thought that the presentation was a success, and expects that students took something valuable away from it.

"I hope that when he discussed what it takes to be a leader that the audience really thinks about what a leader is and how they can grow and build on that in their business careers as leaders," Wirth said.

Students appreciated being able to hear Grange speak, as well as being able to ask him questions after his presentation.

"He talked about a lot of valuable concepts of leadership that everyone takes for granted at times," said junior Katy Rohrbach. "I felt lucky to be able to hear him speak and I think it's a shame the whole school couldn't be there."

Grange wished students well and encouraged them to keep working hard at their interests and at school to become successful leaders in the outside world.

"(High school) isn't a bad deal because I can show you places in the world where that's not the case," Grange said. "You are expected to do well because of that opportunity."

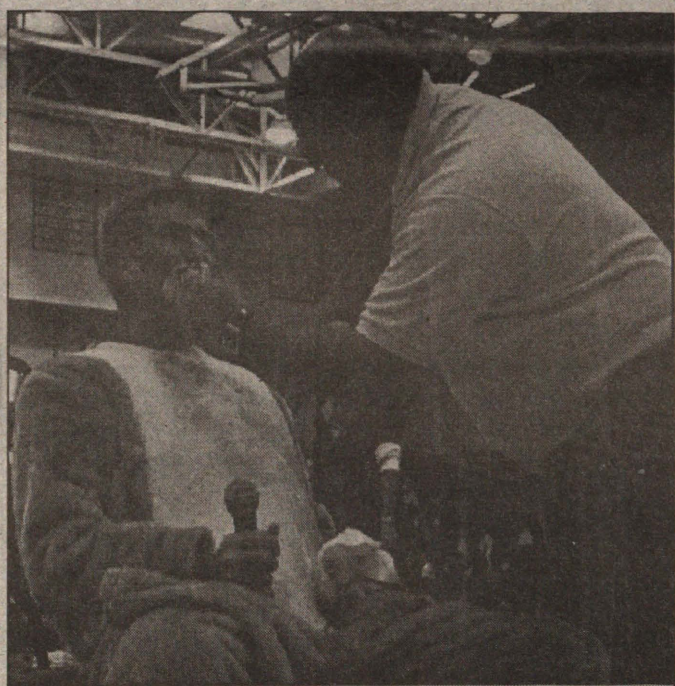


Photo by Andrea Bradley

The homecoming pep assembly was filled with surprises for both students and staff, especially during the spirit contest. Though it may have seemed as if first-year teachers Dave Jennings and Anthony LaRue, also known as the pep boys, were unfairly given the underclassmen to direct in cheering, Principal John Highland was stunned as the juniors and seniors sat in almost complete silence when their turn to cheer came. Soon after that loss, another came as he lived up to a bet he had made and had Miguel Arroyo shave off his mustache in front of the entire school.

Key Club... (continued from page 1)

Students wanting to donate can sign up in commons during all lunch periods up to a week before the drive.

All minors need written permission from their parents to participate. It is also preferred that teens schedule their appointments during their lunch or off-hours.

Heartland Blood Centers recommends that all those in-

terested in donating blood get plenty of sleep the night before and eat something a few hours before their appointment. Before they are able to actually give blood, Heartland representatives will interview prospective donors about their sexual history and recent travels to be sure they are eligible.

This is the ninth year Key Club has hosted a blood drive.

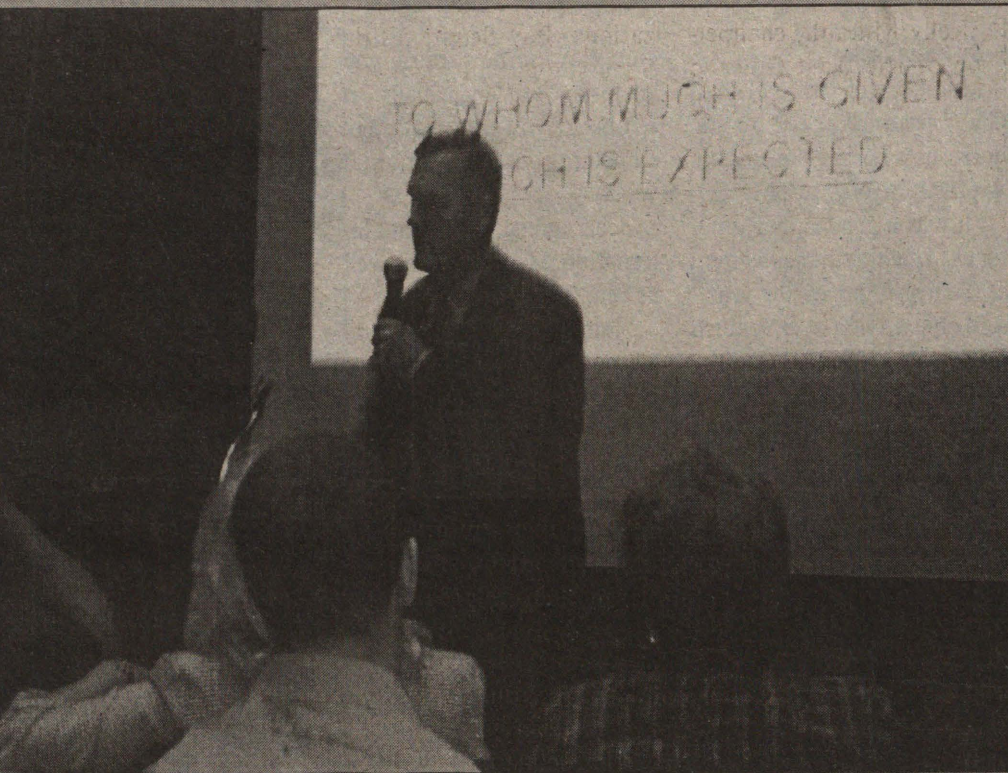


Photo by Katie Taylor

Former Commanding General Dave Grange speaks about leadership and responsibility to business classes and FBLA members, hoping to pass on wisdom that will aid them in their future careers. He leads by example, using his own career as a model for how others should lead.

School takes first step toward harvesting solar energy with grant for roof equipment

By David Thomas

With the price of fuel expected to rise this winter, the high school is searching for new ways to harvest heat energy.

One of those new ways is solar energy, which the Department of Energy described as a "clean, renewable" source of power.

Science teacher and weather station director Annette Rubino is heading the project.

"I cannot think of a better year for this program," said Rubino. "Especially since the price of gas and fuel is expected to rise 70 percent."

According to Rubino, the school's solar program is another step in a larger project. Five years ago, the school received a grant from the Aurora Foundation to start a weather

station.

"We collaborated with scientists from Fermilab and they said our station was great," said Rubino. "But they also said we needed a pyranometer."

A pyranometer measures sunlight on a flat surface. The instrument was a gift from the Toshiba Foundation

With the pyranometer, data was collected on how much sunlight the school receives. Under government prerequisites, the minimum length of sunlight needed for the grant is four hours.

"We meet that requirement," said Rubino. "We've also have a lot of flat roofs, another good quality."

The school was evaluated for solar power in August by the company Solar Service Inc.

Among those present was maintenance specialist Rick Flowers.

According to Flowers, the company representatives said the ideal place for the panels would be near the pool area.

There are two hot water storage tanks in the school. The old tank is located underneath the auditorium, while the other one is located by the pool area.

"It's mainly logistics," said Flowers. "It would be very hard, and very costly, to run pipes from the old tank to the roof. The new tank, on the other hand, is very close to the roof, making it ideal."

Two methods are being considered for collecting the solar power. One method will use solar panels similar to the ones found on solar calculators. But

the panels are problematic.

"They're only about 30 percent effective in converting solar energy to electricity," said Rubino. "Which is why we have Plan B."

Plan B consists of placing a black hose filled with water and antifreeze in clear panels with reflective plating. The sunlight would heat the water, reaching very high temperatures.

The hot water would then be pumped to the boilers, powering some utilities of the school, including laundering P.E. towels and heating the swimming pool.

However, several events need to happen before the solar panels are constructed.

Rubino has received two separate proposals from SSI. One proposal contains information regarding the swimming pool only, while the other includes all utilities.

According to Rubino, the entire program would have to be paid with grants.

"We're looking at the federal, state, and local levels for grant money," said Rubino. "If we can't get grant money, this program won't go."

Also, the program needs to be brought before the Board of Education. According to Rubino, we'll "have to make a compelling case to the board."

"There are still several questions that need to be answered, but they're mainly costs," said Rubino. "We also need a permit from the city."

Students get taste of future at Youth in Career Day

By Ellyn Fortino

Students throughout the school received a hands-on look at different careers during Youth in Career Day on Oct. 7.

Youth in Career Day is a program that allows students to spend a day with a person of the career field of their choice to get an idea of what the career is like.

Students can see what the job they have picked is really like and ask questions during the day to decide if that career is something that they would like to pursue in the future.

Business teacher Peggy Peach, who is in charge of Youth in Career Day, said that the day is very powerful for students because it can help them decide what they want to do when they are older.

"Kids get inspiration for different career fields by watching TV. 'CSI' has made a lot of students curious about forensic science and I am glad that we can offer an opportunity for students to see real life forensic scientists in action rather than just what they see on TV," she said.

The program includes mainly juniors and seniors, but sophomores and freshmen are allowed to participate as well. Usually about 60 people participate.

Junior Jamilla Lloyd participated in Youth in Career Day and said that the experience was fun and a good inside look at the job.

"It was very interesting," said Lloyd. "I saw things that I have never seen before such as taking off umbilical cords of newborns."

Lloyd went to Pediatric Health Associates and spent the day shadowing Timothy Wall. She observed different procedures including vaccinations. Also she saw one week old to 15-month-old babies.

Lloyd said that she would like to pursue a career in pediatrics after visiting the pediatric clinic.

"All the doctors there were really nice and I enjoyed the experience very much," she said.

The next Youth in Career Day will be March 3.

Peach recommends any student who is interested to participate next semester.

"You never know, you may get a job out of your shadowing, like previous students have," she said.

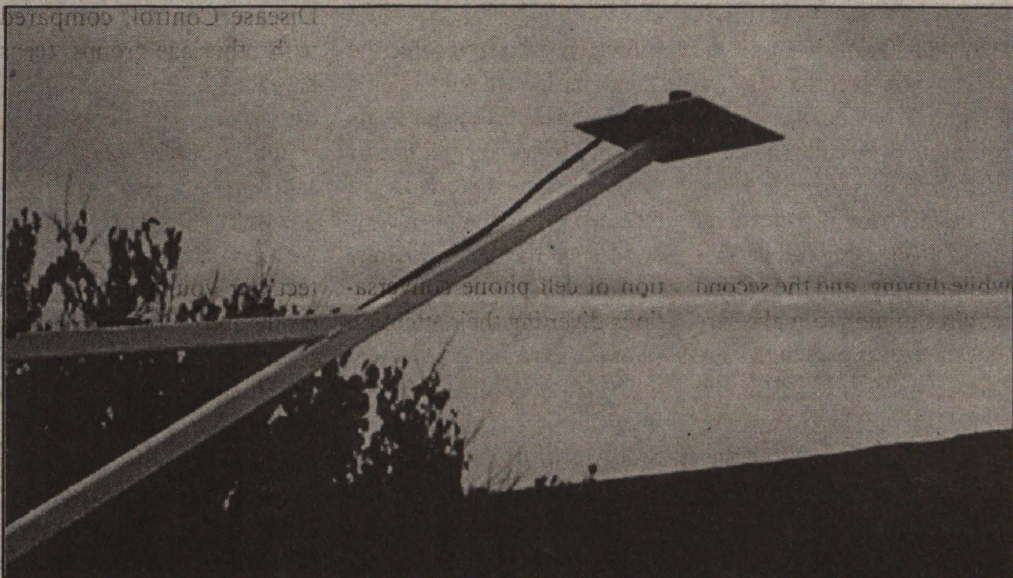


Photo by David Thomas

The school's pyranometer, a gift from the Toshiba Foundation, measures how much sunlight hits the roof, and how much solar energy could be taken.

Art Institute opens students to works from around the world

By Katie Taylor

Members of International Club broadened their artistic horizons when they visited the Art Institute of Chicago.

"It was a good opportunity for us to get together as a group at the beginning of the year," said club adviser and Spanish teacher Sarah Bellis. "Plus the added advantage of seeing world renowned artists from different cultures and time periods."

Students enjoyed looking at exhibits on the Oct. 6 trip, including a new display of photography of Paris, and seeing how art evolves through time.

"It was really weird to go from Monet's impressionist paintings to the modern art and photography. Art has changed so much over time, but it's all still so beautiful," said junior Britney Casey. "International

club is awesome because you get to have fun, and usually eat a lot, but you also really get something out of the activities we do."

Bellis agreed, saying that International Club is fun as well as beneficial.

"International Club is a really good way to teach students about diversity in West Chicago and the Chicagoland area," said Bellis. "Students can learn about different cultures, holidays, and customs. It gives us more of a global perspective."

Bellis encourages any students taking a foreign language to participate in club activities. Meetings are in room 303 Tuesdays at 7:20 a.m.

"We're always looking to add new members who want to experience different cultures and share their experiences."

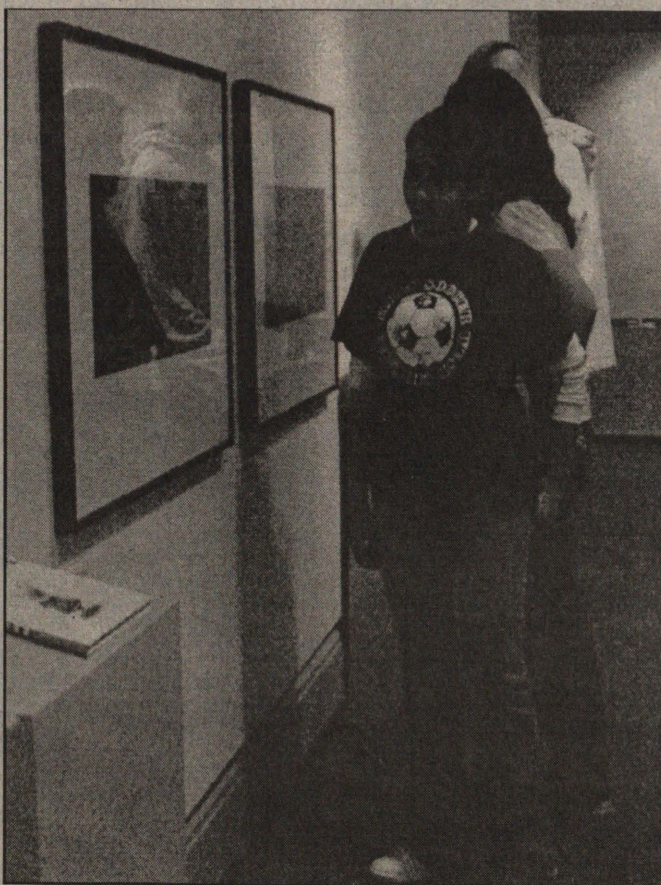


Photo by Katie Taylor

Sophomores Jeannette Alvez and Mariana Barajas saw diverse works of art at the Art Institute of Chicago on Oct. 6, which at the time focused on modern French photography.

Block schedule... (continued from page 1)

All freshmen would immediately enter the Freshman Academy, which, as the proposal describes, "would provide all freshmen with a common transition experience into the high school."

However, the other years would be split up into the other academies, depending on their score on the EXPLORE test.

The Foundation Academy would consist of students who did not score above a designated cutoff on the EXPLORE test. Foundation Academy students would have to take more core courses than the Future Academy.

Students then would only be able to exit the Foundation Academy and enter the Future Academy when they successfully take the PLAN or PSAE tests, or become seniors, depending on which occurs first.

The Future Academy would consist of seniors and students who scored above the designated cutoff. Future Academy students would take fewer core classes more electives.

Some classes would also be affected in the proposal.

The proposal would do away with all low enrollment electives, allowing for new elective courses to be "developed around academy needs and interests." Some of the electives would be expanded into "independent study options," in which students with a particular interest in an area can take an extensive course and still receive credit for it.

According to the proposal, there are advantages to block scheduling.

Students and teachers would not have to prepare for every class every day. The proposal is also "a good response to NCLB initiatives" and "cost effective."

But there are problems in the

system.

A new curriculum would have to be developed for the Freshman Academy. In addition, scheduling for students would be more complex and it would require teachers to teach an additional class. There is also the potential of teachers being laid off.

Under the proposal, 22 fewer teachers would be needed to teach class. According to Rieck, 10 to 12 teachers would be available to other options, including independent study. However, the remaining teachers could be laid off.

"There's always the potential of teachers being laid off," said Rieck. "But other factors play in that. Teachers could retire, or be reassigned. We're trying to stay away from laying off."

Time will also be needed to transition into the schedule.

But not everyone is welcoming the change.

Barbara Laimins, psychology teacher and president of the Teacher's Association, says that many questions still need to be answered.

"How's lunch going to work? How many students will we be teaching? These questions and many more need to be answered," said Laimins. "It also cannot be implemented unless the language of the current contract is changed."

Listed in each teacher's contract is a copy of the current schedule, making it impossible to change the schedule unless the contracts are void.

Laimins said that the block schedule will certainly be an issue during negotiations for teachers.

Rieck will present the proposal to all teachers at a meeting Oct. 27. Laimins predicts that "many questions will be asked at the meeting."

New state laws targets teen drivers and their cell phones

Summer brings two new limitations for minors



Photo by Kellie Virnich

Senior Brittany Rose, and all other minors, must pull over or wait to make calls on her cell phone because of the state ban.

By Katie Taylor

Teenagers need to hang up the phone and buckle up, according to two new laws passed July 15.

One law bans anyone under age 18 from using cell phones while driving, and the second requires minors to make sure that their teen passengers are properly buckled up in the front and back seats.

"We know that cell phones can be distracting. And most of us remember how distracting it can be just to be a teenager. On the roads, that combination can be especially dangerous, which is why it's important to enact legislation that prohibits teenagers from using their cell phones while driving," said Gov. Rod Blagojevich, in a press release.

In addition, Sen. John

Cullerton, who sponsored the cell phone law said in the same press release, "Teenage drivers who have just received their driver's license already face a number of challenges. They don't need the added distraction of cell phone conversations diverting their attention from the road."

The law has sparked some to wonder why the cell phone ban isn't for all drivers, and has angered some teenagers now affected by the law.

"It's unfair because I know plenty of adults that are bad drivers," said junior Katy Rohrback. "If they can have cell phones in their hands, they are just as much of a hazard as we are."

Drivers education dept. chair Dan Johnson agreed, stating that the roads would be

safer if the law applied to everyone.

"Studies show that reaction time is critical," said Johnson. "I personally think it should be hands free (cell phones) for everyone."

According to the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, Maryland, Maine, Connecticut, Tennessee, New Jersey, Colorado, Delaware, the District of Columbia and now Illinois, ban cell phone use for teenage drivers.

The other law, requiring drivers under 18 to make sure that their passengers under 19 are wearing seat belts in the front and back seats, will become effective Jan 1.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, compared with other age groups, teens have the lowest rate of seat belt use.

Rep. Deborah Graham, who sponsored the law, said in a press release, "I am pleased that we are taking this step to protect our young people from deaths and serious injuries that could be averted by the simple precaution of buckling up."

Adults and teens can both be pulled over by officers and be ticketed if they or their passengers are not wearing a seat belt.

"We've certainly made progress in terms of reducing fatalities and encouraging greater seat belt use," said Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Timothy Martin. "But we've still got more work to do. These measures signed by the governor should help save more lives."

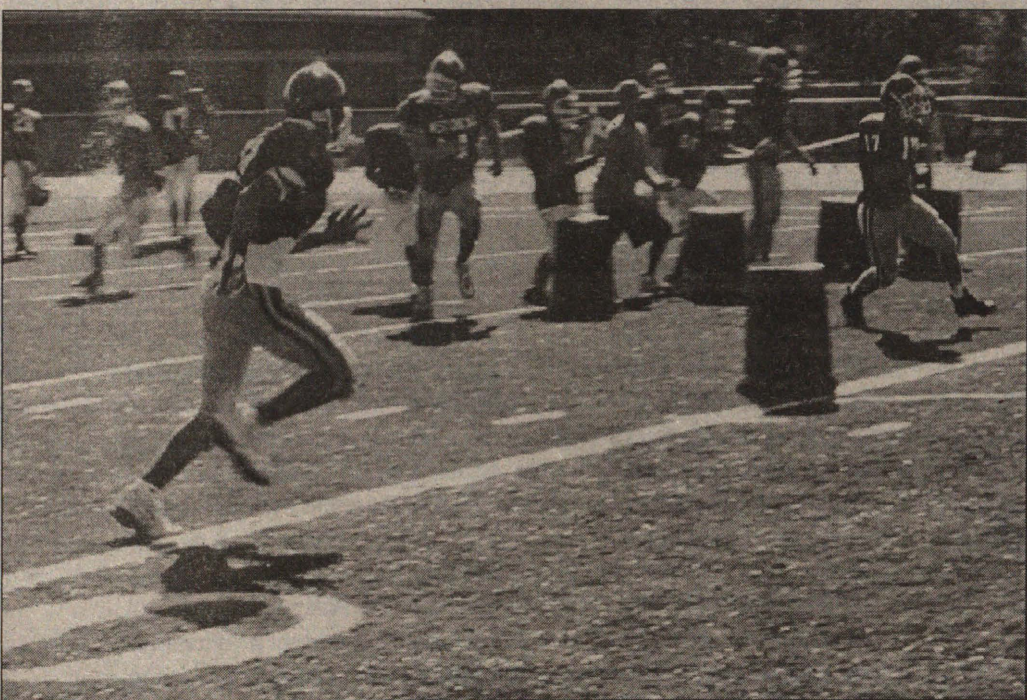


Photo by Julie Youngwith

Though the school district paid the city the permit fee to work inside the school, another permit was needed for construction to the football field. The new fee will cost the school almost \$6,000, in order to cover costs of possible damage to surrounding properties.

Different permit needed for turf

School district only secures permit for school's interior, not stadium

By Andrea Bradley

The school district failed to pay West Chicago for the correct permit to put down the turf on the stadium grounds.

The permit fee was not paid due to the recommendation of the district's architect.

The architect told the district that the permit purchased from the Regional Office of Education covered the construction on the exterior part of the school.

West Chicago council members said that the permit given by the ROE only applied to the construction inside of the

building and an extra permit was necessary.

Construction on the turf could have caused problems for neighboring houses, therefore the school needed to obtain a separate permit.

"It is unlikely that the dirt from the construction is going to spill over into a neighbor's yard, but since there is a chance, we needed to pay for a separate permit," said Supt. Lee Rieck.

Board members agreed to pay the fee for the permit, which will cost the school \$5,942.02.

Our View

Cell phone laws deemed unfair to teens

A new law in Illinois prohibits anyone under the age of 18 to talk on a mobile phone while driving. Instead of banning cell phones when driving altogether, the law only pertains to young drivers. This law unfairly targets teenagers.

If legislators ban cell phone use when driving, they should not only limit teens, but all drivers.

Talking on a cell phone when driving clearly causes problems on the road. A study by the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis found that motorists who talked on mobile phones while driving caused 1.5 million cases of property damage, as well as 2,600 deaths and 570,000 injuries annually.

Teens are less experienced and considered to be inferior drivers. In fact, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reported that teen drivers ages 16- to 19-years old are four times more likely to crash than

older drivers.

However, a study conducted by the University of Utah found that drivers who talked on cell phones, regardless of their age, were 18 percent slower in hitting their brakes than drivers who didn't use cell phones.

Therefore, according to the study, adults and teenagers both become worse drivers and are equally as susceptible to accidents when talking on their cell phones.

In a press release, Sen. John Cullerton, who sponsored the law as a senate bill, said, "Teenage drivers who have just received their driver's license already face a number of challenges. They don't need the added distraction of cell phone conversations diverting their attention from the road."

This is true, but adult drivers don't need the distractions either. While the number of teens who get in car

accidents will surely decrease with this new law, the number of accidents involving adults can only get worse if they are allowed to talk on their phones when they drive.

As soon as drivers turn 18, they can start talking on their cell phones, making them worse drivers than they were when they were restricted. Everyone should be banned from cell phone use when driving, which would help meet Gov. Rod Blagojevich's goal of reducing accident fatalities in Illinois to 1,000 or fewer by 2008.

Unfortunately, a ban on cellular phone use while driving for all ages doesn't seem to be a priority for lawmakers. American teens with cell phones, all 25 million of them according to Teen Vogue, will have to pull over or ignore their phone the next time they hear it ringing in the car.

In aftermath of Katrina, concentration should be strictly on reconstruction

Katrina. Most of the world knows her name now. It is a name that will be forever etched into the history of America as a storm that killed many people, crippled a section of the country, and caused havoc to a nation. Many officials are being criticized for the slow-moving emergency response to Hurricane Katrina and the inadequate protection for it, including the Bush administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Louisiana officials.

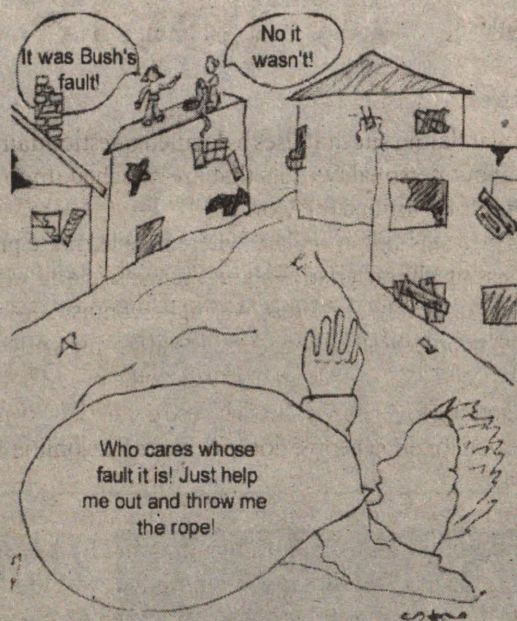
It looks like everyone is losing in the Katrina blame game. Many people say that the hurricane plans for protection fell apart when New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin ordered the evacuation, leaving New Orleans' poor and immobile population behind.

But there is reason to believe that Louisiana could have provided better hurricane protection long before Hurricane Katrina.

Research of more than 10 years of hurricane and flood damage mitigation efforts around New Orleans shows that local and state officials did not use federal money that was available for levee improvements or coastal reinforcements and did not secure other local funds that would have generated even more federal funding.

The state and local officials insist that the real problem with the emergency response to Katrina was that FEMA failed to deliver urgently needed help.

Others believe that President Bush is mostly to blame for this chaos because he cut funding for projects specifically designed to strengthen the levees,



which broke and caused the flooding.

A recent report commissioned by the Office of Secretary Defense showed that the relief efforts to fight

Hurricane Katrina were not a success due to divisions within the military and troop shortages caused by the war in Iraq.

The report shows how the Bush administration diverted funds for flood protection to other projects and how desperately needed National Guards were stuck in Iraq. Everyone is pointing fingers and so much time and energy are being put into the accusations that everyone is forgetting the real problem.

Part of our country is living in appalling conditions. Thousands of citizens are now homeless. Many of those people do not have food and water; they only have the clothes on their backs.

It will take months of assistance for these citizens to even begin to get some normalcy in their lives.

Rather than worry about who is to blame in the aftermath of this natural disaster, let's worry about how we can help our fellow citizens who lost everything.

While the politicians and media are bickering about who did what, many students at our school have taken action in the relief efforts. Key Club has set up a donation jar in commons where many students are unselfishly reaching deep into their pockets to help those who lost everything.

Our country needs to step back and take a look at what we really need to worry about right now.

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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.

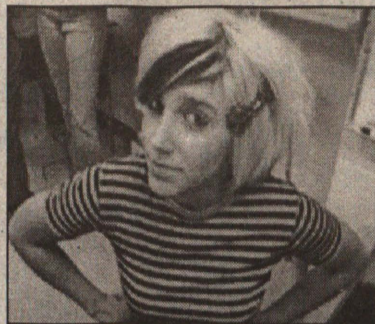
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although the staff may withhold a name upon request. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and may refuse to publish a letter. Letters to the editor may be e-mailed to Laura Kuehn at lkuehn@d94.org or delivered to Room 319 before or after school.

Many parents unknowingly contribute to teen alcohol use

By Ellyn Fortino

For many teenagers, alcohol is the drug of choice. It is used and abused more than any other substance, according to the Texas Medical Center, and it is involved in the three biggest causes of teen death: traffic accidents, homicides and suicides.

Alcohol use among teens is wide-ranging, not isolated to any single high school, as recent suspensions



for off-campus drinking and drinking at a home football game show, more than three million teenagers are alcoholics, the National Center on

Addiction and Substance Abuse estimates. Several million more teens suffer from a drinking problem that they are unable to manage.

One question needs answering: How could the problem have been solved before it started?

Reducing underage drinking requires a realization of the problem's true extent and an understanding that many of us unwittingly contribute to it.

For example, some parents host parties where the teens are allowed to drink, believing that this reduces

the number of teens driving under the influence.

Would these same parents allow their child to snort cocaine at home while supervised? Or maybe smoke crack or hash?

If a parent allows their child to drink at home, they may be forming habits in them that will last a lifetime and send the wrong message. The message they think they are sending about drinking only at home may not be the message being received. The message may be interpreted as "If it's all right at home, then it must be all right at a party."

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, teens who begin drinking before 15 are four times more likely to become dependent on alcohol than those who begin drinking at 21. And since teenagers with alcohol problems suffer higher levels of depression, anxiety, and various personality disorders the problem needs to be addressed now.

Police in the community should crack down on underage drinking. They could hold liquor sales compliance checks, increase road details, and break up underage parties where liquor is served.

Teens and adults can stop this wide-spread problem also by reporting any stores and people who violate the law by selling or purchasing alcohol for minors.

In school students should be more informed in their classes about state underage drinking laws, along with the health risks. Maybe then they will think twice about asking their parents or a friend to buy them alcohol, or going to the football game wasted.

Biased reporting on MySpace unfair to users

Some students offended by comments on 'Wego Thru the Tube'

By Cristina Sarnelli

It was recently reported on the last episode of "Wego Thru the Tube" that the website Myspace is the biggest online dating site on the Internet and that anyone who is against online dating and uses Myspace is a hypocrite.

To point the finger at students and call them hypocrites for using a site that is mistaken for being an online dating service and to claim that they have no lives is completely inappropriate, especially considering the facts were not even correct.

According to datingsitecomparisons.com, the top three most popular dating sites are GreatExpectations.com, Yahoo.com Personals, and PerfectMatch.com, concluding that Myspace is not the biggest online dating site out there, that is, if it is even considered an online dating site. The title of the website is "Myspace: A Place for Friends." It is not called "Myspace: An Online-Dating Service."

Under its privacy policy, Myspace states, "MySpace.com is an online service that allows our members to set up unique personal profiles that can be linked together through networks of friends. MySpace members can view each others' profiles, communicate with old friends and meet new friends on the service, share photos, post journals and comments, and describe their interests."

The site does not mention anything about being an online dating service. Although it is possible for singles to search for other singles, it is not set up like most online dating sites out there such as eHarmony.com, a

popular dating site that uses a detailed questionnaire asking about personality traits that are matched up to other people form around the world.

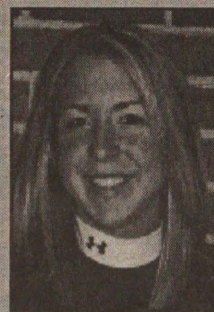
Myspace is simply a place where people create profiles discussing characteristics about themselves and meeting new or old friends and discovering new music. Whether or not people would like to start a relationship with others they meet on the site is completely up to them, and Myspace has nothing to do with it. Just because the site allows people to search for other people does not make it an online dating service.

And even if it was a dating site, so what if students at the high school would like to use a dating site? If students feel that using a dating site is something that would interest them, fine. There is no need for insults and name-calling. Opinions should be expressed in a mature matter, professionally and appropriately, and both sides of the opinion should be expressed. If one student dislikes something, another student should be asked the same question with the opposite answer so there is no bias. Also, research should be done to make sure the information being given is correct.

That segment was offensive to many students at the school because they felt that the segment was made to purposely insult them, and it should have been made with a better approach. If the segment was made with a more serious approach, displaying both perspectives on the opinion without bashing or putting on skits to make fun of the issue, then perhaps many more students would have gotten more out of the segment instead of feeling insulted after watching it.

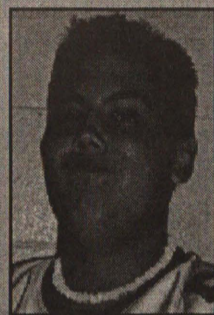
What made them feel even worse is that the information was not even correct. Many students knew that Myspace is not an online dating site, and after being insulted for using it, they felt upset. Programs at Community High School should be used to inform students of what is going on around them in positive ways. They should not be used to insult and mock students.

Question and Answer What are you being for Halloween?



Sara Kufta
Senior

"Three of my friends and I are going to be the Ninja Turtles and I'm dressing up as Michaelangelo."



Matt Werner
Junior

"I'm going to be a tree basically because I like trees."



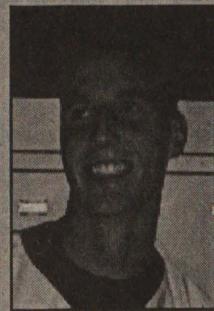
Jake Bradley
Freshman

"I'm going to be a clown to mock all of my friends who are scared of clowns."



Addi Huerta
Sophomore

"I'm going to be a cat and I have a cute little tail that I'm excited to wear."



Eric Weichert
Senior

"I'm probably going to be Elf from the movie 'Elf'."

"I am going to be a candy striper with my friend because we both look cute in the costumes."



Katrina Means
Junior

Eerie, spooky, creepy tales and legends

The Red Spot

A girl was sleeping peacefully in her bed as a spider crawled quietly up onto her face. It stayed there for several minutes, until it skittered off her face and out of sight. The next morning the girl looked in the mirror and saw a red spot on her face. It must be a spider bite, she thought.



The tiny red dot began to grow over the next few days. It was no longer a spot, but a large red bump. The bump started to hurt her, and she decided she would go see a doctor the next day to see what the red bump was. The girl decided to take a bath, and as she became drenched in the water, the bump burst, and a horde of little black spiders poured out from the red bump. The spider that had been crawling on her face a few nights before had laid eggs in her cheek.

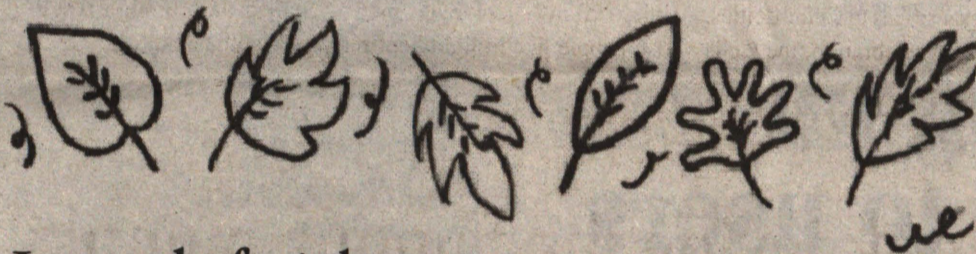
Something Was Wrong

One day a man was walking down the street in the city. He didn't know why he was there or what he was doing. He wanted to know what time it was, so he stopped a woman in the street and asked for the time. The woman screamed in horror and ran away from the man.

As he continued to walk down the street, he noticed how people passing him had cringed and gasped. He decided he needed to get home, so he tried stopping a taxi but was ignored. His attempts for finding a ride home failed, and he called his wife so she could come and pick him up.

But when he called his home, his wife did not answer. He asked the stranger if his wife was home. The stranger told him that his wife was not home because she was attending her husband's funeral. He had died in a horrific car crash a few days earlier.

Stories from halloweenishere.com



Instead of trick-or-treating, Hispanics honor the departed during Day of the Dead

By Sabrina Potirala

Halloween is usually a time when people get dressed in costumes and go trick-or-treating, but for some it is a time to honor the dead.

In Mexico, Latin America, and Spain, All Souls' Day, which takes place on Nov. 2, is commemorated with a three-day celebration that begins on the evening of Oct. 31, according to historychannel.com.

All Souls' Day, sometimes referred to as the Day of the Dead, is a celebration that is designed to honor the dead who, it is believed, return to their earthly homes on Halloween.

Candles and incense are burned in order to help the deceased find their way home. Upon death, it is believed that souls have not yet been cleansed of sin. Praying for souls of loved ones helps to remove the stain of sin, and allow the souls to enter the gates of heaven.

Historychannel.com states that many families construct an

altar to the dead in their homes to honor deceased relatives or friends during this time. The altar that was created is then decorated with candy, flowers, photographs, samples of the deceased's favorite foods and drinks, and fresh water for the return of a loved one's spirit. In most cases, a wash basin and towel are left out so the deceased's spirit can wash before indulging in the feast that has been left out.

Another sign of welcoming home loved ones that have passed on is to tidy up the gravesites. To appease their departed family members, relatives partake in snipping weeds, making repairs, and painting. The grave is then decorated with flowers, wreaths, or paper streamers.

On Nov. 2, relatives then once again gather at the gravesite to have a picnic and reminisce about the deceased.

Celebrations that are similar to those of All Souls' Day can be traced as far back to ancient Egyptian times.



Halloween is known to be a time when people stay up late playing ghost in the sheets with creepy spiderwebs. Do you really know where Halloween came from? Which cultures celebrate it? Check out some Halloween traditions you might not know about.

GHOST



PUMPKIN



What you may not know

By Sabrina Potirala

Come October, pumpkins can be seen on display on doorsteps. Do you know where the jack o'lantern tradition began?

People have been making jack o'lanterns worldwide for centuries. According to historychannel.com, this custom originated from an Irish myth.

According to the story, Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink. Jack did not want to pay for his drink so he tricked the Devil into turning into a golden coin. Jack decided that he would rather pocket the change next to a silver coin than have the Devil bother him. Eventually, Jack decided to free the Devil from his silver coin. He decided to free the Devil by making a deal with him: the Devil would bother Jack for one year and if Jack should die the Devil would free him.

Staying true to Jack's requirement, the Devil did not bother him for a year. However, the Devil came back to exact his revenge on Jack for tricking him. Once the Devil was back, Jack climbed a tree in order to pick a piece of fruit. While the Devil was climbing the tree, Jack cut the bark that would not permit the Devil to come down. Jack then escaped the Devil for another 10 years.

Soon after this encounter, Jack died. As the legend goes, God took Jack to heaven. The Devil, who had been tricked by Jack and kept his word, was sent to hell either.

Left without a place to go, Jack ran off into the night with only a piece of coal into a carved-out turnip and since that night has been roaming the earth, Jack is doomed to this fate for all eternity.

The Irish eventually began to refer to the ghostly figure as "Jack-o'-lantern."



In Ireland and Scotland, people began to make their own jack-o'-lanterns from turnips or potatoes. They would then place them in windows to ward off other unwanted evil spirits, according to historychannel.com. Eventually, people began to discover that pumpkins, a fruit native to America,

HALLOWEEN

to many as trick-or-treating, staying in the graveyard, decorating houses with pumpkins and skeletons, but do you actually know where Halloween originated or how other traditions came about? Check out these cool facts that will make you a pro on October 31st.



Costume Ideas

WITCH  **NINJA** **VAMPIRE**  **PRINCESS** 



What you don't know about Jack

doorsteps across the country. However, few Americans know the story behind the tradition. It dates back to the Celtic festival of Samhain, which was held on the night of October 31st. The Celts believed that on this night, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of Oct. 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. Celts also believed that the presence of spirits made it easier for Druids, also known as Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future. To celebrate the event, Druids built sacred bonfires where people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to Celtic deities. During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes that consisted of animal heads and attempted to tell each others fortunes. When the celebration was over, they re-lit the fires to help protect them during the coming winter. By the year 43 A.D., Romans had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. During this time, two festivals of Roman origin were combined with Samhain. Together, they were known as the eve of All Saints', All Saints', and All Souls', according to historychannel.com. This later became known as Halloween and eventually Hallowmas. Halloween is still celebrated in Ireland as much as it is here in the United States. However, many Irish people like to light bonfires and act as if they were in the days of the Celts. Much like the American tradition for Halloween, children all over the country of Ireland dress up in costumes and spend the evening trick-or-treating in their neighborhoods. After trick-or-treating, most people attend parties with their neighbors or friends. At the parties many games are played. One of the most popular is a game called snap-apple. This game consists of a string that is tied to a door frame or tree and players attempt to bite the hanging apple attached to the string. The Irish also bob for apples. Another popular event that takes place at the parties is a treasure hunt, with candy or pastries as the prize, as well as a card game where cards are face down on a table with candy or coins underneath them. Whenever a person picks the card, they receive whatever prize is found below it. According to historychannel.com, when Irish immigrants came to the United States, they brought these customs with them.

Halloween's roots lie with the Irish

By Sabrina Potirala
The Irish gave us more than potatoes, leprechauns, and Colin Farrell. They also gave us Halloween. Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, celebrated the new year on Nov. 1. This day marked the end of summer and the beginning of winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death.

Historychannel.com states that Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of Oct. 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. Celts also believed that the presence of spirits made it easier for Druids, also known as Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future. To celebrate the event, Druids built sacred bonfires where people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to Celtic deities. During the celebration, the Celts

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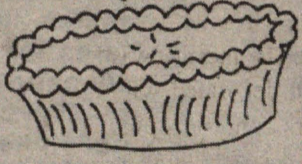
and act as if they were in the days of the Celts. Much like the American tradition for Halloween, children all over the country of Ireland dress up in costumes and spend the evening trick-or-treating in their neighborhoods. After trick-or-treating, most people attend parties with their neighbors or friends. At the parties many games are played. One of the most popular is a game called snap-apple. This game consists of a string that is tied to a door frame or tree and players attempt to bite the hanging apple attached to the string. The Irish also bob for apples. Another popular event that takes place at the parties is a treasure hunt, with candy or pastries as the prize, as well as a card game where cards are face down on a table with candy or coins underneath them. Whenever a person picks the card, they receive whatever prize is found below it. According to historychannel.com, when Irish immigrants came to the United States, they brought these customs with them.



Pulp fact or fiction?

A look inside the famous pumpkin

The biggest pumpkin pie ever made weighed a whopping 418 pounds!



Pumpkins are good for your health. They are low in calories, and they are an excellent source of fiber, vitamins A and B, protein, potassium, and iron. Yummy!

Pumpkins, commonly mistaken as vegetables, are fruits. They are part of the gourd family, which also includes cucumbers and melons.



The biggest pumpkin was grown in New Hampshire. It was 1,337 pounds!

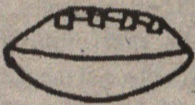
Paw Prints

Physical Education

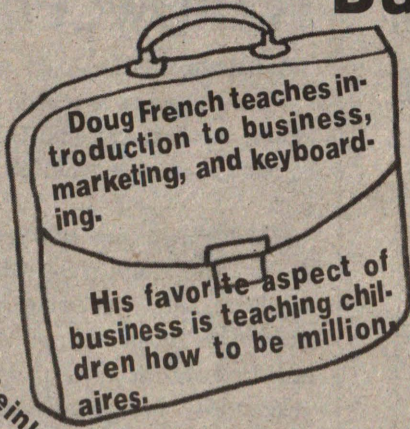
Byron Delcid teaches physical education, sheltered health, bilingual health, and drivers education. His favorite sport is baseball (right).



Jamie Philips teaches physical education and is a math facilitator. His favorite sport is wrestling (left).

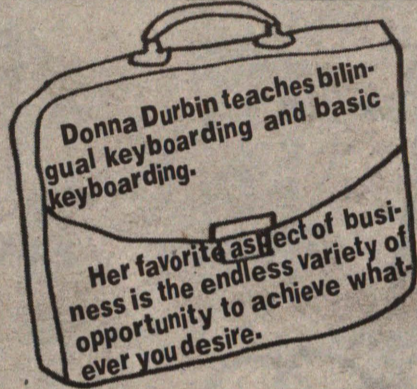


Andy Reinke teaches physical education and health. His favorite sport is football (not pictured).



Doug French teaches introduction to business, marketing, and keyboarding. His favorite aspect of business is teaching children how to be millionaires.

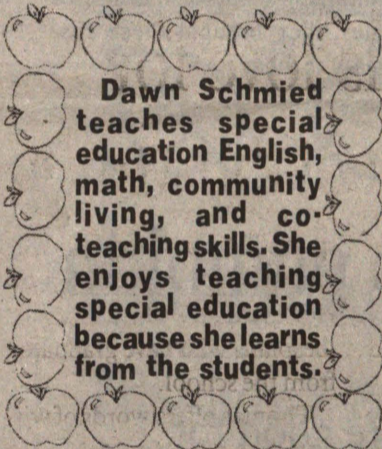
Business



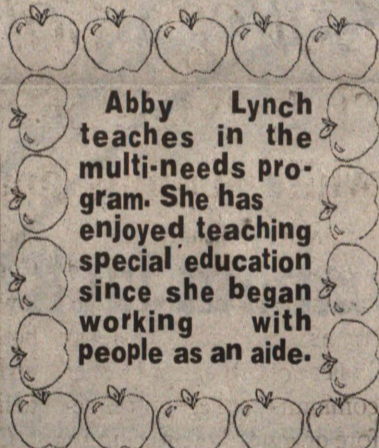
Donna Durbin teaches bilingual keyboarding and basic keyboarding. Her favorite aspect of business is the endless variety of opportunity to achieve whatever you desire.

They're back! Here are the physical education, business, special education, industrial arts, and art teachers that we promised to show you this issue. Make sure to give them a warm welcome if you see them walking down the hallway.

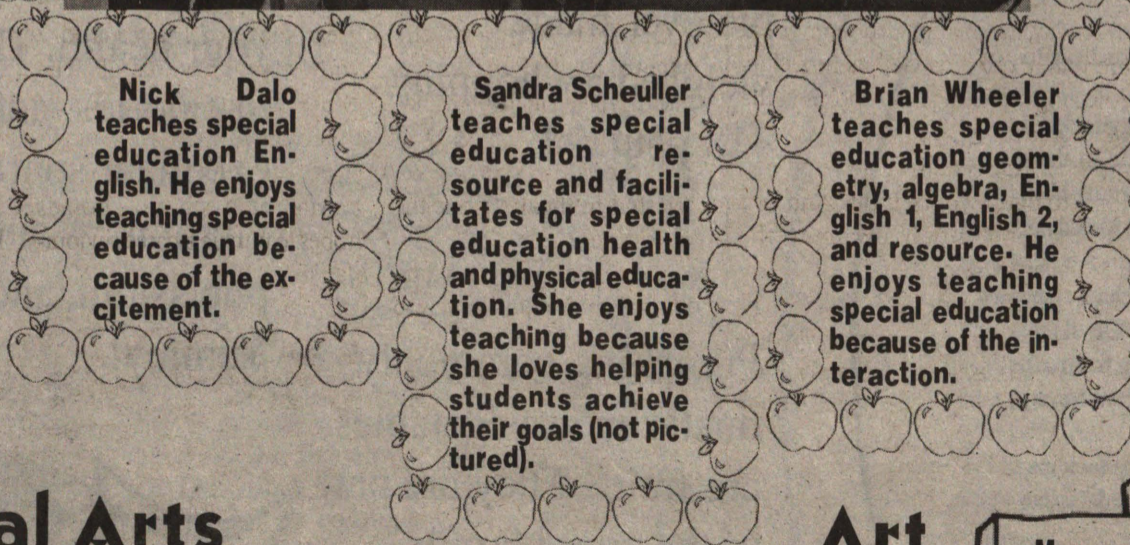
Special Education



Dawn Schmied teaches special education English, math, community living, and co-teaching skills. She enjoys teaching special education because she learns from the students.



Abby Lynch teaches in the multi-needs program. She has enjoyed teaching special education since she began working with people as an aide.



Nick Dalo teaches special education English. He enjoys teaching special education because of the excitement.

Sandra Scheuller teaches special education resource and facilitates for special education health and physical education. She enjoys teaching because she loves helping students achieve their goals (not pictured).

Brian Wheeler teaches special education geometry, algebra, English 1, English 2, and resource. He enjoys teaching special education because of the interaction.

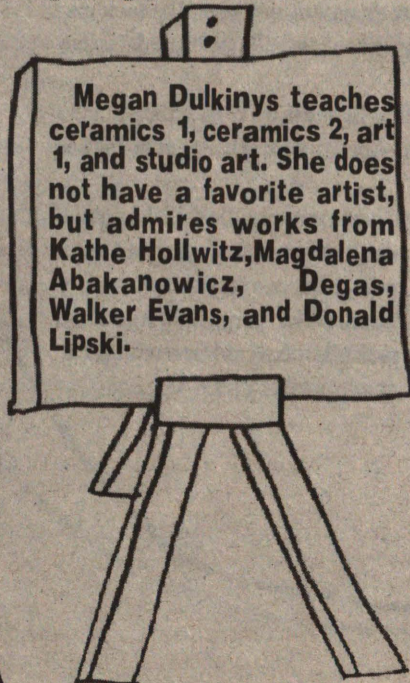
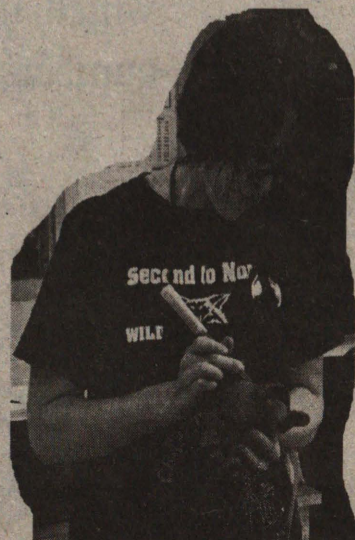
Industrial Arts



Michael Terronez teaches mechanical drawing and home maintenance. He suggests students take these classes so they can learn about technology.



Art



Megan Dulkinys teaches ceramics 1, ceramics 2, art 1, and studio art. She does not have a favorite artist, but admires works from Kathe Hollwitz, Magdalena Abakanowicz, Degas, Walker Evans, and Donald Lipski.

Homecoming ends on a fairy tale note

By Andrea Bradley

Hi-ho, hi-ho, it was off to homecoming We-go!

This year, the school celebrated homecoming in a dif-

ferent style. Disney was the theme, and each class represented a classic Disney movie.

Freshmen were assigned the Jungle Book, sophomores had

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, juniors had Beauty and the Beast, while the seniors had Cinderella.

Festivities started with the pep assembly on Sept. 23. Sports captains pumped up the crowd, students got covered in eggs during an egg drop game, and the famous mustache of Principal John Highland was shaved off.

Teachers and students combined to help Highland lose the bet. It put Highland up against the Pep Boys, teachers Dave Jennings and Anthony LaRue.

The boys bet Highland that they could get the freshmen and sophomores to cheer louder than the seniors.

Highland did not know that teachers were in on the bet. Teachers passed the word along quickly to their students throughout the day.

When Highland tried to get the seniors and juniors to cheer, there was no sound. Highland lost the bet and had to say good-bye to his mustache.

The following week started with the second annual dodge ball tournament. The tournament drew in a lot of students, each paying \$1 to hurricane Katrina relief.

"The dodge ball tournament was fun. The best part was when the crowd started quacking when 'The Mighty Ducks' came out," said senior Taylor Alperin.

Following dodge ball, students and teachers got ready for the pep rally, which ended up being rescheduled due to rain.

Following the week's activities was movie night. The school showed the Disney movie "Friday Night Lights." After school, students prepared for the pep rally. First, students who represented sports and clubs rode through West Chicago in the parade. The teachers also had a float this year, which was decorated as "The Pirates of the Caribbean."

Float winners for the parade were the juniors, with their set-up of the Beauty and the Beast.

After the parade, the annual

powder puff game was played. Juniors and seniors clashed, with the juniors winning one game 7-0, while the seniors took over the other half of the field with a 14-7 victory.

As the girls practiced earlier in the week for football, the boys had been practicing something else. For the half-time and end of the game entertainment, senior guys came onto the field in cheerleading uniforms to lead the Wildcat fans in their cheers.

Spirit was high during the football game, but within the first 12 seconds, the Naperville Central Red Hawks scored a touchdown. The Squad brushed it off, and kept their spirit high until the end of the game.

The game ended 51-21, but students cheered until the end.

By the time the homecoming dance came around students forgot about the loss, and concentrated on the dance.

Travis Saville was crowned homecoming king, while Lauren Buscemi was crowned queen.

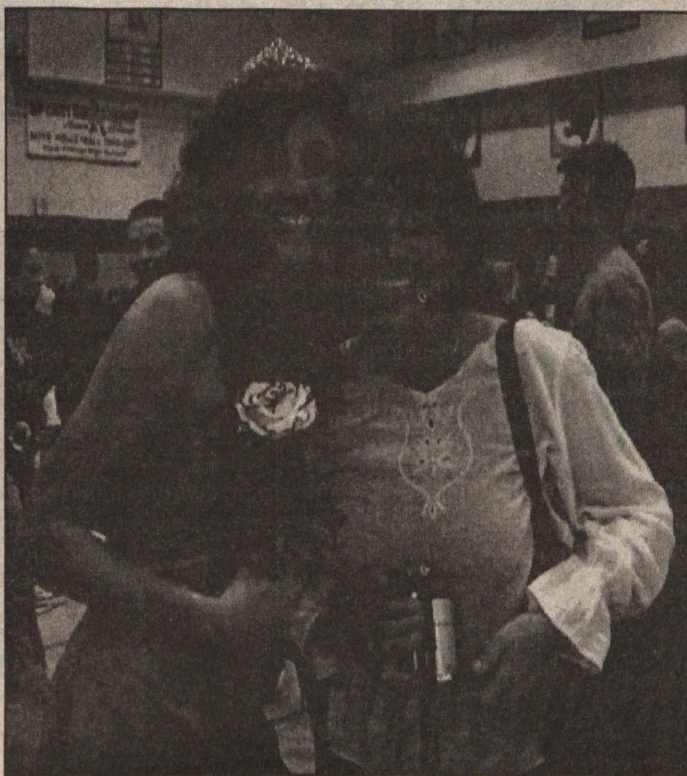


Photo by Andrea Bradley

Lauren Buscemi and her mother, Kathi, embrace after Lauren was crowned queen at the pep assembly that kicked off homecoming week.

College Column...

Students take on responsibilities while sending applications

By Kelle Virnich

As seniors buckle down and continue applying for college, some should consider going to College of DuPage or another community college, either before or instead of attending a four-year university.

Though many students are prejudiced against the idea of going to a community college, head counselor Maura Bridges said that it may be best for many teens after high school.

"C.O.D. is a wonderful junior college, one of the most highly-ranked in the nation," said Bridges. "It's a really good choice for students who still need to figure out exactly what they want to do."

Most community colleges offer a wide variety of general education classes that can be transferred to other colleges and universities. Students who are unsure of their major can take required classes for a fraction of the cost, then transfer into another school when they are more prepared.

Bridges said students who did not perform very well academically in high school get a second chance if they do well at a community college before applying to another school.

Students should also take money and living arrangements into consideration when

choosing which school to attend. Community colleges usually allow students to live at home, both saving them money and giving them a chance to adjust to life on their own.

C.O.D. held a college fair today, informing students what they offer, as well as introducing them to other schools in the area.

Bridges said, "It's a good way to figure yourself out, and you can apply nearly any time of the year for about \$15."

For students looking at schools in the area, many representatives are visiting the school to give information about their colleges during lunch hours and at special presentations. Students should look into these seminars, and continue scheduling visits at their prospective schools.

The most important thing, Bridges advised, is getting your applications in, as the deadline for many early decisions and preferred profiling is coming to an end. She said to hand in counselor forms as soon as possible, and give teachers plenty of time to write recommendations.

Students must also be sure that they have sent their best ACT or SAT scores to their prospective schools, as the high school no longer does it, and for going to each test's website and paying to have them sent.

Dave Thomas acts out his love for theater, resulting in Artist of the Month

(Each month a different fine arts teacher will select Artist of the Month. Drama teacher Mary Hafertepe chose Dave Thomas as Artist of the Month.)

By Julie Youngwith

October Artist of the Month, Dave Thomas has been involved in theater since an early age.

Thomas knew he was interested in theater since the sixth grade.

"My sixth grade reading teacher was really big into theater so we always performed little plays and skits and I loved being in them," said Thomas.

Thomas became involved in thespians his freshman year, garnering small parts in "Arsenic and Old Lace" and "Italian Straw Hat".

His sophomore year, Thomas earned another small part in "Twelve Angry Jurors" and his first lead role in the spring musical, "Brigadoon".

Thomas played Jeff Douglas, an American tourist who gets lost in the Scottish highlands with his best friend and together they find a magical town.

Thomas said that Jeff was his favorite character he has ever played.

"I had so much fun with

that character. Maybe it's because Jeff reminds me a little bit of myself. I could really explore with the part," said Thomas.

Play director Mary Hafertepe said, "Dave has a great sense of humor and a witty way with words when he expresses his all-too-honest opinions. But, an artist needs to be true to himself."

After high school, Thomas hopes to pursue a career in journalism or film.

A few people who have in-

spired Thomas throughout his theater career are actors Dustin Hoffman, Al Pacino and past thespians who have graduated from the school.

Thomas offers words of wisdom to students interested in pursuing theater, "Don't be discouraged if you don't get a part. Sometimes the part you want is not right for you."

Students can look forward to seeing Thomas perform soon. He was recently cast as a lead in the fall play, "The Nerd" on Nov. 17, 18 and 19.

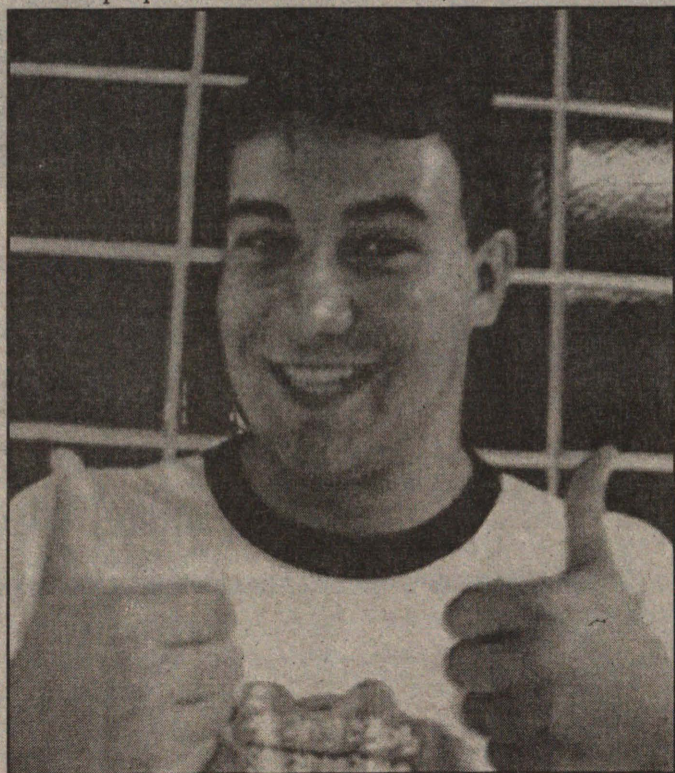


Photo by Julie Youngwith

Dave Thomas looks forward to playing a major role in the upcoming play "The Nerd."

What's the Secret to your Success?



Start Here:

It's time to go out at night! What's your favorite part of getting ready?

- A. Straightening/Curling your hair like your favorite star.
- B. Giving yourself a pedicure that goes with those cute strappy shoes.
- C. Spending an hour trying the latest makeup techniques.

You get \$100 for your birthday, how would you spend that money?

- A. Get a great haircut or highlights at an upscale salon.
- B. Get acrylic nails put on and a spa pedicure to make your feet extra soft.
- C. Splurge on new makeup of course!

You are on the cover of Cosmopolitan. What does the cover say?

- A. Stylist to the stars creates amazing hairdos for the Oscars!
- B. Get beautiful nails and soft skin with tips from a pro!
- C. Stars flock to latest skin care treatments from high end day spa!

You've graduated and are looking for a job. What will make someone hire you?

- A. You have an eye for the latest trends.
- B. You are creative and have an eye for detail.
- C. You make others relaxed around you.

I want to start my career in...?

- A. 10 months
- B. 12 weeks
- C. 5 months

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Wallace and Gromit reunite to save the day

Visuals: A-
Story: B-
Claymation: A
Overall: B+

By David Thomas

It was only a matter of time before Wallace & Gromit made

their debut on the silver screen. Almost every successful cartoon series has had a theatrical or video release. Bugs Bunny, Mickey Mouse, Peter Griffin; all of them have some sort of movie.

Yep, it was only a matter of

time before Wallace & Gromit hit the big screen. They are a huge success back in their homeland of England, and they have a small following here in the U.S. And "Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit" will definitely increase their numbers.

For starters, the entire movie was done out of claymation. That's impressive, considering some of the movie's locations.

It opens up with our heroes catching the ultimate pest: a rabbit. They've already established a successful and humane anti-rabbit business, and the community lauds them as heroes.

'I'm absolutely crackers for cheese!'

-- Wallace

But that doesn't mean they don't have problems. Wallace's (voice of Peter Sallis) obsession with cheese ("I'm absolutely crackers for cheese!") has made him fat. His diet now is vegetables.

The heroes also keep and care for the rabbits they catch. But with the annual Giant Vegetable Competition only days away, Wallace and Gromit are beginning to run out of room.

They soon get a call from the beautiful Lady Tottington (voice of Helena Bonham Carter). Her yard has been infested with rabbits, and she's afraid her snobby, arrogant, gun-loving suitor Lord Victor Quartermaine (voice of Ralph

Fiennes) will go on a rampage.

Wallace and Gromit arrive and save the rabbits and the movie's G-rating in the nick of time. It is here that Wallace not only becomes smitten with Lady Tottington, but also gets an idea that only inspires chaos.

His idea? By using his new, never-before-tested Mind-o-Matic, he plans to brainwash (yes, that's right, brainwash) all the rabbits into not eating carrots. But the process goes horribly, and predictably, wrong. Soon, a giant monster is eating all the vegetables in sight, threatening the competition.

Supporting the outlandish story is slapstick comedy. And it works. Wallace, who's also an inventor, meaning his house is filled with gadgets, slides through a hole in his bedroom floor to go downstairs and eat breakfast. He gets stuck, and Wallace asks for assistance. "Assistance" comes in the form of a hammer pounding Wallace through the hole. Besides, the rabbits are too cute in some parts.

But it eventually wears out its welcome and becomes really annoying at some points.

And the ending is drawn-out. Not as long as the constant fade-in/fade-outs of the third "The Lord of the Rings," but you eventually begin to lose patience.

And, like all movies, this one has a message. The movie's basically saying that violence is wrong. Because if we're dead-set on killing something, the movie reasons, wouldn't that make us monsters too?

Oh, and brainwashing is bad.

Grading Scale

A = Awesome
B = Good
C = All right
D = Could be worse
F = Absolutely horrible

Top 10 scariest movies

With Halloween only days away, every movie channel will air hours of horror movies. Thus, it's only fitting that October's theme is horror movies. Here is the Top 10 Scariest Movies, as chosen by the Chronicle staff.

1. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (2003)
2. Saw (2004)
3. The Ring (2002)
4. The Shining (1980)
5. Child's Play (1988)
6. A Nightmare On Elm Street (1984)
7. The Exorcist (1974)
8. Amityville Horror (2005)
9. Halloween (1978)
10. Leprechaun (1993)



Gromit (shown above) has have his work cut out for him: he's up against a gun-loving lord, and a rampaging monster.

A meal fit for anyone...for a price

By Julie Youngwith

Bar Italia, located off Geneva's historic Third Street, is a calm, chic and quietly comfortable Italian-American restaurant. The tasteful restaurant entrance is covered by a green awning, separating the restaurant from the neighboring antique and specialty shops.

The newly remodeled restaurant, formerly known as Ristorante Chianti's, has an elegant atmosphere. It is a great place for a dinner for two or a banquet for 40.

Upon arrival, the guests are greeted by a hostess and are led through the bar area, to one of two dining areas.

The tables are elegant and graceful with white linen service. They are set with wine-glasses and a votive candle. In

the corner of each dining room there is a little cast iron fireplace for guests to enjoy.

If the guests follow another set of stairs there is a banquet room reserved for large groups.

While looking at the menu guests are given a chance to sample the fresh bread still warm from the oven.

The menu consists of many salads, steaks and veal, seafood, chicken and pasta entrees, as well as a variety of appetizers including fried calamari and oven roasted crab cakes.

Entrées vary from \$5.95 for a light salad to \$29.95 for a rib eye steak dinner.

A main course, at a cost of \$14.95, consisted of six ricotta filled cheese raviolis tossed in a basil pesto sauce. It was very rich and filling, almost enough

Atmosphere: A
Service: B
Food: B
Overall: B+

for two people to split.

For \$18.95 guests can order the roasted chicken vesuvio. This entrée consists of a specially seasoned whole chicken roasted in a garlic white wine sauce, served with potato wedges and peas.

The food was delectable, and the portions were generous.

The staff was very warm while also being very professional.

If one opts for dessert the restaurant offers many ice cream and cake dishes.

Overall, Bar Italia has a very nice atmosphere and delicious

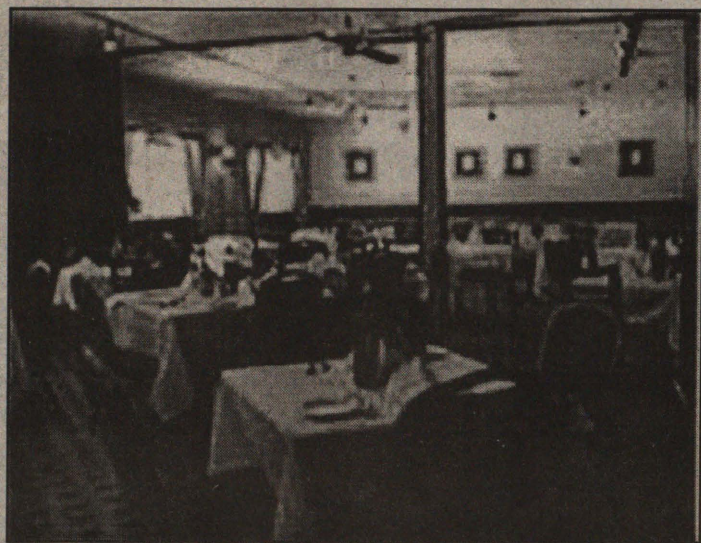


Photo by Julie Youngwith

Contrary to name, Bar Italia offers more than Italian food. The menu includes chicken, steaks, salads, and calamari.

food. However, the menu was a little pricey.

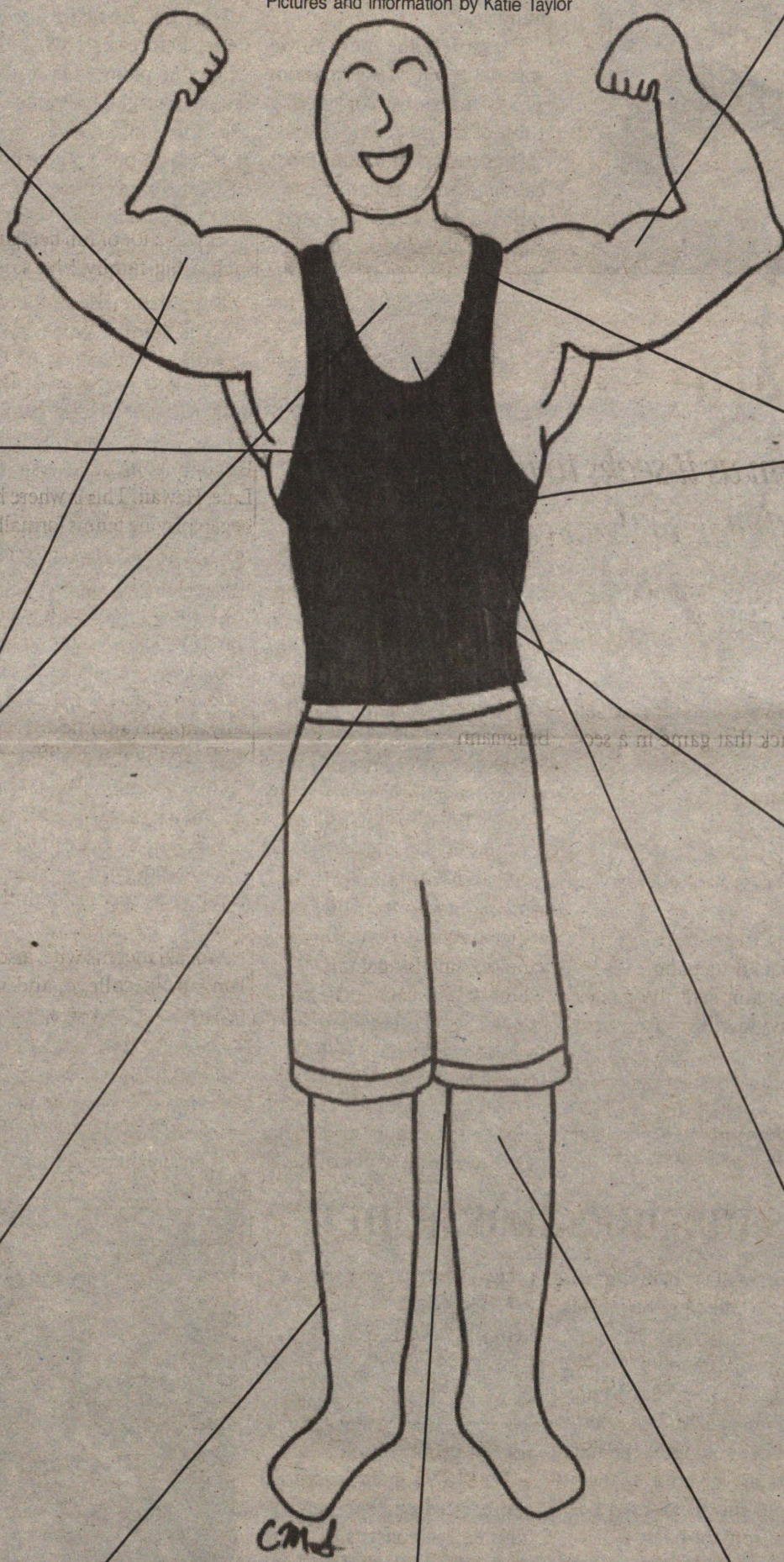
It is a great place to come together for an afternoon or evening of warm hospitality in an unhurried atmosphere.

Bar Italia is located at 207 Third Street, Geneva. Hours: 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday.

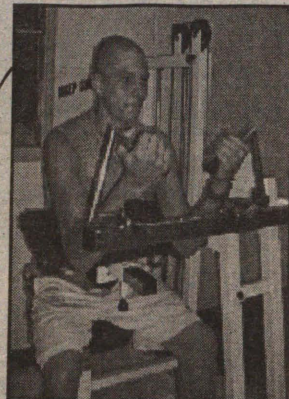
New fitness room helps keep teens in shape

With a big selection of machines, staff and students find different ways to push their bodies to the limit, and reach their goals

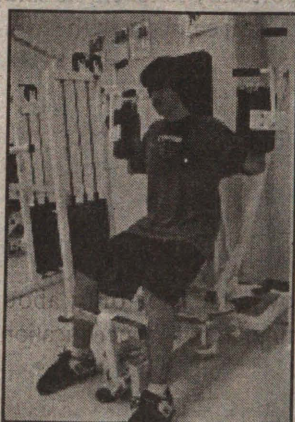
Pictures and information by Katie Taylor



Junior Caitlin Flood uses the tricep extension to tone her lower arms.



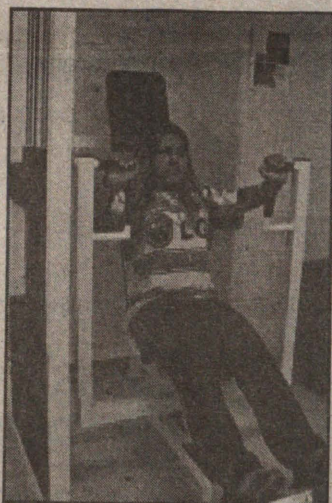
Sophomore Taylor Overman strengthens his biceps on the bicep curl.



Sophomore Ryan Sabbe keeps his chest muscles fit by using the pec deck.



Sophomore Mariala Tapia works on strengthening her back and shoulder muscles.



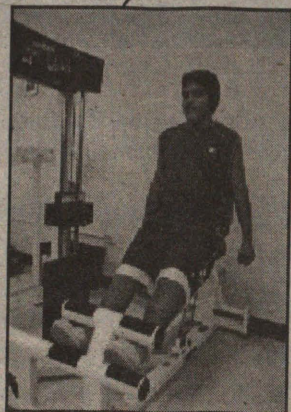
Freshman Maritza Munoz exercises her shoulder and chest muscles on the shoulder press.



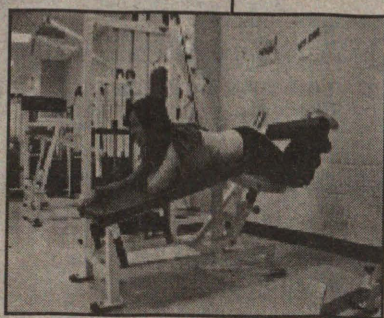
Junior Brittany Herdman works her oblique abdominal muscles on the seated torso curl.



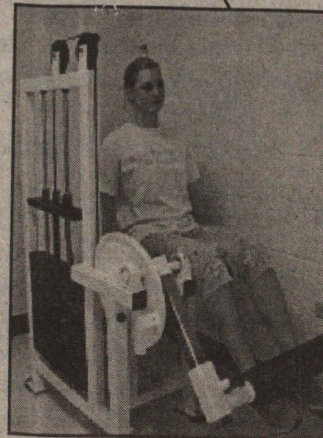
Sophomore Chris Piane strengthens his abdominal muscles by swinging his legs parallel to his hips on the roman sit up structure.



Sophomore Kevin Antonio builds up his calf muscles by pointing his toes and flexing his calf muscles.



Freshman Angelica Perez exercises her hamstrings.



Junior Jessica Schmidt runs on the treadmill to strengthen her heart and burn calories.

Sophomore Jamie Lesniak keeps her legs in good shape for swimming by toning her quadriceps on the leg extension.

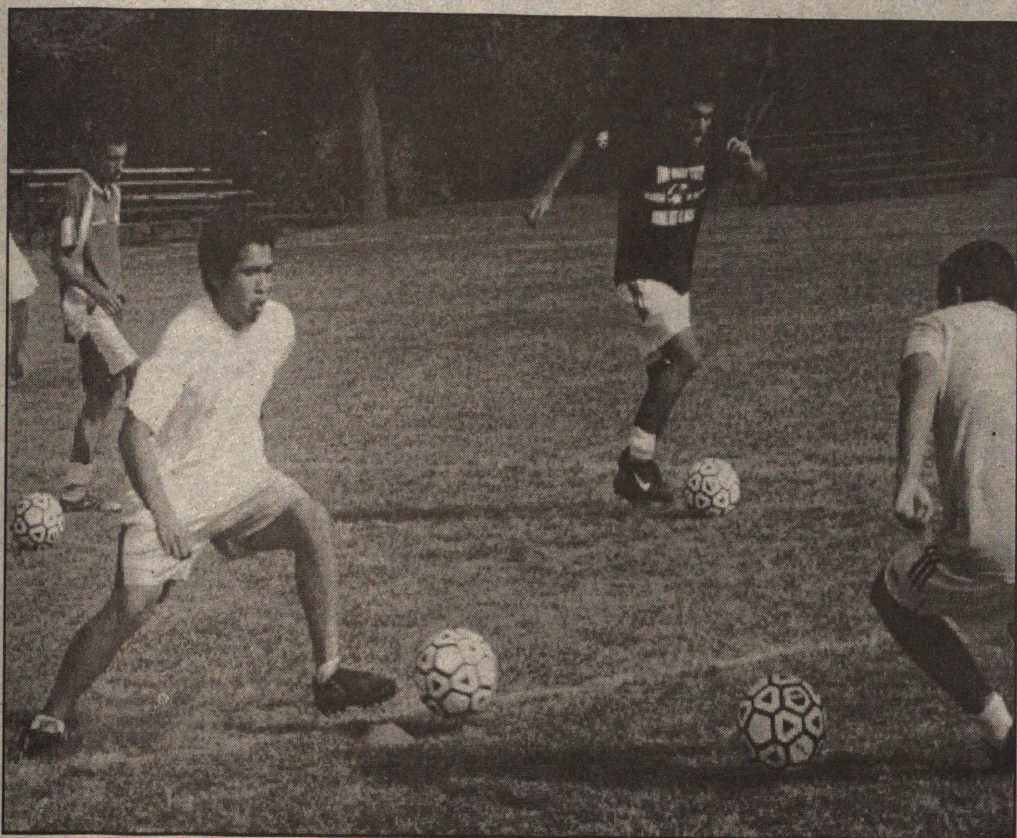


Photo by Julie Youngwith

Boys on the varsity soccer team practice hard to prepare for their post season games.

Aiming for the DVC again

Confidence propels team as it seeks to use same combination of skills that won them conference

By Julie Youngwith

Varsity soccer players hope to score this season with a repeat conference championship.

That goal is in sight given the team's 12 victories.

The team finished second in conference this year, following Naperville North.

Many of the players are excited about playoffs and hope that the team can compete at state.

"We feel like we can compete with any team in our conference," said senior Jose Villa.

Brugmann would like to see the team be one of the eight teams to play at the state level.

Last year the team lost their chance to play in state to Geneva.

"There's no reason we should have lost and we would take back that game in a second if we could," said Brugmann.

The team is comfortable in the back and middle part of the field, but get anxious in the front.

"They need more composure," said Brugmann.

Brugmann said the games they have lost this season were games they should have won.

"Working on control and developing the leadership are

two ways to bring in more wins," said Brugmann.

"The leadership this year has been the best I've seen in all my years of coaching," said Brugmann.

The captains are seniors Villa, Paul Reyes and Ignacio Correa. The new turf on the field also raised spirits.

"The field plays well for passing and we are a good passing team so it works to our advantage," said Brugmann.

Due to last year's successful season, the soccer program has grown significantly to about 100, 30 players more than last year.

Athlete of the Month

Travis Saville leads varsity football team by playing on both sides of the ball

(Each month a coach will nominate an Athlete of the Month. Head football coach Bob Stone selected Travis Saville for October.)

By Brittany Blanchard

Travis Saville is October's Athlete of the Month for his contributions to the football team.

"Travis is one of our captains and has been consistently our best player," said coach Stone.

What is your position on the football team?

Linebacker, number 48

How many years have you been involved in the sport?

Four years.

What do you enjoy most about football?

The camaraderie.

Which sport do you enjoy the most?

I'd have to say football be-

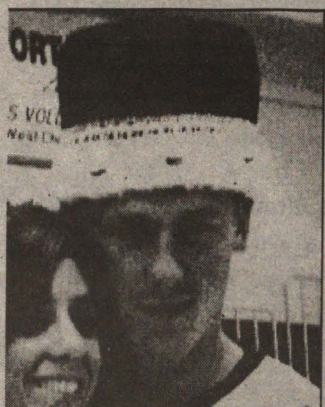


Photo by Andrea Bradley

Travis Saville was homecoming king. Also pictured is the queen, Lauren Buscemi.

cause there is no other feeling like being under Friday night lights.

Who is your biggest inspiration?

My dad because he always pushes me to do my best.

What plans do you have after high school?

I plan on going to college and hopefully playing football.

What is your best sports memory?

Hitting three homeruns in my first freshman baseball game.

What coaches have helped you achieve your goals throughout high school?

Definitely Coach Walters because he's never given up on me and he's always there to correct me on something if I do it wrong.

Coach's Corner

From Tonga to tennis: The life of Sione Moeaki

By Kellie Virnich

From the tiny island of Tonga to the suburbs of Chicago, tennis coach Sione Moeaki left his family behind for an education, a job, and better opportunities for his children.

Moeaki grew up in Tonga, a group of islands in the South Pacific between Australia and New Zealand, with seven brothers and three sisters.

"It was a lot of fun being in such a big family," he said. "We were, and still are, very close, even though they live far away."

Only knowing a bit of English, Moeaki left his home for Hawaii to attend college at Brigham Young University in Laie, Hawaii. This is where he began playing tennis formally, though he had played for fun his whole life.

The biggest culture shock for him was the language, though the school placed him in classes taught in English only months after he arrived.

"Everything was different; the food, the people I was around, and especially the language, they were all new things I had to get used to if I was going to be successful in this country," Moeaki said.

Moeaki met his wife, also a Tongan, in college, and together they traveled to the mainland with their young children to find jobs. He began at Community High School as a substitute teacher, and said that it was Principal John Highland who convinced

him to stay permanently.

He enjoys working with teenagers because he wants to help prepare them for the next step in their lives, whether it is education, a career, or a family.

He said, "I feel that part of the responsibility of my job, both as a dean's assistant and a coach, is to share life lessons I have learned with my students."

Tennis gives Moeaki a good opportunity to teach, he said, because it emphasizes the mental aspect of sports as well as the physical part. He feels that the game teaches athletes how to think on their feet, and make the right choices. He relates tennis to life when talking to his team, and passes on his knowledge, not only about technique, but about education, goals, and commitment.

He has raised his kids to play sports too, as well as study and work hard for what they want to accomplish. After 21 years working at the school, he has seen all the difference that dedication can make in someone's life.

Having to balance studying for his degree, two jobs, and four kids, Moeaki learned early to appreciate how difficult it must have been for his own parents to raise him and his siblings.

"I absolutely idolize my parents. It was hard to leave them, but I knew that this was a good country to live in and raise a family. You just have to be willing to work hard to get to your goals," said Moeaki.

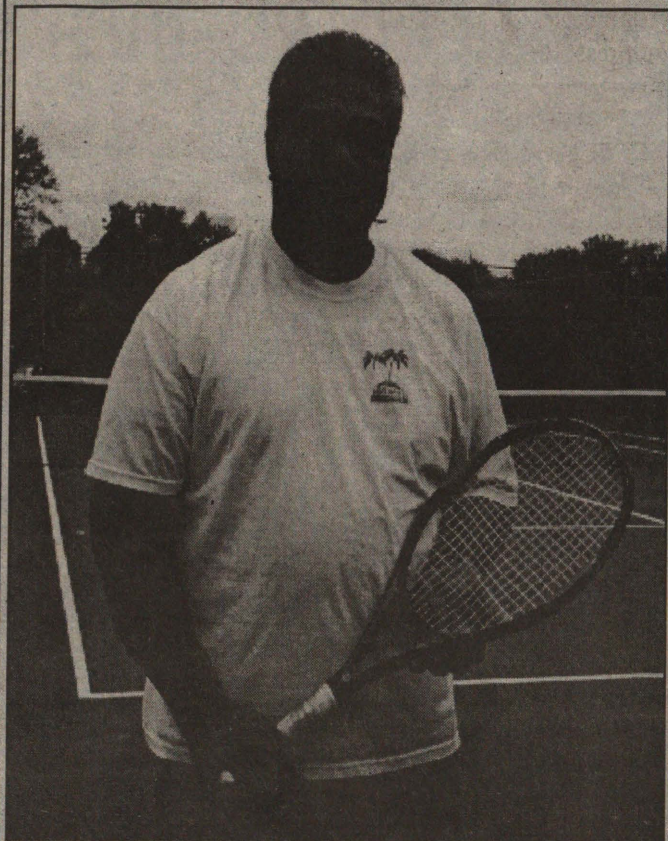


Photo by Julie Youngwith

Tennis coach and dean's assistant Sione Moeaki.

Despite young players, team moves forward

Confidence builds as season moves on

By Brittany Blanchard

The girls volleyball team served up respectable competition in the DVC this season.

Captain Sara Kufta says that the team of only two returning varsity players just wanted to do their best.

"We were a young team this year but we worked really hard to put up a good fight within the DVC," said Kufta.

The team practiced daily for two hours, attended a camp in the summer, and some even decided to play club volleyball in preparation for this season.

According to Kufta, their outstanding effort paid off but there will always be room for improvement.

"We're all pretty short but our hitting and passing was generally pretty on," said Kufta. "But we usually needed

to work on running through the ball because we let too many balls drop by constantly diving."

As the team was made up of 11 players, nine who were new to varsity, there was a lot of learning and a lot of bonding between the team.

"We had a lot of fun together this season," said Kufta. "I can't remember ever being on a team where the girls got along as the volleyball team did this year."

The team played their biggest rival, Wheaton North, on Tuesday for their Senior Night. The girls say they like to play the Falcons so much because they know so many of their players from club teams and the games always promise to be very competitive and entertaining.

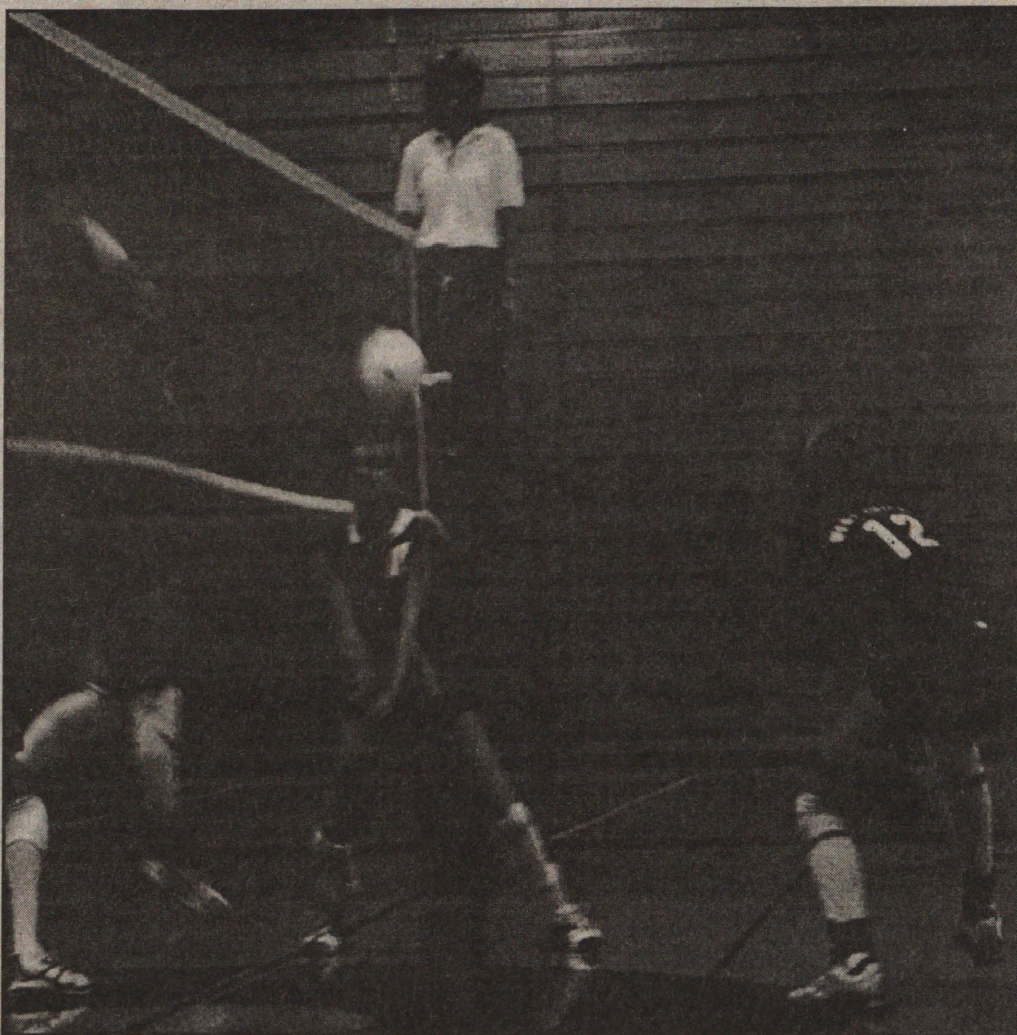


Photo by Ellyn Fortino

Accurate hitting and passing has helped the volleyball team succeed. Junior Courtney Antczak positions herself to bump the ball away from her side.

Clock counts down for team as regional competition approaches

Runners max out their abilities to obtain personal bests during meets

By Sabrina Potirala

Boys cross country is heading to sectionals, a goal that they have been training hard for.

In order to stay in shape for the season, the boys ran from anywhere between 500 to 700 miles over the summer.

The hard work pays off, especially when it comes down to performing at invites. The team placed first out of three teams at Kaneland, sixth out of 16 teams at Crystal Lake, and 13th out of 33 teams in Wauconda.

The team has also attended

meets at Peoria, Notre Dame, Glenbard North, Bartlett, Lisle: Community Park, and Benet Academy, where they have consistently placed in the top half of every meet.

"They put their all into every meet they run and are always maxing out their abilities," said coach Paul McLeland.

McLeland feels that the team has been on the right track

to success.

"Some of the runners have achieved their personal best, but they are still working hard," said McLeland. McLeland hopes that the boys will be able to improve their running skills before the regional conference meet, which takes place Thursday, in order to place well and make it to state.

Senior Andy Lane believes

that having at least one state qualifier is a realistic goal.

"I have just over a minute to cut off my time, but if I keep working hard I believe that it is possible," said Lane.

With all the training the team does, it is clear that cross country is not a spectator sport.

"They work hard. Cross country is not a sport that you can just watch from the sideline," said McLeland.

Andie's Angle

Owners in the MLB make decisions to let team managers go, their reasons are far from justified

By Andrea Bradley

As the Major League Baseball season comes to an end, franchise owners are not hesitating to fire managers and general managers.

Why are these fast paced owners so eager to let go of their managers?

The owners blame their seasons on the manager, if the season is bad.

On the other hand, if their team had an amazing season, they take all of the praise.

Owners need to stop putting everything that has gone wrong with a season on the managers. The fault needs to be put on the owners themselves.

The owner is the one making key decisions for the team.

Running a major league franchise is risky, but the more risks an owner makes, the bet-

ter the chance of having a World Series winning team.

Take Yankees owner George Steinbrenner. He spends money to have players like Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez, and Gary Sheffield. These players are moneymaker play-



ers alone. Big name players are what attract fans into the ballparks.

Teams like the Detroit Tigers, who have recently fired manager Alan Trammell, do

not spend enough money on their players.

Owner Micheal Ilitch does not take the kind of risk other owners are willing to make. Therefore, he does not obtain the better players and remains without a World Series title for another year.

Same goes for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, who recently fired manager Lou Piniella.

Although these teams have good players, the owners refuse to take the risk of high budget spending.

Even though risk is not always the smartest thing, they need to come to terms to the fact that part of the reason why their teams do not do as well as the Boston Red Sox is partly blamed on them.

Team owners need to take their franchises to the next

level.

Owners are not the only ones who have to take a share of the blame.

Players need to take the responsibility of a losing season as well. They are the ones who are out on the field doing what they are paid to do.

If they win, they should win as a team, managers and owners included, but if they lose, they must lose as a team as well.

There needs to be no more putting a win on a single player.

If Cubs player Derek Lee hits in the only run of the game, he cannot be considered the single person to win the game.

People tend to forget about the guy who got into scoring position in the first place. Without him, Lee would not have been a game winner.

Teams like this year's White Sox are playing more like a team, but somehow manager Ozzie Guillen gets the attention. Guillen's coaching is not what led the players to the World Series.

It was the players who worked hard to get to where they wanted to be.

Still, Guillen gets the praise. What happens if the scenario is reversed?

Guillen could risk being fired from his job. He could have kept the same coaching tactics and his players could have given up early in the season, but he would be the one to blame.

Fans and owners need to stop putting the blame on one specific person. Fans need to remember the age-old expression "There is no I in team."