



eNews brings information to community

By Brittany Blanchard

Parents and community members can now stay informed on school news and events through an electronic news format called eNews94.

The program allows those who register to receive school information such as student and staff achievements, news releases and emergency information via e-mail.

Community Relations Director and eNews94 coordinator Mary Randle said that with no guarantee of local newspapers printing press releases, the program addition was greatly needed.

"With fewer and fewer people reading newsletters, we were looking to improve communication with parents and the community," Randle said. "(eNews94) is a quick and inexpensive way to stay in touch and a more efficient way to get the news across."

According to Randle, the program is being well-received.

"Parents are very enthusiastic about (eNews94) and love the new format," said Randle.

Those who are registered with the program can not only receive timely news regarding the school but can also contact Randle if there is something they would like to see in an upcoming publication.

The school originally gave parents information regarding eNews94 in student registration packets, however, parents can still sign up to be a part of the programs by logging on to the school website (www.d94.org) and clicking the eNews94 link.

Students and teachers mourn after freshman's unexpected death

Classmates put together a memory book for family to celebrate 'Tony' Garcia's life

By Kym McDaniel

Index cards overflowing with memories of freshman Marco Antonio "Tony" Garcia fill a black book that will forever represent the impact of his kind and caring demeanor.

Garcia died of a brain aneurysm on March 30.

Garcia's English teacher, Julie Johnson, created the book by instructing students in Garcia's English class to write their best memories of him.

"Marco was one of the nicest

guys in the class and showed me what it is like to care for someone and not think of ourselves," wrote one classmate in the memory book. "He was the most hardworking kid in all my classes."

Johnson also said that Garcia was always ready to jump in to participate during class and had a "passion for his schoolwork."

Another classmate wrote, "Marco was a very nice man. He was funny, smart and I

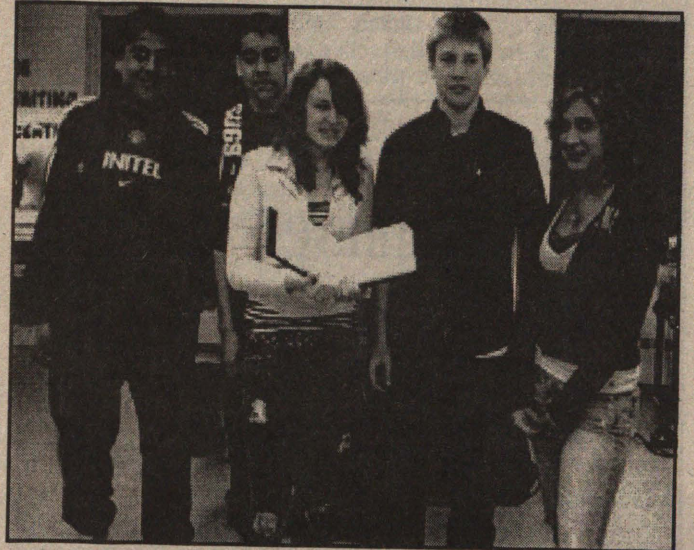


Photo by Kym McDaniel

After Marco Garcia's death, his English class, including from left Miguel Amaro, Eric Arreola, Tara Breinig, Rhett Gunderson and Taylor Jaconis, put a book together to present to his parents.

liked him for who he was. He always tried so hard."

Garcia's science and world geography teachers Deborah

Musgrave and Margaret Haas also have fond memories of Garcia.

(See Marco page 5)

Cuts will not eliminate \$1.4 million deficit, teacher losses will increase class sizes

By David Thomas

Fourteen non-tenured staff members will be released from their contracts at the end of the 2005-2006 school year, the

Board of Education decided April 11.

However, board president Tony Reyes acknowledged that the staff cuts, along with

previous reductions around the school, have not completely eliminated the school's \$1.4 million deficit.

"The proposed reductions in staff and other cuts have resulted in adjustments for next year's budget of about \$500,000. We have made some great progress as we try to balance the budget," said Reyes in a statement before the cuts were announced. "We have plenty of work to do yet. Spending for next year will continue to be monitored. We will continue to take the necessary steps to balance this and future budgets."

However, Teachers Association president Barbara Laimins lamented the cuts.

"The teachers that were let go were excellent teachers and are going to be missed," said

Laimins. "We wish them well but we really wish they were staying."

Although he did not give any specifics, Reyes said in an interview that the key to reducing the school's remaining deficit is through a balanced budget.

According to Reyes, the board has restructured the way it looks at budgets, noting that previous boards did not see the final budget until the school year was over.

He also said the board is looking at line item budgets, and how much each department spends.

"As a student, [the budget] shouldn't have much of an impact on education," Reyes said. "The real impact is reducing on how we get things done."

(See Cuts page 5)

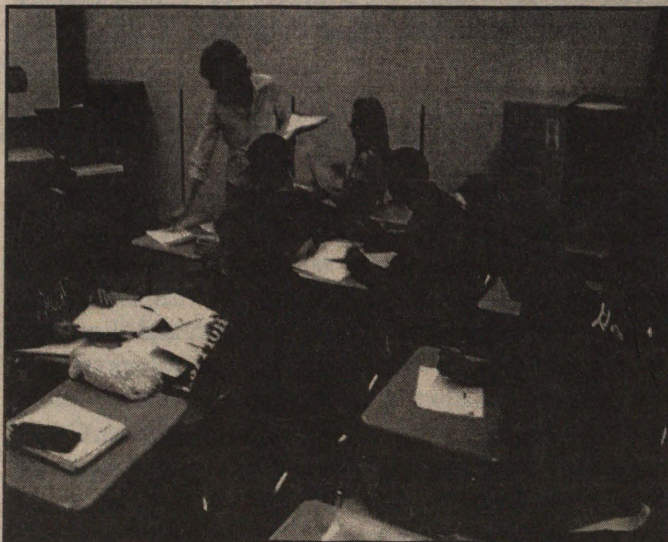


Photo by Kellie Virnich

Though math teacher Patti Arnold was not among the teachers cut, her position, like many others, was changed from part-time to full-time.

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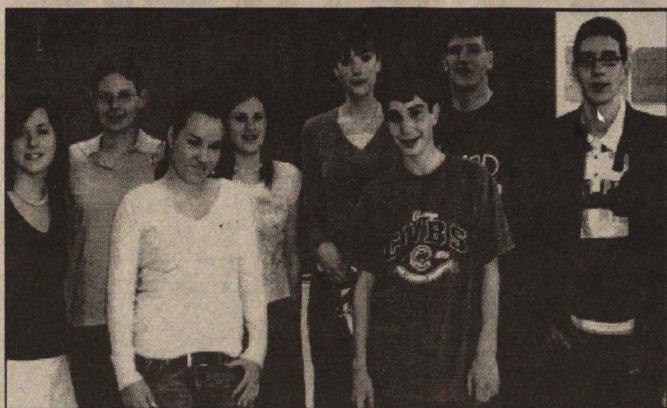


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

During their stay in the United States, the German exchange students saw many of the school's unique events, such as French plays and the American government simulation.

German arrivals coincide with 25th anniversary party

By Cristina Sarnelli

The German exchange program is celebrating its 25th year anniversary, and what better way to celebrate than with the arrival of the German exchange students.

Eleven students and one teacher from Gunzenhausen, Germany arrived April 10 and met the students they will be staying with until Thursday.

Sophomores Megan Carnes and Andrew Wirtz; juniors Ed Ford, John Glenn, Scott Lichtfuss, Brad Rathe and Dan Rizzo; and seniors Meghan Larson, David Kelsey, Bee Vollmuth and Eric Wiechert are participating in the program and each have a German student to host.

The students have done various activities with their exchange students including bowling, miniature golfing, and going to the movies.

As a group, the students went to Chicago to see the Broadway musical "Rent" at the Cadillac Palace Theater April 12. The trip was enjoyable for many of the students, especially the exchange students.

"I liked the trip to Chicago because the city was so different from the German cities," Lichtfuss' exchange student Steffen Wirth said.

Rathe's exchange student Hans Stanka agreed that the trip to Chicago was the most fun and enjoyed getting to see how the city differed from the cities back home in Germany.

On April 13, the group at-

tended a welcome party at Kelsey's house where the students got to know their hosts better.

Rathe said he most enjoyed doing the group events.

"So far probably my favorite part would be doing activities with the whole group and being able to share the new experiences they are having," he said. "It's just fun."

Lichtfuss talked about going to The Melting Pot restaurant in Lombard with his exchange student and visiting Millennium Park.

The students also went to the Art Institute on April 19.

The Germans plan to go to West Chicago Middle School to talk to the seventh graders about their experiences.

On Wednesday, the exchange students will get to see the government simulation, and later in the day the Wiecherts will host a goodbye party. The next day, the Germans will depart.

Stanka has enjoyed the trip so far, and said America was just as he expected it to be.

Rathe has also enjoyed the experience and encourages students to get involved with the exchange programs at the school because they are a great opportunity.

"You get to meet someone from a different country, and that doesn't happen too often. You may make friends with someone who you will keep in touch with for your entire life," he said.

Take a chance on prom

By Brittany Blanchard

As prom draws near, the junior class has finalized most details for the magical night.

Voting for prom song took place during lunch hours in commons along with ticket sales, and students selected "Amazed" by Lonestar.

Prom court nominations are Mike Klein, Ken Klein, Jimmy Mazzone, Geoff Wilson, Nick Horvath, Leo Guili, Nate Sullivan, Nick Puetz, Mike Deimling, Derek Suitar for

king and Lindsay Krage, Christine Williams, Stephanie Hish, Keri Mederich, Megan Stuhr, Brittany Herdman, Becca Mueller, Katrina Means, Cassie Rodriguez and Gina Aducci for queen.

Those at the pre-prom assembly on Tuesday voted for their choices. The five boys and girls with the most votes will make up the 2006 prom court, with the winners earning the title of king and queen and crowned at the dance.

Pancakes to honor mothers

By Kellie Virnich

To celebrate mothers' never-ending service, the Teachers Association is hosting its first Mother's Day Breakfast.

The event, planned for May 13 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in commons, is expected to emulate Frosty Fest, with a variety of booths and activities for both mothers and their children to enjoy, including face painting, crafts and two contests for students to enter.

Association member and English teacher Mona Elleithee said that the breakfast serves two purposes. It would "celebrate the day-to-day service mothers provide," and also provides an opportunity to bring the community together.

"Mothers' service to kids

builds community, so our teachers want to honor that by literally serving them," she said.

As the teachers serve breakfast, several school clubs will run the activities. Photo Club will take Polaroids, Horticulture Club will provide centerpieces and other service organizations, such as NHS, Student Council and the community leadership class, will help with the festivities.

Elleithee said, "The Teachers Association hopes to make this event an annual tradition that will bring everyone in the community together while honoring mothers."

There will be a children's coloring contest, while high schoolers will be eligible for an

essay contest, in English or Spanish, honoring their mothers.

The essays are due the Monday before the breakfast, and the winners of both contests will be recognized during the event. The prizes for these contests, as well as a raffle open to all who attend, include various gift certificates and gift baskets.

The event date lies between the Mexican and American Mother's Days, May 10 and May 14 respectively, as teachers wanted to include both cultures in the celebration.

Tickets will be \$4 for adults and \$2 for children, which will go to the community leadership's Wego 2 Africa project. For more information, call Elleithee at 876-6486.

French plays break language barrier with humor, hard work and creativity

'Rent' deemed piece de resistance



Photo by Andrea Bradley

Among the third and fourth year French skits, "Rent" was deemed best play, and was widely considered to have been the most difficult to perform.

By Andrea Bradley

The 2006 French plays were filled with laughs, emotion, and even singing as students in all years of French performed skits to show their skills at the annual event.

Students in their first year of French performed commercials for products like Pepsi, iPods, and Pepto Bismol, while students in their second year performed small skits. Third and fourth year students had larger parts performing small plays for the audience.

Although ideas from some skits were repeated, freshman Tara Briemig thought that a majority of the plays were creative.

"It was exciting. I was a little nervous, but it was a lot easier than I thought it would be," she said.

Junior Lisa Daniels, a stage manager for the plays, felt the same way.

"I was a little nervous, especially because I had to stand on

a box and yell 'moo with me'" said Daniels, who played Maureen in her skit of the Broadway musical "Rent."

Daniels' hard work and performance as Maureen paid off, as group member Efrén Garcia said that he really thought she did well.

"She was really funny, and even the audience started mooing with her," he said.

After the plays, judges give awards for the best actor and actress, the best props, the best music, and the best overall performance for each year of French class.

For the first year student winners include, Alex Podschwit, best actor; Kristen Goffinet, best actress; Ashley Michnick, best pronunciation; the skit Crise du Shampooing (Shampoo Crisis), best props; Red Bull, funniest commercial; and Sierra Mist, best overall commercial.

Second year winners were Neil Luka, best actor; Naiya

Panchal, best actress; Gio Duran and Emily Rawls, best pronunciation; Sors avec ma Mere, funniest play; and Le Chef de fer en Francais (The Iron Chef), best overall play.

Third year and fourth years winners include, Alex Grinash, best actor; Lupe Correa, best actress; Lisa Daniels, best pronunciation; the play Samedi Retenue a Wego, funniest play; and Loyer en quinze minutes ("Rent" in 15 Minutes), best overall play.

Many viewers agreed with the decision of the judges believing that "Rent" was the best skit performed by French 3 students.

"The performance of 'Rent' was really good. It took them a lot of courage to go up there and sing like that," said senior and French 1 student Brianna Harte. "It was a lot like the real play, and they showed it."

"'Rent' was definitely the hardest to pull off and it showed that they worked hard," said senior Jose Blanco.

Although "Rent" seemed to be a favorite, "Le Film d'Horreur 1, 2, 3 (Scary Movie 1, 2, 3) and Samedi Retenue a Wego (Saturday Detention at We-Go) earned compliments as well.

"Alex Grinash earned my vote for best actor," said Blanco talking about the detention skit performed by fellow French 3 students. "He won me over when he started playing with his Hot Wheels."

As for the "Scary Movie" skit, Harte thought the group did a good job showing viewers what was going on.

"People did not have to speak French to understand it," said Harte.

Multi-talented Student of the Month on track for valedictorian

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 Kellie Virnich

With both her academic achievements and her many volunteer activities to recommend her, it is not surprising that senior Amanda Bass received the title Student of the Month for March.

Bass currently has a 4.0 grade point average, and is on track to be a valedictorian. She tutors and leads a Cub Scout troop for underprivileged kids at Marion Park Apartments, volunteers during the summer at an inner-city outreach and has also been a peer tutor at the school since freshman year.

Bass enjoys volunteering, especially during the urban summer camp, which she said is "a good way for kids from tough backgrounds to just get away for awhile." The group also paints and picks up trash around churches in Chicago.

In addition to her charity work, Bass has also been an active member of the math team for four years, played basketball for both the high school team and the Amateur Athletic Union, was involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and began her own step team with her sisters.

"My favorite memory from high school has probably got to be performing at the variety show with my sister Rachel," said Bass. "It was the first time we had ever stepped for the school, and I think we got a lot of reactions from people."

In winning the Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship, as well as being one of only 20 students in the nation to earn the \$40,000 Ron Brown Scholarship, Bass said that she feels blessed to receive such honors. In the fall she will attend Amherst College in Mas-

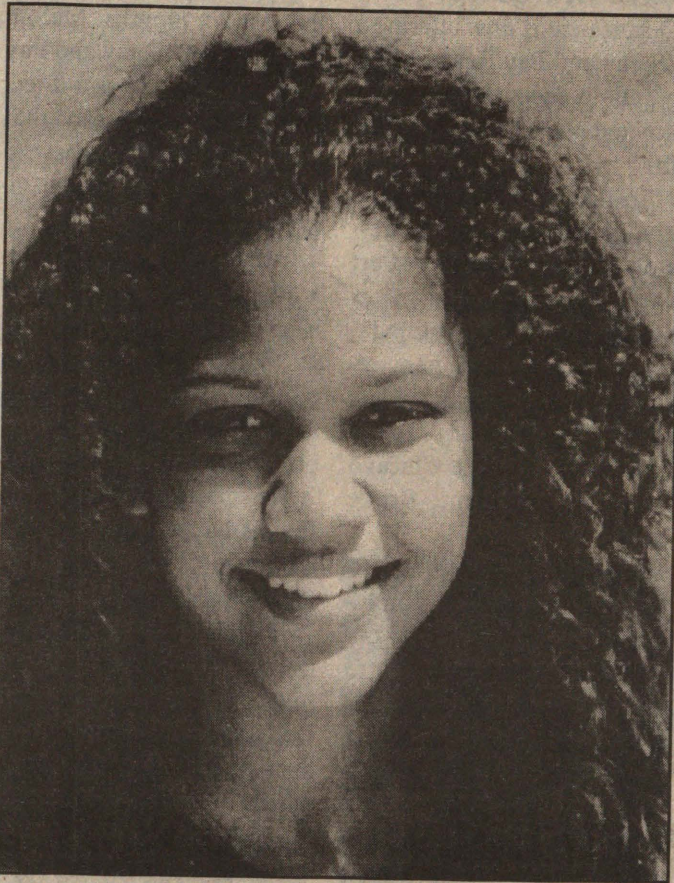


Photo courtesy of Amanda Bass

Though Amanda Bass entered public school after eight years of home-schooling, she continued to study history on her own.

sachusetts, where she will work toward a double major in mathematics and black studies.

Before going to grad school, Bass hopes to get involved with Teach for America, an organization that puts teachers in inner-city schools.

She said, "I feel like a lot of times, students go straight to grad school, and never have the opportunity to witness first-hand the many problems that still plague our society."

Bass plans to go to law school after two years in the program to earn a combined JD/Ph.D. in black studies, and hopes to pursue civil rights law.

Her passion for civil rights is partially fueled by a W.E.B. Dubois quote. "The problem with the twentieth century is the problem with the color-line." She feels that this line is still pertinent today, and that racism has been institutionalized and "woven into the fabric of our society."

"Just because racism isn't as overt anymore, because we don't have 'colored' water fountains, people think it doesn't exist, which is just not true," said Bass.

She hopes to give a voice to people who have been "ignored and marginalized," particularly the economically oppressed. She said that she has always been motivated to speak out for those whose concerns are overlooked.

"Everyone knows that I don't care what people think," she said. "It's very important to me to speak the truth; I'm not going to sugarcoat anything when it comes to important issues."

The biggest change Bass has seen in herself since coming in as a freshman, she said, is her apprehension at ruffling people's feathers. Now she has no qualms about speaking out. She also feels that she is much more informed and aware of the situations around her, which she attributes to the years that she spent independently studying black history.

Bass said, "I'll definitely miss my teachers when I leave. Teachers like Ms. Santella and Miss Geiger just broke the mold. They were out to enlighten students and show us that issues are broader than what we've ever thought."

Contemporary life's annual mock wedding teaches commitment

By Brittany Blanchard

Wedding bells rang cheerfully in commons as Francisco Mercado married Ashley Hickman at the mock wedding entitled "A Black and White Affair."

Contemporary life instructor Patty Clifford said that the course, which covers topics such as self-awareness, peer pressure and parenting, organizes the ceremony to give the students first-hand experience with the pressure and work it takes to plan a wedding during the love and marriage unit.

"The mock wedding helps students learn all the aspects of planning a wedding," said Clifford.

In addition to providing students with planning for real-life experiences, the mock wedding also serves as a showcase for the Family and Consumer Sciences Department. Many courses within the department are involved with the mock wedding including contributions from the clothing, child development and foods classes.

"(The mock wedding also serves) as an advertisement for the courses within our department," Clifford said. "It's a way to make the community and other students aware of some of their elec-

tive opportunities."

Through donations from local businesses, students were able to transform the cafeteria into a reception hall, complete with silk flowers, tablecloths from St. Andrews Golf Course, dresses for the bride and bridal party courtesy of David's Bridal, and tuxedos for the groom and groomsmen from After Hours Formalwear.

Ironically, the contemporary life classes took a field trip the Friday following the mock wedding to Cook County's divorce court.

"The field trip lets the students see what happens in real life when marriages don't work," Clifford said.

Above all, Clifford hopes the love and marriage unit complete with mock wedding production and divorce court field trip provides students with the knowledge and understanding to responsibly approach relationships and eventually marriage.

"I hope (the students) take their time before they make the big decision to get married," said Clifford. "Marriage is a huge step and you need to take it slow."

All proceeds from the entrance fees to the ceremony will go to the Skills USA Scholarship Fund.

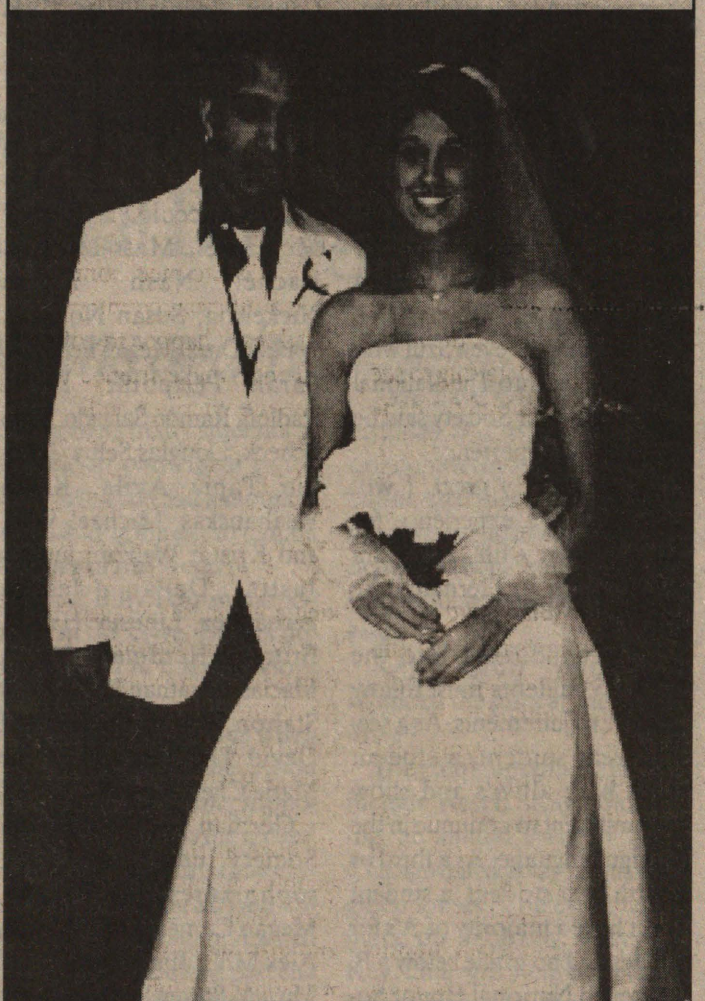


Photo by Terri Molo

In true wedding tradition, bride Ashley Hickman and groom Francisco Mercado were not allowed to see each other before the ceremony began.

Seniors: Don't forget to fill out surveys for the special graduation issue coming out in May!

FBLA president leads the way to nationals

By Ellyn Fortino

FBLA president and state treasurer Amy Axelrod won second place at state competitions on March 31 and April 1 qualifying her for the national competition.

Axlerod competed in accounting 1, answering 100 questions in one hour at state level, and is the only student from the school to qualify for nationals in Nashville, Tenn. from June 29 to July 2.

In order to prepare for the state competition and upcoming competition Axelrod said that she studies by using the accounting textbook from her accounting class at school and books from other schools.

"In order to do well you have to study," said Axelrod. "You really need to sit down and go over and over your books to do well."

Axelrod and FBLA advisers Maria Wirth and Nancy

Blume will attend the Institute For Leaders before the competition on June 28.

"It should be a really good time," Axelrod said. "There are workshops and great activities to participate in that really helps you become a great leader."

In order to include more members next year, Wirth plans on publicizing more about their chapter.

"Most people are unsure what FBLA does, or just think that it's 'all about business.' Many do not realize the fun activities and the valuable exposure to the business world that is involved in this organization," Wirth said. "Not only does FBLA provide a lot of experience that will be able to be applied after high school, but is also an opportunity for students to make new friends while in high school."

NFLHS welcomes new members with ceremony

By Cristina Sarnelli

Sixty-three students were inducted into the National Foreign Language Honor Society this year.

The ceremony took place on March 7. The new inductees attended the ceremony where they listened to a guest speaker and recited a pledge.

After the ceremony, the inductees attended a small reception.

"We had cake and refreshments at the reception and talked with our fellow peers and teachers," said junior Karen Taylor, who was a new inductee for the Spanish National Honor Society. "It was a fun experience."

Sophomore Steven Szul who was inducted into The National German Honor Society said he enjoyed the experience.

"It was really great. I will remember the experience for the rest of my life, and I am proud to be in German," he said.

To get inducted into the NFLHS students must follow specific requirements. As a second year student, a student must have all A's and show commitment to continue in the foreign language. As a third or fourth year student, a student must have a majority of A's for grades and no grade below a B.

French National Honor Society inductees include sophomores Girelle Alcocer, Teresa Barrera, Smiriti Kurup, Yesenia Sanchez, Stacey

Santillan, and Jayne Zenker; juniors Alejandra Correa, Asusena Ruiz, Kaitlin Taylor, and Emma Townsend; and seniors Amber Bergmann, Lourdes Padilla, Naiya Panchal, and Matthew Rohn.

Spanish National Honor Society inductees include sophomores Jonathan Abernethy, Matthew Andracki, Matthew Carnot, Bonnie Coats, Carla Andrea Cardoza, Sara Fouts, Jeff Hlinka, Rachel Howe, Jessica Jones, Joann Kaczmarczyk, Mera Kolisnyk, John Malandrucolo, Kymberly McDaniel, Matt Molitor, Rachel Nash, Robyn Nickelson, Susan Nowicki, Ivanna Ortiz, Megan Peterson, Sarah Peirpoint, Kayla Radloff, Ramón Salgado, Ryan Scheck, Douglas Selby, Antonio Tapia Ávila, Kevin Vasiliauskas, Michael Wall, and Kristin Weltzin; juniors Justin DePaz, Jessica Fernández, Lindsey Haines, Brittany Herdman, Mayra Macías, Jonathan Palka, Scott Staiton, Karen Taylor, and David Thomas; and senior María Cuevas.

German National Honor Society inductees include sophomores Ben Barclay, Megan Carnes, Krista Kraus, Alex Mills, Jim Miner, David Musick, Steven Szul, and Kara Wolfe; junior Brittany Michnick; and seniors Amanda Rousar and Anne Sticksel.

New program to wipe out graffiti

By Sabrina Potirala

The West Chicago Police Department is now offering a "Spray and Pay Reward Program" to encourage community members to combat graffiti.

To many of the offenders, graffiti is a form of self-expression and even considered art work. However, in reality, it is a dangerous form of intimidation and can lead to gang recruitment or criminal damage to property, according to commander of the West Chicago Police Department, Bruce Malkin.

Malkin said that graffiti also negatively impacts the community.

"It is an eyesore, costly to remove, and it sends a bad image to people either visiting our town or even just passing through it," said Malkin.

According to Malkin, the police department has seen an

increase in the amount of graffiti appearing around town in the last six months. Malkin feels that the "Spray and Pay Reward Program" is a direct result of the increase and that people involved should have to face the consequences by removing the graffiti.

"We have dealt with graffiti a lot over the years and have been very active in combating it. We are always looking for more approaches to stop graffiti and the program is just another approach" said Malkin.

West Chicago resident Kevin Foot is happy that the police have created the "Spray and Pay Reward Program".

"People I know have been targeted (by offenders) and it is nice that this program may give the community more of an incentive to help catch those people that like to tag property," said Foot.

Malkin feels that it is impor-

tant to create a program that gets the community involved in catching the offenders.

"This program is just another tool in our bag of tools. It is important to join in on a partnership with the community. They are our eyes and ears and will help us solve incidents where houses or buildings get tagged," said Malkin.

Foot hopes that anyone with information that may lead to the arrest of the offenders will take advantage of the program.

"It is up to the community to help the police catch the people responsible for the graffiti," said Foot.

To participate in the program, contact the Graffiti Control hotline at 231-1711, or fill out a brochure available at the West Chicago Police Department. Anyone who provides information leading to an arrest can earn up to a \$200 reward.

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Cuts... (continued from page 1)

Reyes also mentioned postponing certain "capital expenditures" and noted the deteriorating roof. According to Reyes, the board may postpone repairing the roof until there's more money in the budget.

One issue surrounding the staff cuts was class size. In his speech, Reyes said that the average class size was 20 to 23 students, a comment that incited laughter from the crowd of teachers attending the meeting.

The 2005 school report card says the average number of students in a class is 20.9.

This number comes from an average of all the students attending class on the first school day of May, and includes classes with a high number of students, such as the interdisciplinary classes, but also includes classes with a low number, including special education classes.

However, the teachers have disputed with the board over the effect of staff cuts on class sizes. Laimins said that the teachers were "very disappointed" by the remarks.

"The department heads spent a great deal of time trying to educate the board on what would happen to class size if they reduced teachers," said Laimins. "It was made very clear that class sizes in core subjects would rise very close to, if not exceed 30."

Laimins also said that it was "discouraging" for

Reyes to say that "the average class size would be only a little over 20."

"All students have to do is look around in their social studies, math, English, and consumer education classes and know that they are in classes closer to 30, not 20," said Laimins.

However, in an interview, Reyes said that, when using averages, there are always discrepancies, and he noted that the administration's class average was the official one.

In addition to the staff cuts, the sponsor positions for the Classes of 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 were discontinued as of next year. To offset the loss of the sponsors, an assistant position was added to Student Council.

Activities director Pete Martino said that he was confident of the students in Student Council, saying they were "more than capable" of handling their own events.

However, he did acknowledge that ordeals would arise, citing prom as an example. Normally, it would be the junior class student council and their adviser that would handle prom.

In addition, assistant coaching positions for baseball, boys basketball, football, boys soccer, softball, and girls tennis were also cut, and a sponsor position for Skills USA/VICA and Peer Helpers/Character Counts.

Marco... (continued from page 1)

"Marco always would linger after class and wasn't in such a hurry to leave," said Musgrave. "He was very comfortable with who he was. He felt no pressure to fit into a group, which is so unusual for someone his age."

Haas added that the kids accepted him and that he was a role model for his younger siblings and everyone at school.

Another classmate wrote in the memory book that they would see him walking down the hall and he "always had a smile on his face."

Garcia's family appreciates

everyone's thoughts, prayers and words of encouragement according to social worker Alina Cyrus, who has been helping the family establish a fund in Garcia's name.

"After we had a meeting with Tony's parents and discovered that they were having some financial difficulties, I knew that opening a memorial fund was one way to assist them with this burden," said Cyrus.

The fund will assist the family by helping with the hospital and funeral costs and Cyrus said that the family also needed to repair their roof as well as

other expenses they are very concerned about.

Anybody willing to help the Garcia family financially will be able to contribute to the memorial fund at DuPage National Bank in West Chicago or can put a check in Cyrus' mailbox. Checks should be made out to the Tony Garcia Memorial Fund.

"He (Garcia) especially enjoyed helping out with younger children in the STARS program. He was a wonderful big brother to his four younger siblings. Our thoughts and prayers are with them," said Cyrus.

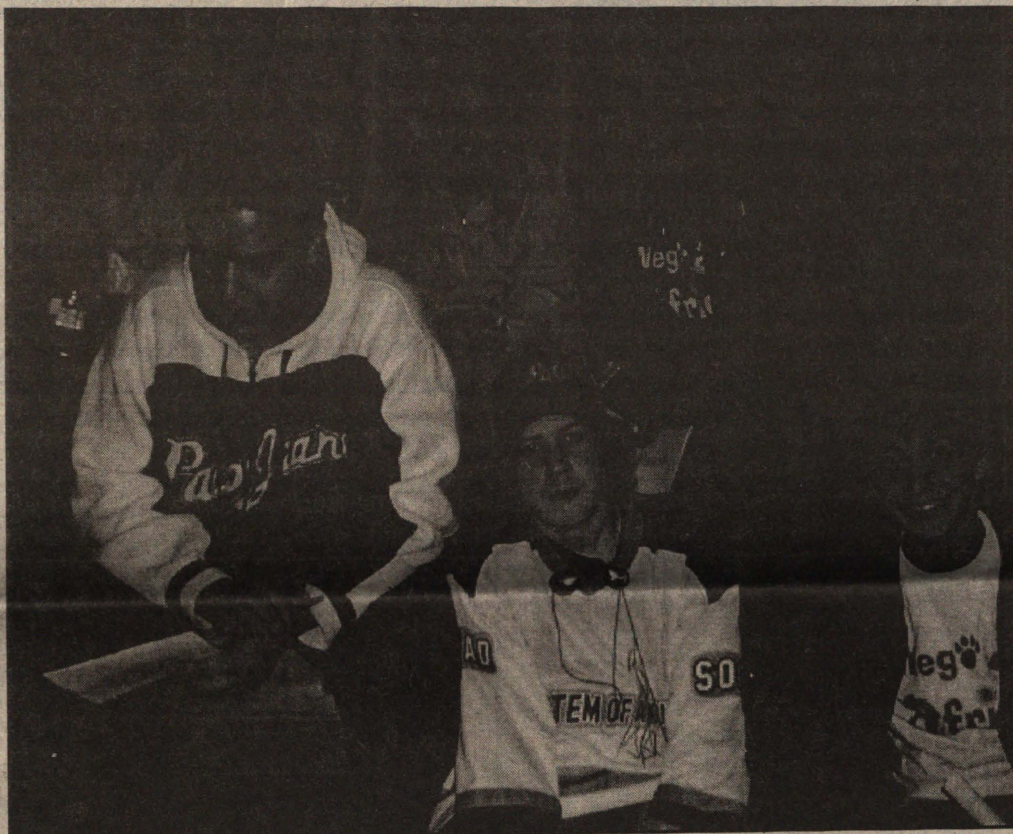


Photo courtesy of Julie Johnson

Classmates and teachers remember Marco Garcia, front left, as a considerate and kind teenager. He participated in many school events, including the teacher sumo tournament for community leadership class's fundraiser, Wego 2 Africa.

Key Club blood drive will benefit patients at Central DuPage Hospital

Busy season begins again

By Cristina Sarnelli

With the coming spring, Key Club has been busy organizing and planning for their upcoming service projects.

Key Club held their second blood drive of the year Friday. Heartland Blood Center came to draw students' blood in the small gym during the day.

Heartland supplies the blood to hospitals around the West Chicago area. Club adviser Ward Rau explained how most of the blood is used.

"The blood is taken to hospitals such as Central DuPage Hospital, and a lot of it is used for cancer patients who are often in need of transfusions," he said.

Rau said that the club en-

couraged as many students as possible to participate in the drive. Key Club had announcements during the day to remind students of the event.

Junior Billy Barron participated in the drive. He has donated blood in three previous blood drives.

"I felt really generous when I participated in the blood drive. One time during sophomore year, I went to the nurses' office, and I saw this lady crying. I was wearing a blood donor T-shirt that day, and when she saw it she told me that she had received a blood transfusion, and it saved her life. I think it's cool to think that eventually I'll save lives," he said.

Key Club has also been

working on a humanitarian service project for children.

"We have what is called a birthday box where students can donate toys or money that will be used to buy toys for children whose families are in difficult situations, such as homeless or jobless families," Rau said.

Key Club members wrapped the gifts at the blood drive.

The club's upcoming events include West Chicago Blooming, an annual event in West Chicago that displays crafts and greenhouses. The event takes place on Saturday, May 20. Key Club will help by setting up stands, unloading trucks, and planting flowers.

In July, Key Club will also be participating in the Relay for Life.

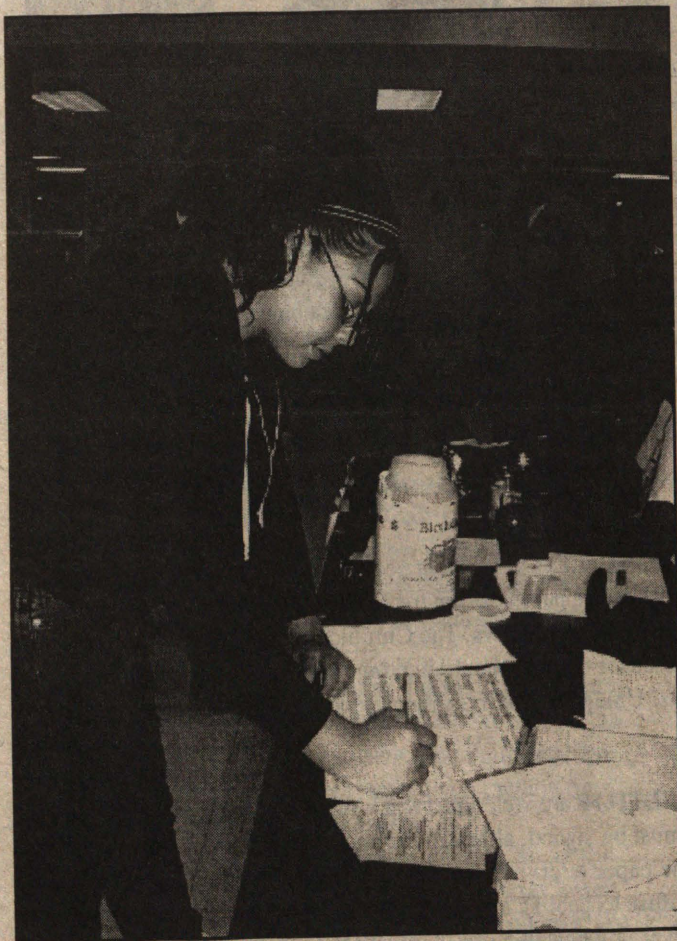
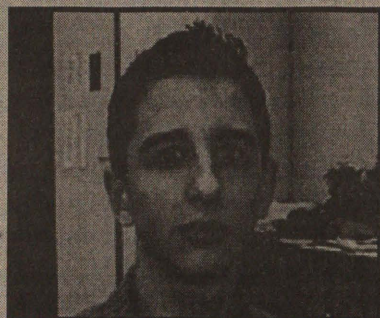


Photo by Kellie Virnich

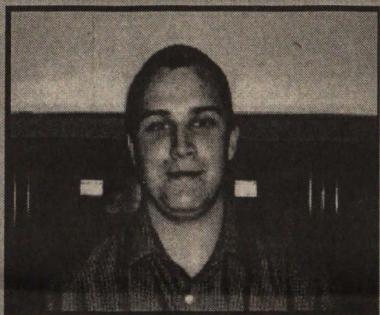
Sophomore Elizabeth Castillo was one of over 170 students to sign up for the blood drive, as well as many staff and community members.

What do the students and staff think of the board's decision to cut new staff members?



Merrick Doll
Junior

"It is a shame to lose so many wonderful teachers, but what was done had to be done. I do not doubt that those who were cut will be welcomed into another school who has the ability to support a larger staff."



Jared Vasiliauskas
Senior

"If they knew they were going to have problems, why did they hire the new teachers? It doesn't seem like this problem just came up."



Susan Junkroski
Spanish Teacher

"I'm sorry the board has decided to balance the budget on the backs of the students, because without the students we as teachers would have no reason to be, and the board has no reason to be."

Our View

Teacher cuts: Justified financially but not in students' best interests

There seems to be no end in sight for District 94's financial troubles, as the Board of Education has dismissed many young teachers and eliminated several extracurricular adviser positions.

The board is facing more pressure than ever to make the right financial decisions and please the increasingly insurgent community.

But what options do they have? The district is simply short on money, and cutting programs and teachers is a clear last resort.

As board president Tony Reyes said at the April 11 board meeting, "These proposed staff reductions are not the first place we went. It's the last place we went."

But they went there, and the teachers and positions have been eliminated, despite the concerns of the staff and citizens, many of whom spoke out on behalf of the teachers at board meetings.

Action should have been taken long ago to ensure that the district wouldn't have to make such drastic decisions. The board has been aware of the financial concerns for years, but failed to improve the situation.

According to Supt. Lee Rieck, the district does have a plan to build up its funds, but this will take time.

There are two major real estate developments within the district, which will eventually generate real estate taxes, an important revenue source.

But how much, exactly, will they bring in? "The numbers that have been tossed around are from \$800,000 to \$1 million," said Rieck. He added that the money would not become a reality for three to five years.

Until the cash rolls in, which isn't a sure thing, the board needs to focus on education and make the right decisions. The right decisions would certainly include minimizing further cutting of teachers and staff mem-

bers.

Cutting teachers creates larger classes. The more students there are per class, the less individual attention for each student.

According to Reyes, the reductions could increase the number of students per classroom by two to four.

This is a significant increase from what Reyes said was an average of 20-23 students per classroom this year. This comment, however, was met with raucous laughter from the staff members on hand at the meeting. Staff members have pointed out that class sizes are reaching upward of 30 students.

Taking measures that would cause the district's education to suffer should not be on the school board's list of things to do.

And with the jobs, and the lives, of some non-tenured staff in limbo, it is clear that the cuts have a negative effect in more ways than one.

The board and Rieck need to consider other avenues to weather the storm until the new real estate taxes help get the district back on its feet.

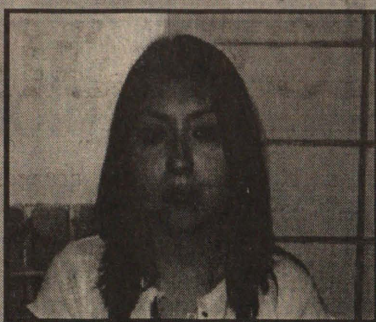
Extensive fund raising, small staff-wide pay cuts, or energy saving tactics are just a few lesser options the board could take into account.

They could even try to operate at a deficit, as they already have been, until the influx of new revenue is realized several years down the road.

Reyes justified the staff cuts by saying, "It's better to make these decisions proactively."

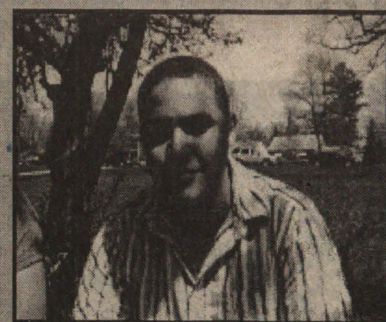
But the district has already been overspending its budget by over \$1 million for the past several years in a row. This is not quite a proactive decision.

The board needs to listen to the collective voice of the community. It's their responsibility to retain the quality of education in the district as they endure this financial struggle.



Daisy Borjon
Sophomore

"It's not right because the new teachers are great. They shouldn't have been hired just to be fired."



Tim Bullock
Sophomore

"I don't know any of the teachers who were cut, so I don't really care. I never had them."

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



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.

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Prom reaches deep into teen pockets

Stress that comes along with planning the big night should not ruin all the fun

By Kait Taylor

Whether it's the dress, date, hair, nails, shoes, garter, boutonniere, corsage, tickets, tux, tie, limo or weekend plans, many upperclassmen are finding that planning the different facets of the prom experience are just as stressful as the colossal price tag attached to each of these "necessary" elements.

For girls, the drawn-out process of dress shopping is the most daunting. Countless hours are spent drifting from store to store, sometimes finding the "perfect" dress

only to find another somewhere else. Multiple dress purchases and returns are not unheard of.

Not only is shopping for a dress tedious, but the prices are outlandish.

Spending over \$100 on a dress is characteristic of prom, and it isn't

odd to find girls who will spend up to \$400 on a dress that they will wear for only one night!

Accessories and appointments also cause a headache because nobody wants to get their hair done too early, therefore clogging the appointment books of every hair and nail salon in the area. Appointments need to be made weeks in advance, not to mention the fact that some salons charge more than \$50 for an over-hairsprayed coif packed with hairpins. The end result is often painful.

The cost of just about every aspect of prom is ridicu-

lous and each choice seems life altering and complicated.

For boys, a tuxedo can be costly and the necessary time needed to fit it properly is extensive. I feel terrible for boys whose dates end up with pink or purple dresses, therefore forcing them to match their vests. It can look pretty scary. Black and white is best.

Another task that boys face is the titanic task of asking their special someone to prom. Flowers are a big part and those who go cheapskate style and pick carnations are usually rejected. Roses are the only way to go.

Even more important than whom they ask is the way they do it. Throughout April, smiling and often flustered girls can be seen wandering the halls with flowers followed by a frenzied group of friends asking, "how did he do it?" Each approach is more creative and public than the next.

The strangest approach is a common tactic in which a boy sneaks into his prospective date's room and "decorates" hoping to surprise his special someone by either jumping out when she enters or just leaving it there for her to clean up. This, to me, is creepy. If someone came in to my house, snuck into my room while I wasn't home and left glitter and things all over the place I would make them clean it up. I would also say no.

Guys need to realize that it's not a marriage proposal. Making it super complicated is stupid and yet another way of wasting cash. Sometimes, it can even scare the person you're asking. Stick to the basics.

Then comes the question in which girls and boys most commonly disagree: To get a limo, or to not get a limo. They can be extremely costly, causing the debate over whether to rent one or to just take a car. Sure, limos are expensive, but they can also make the entire experience more enjoyable. The whole group needs to be addressed with this issue, which takes time and causes heated debate.

Weekend plans can also be a major headache because trips to the Dells or other hotel/resort areas are not only expensive, but it is practically impos-

sible to convince your parents to let you go away for a weekend with your boyfriend/girlfriend and other "crazy teens". Parents believe that teenagers are up to both or one of the following on prom night: Drinking or sex, which isn't necessarily true. Some will end up stuck at home while others will be forced to spend the weekend with their parents who insist on chaperoning. That is definitely not my idea of fun.

Setting up a table for the dinner portion of the dance is by far the most problematic part of planning prom. Tables can only seat five couples and groups with more than 10 people are forced to boot out pairs of their friends. This produces rifts between friends and causes some to wonder why they are even going to prom if they will be fighting with their friends over something as trivial as where they're sitting for 20 minutes of bad food.

By the end of all this planning, prom doesn't even seem fun anymore. There are many points throughout the prom planning process when some people, including me, wish they never bought tickets in the first place.

Basically, there are a million reasons why prom is a stressful time of year. What people need to realize is that the night doesn't have to be perfect and if a few minor things don't go according to plan, the night will still be tons of fun.

Now is the time to let go of anxieties: Prom is in three days!

Sure, it costs a lot, but once the day finally comes you know that you'll have fun. Stressing out is unnecessary. Prom is the kind of high school memory that you will look back on when you're 40-years-old.

So remember, when you step out of your limo on prom night, don't think about how much money you're spending. Hit the dance floor and let loose because it's party time!



SAT scores low on credibility

By David Thomas

It's depressing to think that a test score can single-handedly shape a person's future. After all, it's preposterous to sum up the worthiness and potential of a person in a score.

But that's exactly what standardized testing is, and does.

For years, the SAT and ACT have been crucial in a student's transition from high school to college. Two hundred points on the SAT can determine whether or not a student gets an extra \$8,000 from a college scholarship or financial aid, while 50 points can be the deciding factor in choosing student A over student B.

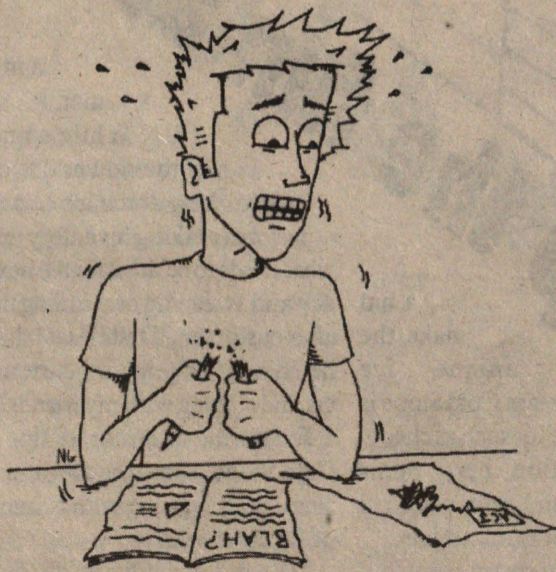
The SAT is administered by the College Board, a group of individuals who have banked on student aspirations and anxieties by not only charging for the tests, but also by developing an entire industry by publishing innumerable amounts of study guides.

But recently, scoring errors have shaken the test's credibility. In October 2005, the Associated Press reported that thousands of SAT scores were miscalculated. Specifically, 4,411 tests were incorrectly given lower scores, while 600 tests were given higher scores.

According to Jennifer Topiel, a spokeswoman for the College Board, about 83 percent of the incorrectly lower scored tests were off by 10 to 40 points. However, the Associate Press reported that one student's scores were off by 450 points.

In addition, the Washington Post reported in March that the College Board had not rescanned 27,000 tests from the October exam.

Many college officials are outraged by this, and rightly so. Dennis Trotter, the vice president for enrollment and marketing and dean of admission at the Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania, said in the Associated Press the errors questioned the test's



"relevancy and dependability in the admissions process."

As if to reinforce Trotter's statement, a growing number of colleges are taking action and not requiring students to take either test.

That number includes Illinois' Columbia College

and Trinity Christian College.

Students are outraged too. On April 8, CBS reported that a high school senior from Dix Hills, N.Y. is suing the College Board and Pearson Educational Management, the company that scores the tests. As of right now, the lawsuit is seeking class action status, meaning that more kids could jump on the bandwagon.

This is bad news for the College Board, but to the student who is taking the upcoming SAT and/or ACT test, and to the student whose mother is buying every test-prep guide ever written, this should be good news.

Think about it: The SAT has been discredited. Although the College Board's actions are deplorable, the scoring errors help students. As was mentioned before, some colleges do not require standardized testing, and that number is growing. According to U.S. News' "Ultimate College Report: 2006 Edition," many college admissions officers already place class rank and grades over test scores.

It is already a common-held belief that standardized tests are not accurate measures of student ability. And these recent errors are another step to the complete abolition of standardized testing for college, meaning that students will be measured by the grades they accumulated over four years of hard work, and not the filling in of bubbles on one afternoon. And that's how it should be.

Senior makes a difference in the lives of children by mentoring at resource center

By Kayla Harris

For most teenagers, getting paid is the main reason to have a job. For senior Miguel Leal, however, impacting the lives of children is his main motive.

Leal works as a peer mentor in the Westwood Neighborhood Resource Center at Westwood apartments in West Chicago.

Working as a peer mentor, Leal helps children with homework, coordinates sports and games, and leads crafts.

Leal has only worked at the center for a little over two months, but has already developed relationships with the kids.

"If you're sad, the little kids cheer you up. It's really uplifting," Leal said.

He learned about his current job from his BTI coordinator, and is thankful for it.

Leal's job has also taught him how to manage his money properly.

"I save 70 percent of my money, 10 percent is on clothes, 10 percent is for food, and the rest is for miscellaneous things," he said.

The after-school program has also helped Leal to become more punctual and has taught him to be more responsible.

"I'm supposed to be a role model. I think I am," Leal said.

The kids at the center also make Leal laugh.

"One time, milk came out of one of the kid's nose."

Leal is happy to have a job, because without it, he wouldn't be able to buy anything.

"My par-

ents don't spend any money on me, at least not enough," he said.

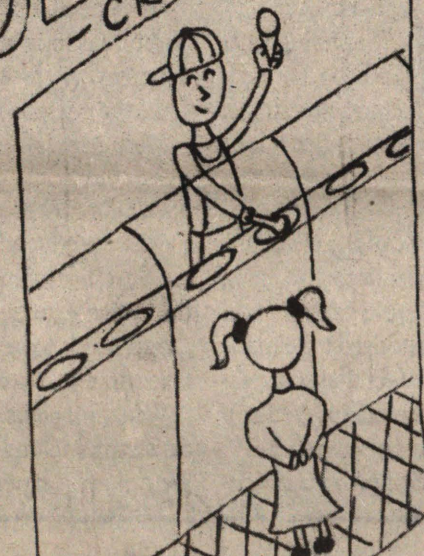
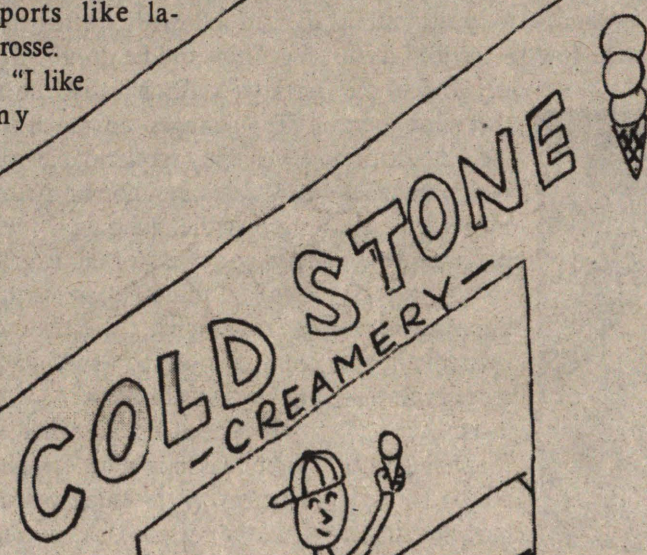
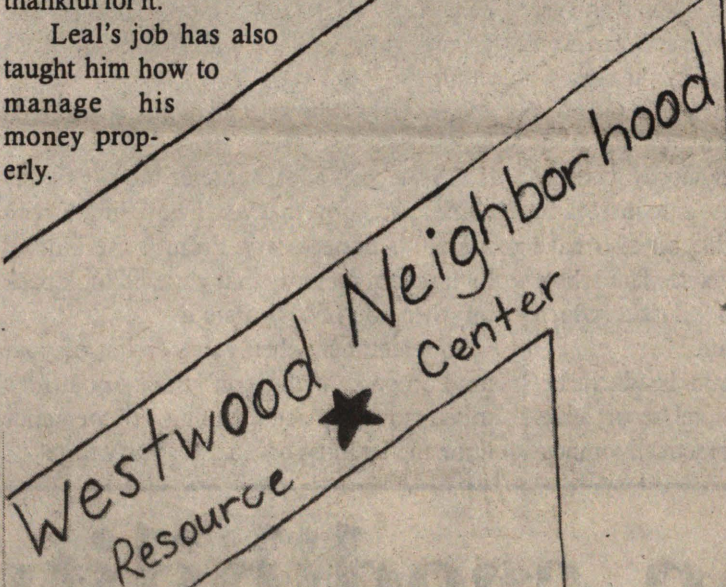
He also feels most teens should have jobs.

"Jobs show responsibility. Having a job at 16 is very appropriate," Leal recommended.

If he didn't have a job, Leal says he would spend his free time playing club sports like lacrosse.

"I like my

job a lot," Leal said. "It brightens my day to see smiles on all of the kids' faces."



Scooping up the fun at Cold Stone

By

Kym McDaniel

Eating ice cream isn't the only perk of working at Cold Stone Creamery.

Not only do Cold Stone employees get paid to make cakes but they also sing when customers tip,

and make the unique ice cream Cold Stone is known for such as chocolate devotion, berry berry berry good, and oreo overload among the 32 original mixes.

"I get free ice cream every shift I work," said sophomore Mike Dalton who has worked at Cold Stone in St. Charles for a year.

Dalton works from 15 to 20 hours a week during the school year and 25 to 35 a week during

Everytime a customer tips a Cold Stone employee they must sing a popular song with a touch of Cold Stone in it.

"We did a rendition of 'Get Low' and 'The Flintstones,'" said Dalton.

The songs are all about scooping up the ice cream and Cold Stone.

"Cold Stone, here at Cold Stone,

we're a super scooper family; hey hey hey, when you eat our ice cream, we will sing in perfect harmony," sang Dalton to the tune of "The Flintstones."

A unique aspect of Cold Stone is that they hire new workers by an audition process where the workers hire the new employee, not the boss.

"Anyone who applies comes into the audition and has to show us an interesting talent, tell us about themselves, and then they form a group and have to sing for us," said Dalton.

Dalton reassures possible new coworkers that they "don't have to be good, but their original Coldstone song does."

Dalton thinks his at Cold Stone is better than most jobs that teens have.

"Besides the ice cream, I get to hang around with cool people," said Dalton. "It's just sweet."

High school is a time to learn new skills and responsibilities. Find out how students are making their way into the workforce and gaining experience.

City

Laurie Aburto
a Toys 'R'

By Terri Molo

Junior Laurie Aburto spends her weekends showing kids how to use all of the hot new toys.

Since November Aburto has been working at Toys 'R' us in St. Charles.

This is Aburto's first job. She was very surprised that she got hired.

"I had no experience and it was that first one I applied for," said Aburto.

For the most part Aburto likes her job. "It really depends on the moods of the managers and customers. But I love my co-workers, they make my job even more fun," Aburto said.

A normal day for Aburto consists of working at the cash register or customer service.

"I like customer service better because I like the interaction with the customers," she said.

The downsides of working in the toy store are cleaning up after customers and having

me for developing responsibilities. Check at our school are to the working force experience.

Students move from classroom to work world through school internship program

By David Thomas

At 2 p.m., junior Cristina Acosta leaves school to go to work. She does not have tenth hour

off, nor is she ditching school. She is a student in the school's business/technical internship (BTI), a program that allows students to leave school early to work.

Acosta works at All About Caring, a daycare in Warrenville. There, she watches over the babies in the infant room for two school credits.

According to Acosta, she joined

the program to leave school early. "But after being in the job and the class, it's really fun. You learn new stuff every day," said Acosta. "Also, because I didn't have a job before I took this class, they help you find a job."

BTI and its counterpart, cooperative work training (CWT), are year-long classes that enable students to leave school early and work.

Business teacher Peggy Peach, who also oversees CWT, said that the programs attempt to place students in a job that matches their skills and interests. In addition, the

programs satisfy the school's graduation requirement of one semester of consumer education.

"It's a really good way for kids to try a career on for size," said Peach. "For some kids, it's a confirmation for them. But for some, it's not."

In the program, the student and the employer sign an agreement before the student works. The agreement ensures that the student has to attend school in order to work and must follow both school and company rules, while the employer agrees that wages will be "comparable to wages paid to other beginning level employees."

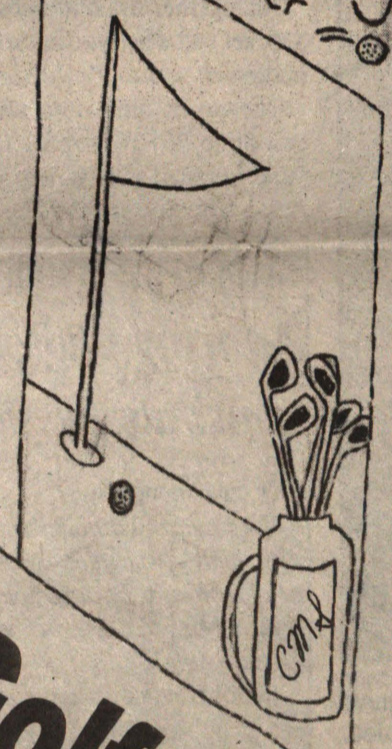
According to Peach, the school has relationships with 141 different employers, ranging from retail such as Best Buy, to fast food restaurants like McDonald's and Burger King.

hall

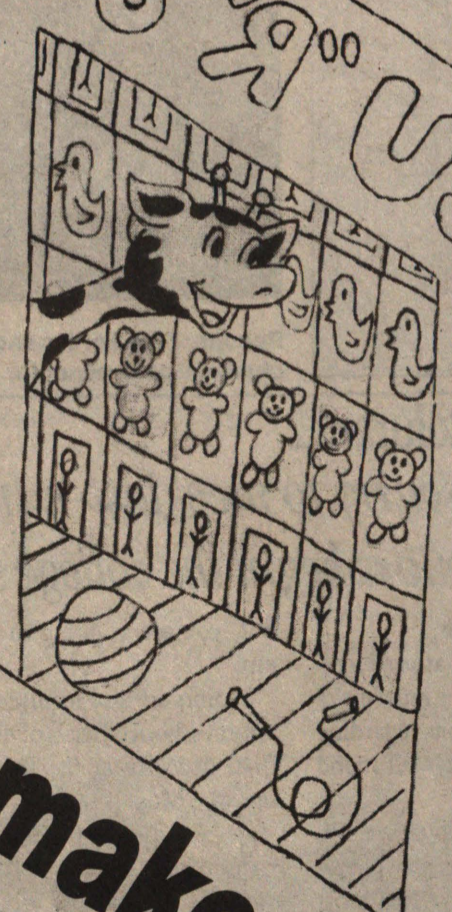
burto is R' Us Kid

nothing to do when it's slow. "Sometimes it gets so messy because all of the little kids like to pull out merchandise on display and they will leave it in the middle of the aisles when they are done playing," said Aburto. Aburto makes \$7 an hour. "My paychecks are usually only around \$50 to \$75 because I only work on the weekends." She plans on working more hours during the summer when she has fewer activities going on. "They're really great with my schedule, I have so much going on with school I'm thankful that they are so flexible with hours. Usually when I feel like working I'll just go in and they're okay with it," said Aburto. Aburto suggests that anyone should try for a job at Toys 'R' Us. "It's an awesome job, I can't believe I'm getting paid to have so much fun," Aburto said.

Seven Bridges Golf Center



Toys "R" Us



Golf course job makes par

By Nick Gorski

Manicured greens, treacherous sand traps, and refreshing pro shop beverages have become more than just weekend fun for one senior.

Eric Lindner makes his part-time living at Seven Bridges golf course in Woodridge. Lindner is an avid golfer himself, so a job at the course is a perfect way for him to make some extra cash.

Spending time on the links is good for improving his skills too, as he has been on the school's varsity golf team for two years.

"Working at Seven Bridges is a good opportunity to work on my game," he said.

His job consists of putting golfers' clubs on their carts, and cleaning their clubs for them. "I basically act as their servant," he said.

In return, he makes a modest wage, and leaves with tip money in his pocket, courtesy of the affluent, but sometimes stingy, golf-

ers. It gets frustrating to act as a servant, but Lindner puts up with the hard work in return for the "wads of cash" he makes every day.

He has even had a few celebrity meetings at the course, including basketball player Scottie Pippen.

"He's notorious for the nickname 'No Tippin Pippen'," said Lindner. "But he asked me to go get him a towel once, and he gave me five bucks."

But the job is not all tip money and fun in the sun. Lindner dislikes working when it rains, or when golfers fail to show up, making for some boring afternoons.

"We wager our tip money on

crazy contests when we get bored," he said. They compete to see who can spin the golf carts the most times in the rain, have chipping contests, and even try to see who can throw the ball closest to the hole.

Lindner's job has given him lots of stories to tell. "One time, one of the beverage cart ladies accidentally took somebody else's allergy medicine," he said. "She blacked out while she was driv-

ing the cart and crashed into the water." The cart lady turned out to be fine, and Lindner is excited for another summer out on the course, where he can have some more fun.

Places to save:

Are you saving your hard-earned money by shopping at thrift stores? Why pay retail when you can purchase many items second-hand for the fraction of the cost?

Shopping secondhand is like a treasure hunt. It takes time to learn how to bargain shop, but you can become a money-saving thrift store shopper by planning ahead and being prepared.

Here are some local thrift stores where you can begin your bargain hunting:

Living Branches Thrift Shop
216 S 2nd Ave, St Charles
(630) 584-5833
Monday- Saturday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Persephone's Eclectia
116 S West St., Naperville
(630) 548-5050
Monday- Saturday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Encore Shop
207 W. Front St., Wheaton
(630) 690-642
Monday- Saturday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Wisepenny
122 Main St., Wheaton
(630) 665-8626
Monday- Saturday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday

St. Vincent DePaul
213 Main St., West Chicago
(630) 231-4658
Monday- Friday
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Thrift stores rein in excessive prom costs

By Ellyn Fortino

Prom is definitely the expensive hot topic among junior and senior high school students during the month of April. With prom tickets alone costing \$50, and All Night Long

tickets at \$20, it is obvious that it is not easy on the pockets.

What are students to do when there is simply not enough cash to fork over for prom attire? Two words: thrift store.

Girls and guys can spend

hundreds of dollars on prom expenses, so the Wildcat Chronicle set out to find prom attire for both genders combined for a price tag of \$50, or less.

Wise Penny, 122 Main St. in Wheaton, had many women's dress shoes, purses and dresses to choose from all under \$10.

One attractive prom dress for sale was an ankle length, black dress with stitched flowers with dark purple sequins and beads on the chest. The dress had two layers, a solid black fabric with a black mesh over it, and cost an amazingly cheap \$5.

The shoes to match were silver strapped high heels for \$3 in mint condition. The purse was a small black clutch for \$2.

All together this outfit cost \$10, not bad when you're on a budget.

The second thrift store, Encore Shop, 207 W Front St. in Wheaton, had more variety of ties, suits, and men's dress

shirts than the previous store. Here a purple and gray striped tie and a white dress shirt went for \$1. The black suit and pants came together for \$5. Overall this outfit cost only \$7.

St. Vincent's, 213 Main St. in West Chicago, had a small selection of dresses and men's dress clothing.

However, a black knee high dress with gold sequins along the collar went for \$3. This dress was not a typical prom outfit but would be perfect for a unique, one of a kind dress.

The selection of men's dress shoes was mediocre and mainly in big sizes that would most likely not fit a high school student.

St. Vincent's did have a variety of men's suits for about \$4, but the quality was not as nice as in Encore Shop.

After shopping in only three out of the many thrift stores in the area, prom attire for both genders combined in all stores cost around \$20. Way under the \$50 budget.



Photo by Katie Taylor
Reporter Ellyn Fortino shows that thrift store shopping gives students more money for other expensive prom amenities.

Artist of the Month

Aspiring photographer wishes to continue passion into college

By Julie Youngwith

Each month a different fine arts teacher will select Artist of the Month. Photography teacher Michael Conroy chose Kevin Sinclair.

Junior Kevin Sinclair's talent in photography allowed him to capture the title of April Artist of the Month.

This aspiring young photographer first became interested in photography because he learned that his father used to be involved, so Sinclair decided to give it a try.

"At first I took photography as an easy credit, but I grew to like it," said Sinclair.

So far, Sinclair has taken both photography I and II as well as advanced photo with photography teacher Michael Conroy.

Sinclair enjoys advanced photo the most because he can choose his own subjects and come up with his own projects.

"Kevin has become a fine photographer and continues to experiment and try new things both with his camera and in the darkroom," said Conroy.

Some of Sinclair's favorite subjects to shoot are people, animals and sports.

"I would love to make it out to one of our school's baseball

or softball games to shoot a roll or two," said Sinclair.

Sinclair's favorite photo he has taken is from a recent panoramic project where he took shots of his living room from all angles so that after the pictures were developed they were put together like puzzle pieces.

"I like photography because it's fun to experiment and see what interesting pieces you can come up with," said Sinclair.

After high school Sinclair plans on attending Hartford or the Chicago Art Institute to study photography. He hopes to become a sports photographer for the Chicago White Sox.

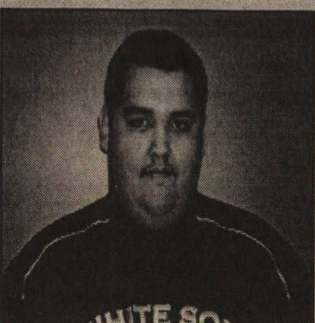


Photo by Julie Youngwith

When Kevin Sinclair first took photography he was just looking for an easy class, instead he found a passion.

College Column...

Seniors scurry to meet last-minute deadlines while juniors begin the college selection process

By Kellie Virnich

As May 1 rolls around, college-bound seniors must make their final decisions regarding which college they will attend in the fall.

This date is the average university deadline for acceptance, and is also when most schools begin assigning dormitories and roommates.

Students who have not done so already should also fill out FAFSA as soon as possible.

Sending the FAFSA to schools helps determine how much each student's family is expected to pay.

Head counselor Maura Bridges encouraged all students to fill out the form, regardless of financial situation, saying, "There is money there, but if you don't even fill one

out, you aren't going to get any."

Seniors are also required to inform school officials of their final decision at the senior meeting May 19, so that the registrar can send out final transcripts.

"We (counselors) would also like feedback on where kids are going," Bridges said. "We help kids all year and go through all of this paperwork, and we never find out where most kids are going."

Along with the senior meeting, at 6:45 a.m. May 19, graduates should also be aware of Honors Night, June 2 at 7 p.m., where many scholarships will be announced.

A nice gesture that students often forget, Bridges said, is writing thank you notes to or-

ganizations that have awarded them scholarships, especially local groups.

As for juniors, college stress is fast approaching, with the PSAT and ACT test on Wednesday and Thursday.

For prospective college athletes, however, a national test score is needed to play at most Division I or II schools.

Also, certain schools and majors require the writing portion of the ACT, which is not included in the state version of the test.

Bridges stresses that juniors should make appointments to visit schools as soon as possible in order to see campuses while students are there, giving a better impression of what it would be like to attend the college.

Student prepares to join forces

By Nick Gorski

After an arduous application process that lasted for months, one senior is finally ready to cross into the blue.

Chris Prochnow will attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., this summer as part of a class of 1,200, selected from over 13,000 applicants.

The Academy represents a life-long dream come true for Prochnow, who has wanted to become a pilot his whole life.

"I was a pilot for Halloween like, six years in a row," he said.

Prochnow's admissions process lasted for months, beginning with a detailed online application.

"It took forever before I was accepted," he said. "I was nervous since it was so competitive."

He was required to ask for nominations from politicians, such as Sen. Dick Durbin and Vice President Dick Cheney.

Prochnow interviewed with politicians including Sen.

Barack Obama, but ultimately received his nomination from Speaker of the House Dennis J. Hastert.

After the nomination, Prochnow had a series of tests, including a rigorous physical fitness exam.

"It was like, push-ups for three minutes, then a short rest, then pull-ups for two minutes, then a mile run, then lots of other stuff," he said. "It was physically tough, but also mentally draining since it was timed and structured like that. I'd say it was the hardest part."

But once he got the acceptance letter in the mail, Prochnow was thrilled to be living his dream.

He considers his father his main inspiration toward a career in aviation.

"My dad always loved aviation. Every year we go to the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association), which is the biggest air show in the world," he said. Once he reports to the Academy, Prochnow will be in a 10 year commitment to the

service.

On his second day there, he will become an official member of the Air Force.

He will begin basic training immediately but will end when school starts in the fall. The cadets spend every summer completing a variety of training programs.

Once his classes start, Prochnow will study with the goal of a bachelor's degree in science. His studies will also relate to military training, with classes like military tactics and military strategy.

"It's basically like a regular college, except we wear uniforms everywhere," said Prochnow. "They mix the military stuff with the rest of the curriculum."

The cadets are also required to participate in intramural athletics, which are practiced daily. Prochnow will play golf, and possibly lacrosse.

In a few years, Prochnow will have the opportunity to finally fly planes, when he can apply

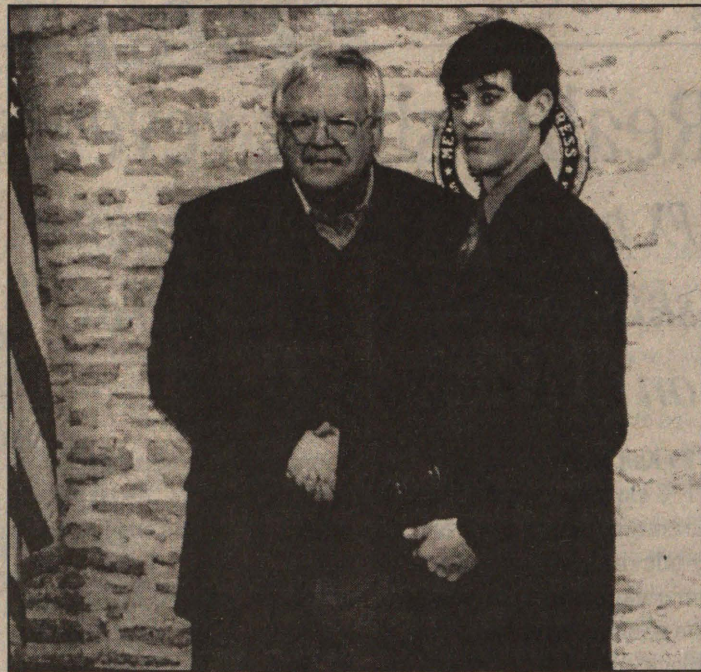


Photo courtesy of Chris Prochnow

During the Air Force Academy application process, Chris Prochnow received a nomination from Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert.

for flight training as a senior.

There have only been 32,000 graduates in the Air Force Academy's 55-year history. If Prochnow joins that elite group, he will be prepared to enter into a career as an officer in the United States Air Force.

He is set to report to Colorado Springs on June 29. Until then, Prochnow plans on spending

time with his friends and family in his hometown of Warrenville, playing golf, and drinking many Monster energy drinks. But he will constantly look forward to his first day as a cadet.

"I'm really excited to serve my country and join the long blue line of cadet tradition," he said.

Volunteer flocks toward exotic animals

Brookfield Zoo provides freshman experience for future career



Photo by Kait Taylor

Ryan Russell incognito at the zoo.

By Kait Taylor

Tracking a dream to become a veterinarian for exotic animals, sophomore Ryan Russell learns first-hand about Brookfield Zoo's animals through Youth Volunteer Corp's (YVC) teen volunteer program.

Russell volunteers through YVC's "interpretive track", in which he uses games, crafts, hands on experience and his own creativity to educate zoo guests about the planet's wild-est and most diverse animals.

Russell signed up for the gig two years ago when his mother heard about the program from a friend.

He knew right away that the program was perfect to advance his dream to become a veterinarian.

"(I signed up because) I wanted to meet new people and learn more about all animals. Also, I want to be a veterinarian," he said.

After a series of training sessions, Russell committed to volunteering at least 120 hours every year.

Through the program, Russell has gotten to work side-by-side with the professionals.

"Most of our zoologist trainers have a huge sense of humor," he said. "They really enjoy what they do."

During the school year, he helps out at special events including Boo at the Zoo! and

"This is a great way to learn and get into the zoo free."

--Ryan Russell

Holiday Magic.

During Boo at the Zoo! he helps with pumpkin carving and other activities for kids, and during Holiday Magic he dresses as a costume character and greets children.

"I like meeting new people and seeing new people that come to the zoo," Russell said.

Russell's favorite volunteer job is working at the dolphin show and watching the dolphins learn new tricks.

"I've liked dolphins since I was 8-years-old. They are really intelligent. Most of the tricks take time to learn but they are able to understand and eventually complete them," said Russell. "On hot days, we get to soak the guests (watching the dolphin show) with water guns."

Russell also likes to watch the polar bears, especially a cub that was born at the zoo two years ago.

"His head got stuck in a Hinkley and Schmidt water bottle for about five minutes. He is the most curious bear at the zoo," he said.

Russell also admires the Mexican gray wolf.

Besides volunteering at the zoo, Russell takes educational field trips to natural areas, museums, and other fun places to extend his education.

Russell recommends that any teens interested in wildlife try volunteering at Brookfield.

The YVC accepts applications from all high school grades.

"This is a great way to learn and I get into the zoo free anytime as a volunteer," he said. "It's a great program and from it I learned how to work how to work with people and as a team."

Any teens who would like to apply for YVC's teen volunteer tracks can fill out an application at brookfieldzoo.org.

'Singing in the Rain' fashion show showers fun while raising money

By Terri Molo

Students volunteered to strut their stuff down the catwalk and helped raise \$1,000 for the Humanitarian Service Project.

West Chicago Chamber of Commerce asked the students to participate in "Singing in the Rain", its annual spring fashion show and luncheon.

The event took place April 12.

A variety of vendors and corporate table sponsors, including Community High School, were invited to the event.

"This is the best turn out we've had," said Mary Ann Manna, the vice president of the chamber.

Junior Ashley Conway, a student representative of the Chamber of Commerce, invited all second semester clothing stu-

dents to model and help out.

Conway and seniors Ashley Hund and Adriana Perez modeled clothing that they completed during class, including a dress and blazers.

Principal John Highland also modeled clothing courtesy of the Pheasant Run Pro Shop. The other models included corporate table sponsors and their children.

"This was the first time we had children model, and they stole the show," said Manna.

Many stores donated clothing for the fashion show, including Noah's Ark Animal Workshop, Pheasant Run Pro Shop, and Sassy's Originals.

"It took a long time to plan. I contacted all of the stores last November when the planning started," said Manna.



Photo by Terri Molo

Students, including Ashley Hund, left, and Ashley Conway, got the chance to walk the runway during the annual fashion show.

Reality show reveals race is not black and white

FX program changes families' skin color and perspectives on controversial issue

By Kait Taylor

FX explores more than just the entertainment value of reality television, but the depth of American racism in a thought-provoking new television series "Black. White."

The show follows two families, the liberal white Wurgel family of Santa Monica, Calif., and Sparkses of Georgia, a middle-class African-American family.

State-of-the-art makeup techniques that helped to transform Robin Williams into "Mrs. Doubtfire" in 1993 literally allow the families to transform into each others' skins. The process artificially changes the skin color, hair color, and facial features to transform each of the family members into another ethnicity, and can take up to five

hours daily to complete.

For six weeks, dad Brian, mother Rene, and son Nick of the African-American Sparks family make their way through a predominantly white suburb in southern California.

Meanwhile, dad Bruno, mom Carmen, and daughter Rose of the white Wurgel family experience the culture of a black community in South Central Los Angeles.

The show frequently uses hidden cameras, and when cameras are visible, people not with the program are told they are shooting a documentary about new families who moved to Los Angeles.

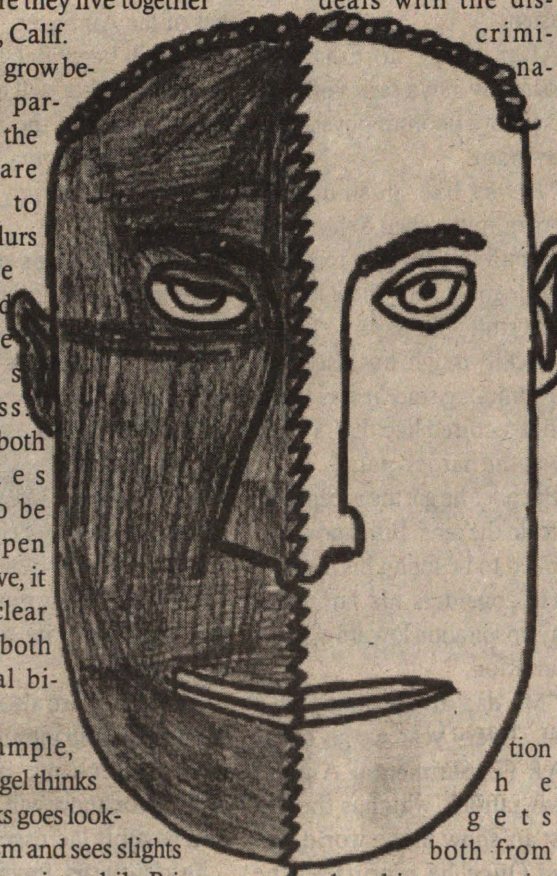
After long days of racial encounters the families take off their make up and share their experiences and thoughts in a

house where they live together in Tarzana, Calif.

Tensions grow between the parents when the Wurgels are expected to use racial slurs that leave Brian and Renee Sparks speechless. Although both families claimed to be racially open and sensitive, it becomes clear that they both have racial biases.

For example, Bruno Wurgel thinks Brian Sparks goes looking for racism and sees slights where none exist, while Brian thinks Bruno is ignorant to the amount of racism all African-Americans experience. Being a light-skinned black man, Bruno

deals with the discrimination



conforming to stereotypes. She also struggles with deceiving the others in her poetry group and maintaining her true identity outside of her racial identity.

Nick Sparks disagrees with his parents about racism, who believes he doesn't experience discrimination. He clashes with his parents, who are angered by the fact that he isn't phased by the "N-word".

"Black. White." demonstrates the potential of reality television to go beyond cheap dating shows or worm-eating spectacles to illuminate important social and cultural issues. It makes the viewer explore his or her own beliefs and biases, which is unusual for television, especially reality shows.

FX deserves praise for exploring controversial yet innovative ground in television, because "Black. White." is the most extraordinary comment on social issues reality television has ever seen.

PARENTS: FOLLOW HOLLYWOOD'S ADVICE...AND NAME YOUR KID SOMETHING WEIRD



'Scary Movie 4': Four times the mediocrity!

By David Thomas

It was obvious from the beginning that "Scary Movie 4" wasn't going to be fabulous. Ever since the departure of the Wayans brothers after the first sequel, the series has shrugged by with pop culture references, celebrity cameos, and toilet humor.

But that doesn't mean "Scary Movie 4" was a horrible movie. It's one of those mediocre comedies, perfect for background noise on a dull Sunday afternoon. And the plot reflects it.

Cindy Campbell (Anna Faris) returns, but things aren't working out well. Her boyfriend George (Simon Rex) died when he broke his neck trying to save Cindy from falling on a chair

during a championship boxing match. She's just moved and is trying to find a new job.

She visits George's brother, Tom (Charlie Sheen), but things are not all right with Tom. Despite the fact that he has not one, not two, but three hot, "adequate" blondes in his bed, Tom is suicidal. Cindy shows up, complicating things. Eventually, Tom dies, but not before washing down 40 Viagra pills with liquor. He thought the blue pills were sleeping aids.

Cindy gets a job with the city's department of health and human services, and is immediately assigned to a house haunted by the ghost of a little boy.

Meanwhile, dock worker Tom Ryan (Craig Bierko) is having family issues. He doesn't know how to connect with his kids, who've been dropped off at his house for the weekend. Here, it is revealed that Tom and Cindy are neighbors, immediately igniting fireworks between the two.

There are several more pop culture jokes before the story gets going. But arguably the best joke is the "Brokeback Mountain" scene between Malahik (Anthony Anderson) and CJ (Kevin Hart).

Then, about halfway into the movie, the story starts to roll. Alien invaders appear, coming down in "tri-pods." There's a scene where Tom and a group

of people watch as the first tripod appears. At first, it's an iPod labeled "tri-pod." It shuffles through it is playlist to select "Awesome 80s." The crowd enjoys the music, until the massive tri-pod selects the playlist "Destroy Humanity." It transforms into the huge machine from "War of the Worlds," and proceeds to destroy humanity.

Cindy is on a mission to find the father of the little dead boy, who is rumored to know how to stop the rampaging aliens. As her trek continues, she meets up with her old friend Brenda (Regina Hall). She's a reporter now, and she joins Cindy in hopes of getting "the big story."

As the rampage continues,

the fearless U.S. president (Leslie Nielsen) is prodded into action by his staff, and goes before the United Nations to help. Typically, things go horribly awry, prompting the question: "Is that what Leslie Nielsen really looks like?"

Meanwhile, Cindy and Regina, along with Tom and his two kids, stumble through a series of settings, ranging from "Saw" to "The Village," and all of them tie together. However, this blending of plots, and the sometimes-clever pop culture references, does not redeem the movie of its mediocrity. The movie was also very short, running only 83 minutes long.

But hey, it's better than "Annapolis."

YEAH YEAH YEAHS

Stories by Ellyn Fortino
Photo by Kayla Harris

Live at the Riviera

Luckily for a sold out venue jammed packed with obsessed fans, front woman of Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Karen Orzolek, did not fail to dress or impress the audience on April 14 at the Riviera.

With dull opening acts that failed to compare with Yeah Yeah Yeahs, the audience waited anxiously for the eclectic trio.

The lights dimmed and eyes wandered around in the dark waiting to catch the first glimpse of Karen O in one of her infamous getups. The crowd grew louder and bodies came closer together as the band took the stage.

Guitarist-keyboardist Nick Zinner appeared wearing tight black pants and a hooded sweatshirt looking timid in front of the crowd. Drummer Brian Chase followed behind Zinner awkwardly and sat at the drums, grinning. Chase hit the drums and Karen O appeared wearing a Japanese-esque wrestling outfit with gold fabric, shiny gold tights underneath and white converse hightops.

Her neon orange and glittered face paint glistened in the lights while she began the first song "Turn Into." The crowd jumped along with Karen O, the beat catching her contagious, pearly white smile.

During the fourth song, "Art Star," Karen O put her hot pink/neon green duct taped microphone inscribed with hearts inside her mouth.

Holding it between her teeth, she screamed the lyrics, something only she could pull off so pleasingly and stylishly, adding one of her famous "do do do do do's" at the end of the song, barely able to catch her breath.

The set included powerful songs such as "Y Control" and "Gold Lion" but also included soft and gentle songs such as "Sweets" and "Cheated Hearts," that echoed with the voices of hundreds of fans.

The band wrapped up and Chase ran to the front of the stage and bowed, still smiling as Zinner and Karen O rushed offstage.

The crowd shouted "Yeah Yeah Yeah" until the band came back on stage for an encore.

After taking pictures for his personal tour scrapbook, Zinner began the guitar intro for "Maps."

They sang three more songs and left the stage again. The lights stayed off, almost teasing the audience.

Karen O began singing the intro to "Poor Song" from the side of the stage and then emerged for their second encore with a handcrafted skeleton jumpsuit with an exposed fake heart and fringe hanging from the elbows and the hood.

Karen O jumped, skipped and danced around the stage when she wasn't falling to her knees to accentuate a note, throwing a towel over her head, or dramatically holding one of her arms outstretched with her microphone high in the air. The crowd loved every minute of it.

In the studio

Yeah Yeah Yeahs' new album, "Show Your Bones" is definitely not "Fever to Tell" part two nor a fan-alienating abandonment of their signature sound.

Usually when a band has a very successful debut album and releases a follow up that is not exactly the same music, people can not help but cry "sell out!" It's inevitable unless they actually like the new style.

In this day and age it is hard for a band to mature artistically without smacking that huge "sell out" sticker across their forehead. But Yeah Yeah Yeahs should be applauded for moving into a new musical direction.

"Show Your Bones" is one of those CD's where every song from the first, "Gold Lion," to the last, "Turn Into," is brilliant. Karen O has toned down her vocals on this CD compared to "Fever to Tell" and it works perfectly.

Brian Chase plays the drums in a style that really lends a backbone to the songs and Nick Zinner is great on keyboards and guitar. All of the songs have soul and passion to them and their own personality. It's a band whose sounds becomes bigger than the three musicians creating them. It's an amazing blend of instruments, timing and the occasional random sound that makes the CD so interesting to listen to.

Karen O brings a new sexy style of singing to "Show Your Bones" with more melodic tones instead of the shrieks, yelps and moans heard on "Fever to Tell."

However there are growing pains for a band that has done a lot of maturing since "Fever to Tell" made them stars in the indie scene.

And this newfound knowledge has its benefits, most important among them a confessional tone to the songwriting that effectively blurs the distinctions between stage name Karen O and Karen Orzolek. "Show Your Bones" is a post-fame album, with many songs written from the viewpoint of a touring musician.

"Warrior" begins as an acoustic ballad much like the previous album's "Modern Romance", but builds into an intense finish as Karen O cries, "Travel away, travel it all away/ The road's gonna end on me." She never tumbles into self-pity though, because the attraction of an excited audience proves as strong as the pull of a stable, homebound life.

First single "Gold Lion" sounds like a mission statement "We'll build a fire in your eyes," and "Dudley" is an empowering breakup song "My dear, you've been used. I'm breaking the news. Love nearly beat us. I'm thinking like you. I'm thinking of you. Love follows near us. Can love really steer us? Oh can it be true?"

"Show Your Bones" picks up where the previous first single, "Maps" left off and has "yeah yeah yeahed" us all over again.



Rape and sexual violence not appropriate for movies

By Kayla Harris



Rape and other forms of sexual violence have become popular themes for filmmakers, and many moviegoers don't seem to mind it either.

Sexual violence in movies is not entertainment. Instead it sends the wrong message to its audience that violence against women is acceptable.

Movies repeatedly show women who are stalked and attacked at the most vulnerable of times: taking a shower, undressing and sleeping.

In the 1960s, viewers were shocked by the scene in

"Psycho" where a woman is murdered while taking a shower. The audience never sees the knife strike the woman but they still found it disturbing. Today, movies show extremely graphic rapes and killings, but most viewers don't find it to be that shocking.

One of the most recent films, the disturbing Wes Craven remake "The Hills Have Eyes" shows a teenage girl being raped by a disgusting mutant. In the 1977 version, a girl is raped, but the 2006 version of the rape is longer and more graphic.

It does not, however, show the traumatizing effect rape will have on her.

Movies depict rape as a one-time ordeal. Hardly any movies in which rape is depicted show the damaging effects it has on the victim. The person is raped, and the film goes on.

Victims of rape and sexual violence commonly deal with post traumatic stress disorder, suicide and depression, and many develop eating disorders, according to healthyplace.com

Rarely is this ever shown on movie screens.

Another problem is the message the media is sending to its viewers.

Rape scenes are most often portrayed as being sexual, not violent or traumatic ordeals. The public may be swayed into

believing that rape is about sex and lust and not about power and control.

Many movies often show rape victims enjoying being violated. Audiences are shown that women actually like being raped, that "no" actually means "yes".

In the movie "Swept Away," for example, a woman ends up falling in love with the man who raped her.

In "The Transporter" a woman is shown being bound and gagged and then shows slight enjoyment at the way she was treated.

Rape is not enjoyable or sexy, and should never be seen as so. According to the Department of Justice and the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention, one in six women have experienced a rape or attempted rape.

Viewers need to stay away from movies like these, and when exposed to them, question what purpose it serves in the movie. It is important that viewers realize the pain and suffering rape victims go through.

Parents should be aware of what their children are watching, and communicate with them why sexual violence is wrong.

Rape and sexual violence against women occurs every hour of every day, and to make light of this fact is unsympathetic and cruel.

Coach's Corner

Softball coach has success in his return to the dugout

By Kellie Virnich

Though softball coach James Schaudt never coached girls before, and had no experience with the sport, he said that coaching varsity for 12 years has been one of the best experiences of his life.

"Coaching girls has a lot of rewards," Schaudt said. "They are more willing to accept advice for improvements."

Schaudt grew up playing baseball in Villa Park. As the middle child of three boys, he "obviously got ripped off," though he was always relieved not to be compared to his younger brother in academics.

After graduating from Willowbrook High School, Schaudt gave up playing sports, and graduated from Northern Illinois University. He became a teacher, discovering his love of being around young people early on, ending up at Glenside Middle School teaching eighth grade history.

"I feel like coaching is an extension of academics. You have to be committed and focused," he said.

One of the few things Schaudt regrets is giving up athletics too early in his life. He advises teens to stick with the sports they love, and said that students today seem to

look too much into the future and do not enjoy what they have now.

In addition to technique, Schaudt tries to teach his players pride for their school. He also believes that it is "a tribute to the school" that so many former students come back to either teach or coach. Schaudt has many assistant coaches and volunteers who played for him, including assistant coach Laurie Davidson.

Schaudt has his father to thank for being "extremely instrumental" to his life, not only where sports were involved, but by teaching his son to volunteer his time to good causes, and deal with people fairly. Schaudt said the hardest part of coaching is being fair to everyone and dealing with entire team's feelings, while still playing to win.

"I love working with these girls. It's the best part of my day," said Schaudt. "I go all day dealing with kids who hate school, and then I go coach and work with these girls who really want to be there."

"I have enjoyed coaching here, and I want to keep coaching," Schaudt said. "This is a great school and community, and even though I'm getting around the age where I'm thinking of retiring, I love this too much."

Athlete of the Month

Captain earns award for big plays



Photo courtesy of Sara Kufta

Senior Sara Kufta is one of the captains of the varsity soccer team and has played on the team for three years.

Each month a different coach will nominate an athlete for Athlete of the Month. Head soccer coach Julio DelReal selected Sara Kufta for April.

By Brittany Blanchard

Sporting a positive attitude and motivating her teammates has earned Sara Kufta the nomination for April Athlete of the Month for varsity girls soccer.

Head girls soccer coach Julio DelReal says Kufta always puts her team before herself and

never complains.

"To me, she is the epitome of a true team player, sacrificing herself for the benefit of the team," said DelReal. "She's a coach's dream as far as getting her to do what she needs to do in order for the team to achieve success."

Kufta, who has played on varsity for three years and is a captain this year, assumes many different positions on the field but is primarily the

teams stopper and Kufta says she likes soccer for many reasons.

"I love the intensity of the game and it keeps me in shape," said Kufta. "Eighty minutes of constant running and sprinting is a killer!"

In addition to soccer, Kufta also played for four years on the school's volleyball team yet says that kickball and football are her favorite sports.

In spite of receiving the varsity girls soccer team's rookie of the year award after the 2004 season and the most improved award following the 2005 season, Kufta says her favorite soccer memory was playing a series of games on no sleep the day after prom last year.

"We seriously got home at 7 a.m. and had to be at the school by 8 a.m.," Kufta said. "We got no sleep but ended up winning the entire tournament and having a blast."

Although she considers her mom and dad, who attend every game, her biggest supporters, she appreciates all those who regularly or occasionally attend games.

"I love all our fans," said Kufta. "It means a lot to look up in the stands and see familiar faces cheering on our team."

Kufta is attending Southern Illinois University next year as an animal sciences or criminal justice major and donates her free time to volunteering at the DuPage Animal Shelter.

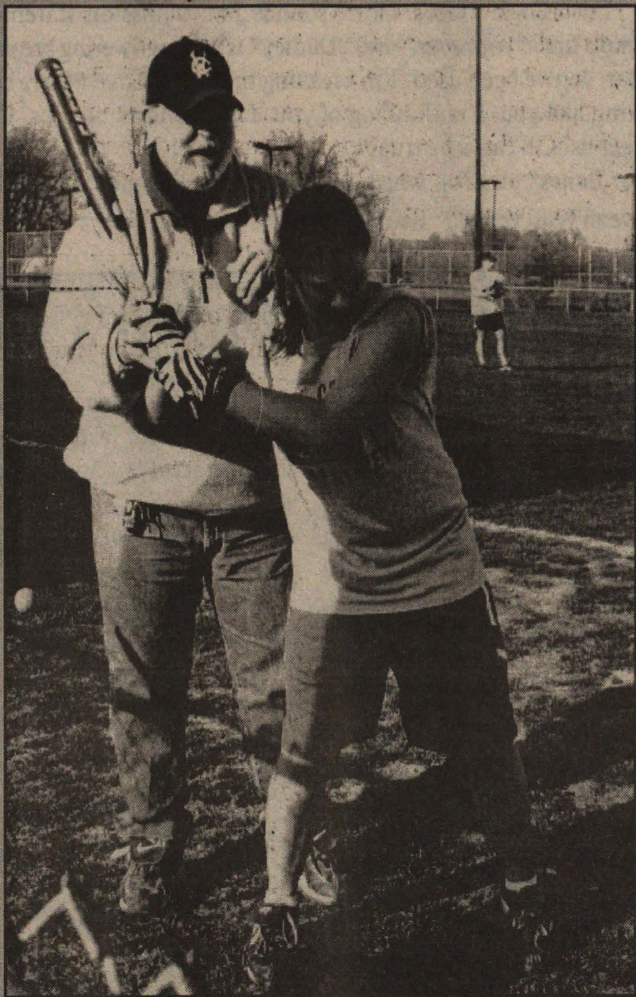


Photo by Andrea Bradley

Varsity coach James Schaudt helps junior Jenna Bodie with her batting stance. He considers his job to be rewarding.

Varsity baseball smashes the competition with star players

By Nick Gorski

The varsity baseball team is having a solid season on the diamond, thanks to a strong core of experienced players.

One such player is senior Dan Francik, who is having a breakout season on the pitcher's mound.

Seniors such as Francik, Tyler Dameron, Roel Martinez, Brian Russell, Travis Saville, and John Yednock have helped the team start the year at 6-6.

They hope to carry over their solid start, play well against the competitive DuPage Valley Conference, and make a deep run in the postseason.

Francik considers the team's primary goal to be to make playoffs and "go as far as we

can."

They have gained several big wins already, and look forward to facing off against the state's top teams, as well as their DVC rivals.

One of many important factors for their success has been the dominant pitching of Francik. He credits his coaches in helping him achieve success.

"Dan Barzo helped me the most with pitching," said Francik. "He helped clean up my mechanics."

He also mentioned his teammates as catalysts to his great start. "I'm glad my teammates are scoring runs for me," he said. "I just go out there and try to throw strikes."

The team is showing outstanding potential, and the players, including first baseman Saville and third baseman Dameron, say that team chemistry is the key.

"There's always a positive attitude in the dugout," said Saville.

Dameron agrees. "Everybody gets along really well, and that's why we're going to be good."

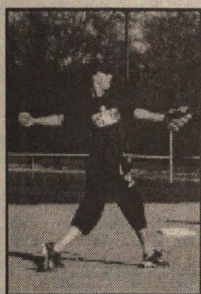
And with the JV team playing well too, the program seems poised to win for years to come.

"They're (JV) really good," said Francik. "We just want to keep winning at the JV level, because those guys are looking forward to succeeding for the varsity team."

Kramer swings to the top with home runs

By Kait Taylor

Senior Kayla Kramer is leading the girls softball team to big wins this season with her outstanding seven homeruns and 21 runs batted in.



"She's ripping the ball," said coach Jim Schaudt. "She's

one of the best hitters in DuPage County."

Kramer is a captain and also plays shortstop, but she shines at the plate with her .429 batting average, the best average on the team.

Kramer attributes her success this season to experience, and especially to practicing with on her skills in the off season.

"I'd say I'm overall more confident this year because it's my second year on varsity,"

said Kramer. "I've been working hard in the off season, especially on my hitting."

The practice clearly paid off, and Kramer credits her improvement to Schaudt, coach Laurie Davidson and her father.

"My dad helped me a lot. He is basically the reason why I'm so good. He spends so much time working on me with my skills," she said. "He's a big inspiration in my life."

Kramer is also motivated by and her teammates, who Kramer claims are also skilled athletes.

"This year will be memorable because I get along with all the girls. They are all great players and people. It makes it more fun to play with people you like," she said.

But at the heart, her love for the game is what keeps Kramer on the field.

"My favorite part about softball is the adrenaline of a good

game, and the feeling of accomplishment you get when you do something good for your team like winning a game," she said.

Kramer has certainly contrib-

uted to big wins, especially, according to Schaudt, when she hit the game winning homerun in a game against Elmwood Park April 4.

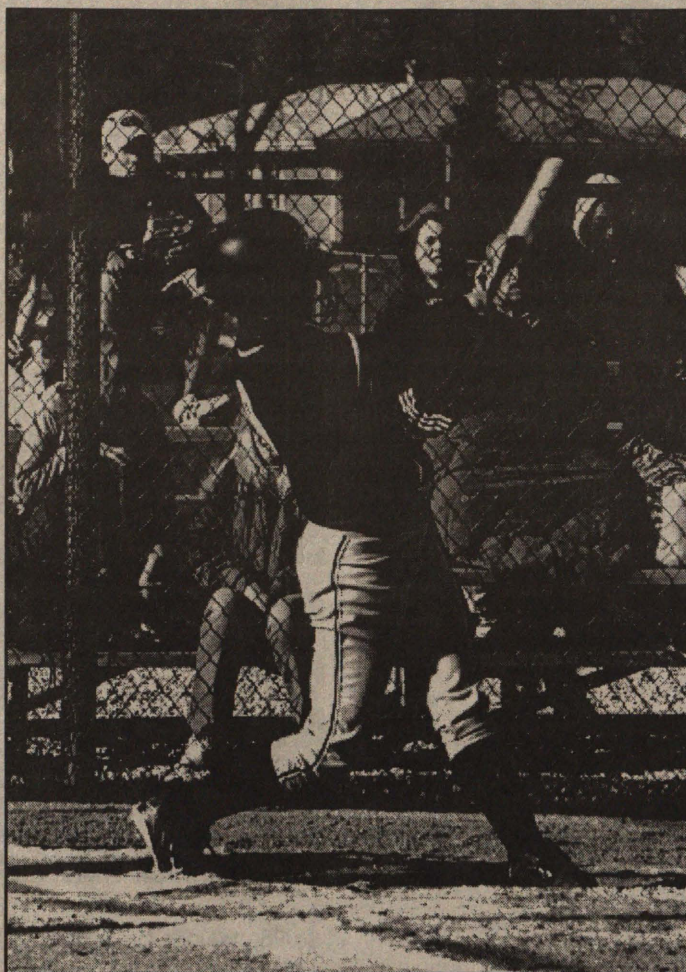


Photo courtesy of James Schaudt

Coach James Schaudt hopes that senior Kayla Kramer earns all-conference consideration.

Schaudt also mentioned an outstanding game for Kramer when she played a two-homerun game against Momence April 15.

"She's dedicated herself to softball, and she is an extremely hard worker," Schaudt said. "I hope (Kayla) continues at this pace so she can get all-conference and all-area consideration."

The girls started competing for the DVC title April 17, and Kramer said that the game she is most excited to win is against Glenbard North April 27.

"They're pretty much our biggest rival ever since, you know, ever," Kramer said.

Schaudt also mentioned the respect Kramer has earned from the team, not only because of her skills but her strengths as a leader.

"She's not only a great competitor but she is also a real sweet kid," he said. "I love having her on my team and I wish her well in the future."

Next year, Kramer plans to play at Kankakee College, a division two junior college. After graduating, she hopes to transfer to Iowa State University and major in physical therapy.

Fundraisers keep lacrosse team optimistic for future

By Kym McDaniel

The lacrosse team started out their season rough, but team members are still optimistic and are avidly preparing for the conference championship in May.

"We brought back only three varsity players this year and only two seniors, but we have an excited group of young players who are playing better and better each week," said coach Dave Libby.

Libby hopes that varsity, JV and freshman/sophomore teams will make playoffs for the second year.

"We're not as good as we could be but we're not bad," said junior Ken Cole, midfielder on varsity.

Libby's goals for the team include having JV and freshman/sophomore compete well in the conference championships May 20 and 21 hosted at West Chicago.

"We only have about 30 players and even now we have boys joining the team. We have a lot of work to do to be able to compete in the varsity playoffs. But the team is motivated to do so and getting better each day," said Libby.

Because not enough schools in the DVC have lacrosse, the

school plays with the DuPage 11 which includes St. Charles, Nequa Valley, Wheaton-

Upcoming games

Varsity

April 25 @ Glenbard West

April 27 @ at Lane Tech

May 2 @ Naperville Central

May 4 @ Nequa Valley

May 8 vs. Waubonsie Valley

May 10 @ Glenbard West

May 15 @ Naperville North

May 20 Conference @ West Chicago

Junior Varsity

April 28 @ Naperville North

May 1 @ at WWS

May 12 vs. Nequa Valley

May 19 @ Glenbard East

May 20 Conference @ West Chicago

Warrenville South, Naperville Central, Champaign Centennial, Naperville North, Waubonsie Valley, Glenbard West, Geneva, West Chicago, and Benet Academy.

Most team members agree that St. Charles will be the team to beat this year.

"St. Charles is by far the toughest competition," said Cole.

Since lacrosse is so expensive, lacrosse members fundraise with car washes and eating at specific restaurants who then donate 20 percent of money to lacrosse funds.

Libby said that he enjoys "teaching the value of investing lives in an unselfish manner and creating the illustration of what happens when an entire team works in concert towards the end."

Varsity's next game will be Tuesday at 5 p.m. at Glenbard West and the freshman/sophomore game will be Saturday, May 6.

"We hope that boys will gain confidence through our program that they can make a difference in this world," said Libby.

Check out the varsity and JV teams on the days listed to support Wildcat lacrosse.

Boys sprint towards a home victory at big conference meet

By Leah Kuzmicz

Outdoor season for the boys track team is all about setting goals and having great ambitions.

Placing in seven out of eight teams at the DVC showed the boys that they were still able to compete at such a hard level.

Two boys that have made a big impact on the team are juniors Jim Foreman and Ken Klein. Both went to the indoor state competition.

Foreman qualified for pole vault and Klein qualified for hurdles.

"It was really positive to have both of them go to state," said coach Paul McLeland.

Foreman tied for 11th place and with a height of 13'6" and Klein placed 15th.

As the boys have goals in their minds, they are ready for outdoor season. Neal Luka, part of the freshman/sophomore team would like to drop at least three seconds from his personal record. Luka has a good attitude towards the outdoor season said McLeland.

"My ultimate goal would be to beat the school record," said Luka.

Most of the boys on the team really enjoy being on it as well

as the running.

"It's really nice because you get to hang out with a bunch of cool people," said Luka.

On the freshman/sophomore team there are a lot of boys who stand out, according to McLeland. The freshmen are Kyle Nichol, a quarter miler, and Zach Mowen, a sprinter. Sophomores are Luka, a 400 runner, Malcolm McDonald, a high jumper, and David Musik, the best jumper on the team.

This year the boys will be hosting DVC, which brings advantages and disadvantages.

"It will be hard because all of the coaches will be running events at the meet and will not be able to focus on our runners as much as we would like," said McLeland.

McLeland said that he hopes that some of the boys will take the hometown advantage by being accustomed to their track.

The boys said that they like the high level of competition and hope to see support from the student body.

They hope to finish the outdoor season in the top six at DVC on May 12.

Injuries will not stop these girls

Returning players step up for team

By Brittany Blanchard

Despite various set backs including numerous injuries on the team, the girls soccer team is sticking to perseverance to achieve success.

Senior and team captain Jessica Crawford said hard work will be key throughout the season.

"There are big DVC games we are capable of competing in, so hopefully hard work will pay off," said Crawford.

Head coach Julio DelReal agrees with Crawford's high hopes for the season.

"I hope that the team wins at least 12 games and will advance as far as possible in the state tournament," DelReal said.

In addition to hard work, Crawford predicts the 10 returning varsity players and their experience will continue to play a large part in the team's success.

DelReal said that team has

been depending heavily on captains Crawford, Amy Ackerman, Sara Kufta, and Jamie Voelz.

"(The four) have answered very well," said DelReal.

If the players can consistently play to the extent of their capability, DelReal thinks the team will be a tough one to beat.

"Normally we play mostly decent but there have been a couple times the girls have played really well and I've been very impressed," DelReal said. "If we can just get consistent in that and reach our potential during every game, this team will open a lot of eyes."

Currently the team is 1-2 in the DVC, with upcoming conference games that DelReal anticipates will be competitive and tough considering the poor health of the team with its six injured players.

The game versus Glenbard



Photo by Andrea Bradley

Senior Jessica Crawford steals the ball away from a Wheaton North player. Crawford is one of the team captains and has been playing varsity for four years.

East took a particularly hard toll on the Wildcats adding five new injuries to the team.

DelReal is optimistic, however, regarding the future of the

soccer season.

"I had very high expectations for them going into the season and I'm sure they shared my expectations," DelReal

said. "We hit a little slump but fortunately, we're coming out of it and will be ready to achieve our goals once we get everyone healthy."

Seniors hope to take charge in DVC

By Andrea Bradley

With time running down faster than the sprinters, seniors are appreciating their final year of girls track.

Seniors Lauren Buscemi, Danielle Romano, DeAnne Fitzenreider, and Shannon Fleming have all earned respect from their coaches over

the past four years.

"Each have shown a tremendous amount of growth in leadership," said coach George Petmezas.

Romano, a runner since her freshman year, will miss her teammates the most.

"Throughout the five month season they see you through so

many ups and downs," she said. "I've met some of my best friends on track so it'll be sad to leave them."

Buscemi, who has also participated in track for four years, agreed.

"I'm going to miss all the times everyone hung out outside of track. Everyone has

each other's back everyday. It could be the worst meet but afterwards on the bus and the girls encourage you that tomorrow is another day," she said.

Coach Anthony LaRue is happy with the performances so far this year. Fleming, a distance runner "is running great right now and is looking to do well at the DVC meet," he said.

Romano hopes to do well at sectionals on May 12, espe-

cially after the team's success at a meet against Wheaton Warrenville South.

"It's tough to go against a team like that," she said about the team with nearly 130 members compared to the Wildcats team of about 50. "Beating a team when we are half of the size is phenomenal."

The Wildcats are planning on sending runners to state later in May, said LaRue.

Andie's Angle

Woodsball provides more fun for paintballers

By Andrea Bradley

A new extreme sport has hit the scene for teenagers and adults alike. The sport of paintballing has been around for many years now, but recently, the popularity is increasing around the country.

In fact, ESPN added paintball tournaments to its Monday night line-up, and movies such as "Failure to Launch" show clips of the fast-paced sport.

So why is paintballing the new extreme sport? It could be speedball, one of the types of play for fast shooters, but it should be for woodsball scenarios, where stealth, patience, and accuracy take control of the field.

The two types are different mainly due to the fields in which players play on. In

speedball, players usually play in a small area, where woodsball fields are normally bigger, where players have more mobility, making for less



predictable, and more exciting games. This is a big reason why woodsball is much harder to master.

Paintballing started out in the woods, and is now nearing the days of camouflage once again. There is nothing like walking out onto the field, knowing that the enemy could

be anywhere. Woodsball embodies this, and gives players a better chance to hide and perform tactical moves to earn their kills.

Not to say that speedball does not have its perks, but it is very different than playing in the woods. At typical paintball fields, younger players tend to "spray" paint in hopes of getting a player out, but in woodsball, people tend to be less predictable, and make others work for their points.

In the woods, players hide, ambush, and snipe other players, but in speedball, players tend to waste a lot of paint hitting bunkers more often than opponents. It's amusing to watch money being wasted on bunkers, but when a sport leans towards the expensive

side, money should go toward hitting an opponent rather than wasting paint on grass.

Woodsball is not only a money saver, but it also provides more variety. In speedball, teams can only play capture the flag, or total elimination. Although two games are available, most capture the flag games end in total elimination anyway.

But in woodsball, games such as capture the flag, center flag, take over the fort, attack and defend, and total elimination are available, making for much more action-filled and exciting games.

Scenarios are also a big part of woodsball play. Each year, a D-Day scenario is held in Oklahoma, where thousands of players recreate the battle between Germany and Allies.

During the event, players are able to play in scenarios such as the Civil War, where each player must load each paintball at a time, or a pistol battle in which the players take on the roles of cowboys and turn and shoot.

Games like these would never be available in speedball, which is why woodsball is beginning to attract more players. These players are learning that woodsball requires a better understanding of the sport.

Now, professional speedball players like Ollie Lang do deserve respect, but in reality, if you put a speedball player on the same field as a woodsball player, the woodsball player would come out completely untouched.