



Club members visit art museum

By Jacob Wucka

The International Club visited the Art Institute of Chicago on Oct. 12 to show students different views expressed in different cultures' art.

Junior Rachel Nash said "We often connected the art to the culture we learned about in our foreign language and western civilization classes."

Overall the students thought that the Art Institute was a great field trip and many hope to go there again.

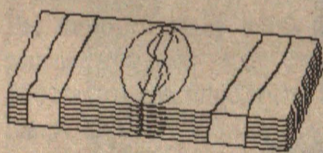
However one student hopes to go to the Louvre. Junior Jayne Zenker said "One kid in my group asked if we should go find the Mona Lisa."

There is a bulletin board outside room 303 showing upcoming events and club meetings. Some events planned are Chinese New Year, foreign films, and activities with foreign exchange students.

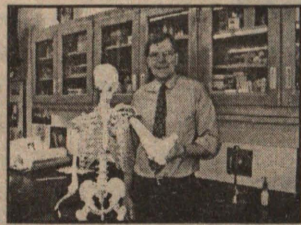
Inside

Center Spread

Paychecks: In one pocket, out the other. Find out why a week's paycheck is gone before you know it on page 8.



Features



Tom Knutson is a new staff member this year. Read his story on page 11.

Sports



Read about Kristin Grimm's accomplishments in golf on page 15.

Board creates new policy to address activity on social networking sites

By Elynn Fortino and Dave Thomas

Students who use MySpace may find themselves being peeked in on due to a policy made by the Board of Education.

On Oct. 17, board members approved several policies to address consequences concerning information posted on MySpace, Facebook and any other public forum that breaks the school athletic code, qualifies as identity theft or illegal activity in violation of school rules.

Supt. Lee Rieck said that the policy changes were "originally prompted by schools across the country."

"It gives a basis for whether action is appropriate. If used appropriately, there won't be an issue."

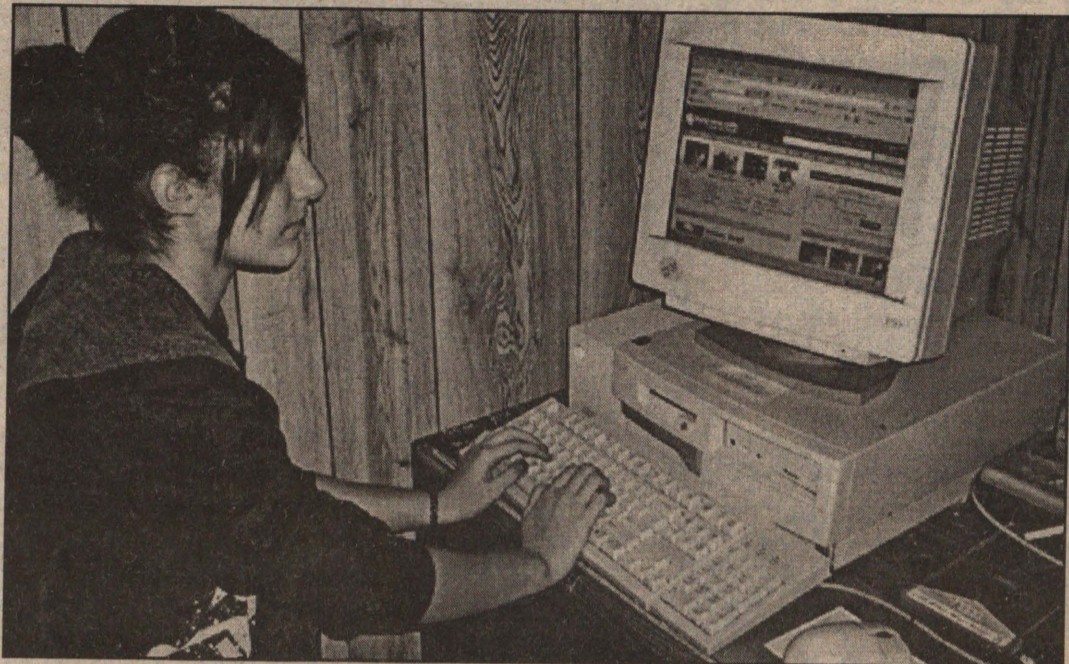


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Freshman Angela Sarnelli checks her MySpace at home. The Board of Education created new guidelines to address consequences concerning MySpace postings.

The board also addressed of the new policies, authorized activities only. The use of the use of the Internet at personnel and students may school. According to a copy use the Internet for school

See MySpace policy page 5

Chinese play to captivate students with beautiful visual effects and story

By Cristina Sarnelli

Come and be swept off your feet with the Chinese love story "Lute Song" at the fall play Thursday.

"Lute Song" is an ancient Chinese story based on a poem that explores the roles of men and women in 15th Century China, according to director and English teacher Mary Hafertepe.

"It centers on a love story of a man who wants to remain faithful to his own wife, but he is placed in a position of where he must marry the daughter of a high official. The audience learns who is more effective at working out the problem by the end," Hafertepe said.

Senior Carissa Gerber, who has been involved in many plays including 2005's "The Nerd", auditioned for "Lute Song" and landed the role of Madame Tsai, the mother of the main character.

"My character whines and complains because my husband sends my son away, and I become scared that we are going to die," she said.

At auditions, students read lines from the script and act out snippets from the play. Call backs follow auditions

and place a student in a role.

"The auditions are mostly just to see if you can read well and if you have a good sense of motion on stage and are good at becoming your character. After auditions are call backs, which are used to place you in a part," Gerber explained.

Senior Brad Rathe landed the lead part, Tsai-Yong, and said he was really surprised

that he got the part.

"I was shocked because I had never auditioned for a play before. I was under the impression that they were starved for male parts," he said.

After auditions and call backs, the cast rehearses the play everyday after school until 5:30 p.m. As opening night approaches, rehearsals

get longer and more intense.

Hafertepe is impressed with how well the students have worked at rehearsals.

"The cast has done a wonderful job learning lines. We are at the point where we are trying to dress up the play and adding little details," she said.

Gerber and Rathe both said they are a little nervous as to how the audience will react to the play.

"Since it is a foreign play, the humor is really dry, and it might be hard for some of the audience to catch," Rathe said.

Despite this, Hafertepe believes that the visual aspect of the play will be entirely successful, and she said the cast is working on trying to make the humorous parts more obvious.

"I think that the audience will enjoy the spectacle of the play such as the bowing, the costumes, and the set, and I am hoping that some of that will be really striking," she said.

The play will also be performed Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults.



Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Seniors Carissa Gerber and Rachele Henning practice one of their scenes for "Lute Song."

Committee focuses on promoting good health and wellness

By Kym McDaniel

Healthier choices are on the way to improving and emphasizing health and

and healthier lunch foods.

A goal of 50 hours of health education was recommended by the federal government. If



Photo by Kym McDaniel

The Wellness Committee aims at helping students to make healthier choices just like junior Joann Kaczmarczyk does as she devours a banana during lunch.

fitness through a newly formed Wellness Policy Committee.

"We want kids to be more aware of what they are eating and drinking," said nurse and committee member Beth Jones.

The committee was formed at the beginning of the '06-'07 year to address health and fitness.

The federal government requires the committee in order for the school to qualify for funding and to meet requirements for offering breakfast.

To help influence students to eat better, the committee will send information home to parents, emphasize food groups, have a contest for the wellness policy committee logo, and a monthly announcement about nutrition.

"It's a great thing considering our obesity levels are so high," said Jones. "When healthy choices are made available to kids it will eventually be what they will eat."

Other goals include increasing minutes in physical education classes, decreasing P.E exemption, and taste testing in cafeteria for better

not met, funding for breakfast and lunch could decrease.

The committee wants to encourage fundraisers without food, offering products like wrapping paper instead.

Healthier choices also include limiting pop and replacing pop with milk and monitoring food in vending machines.

Serving on the committee are Assistant Principal Gail Aronoff, assistant dean Pete Martino, teacher Amy Gibson, P.E. department chair Dan Johnson, teacher Patty Clifford, junior Rachel Howe, parent representative Linda Pfeifer, and Arbor Management.

"We're trying to create healthier choices for West Chicago," said Howe.

Jones agreed and said it was better for everyone and that was the bottom line.

Meanwhile the committee is examining the logo contest entries.

"We've had over 30 submissions," said Jones. "We were looking for something that represented physical activity while eating healthy to students."

The winner will be announced soon.

School statistics prove that more students are choosing to walk away from smoking and drugs

By Ellyn Fortino

"Everyone in school is smoking" is a common misconception among teenagers that the school and partner Breaking Free, a substance abuse prevention organization and counseling agency, hopes to fix through a campaign based on Social Norms Marketing.

Posters both in English and Spanish around the school that say "3 out of 4 Wildcats walk away from cigarettes" are examples of how social norms emphasize the positive statistics while reinforcing that the majority of their peers do not smoke cigarettes.

"People are very swayed by what they see," said Assistant Principal Gail Aronoff. "If kids know the real statistics they will be informed and hopefully change or do something about their

behavior."

Sophomore Anna Treundt believes the campaign and posters are a great idea.

"It is very good to see those posters up, but I think that it just serves as a reminder to those who do. I don't know how effective they are in deterring someone away from smoking, but it's good to have them up," she added.

Students were given a survey last May during their third period classes.

The survey included questions regarding their use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs, as well as questions about how much they thought their peers were using. Students returned 1,582 surveys.

"You can never get 100 percent back considering it is an optional survey. You're lucky if you even get 30 percent back," Aronoff said.

She said that students attending TCD, PE classes in the swimming pool, absentees and students in commons all affected the amount of surveys turned in.

"Teachers had the decision whether or not they administered the survey during class so that also affected the outcome," she added.

The results from the school were consistent with local, state, and national statistics.

"The hope is that students will show a closing of the gap between their perceptions of peer use and the actual usage rate," Aronoff said.

Junior Jessica Hing was surprised by the actual usage among students.

"I was sure most of the students here smoked, or at least half. It is good to know that three-quarters walk away," she said.

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Key Club lends out some helping hands

At the same time, the club spreads the festive spirit of Halloween with their parade

By Aaron Pennington

Key Club plans to help kids scare local residents and give students a chance to do a noble deed with its family-friendly Halloween parade on Saturday, followed by the annual blood drive on Nov. 3.

The club will help the West Chicago Park District in the Halloween parade by judging costumes and handing out candy.

The kids will assemble at the parking lot behind the library and then walk down the downtown area and trick-or-treat.

The parade and costume judging will be from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Of course, Key Club will do its annual blood drive as

well, a project club adviser Ward Rau is excited about.

"The blood drive is a good project, a good practice for donating blood, and we try to do with minimal disruption to the school day," he said.

Key Club member and junior Colin Bachelor encourages students to participate in the blood drive.

"The blood drive is for a good cause, for the people that need the blood," said Bachelor.

In order to participate in the blood drive, students have to be 16 or older. Students under 18 need a parent's permission form.

Scheduling appointments ends Friday, in the lunch room.

The blood drive will be

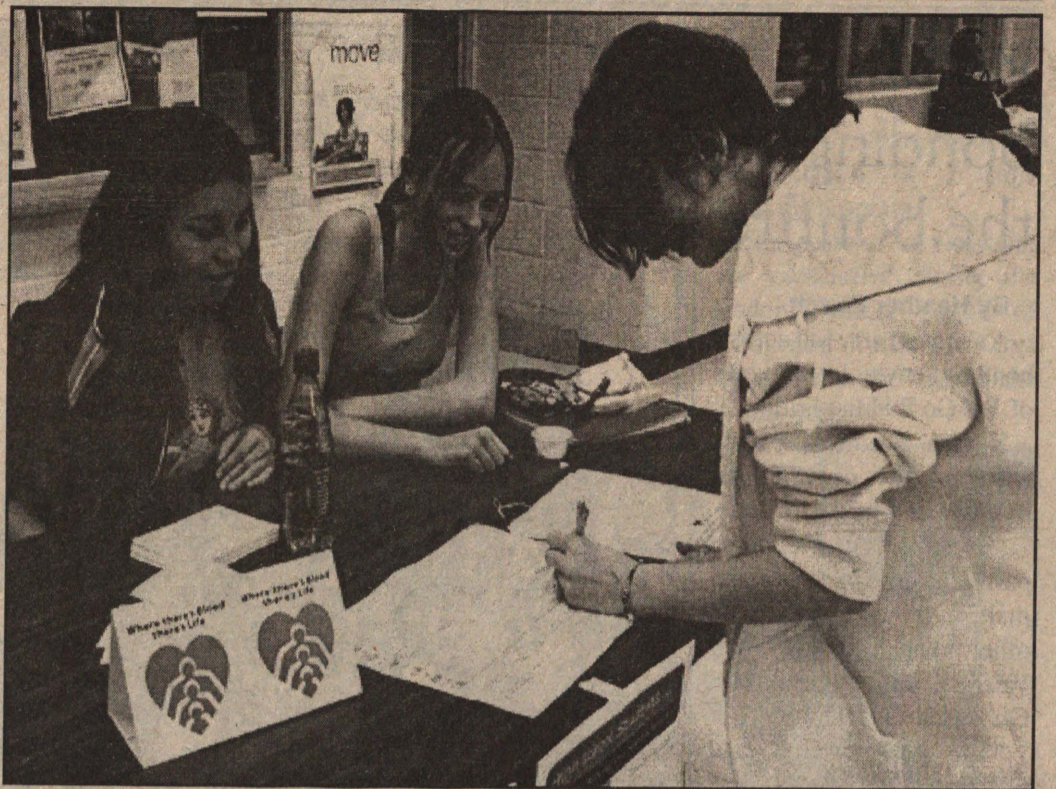


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Sophomores Sarah Kimball and Adrianna Noceda sit in commons during lunch hours to help students like sophomore Courtney Nesemeier sign up for the annual blood drive.

all day Friday Nov. 3, in the small gym.

Rau recommended that students set appointments ahead of time so they can schedule the drive better.

He said that they should tell their teachers about the appointments to avoid any

potential problems.

If there are students interested in Key Club, they must be willing to show up and work.

They have to pay \$10 in dues for the National Key Club.

However, it's all worth it

for the opportunities you'll be given, according to Rau.

Large group meetings are held on the second Friday of every month for all members in the counseling office and the officers/leadership team meets with Rau in his office every Friday.

Speakers will be popping out of closets at the We-go North tournament next month

By Leah Kuzmicz

Forensic team members will literally be coming out of the closets at the We-go North tournament on Nov. 4.

Once every two years the forensics team holds a tournament that uses over 100 classrooms, filled with 23 teams, and over 500 students. It will be so jammed that they will even be using closets to perform in.

"I am excited about the season starting. Every school's season starts at this tournament. There's a lot of preparation and nerves. There are 13 different events and 500 kids need to be fed. Some schools up to an hour away are coming to this event as well," Kling said.

Although the meet might be challenging with so many schools, senior Kristy Klouda, one of the team captain's knows that it gets easier.

"Kids get really discouraged when they go to hard tournaments at the beginning of the year. They get discouraged early, but it gets easier and the competition isn't as hard," said Klouda.

Team members cover 13 different categories. These categories include limited preparation, public address,

and interpretation.

"Forensics is considered an IHSA team sport as well. It is mostly individual events, but

everyone depends on each other and works together," said Jason Kling, forensics head coach.

Tournaments are held on Saturdays roughly lasting from 6:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

The coaches who will be working with the team are: English teacher and first year head coach Kling, who has five years experience with coaching the team; social studies teacher Maggie Haas who is returning to her second year as assistant coach; and the new additions to the team are English teacher Julie Johnson and academic skills center supervisor Dave Jennings. The executive board for the forensics team are seniors Rachel Hellman, Klouda, and Lisa Daniels.

A goal that Kling is striving for is to take students to state this year. In 2005-06 Klouda placed 5th at regionals in prose reading while Hellman and Daniels went to sectionals. Hellman was a finalist at sectionals coming in 6th place in her event, original comedy. Both of the girls have goals for sectionals and state this year.

"I want to go to sectionals because every year I get closer and last year I missed the sectional by one point," said Klouda.

Kling encourages anyone to join the team during the season. The meetings are on Mondays at 3:20 p.m. in room 184.

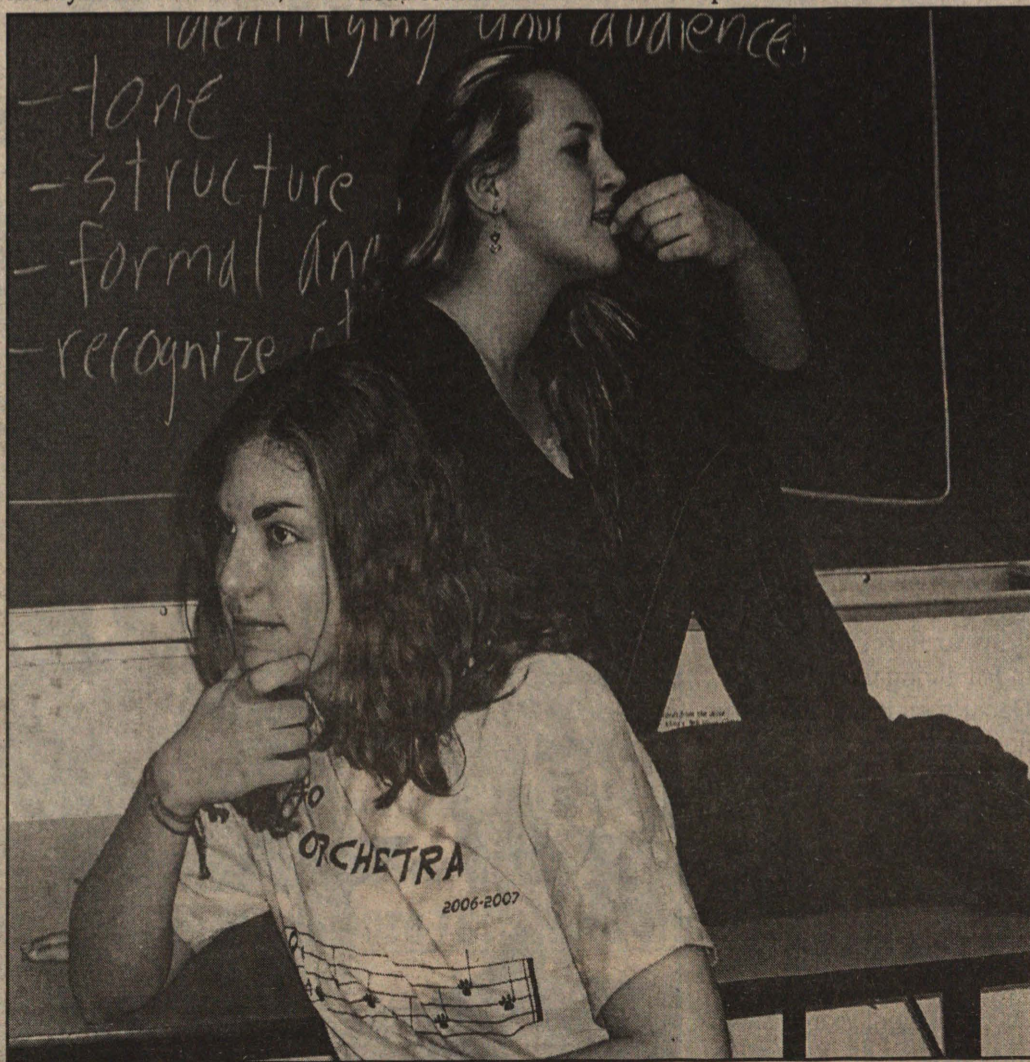


Photo by Leah Kuzmicz

Forensic teammates seniors Rachel Hellman and Kristi Klouda practice performing their dramatic sequence for the forensics tournament that will take place in November. Over 500 students will participate at the tournament.

Buddies bonding at the bonfire

By Heather Busch

A s'mores party will act as a bonding activity for members of We-Go Buddies Friday.

Katrina Beedle, a buddy, will host the party at her house from 7-8:30 p.m.

"Everyone is to meet at the party and just hang out and make s'mores along with other munchies to eat," said Valerie Cook, adviser of We-Go Buddies.

"The peer buddies and buddies seem very excited. I don't have an actual count of those attending which is not unusual. We usually know the numbers the day before."

A bonfire will take place Nov. 11, hosted by Dave Luka.

"This event is to have everyone bond with each other and socialize," said Cook. The last half hour will be a "meet and greet" parent party.

Abby Lynch, another adviser added, "Parents of both buddies and peer buddies are invited to come meet the staff involved, to see what the organization is about, and to meet the students that their son or daughter is paired up with."

Cook explained the purpose of We-Go Buddies.

"We-Go Buddies is an organization promoting relationships for students with disabilities. This program helps students build friendships with the disabled students," she said.

There are no regulations for joining. Over 30 members belong to the club.

We-Go Buddies has two meetings per month, one in the morning and another after school. To join, stop by room 130 or 139 to receive an application. The membership fee is \$10, which is used for fundraising.

"The students in We-Go Buddies are known as the peer buddies and the students with disabilities are known as the buddies," said Cook. "When a peer buddy joins We-Go Buddies, they are paired with a buddy and are able to call each other, set up fun activities, and spend time with each other as much as they please outside of what is already planned during school."

The club is directed by three advisers: Cook, Lynch, and Chris Sanzeri.



Photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Daneels

Villagers of Angola wave in appreciation of the materials they received to build their very first school. Students helped to raise money last year which went toward purchasing the materials for the building project.

Fundraising and dedication from last year builds the first school in Angola, Africa

By Maria Grabiec

Plans to continue with the We-Go 2 Africa program are in full swing even though the community leadership classes, which spearheaded the effort, are no longer involved.

In the 2005-06 school year, Mary Ellen Daneel's community leadership classes took community service to a whole different level and a whole different country with We-Go 2 Africa. They held t-shirt sales, raffles, a teacher sumo wrestling competition and in-class competitions to raise money.

Daneels said that the support and contributions, made by students and teachers amounted to approximately \$13,000 which was \$3,000 over the goal.

Villagers and volunteers in Sakatopi, Angola got started with the building of their very first school. They have plans to finish the building in fall during the dry season, Daneels said, but that does not mean that the school's role in bettering their future is over.

"I just hope to see our school continue a relationship with them," said Daneels.

And that is exactly what the school is doing in the 2006-07 school year because, in addition to Key Club and International Club, geography teacher Maggie Haas' and English teacher Mona Elleithee's classes will

be doing their share of the fundraising.

New goals have been set; it is just a matter of narrowing them.

Because the Angola school will also double as a medical clinic and a gathering place, the fundraiser may provide school supplies, medical supplies, and a well.

"We (the classes and clubs involved) want to work together towards one ultimate goal instead of just working separately towards

one individual goal," Haas said.

Key Club adviser and counselor, Ward Rau said, "I think this is a great project to get into because we rarely get the chance to tangibly change people's lives for the better." Rau added that if the fundraiser does well the school will try and do this again for the years to come.

This time around Rau and other teachers want to involve the community, businesses, companies, organizations

and the school.

After a special meeting Nov. 8 with RISE International, the foundation in charge, Key Club, along with any other clubs that attend the meeting, will brainstorm some fundraising ideas.

Rau said that Key Club is considering Sumo Wrestling 2, selling We-Go 2 Africa logos on water bottles and key chains and raffles.

A new idea for this round of fundraising is Eat Like An Angolan, which will provide the students and faculty food that the Angolans eat.

Another possible fundraiser is the Faculty Weight Loss program where students will be able to encourage their teachers to lose weight by placing money in jars to provide incentive.

Students are optimistic about the continuation of the We-Go 2 Africa program.

Junior Liz Showalter said, "It's really awesome because they're less fortunate than us and they deserve the same chances we do and we're helping them get it."

Sophomore Navy Neang added, "The fundraiser's profits will increase seeing how the results of last year's fundraisers turned out and it gave those children a chance to be successful."

Students and staff with ideas for the We-Go 2 Africa program should contact any Key Club member and e-mail Rau, Haas or Elleithee.



Photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Daneels

Two citizens of Angola help to build the school building.

MySpace policy: New plan at the school may affect users of social networking websites

Continued from page 1

the district's computers or means for any non-curricular activities not sponsored by the district is prohibited.

Any use of the school's computers for the purpose of e-mail and all materials accessed, uploaded, installed, downloaded or transmitted by workers and students can be monitored and inspected by the school's administration.

Meaning staff and students will make all personal passwords available to the district to ease monitoring. Inappropriate or illegal use of the district's computers or their access to the Internet will result in discipline up to and including dismissal and criminal conduct will be referred to the proper authorities.

"I think that it is ok for the administration to monitor computer use because people shouldn't be sending or looking at inappropriate material at school because it is the district's property," said junior Kyra Benson. "People should just wait until the day is over and use their own computer at home."

The administration

also reserves the right to monitor publicly available data concerning hazing and according to the policy if necessary, "the district may initiate an investigation of suspected hazing absent of complaint if, in the district's good-faith belief, such an investigation is warranted to protect the physical, mental or emotional safety of students or staff or to secure the safety and non-disruption of the school environment."

Junior Brian Baker said that as long as what students do outside of school does not interfere with their school day and learning the administration should not be able to punish a student for something shown or said on their personal website.

"Things we do outside of school are our business and our own personal choices," he said. "If it doesn't interfere with school, then it shouldn't be a problem."

Athletes at the school are not allowed to use tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs or narcotics, or any controlled substances at any time during the season including times when school is not in session.

The policy states that

a student found to be in violation of the rules on any Internet site will receive a two-week suspension from the competitive season in the athletic activities they are participating in for the first violation.

Second violation is total suspension, including

practices, and the student must successfully complete substance abuse rehabilitation or a stop-smoking program approved by the athletic director at his/her own expense.

A third violation will result in suspension from all interscholastic athletic

activities for one calendar year and completion of rehabilitation or a stop-smoking program.

The numbers of violations are cumulative during the student's entire period of enrollment and do not terminate at the end of the school year.

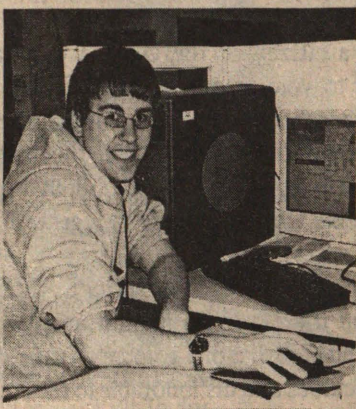


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Any administrator, such as dean Josh Chambers, who receives a report of suspicious, inappropriate, or illegal behavior seen on a Facebook or MySpace page will investigate the claim and take further action if necessary.

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Our view

MySpace users beware School administrators are watching your profile and can take action

Set your MySpace profile to private, because CHS administrators just might be looking at it.

On Oct. 17, the Board of Education approved several policies to address the growth of users (and controversy) surrounding certain social networking sites, mainly MySpace.

One of the modified policies was hazing. According to a copy of the new policies, hazing is redefined as "any intentional, knowing, or reckless act whether or not committed on school property or at a school-sponsored event (including any conduct on the Internet)..."

Later in the hazing section, a paragraph now reads: "The District will investigate all complaints (and reserves its right to monitor publicly-available information on the Internet), to determine whether any of the provisions of this policy have been violated and will administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy."

In other words, if a faculty member finds pictures, videos, etc. of a student drinking, smoking, or performing other "questionable" acts on MySpace, then the student can be punished.

The school should not have jurisdiction beyond school and school-sponsored activities. What a student does outside of school does not exactly affect their school performance.

But that's not the only change the board made. In the Internet guidelines section, if a student gets caught with inappropriate content on their MySpace, not only could they be residing in ISS for a couple days, but they might have to surrender the passwords to their e-mail accounts.

The school's policies reflect a growing trend of schools and even businesses trying to combat

MySpace and other sites like it.

As reported by The Pacer, the newspaper at the University of Tennessee at Martin, on Oct. 3: "43 percent of employers run Internet background searches on prospective employees by using Internet sites such as Google, MySpace, and Facebook."

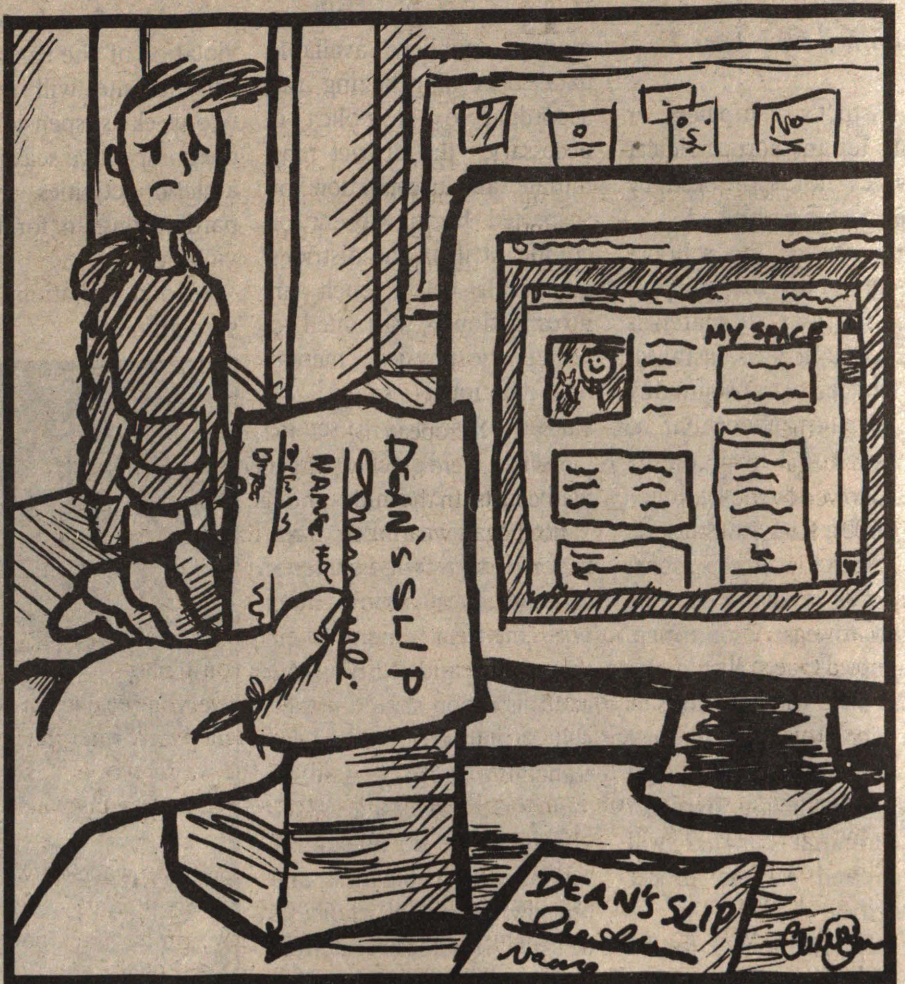
To the board's credit, this is not the most stringent Internet policy adopted by schools in America. Pope

John XXIII Regional High School in Sparta Township, New Jersey, has told its students to take down their MySpace pages, lest they risk full suspension.

Also, Supt. Lee Rieck acknowledged that this measure would not be used often, if ever, and would probably be used in the more extreme cases.

The school has every right to be concerned with the welfare and safety of its students. But some of these policies are going too far.

Administrators are going to be monitoring MySpace (it is public information, guys). However, the school should not be able to view a student's



personal e-mail.

Despite the objections, these policies are in place and have already taken effect. The board is probably not going to repeal these changes, leaving students three options. The first is to keep your MySpace profile public. The second is to set your MySpace page to private, and "dis-friend" anyone you don't know personally.

And last (and certainly not least), is the option to discontinue MySpace altogether. No matter which way students choose to go, their cyber space experience will definitely change.

One vote can make a phenomenal difference

The word American brings many ideas to mind: A person of freedom, wealth, and opportunity. The United States of America has always had the reputation of being a liberating country.

However it seems many Americans take this ideal for granted. America gives citizens so many opportunities, especially the right to vote, and many people take advantage of that opportunity.

Americans misjudge how important one vote can be when it comes to electing a person into political office. Some feel that one vote has no potential because it is such a small number out of thousands. However, this viewpoint is often misguided. One vote is enough to sway an entire election, no matter how small the number one appears to be.

For example, in the American Government class, students have to decide on what's their party affiliation. In this year's first semester government class,

109 students declared Republican while 124 students declared Democrat. If only a few more students participated and voted Republican, the majority would have been given to them.

Of course, this is only a high school course. In the real world, it is a little different. Numbers may not be that close, but the potential for one person to sway an election is still there. Example: The 2000 Bush/Gore election.

Some states were so close in votes between Bush and Gore that if only a couple more hundred people voted, it could have swayed the entire election and the future. Iowa had 638,355 Bush votes and 634,225 Gore votes, New Hampshire had 273,135 Bush votes and 265,853 Gore votes, and New Mexico had 286,783 Bush votes and 286,417 Gore votes.

It is amazing how close some of these numbers are and how if more people had voted Democrat, our

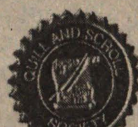
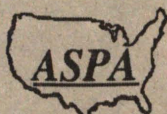
nation could have been run by a different person. Of course it could have gone the other way too, with even more Republican votes, making Bush a more concrete choice.

If you are a citizen of the U.S.A., you have a responsibility to vote. People should display good aspects of citizenship, have pride in their homeland, and voice their opinions every chance they get.

The deadline to register has passed, but that should not stop students who are of age to register for the next election.

When citizens are eligible to register to vote, they should get out there and do it right away. Sitting around with the idea that one vote means absolutely nothing is ridiculous and dishonorable to the country. It is time for Americans to show some pride, quit complaining, and try to do something that has the potential to make a difference.

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Originality: It's been done

The yearning to stand out, to be different, to be noticed, to fit into a scene or to not fit into a scene is spreading through teenage culture like a bad cold. This eagerness to be the next big thing has made me wonder if the voracious consumption and reinvention of ideas new and old are putting us in danger of making originality a thing of the past.

I mean, this idea of today's fashion innovations and rebelling seems synonymous with, yes I said it, the punk movement and can even be traced as far back as the 1300s where rulers of many European nations began to set unique fashions that were quickly followed by the members of their courts. In the mid-1600s, King Louis XIII of France began wearing a wig to hide his baldness, and soon enough fashionable Frenchmen began to shave their heads and wear wigs. And in the mid-1800s, English women copied Queen Victoria's stout figure by wearing puffy dresses with padding underneath.

But this so called novel fashion that is popular today is nothing new, but adopted from a long line of musical and stylistic evolution from Elvis Presley in the 1950s to Iggy and the Stooges in the '60s and '70s. New bands emerged within this period and the punk movement and fashion was magically born. Along with the rips, zips, chains, safety pins, leather jackets, studs, belts, boots or whatever that many of us have adopted and re-interpreted. Only now everything is tighter, pink, or covered with cute little hearts or skulls.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not bashing the latest fashion trends, and if I was then I would be a total hypocrite. But I am saying that calling yourself original isn't original anymore, it's clearly been done. Just because you cut your hair one way, have a Coach

purse, look like a dancer (please, put the leg warmers away and stop ripping up sweatshirts) or have a bandana hanging out of your back pocket does not mean that you invented it or did it first. I'm 100 percent sure you didn't.

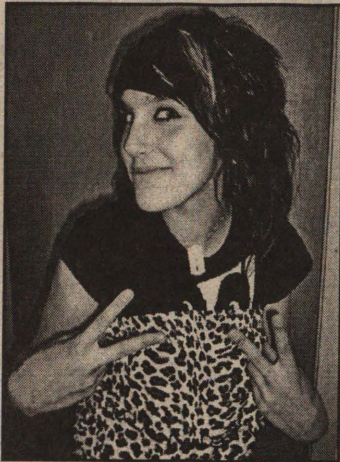
Trends have been around since way back when and are constantly repeating themselves. Although it is pretty hard to admit for some, we all follow trends, we just do it differently. Don't act like you are better than everyone else when you do.

Different people interpret styles in different ways, that's the way it works. It's absurd to advocate restriction of certain fashions to different groups of people.

If a cheerleader wants to wear a band t-shirt, pierce her lip, and wear pants with holes in her knees and rhinestones on her back pockets, let her. If a boy wants to wear tight girl pants, let him.

In my opinion, the crews of teens who are only friends with those that look identical to them are no different from the endless supplies of designer copies brought to us by high street stores.

These rip-offs may seem economically heaven-sent, but in reality, might also be the haut-couture devil taking the uniqueness out of the art of fashion design and style.



Ellyn Fortino

Republican paradox exposed

In a tangled web of what's right and wrong, right and left, our government is a paradox of blaring contradictions.

These contradictions are clear to me within both political parties, but more offensively within the Republican party, where I have found that certain conservative "morals" can apply to one issue, but not another.

For example, when it comes to the torture of terrorists, most Republicans believe that legalizing demeaning physical torture is justified because it is in the interest of "the greater good."

However, on issues like flat tax, the majority of Republicans are willing to take money from the poor and literally put it back in the pockets of the rich, which is typically the pocket of a Republican. Where does the greater good come in there?

I mean, they don't lose sleep over cutting social programs like Medicaid, causing individuals without social programs vital to their income to pay higher taxes, therefore widening the gap between the rich and the poor and lowering the overall standard of living in our country. Oh no, but when it comes to their darling pistols, their panties are all in a bunch.

Republicans are patriots for individual rights when it comes to being able to carry a gun on them at all times, but are willing to give more consideration to a two celled fetus than a homosexual when it comes to laws.

Apparently, the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness does not apply to homosexuals.

Because of these contradictions, I have come to the personal conclusion that most Republicans only care about the "greater good" if the particular view isn't harming their wallet or their time, and only support the rights of the individual if it is "approved" by their faith, despite the separation of church and state.

Now, I see how I may sound like a bitter liberal, but I do see contradictions within my own party: Won't kill a murderer or a terrorist, yet pro-choice with the life of a fetus. Yeah, yeah, yeah, I've heard it all.

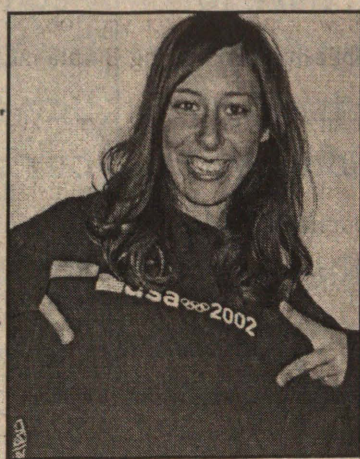
I also understand that not all Republicans necessarily fall into the category mentioned. My best friend is a Republican, and while I disagree with her political views, I still respect her as a person.

What I'm attacking is the larger idea of Republicanism, the kind represented so well by walking contradictions, otherwise known as conservative pundits, like Ann Coulter, Sean Hannity, and Bill O'Reilly, who blindly follow our president and take to heart his über-conservative Bible babble (even the creation of the words "stratergy" and "misunderestimated").

While there are exceptions to every rule and principle, I just think that Republicans, specifically the before mentioned pundits and a few radicals in my legislative semester, need to reexamine their morals and credibility before imposing their views on others.

There's a gray area in the black sea of American politics. And no matter how choppy the waters, we've all got to jump in, if not for a general interest in the direction of our country, then at least for our legislative semester.

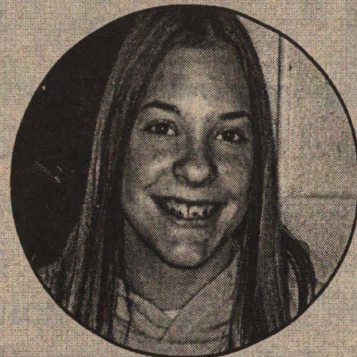
My suggestion: don't follow blindly. Question your government, and don't support an issue or party without checking the facts and evaluating your morals, especially if you're a Republican.



Kait Taylor

Question & Answer

How would you feel if you were punished at school because an administrator saw something inappropriate on your MySpace?



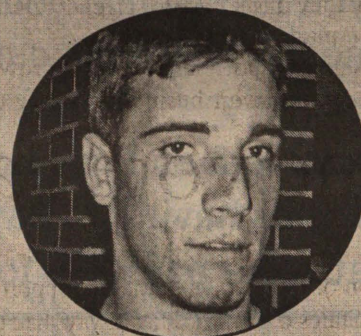
Taylor Kutilek
Freshman

"I'd feel like my privacy was invaded and it's not involved with the school."



Casey Powrozek
Sophomore

"I'd be mad, because it's just not right that teachers can go on the Internet to get you into trouble."



Matt Denniger
Senior

"I don't have a MySpace and wouldn't care."



Christen Mungo
Sophomore

"It wouldn't be good. I would not want to be suspended from any sports."



Danielle Incrocci
Sophomore

"I would be mad; it has nothing to do with school"

How to blow yo

Thursday

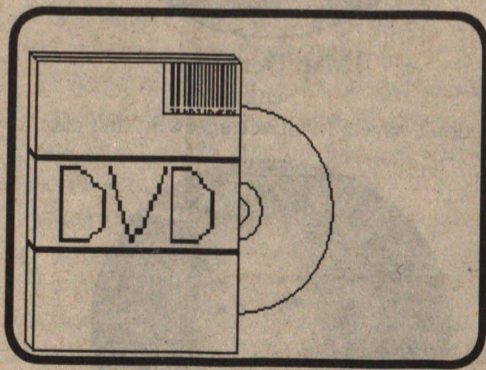
22

Today you get your paycheck. You see that you have around \$275.62. Should you bring your girlfriend out on a date? Maybe go to the mall and get some school shopping done?

You can't get rid of all your money though because you definitely need to start putting money away for college. But you can't help but think about that new CD you have been wanting for months.

You try to call your friend to ask her if she will go shopping with you but you realize that your phone bill has been cut off.

Junior Ruben Rios understands having to pay because he pays \$60 for



his phone bill.

You think about meeting your friend, **senior Alex Pelej** at his favorite restaurant, McDonald's, when your stomach starts to grumble while thinking about the bliss of having money in your pocket again. Oh, how nice it actually feels.

And that is when it all begins...

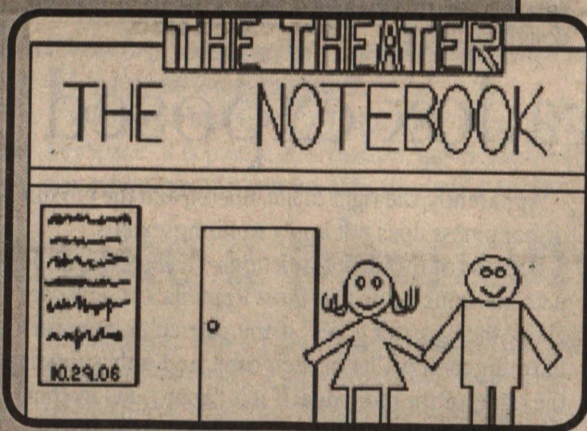
Friday

23

Tonight you told your girlfriend you would take her on a date. You know you just got your paycheck so you are ready to spend your money.

You decide to go to AMC because you know you want to impress your girlfriend by buying some food and drinks.

Senior Charles Kim would be found taking his date to "The Departed", a movie he recommends to take a girl on a date to.



Another tricky thing about dates is wondering who will pay. Well obviously you will be paying because you have a great load of money in your wallet and are ready to spend it all!

Senior Julia Shallcross thinks that it's okay that once in awhile the girl can pay for the date.

You think that it doesn't matter because you have a lot of money tonight!

Well, at least for tonight you have a lot of money. Hopefully you will learn that value of that....

Saturday

24

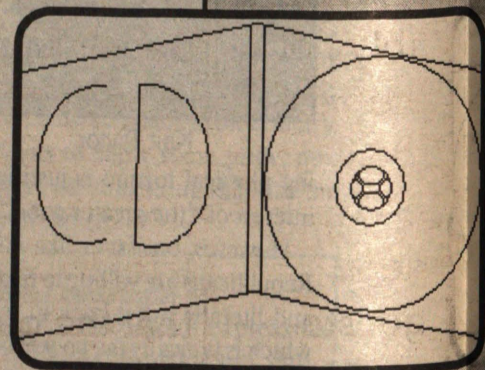
Today you saved to go shopping with a couple of your friends. Your friend, **freshman Becky Hooper**, suggests that you go over to Hot Topic, her favorite store where she usually spends \$25.

You go from store to store spending \$20 here and there, and think you should save some money because you are about to go to your other friend's favorite store as well.

You go into **senior Melissa Olsen's** favorite store, Express, and start looking at a pair of jeans. You know that you only have \$50 left in your wallet and think that you might have to use it all on these jeans you tried on because they look so great.

You see that the jeans are \$60 and start wondering how great the jeans actually look. You walk outside seeing a sale sign go up, and the jeans are now \$5 off!

"What a lucky day" you think as the jeans ring up and you borrow \$6 from your friend. You can pay her back though when you get home...



25

You decide you really want to buy that album by John Excellent. You still have a lot of money from shopping left over, and you know you should have plenty of left.

You go to Target because your friend **senior Mike Dalton** recommended it because it's his favorite place to shop for electronics. You figure you might go to Target Buy to because he recommended that.

You start looking through aisles at Target Buy and contemplate buying a new iPod. Your friend, **junior Ryan Nickelson** says

to just buy the iPod because you were originally going to buy it for thinking that you had more money than you do. Wait, what left money?

our paycheck

nday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

26

Gas prices. You know your mom has been nagging you all week to

fill up the gas in your car, but you think to yourself gas prices just seem

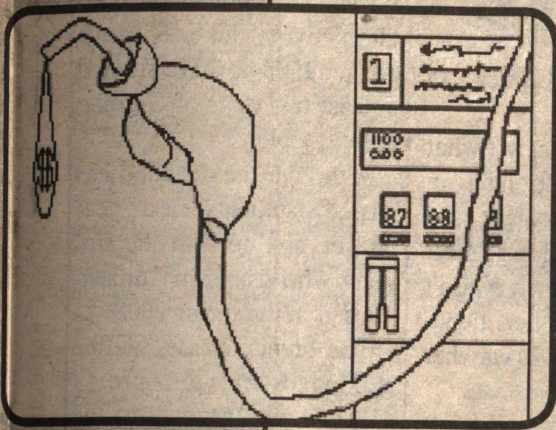
to keep going up! You see your friend **senior Tiffany Stawicki** walking

to her destination because the prices are too outrageous.

You get to the gas station and you realize that your gas light just turned to the red light letting you know that you really need to get some gas. You get out and lean against your car watching the price rise more.

You start thinking that these prices need to be going down sooner or later, when you realize that the gas station across the street is cheaper by a nickel. You start hitting your car with your foot when you start to see worried mothers looking at you. Well, there goes another \$28 that you will not be spending on yourself this week.

decide that really want the new John Mayer.



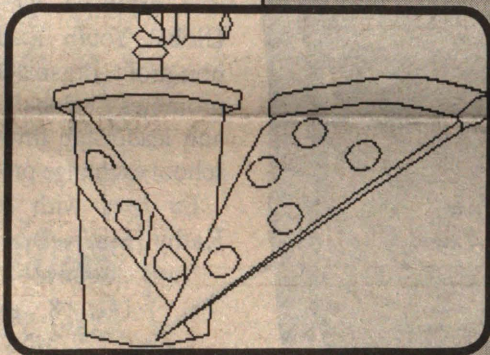
of money target be- friend, ju- alton rec- because the place to electronics. You might try Best se he rec- hat as well. kping s at Best emplate w iPod. Your r Robyn says it's prob- ably not the best idea because her's got sto- len. You decide e CD you ly looking hat the left ou have Pod. ft over

27

Some of your friends decide that they want to go out to eat tonight. You can find your friend **sophomore Jason Foreman** at his favorite restaurant, Buffalo Wild Wings.

Your money is being wasted on your food but it is really good so you get some more. **Freshman Brett Adams** usually spends about \$10 to \$20 on a meal when he goes out.

Where to go? **Senior Norina Infusino** would recommend



her favorite place, Portillo's, where she usually spends about \$5 on a meal.

There are so many options nowadays and you usually get mixed up when you make decisions about what food you're going to eat. Maybe go for some greasy fast food with your friend, **senior Dave Flores**, at his favorite place, McDonald's?

The possibilities are endless... Man, that wallet is looking thin.

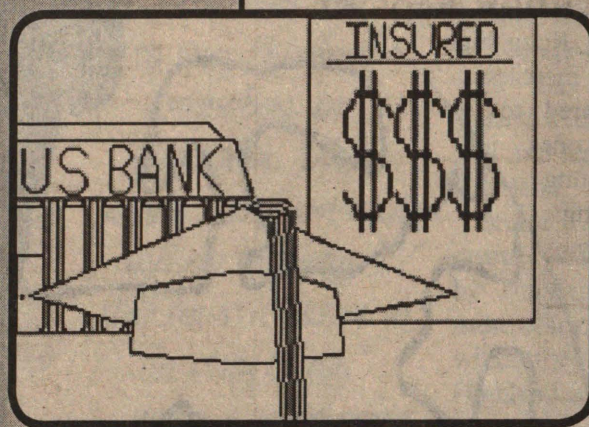
28

You go to get your wallet out and realize that you have one lonely \$20 bill in your wallet.

How did this happen? You start yelling at your-self mentally because your mom is going to be so mad when she realizes you can only put \$20 into your savings account. Do they even accept such a small deposit?

Well if only you were smart like your friend, **senior Sara Worel**, you would have already put half of your paycheck away. College is going to be really expensive

and now



you're thinking by the way you put away money you're never going to get there!

Sweet talk is how you try to survive when you tell your mom that you have \$20 left of your \$275.62 check. Better start thinking of how you will survive the next week with no money left...

Ever heard of doing chores?

Female citizen of Hong Kong appreciates American lifestyle

Debbi Kit-Ying Fu may miss public transportation from home but loves living independently

Community High School is hosting foreign exchange students from Japan, China, and Montenegro. This month, junior Debbi Kit-Ying Fu is the featured foreign exchange student.

The other exchange student will be featured next month.

By David Thomas

Leaving her family in Hong Kong, senior Debbi Kit-Ying Fu arrived in America to discover that it is really the land of the free.

"I came to America because I can learn English," said Fu. "I can learn how to live independently."

Fu, who arrived on Aug. 30, said she likes America for its french fries and her drama class.

But perhaps the best thing Fu likes about America is that it's "not serious."

"Here there is no examination. It's not serious. Hong Kong is very serious," said Fu.

Indeed, because at first glance, Hong Kong high schools seem merciless when compared to American ones. For Fu, Po Leung Kok Yoo Ling Sun secondary school starts in the sixth grade, and it ends six years later.

Here in America, Fu is taking a few standard courses: English, American history, physics, mathematics, drama, and physical education.

But according to Fu, the students have no voice in what classes they would take. For example, a fifth-year student would take biology, chemistry, physics, two mathematics courses, English, Chinese, and P.E. freestyle was her

event.

Fu said she was surprised by the differences between America and Hong Kong.

She doesn't like the fact that there is no public transportation, but she does like living in a house, in comparison to the apartment she lives in in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong is the name of a region and a city located in the southeastern part of China.

Hong Kong is known internationally for being the least restricted economy in the world.

Also, unlike the China mainland, Hong Kong has numerous civil rights that were guaranteed under an agreement reached by the British and the Chinese in 1984.

Fu initially knew what she wanted to do later in life: A pilot. However, she said that she didn't meet the qualifications. It wasn't her eyesight, or her hand-eye coordination. It was her height.

"I wanted to be a pilot but I can't. They said I was too short to be a pilot," said Fu.

Like exchange student Nanao Sakabe (who was featured in last month's Chronicle), Fu's exchange was arranged by AYUSA Global Youth Exchange, a non-profit organization that promotes "global learning and leadership through high school exchange programs."

Fu lives with John and Kathy Michaels and their two adoptive daughters, Lily, 8, and Ellie, 5, who are also from China.

However, like all

Experiencing a foreign land first hand

How to get involved with the school's excellent foreign exchange program

By Elynn Fortino

Students enrolled in German classes 2, 3, and 4 will travel to Gunzenhausen, Germany in June. Students are required to have studied at least two years of German to be eligible.

Although the deadline has passed, students next year will be able to host the students who visit from Gunzenhausen in the spring 2008.

The French classes will be looking for hosts for April.

Because of changes in the host school in Costa Rica, there will be no group coming in January, but the school hopes that they come next year, according to Spanish teacher Susan Junkroski.

Junkroski said there are many benefits to experiencing new cultures.

"Students' speaking ability in the language improves greatly. There is also the non-language benefits like learning problem solving skills, growing in their self confidence and finding out that the rest of the world is not like DuPage County," she added.

German teacher Terry Strohm said that students who have participated in the German exchange have said that it is a life-changing experience.

"They see the world from a much different perspective than those students who do not travel or host someone from another country. Not only are they able to use the knowledge that they have gained in class in order to communicate effectively with other people, the students who travel are accepted into a German family, school, and community with open arms," she said.

"Many of the former participants from the school are still regularly in touch with their German brothers and sisters after 20 years and visit each other when they can. Several of our students have been able to make college and career decisions based on their involvement in the exchange program, and some students have gone on to apply for the Congress-Bundestag Scholarship," said Strohm.

exchange programs, they end. As stipulated by AYUSA, Fu must return to Hong Kong by June 30.



Knutson follows kids' footsteps to high school

By Cristina Sarnelli

Nature called new staff member Tom Knutson back to the classroom after he retired from his previous 33 years of teaching.

Knutson is teaching three biology classes. He subbed at Community High School, after retiring from teaching at Glenbard North, for a year and a half and felt the need to become a teacher again.

"I finished all of my projects around the house, started subbing, took some biology classes at COD, and I realized that I wanted to have my own classroom again. Fortunately an opportunity arrived for me to teach here," Knutson explained.

Knutson graduated from Drake University and went to Northern Illinois University for his masters. He first taught at Hadley Junior High for three years before going over to

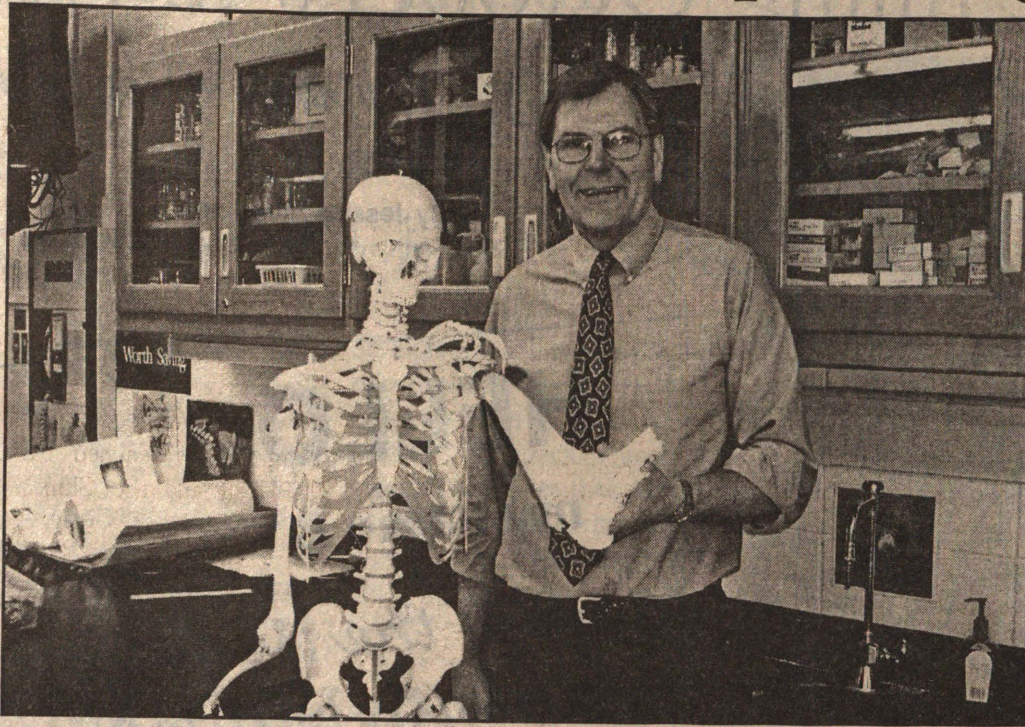


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Tom Knutson's fondness for science led him back to the classroom after he retired from teaching at Glenbard North.

Glenbard North. He retired as a science department chair.

He knows Community High School well because his three

children graduated from the high school. Also, being a sub helped Knutson feel more at ease with the students and

staff.

"I think the students work really hard. I knew I would like the kids here because of

my subbing experiences," he said. "The staff is great as well. They are really hard workers and very knowledgeable, and they are very interested in the students here."

His thrill of nature is what inspired him to become a biology teacher.

"I always had good role models, and my dad told me to do something I liked. I was really interested in biology and the outdoors and the environment. Biology related most to me. I was interested in hiking and nature, so it is a class I enjoy very much," he said.

Knutson wants to share his knowledge with students and prepare them for the future.

"My goals for all the students are that I want them to learn how to learn and be a life long learner. Biology is important for them to know, and they can use it in any career," he said.

Goodbye Mr. Highland

Principal says farewell to the life he has known for more than three decades

By Kym McDaniel

While Principal John Highland won't miss living to bells every day, he will miss the memories and working with kids as he retires this year after 32 years.

"The reason I started in education in the first place was for the kids. I enjoyed coaching football and just that day-to-day relationship with the kids," said Highland.

Highland worked within the school from department chair of the science and fine arts to dean of students.

"Becoming principal just kind of happened. I'm glad I did it, it completed my life and career in education," said Highland.

However, Highland does not plan on retiring completely from the work force.

"I have a lot of things in mind for after retirement. I have three kids in college and my daughter just got engaged," he said. "I would like to stay involved somehow in education. I just won't stand around and do nothing. I still have a desire to do something."

Highland said the main reason for his decision to retire after the '06-'07 school year were retirement rules are changing and he wanted to take full advantage of the opportunities.

Some goals planned this year for Highland are closing achievement gaps, improving

I would like to stay involved somehow in education. I just won't stand around and do nothing. I still have a desire to do something.

--Principal John Highland

test scores and improving literacy rate for children.

"My goals are similar to last year," said Highland. "I want to try to make the

educational experience for students meaningful, relevant and enjoyable while enjoying my last year."

Originally planning on majoring in business, Highland changed his major from business to education multiple times.

"I've always been intrigued with the private sector. Taking a client out to play golf and less structure," said Highland.

Senior hall was also created about 20 years ago by Highland to encourage more school spirit and pride within the school, something Highland is extremely proud of.

"We got the idea for the graduating class song and mural. We wanted to have kids leave the school feeling proud of what they accomplished here," said Highland.



Photo courtesy of Challenge

Principal John Highland was not always the principal; he was dean of students when this photo was taken in the early '90s. Guess which one he is...(Hint: Front row center).

BOO!

Ghoulish good times

Halloween is almost here. Check out these spooky suburban events for a haunting night of fun.

Trail of Terror Haunted House

777 Barlett Rd., Streamwood
(630)372-PARK

Fright Fest

542 North Illinois Route 21,
Gurnee (847)249-4636

Statesville Haunted Prison

17250 S. Weber Rd., Crest Hill
Statesville.org

Eleventh Hour

493 Oaklane Ave., Elmhurst
EleventhHour.info

Nightmares: Basement of the Dead

42 W. New York St., Aurora
(630)896-2466

Sonny Acres

North Avenue, one mile east of Route 59,
West Chicago (630)231-3859

Garbage filling October's movie lineup

"Man of the Year"

Rated PG-13

By Ryan Nesemeier

The new political comedy "The Man of the Year" wasn't really a political movie any more than it was a comedy. The movie was mainly based around the fact of how easily voting can be flawed and less on a comedian running the country.

Tom Dobbs (Robin Williams) is a comedian who cracks jokes at politics, like "The Daily Show's" Jon Stewart, but not as funny. During a Q&A on his TV show one of the audience members asks "Why don't you run for president?" After her question the thought of it becomes more real to him and soon enough he announces his candidacy for president.

Meanwhile, a new electronic system for voting is created by Delacroy, a new company created to help make voting more efficient.

Eleanor Green (Laura Linney) a young programmer for Delacroy notices a flaw in the system. She finds that one candidate would get more votes even though she voted for the opposing candidate three times as much.

Green notifies the owner of the corporation, who ignores the problem. Green is promptly fired, but vows to tell Dobbs about the fluke.

Dobbs eventually wins the election because of the flawed voting system. He uses different tactics than any politician before in order to get the attention of the nation. He addresses the issues with a sense of humor, yet serious and straight to the point.

Green finally meets him but cannot bring herself to tell him about the error. After a while she finally comes out and says "...You're not the president. You didn't even come close..."

The movie was carried by its jokes. They were well-written and delivered with great timing, just like seen in "The Colbert Report" but not much different. The comedians' ability to use humor as a weapon to get people to pay attention was amazing, and the jokes weren't overtly vulgar either. Although everyone in the theater laughed at Williams' jokes, he was not the funniest guy in the movie.

Williams' co-stars include Lewis Black, who plays Dobbs' joke writer and Christopher Walken, Dobbs' manager. Walken uses hilarious analogies while Black says outrageous comments.

But without the comedians and the jokes, the movie has nothing. Dobbs' run for the presidency is not very exciting or interesting. It could have been much shorter. The movie should have been focused on Dobbs as a political comedian or even as a

Overall, the "Man of the Year" was okay. But the humor is similar to "The Daily Show." Really, you should just stay home and wait for Jon Stewart. Stewart's comedy is funny and meaningful. And free.

"Employee of the Month"

Rated PG-13

By Jessica Bergmann

Funny man Dane Cook's debut movie "Employee of the Month" is anything but humorous.

With a plot as exciting as watching water boil, this movie was a huge disappointment. It begins with your average loser, a "lives with his grandma" bum, Zack (Dane Cook).

He works at Club Super, a warehouse store like Costco, working as the underrated, late arrival box boy who plays Texas hold 'em with his work buddies instead of doing his job.

His nemesis, and Employee of the Month for 17 months straight, Vince (Dax Shepard) continues to work.

overachieve and win gold stars for his

So it's no surprise that when the new "hot" blonde bimbo, Amy (Jessica Simpson) starts her first day at Club Super, both guys try to win her attention.

But the competition takes a little spin when Zack finds out that Amy is known to sleep with the Employee of the Month. So he decides he's going to try and win Employee of the Month so he can jump into bed with her.

However, the little plot takes a Vince are tied

predictable turn when Zack and 15 stars each, leading to a final competition between the two boys.

Anyone with a brain could figure out how the movie was going to end before reaching the halfway point. There is really no point to seeing any movie if you already know what's going to happen.

If Cook wasn't already known as the funniest guy on Earth, no one would know after seeing this movie.

With all his scripted sex jokes, no more than four were actually funny.

For being his breakout movie, Cook would have been better off playing Ben Affleck's role of Larry Gigli in the flop movie "Gigli"

than this movie. If Cook had actually read the script before he signed on, he might have turned and ran while he could.

As if the movie was not bad enough, it was demeaning to see Jessica Simpson in nothing other than low cut shirts. Hey, if she's "acting" the part of the blonde bimbo, she's got to look the part as well. But even her acting has worsened since the craptastic "Dukes of Hazzard."

There is no humor in this movie whatsoever, and you'd be better off spending your \$6.50 on something more like a McDonald's happy meal than wasting an hour and a half on this pointless film.

HELLO

my name is

"Employee of the Month."
Comes free with bad plot
and stupid sex jokes.

Blonde bimbo free with
purchase.

Had enough of...
good plot...

funny lead roles...

And meaning in movies...

THEN SEE "MAN OF THE YEAR!"

"Man of the Year": Guaranteed to disappoint



From famous to legendary

Reminiscent of Bruce Springsteen, The Killers' latest album ditches the rock-pop '80's sound for a style that is 'a throwback to home'

By Kait Taylor

On their smash 2004 debut, "Hot Fuss," the Killers were dance-happy, cool, makeup wearing rock stars. They toured the world, shook up the music scene, and had the world chomping at the bit for another taste of their fresh rock-pop '80s sound. And on Oct. 2, Killers fans finally had the chance to hear what was supposed to be another innovative smash hit from the breakout stars

of the rock world: "Sam's Town."

Much to the surprise of fans and critics, the Killers ditched the '80s pop-rock synthesized sound that made them famous. And amazingly, it works.

"Sam's Town" is authentically American and a little Las Vegas, basically "Hot Fuss" with a little less Euro-trash and without the makeup and glitter. But more than a throwback to home, their new style

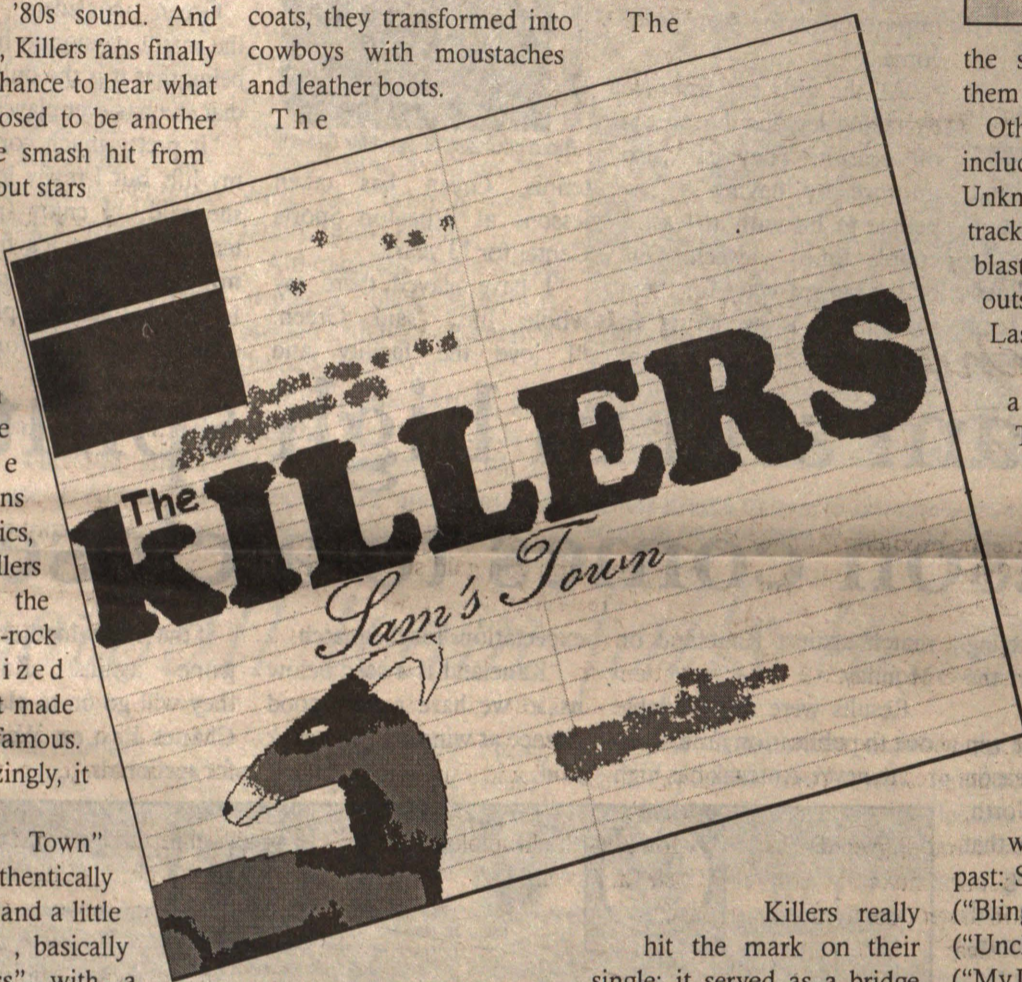
is sophisticated, with more instruments than effects. The synthesized riffs are still there, but more layered and blended.

Even on the CD cover they have changed their look: no longer the '80s rockers decked out in eye liner and white suit coats, they transformed into cowboys with moustaches and leather boots.

The

Springsteen's formula to pile sound on top of sound, while somehow steering clear of overkill. The track sounds bigger and shinier than hits off of "Hot Fuss" using full-blown strings, a glockenspiel, dead on solo melodies, and choirs.

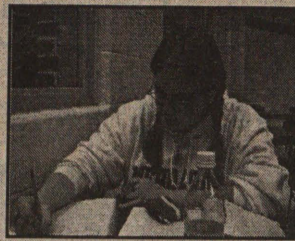
The



first single off the album "When You Were Young" is a triumph, reminiscent of Bruce

Killers really hit the mark on their single; it served as a bridge between "Hot Fuss" and "Sam's Town", a middle ground between the sound that made them famous and

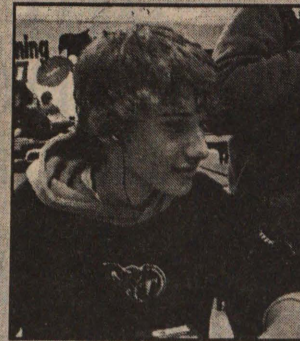
What CHS is listening to...



Casey Dennis

Sophomore

"Nothing Good About Goodbye" by Hinder



Brian Skrypczak

Sophomore

"Smack That" by Akon

the sound that will make them legendary.

Other soaring successes include "For . Reasons Unknown" and "Bones," tracks with dramatic horn blasts and obvious shout outs to their hometown of Las Vegas.

The entire album is a throwback to home. There's the album title, which pays tribute to the old-school local casino where the band got its start.

Then there's the music, a collection of western rock tunes in the vein of Springsteen, filled with stories about song writer Brandon Flower's past: Stories about his father ("Bling"), his troubled uncle ("Uncle Jonny"), his wife ("My List") and his childhood memories of growing up in a small Utah town ("The River is Wild").

There are a few songs that

don't work; short tracks like "Enterlude" and "Exitlude" are pointless, not to mention total rips from the Beatles' "Yellow Submarine" without giving any credit.

The track "Sam's Town" is reminiscent of Springsteen and Tom Petty, but in a mockingly clichéd kind of way. The emotions don't feel authentic on this track, and definitely they don't sound as profound as Springsteen or U2. The same goes for "The River is Wild." They tried far too hard to adopt a deep emotional persona that doesn't suit itself.

Despite a few slip ups, the Killers are one of the best rock bands on the scene, and Sam's Town is a darn good album. Better than "Hot Fuss"? No, but it really depends on what you like. Transforming from Duran Duran to Bruce Springsteen is a stretch that they just about mastered, kudos to the Killers on the effort to renovate their sound and push the norms.

The passion (and redemption) of Mel Gibson

By David Thomas

The world took a fateful turn that day. Innocence was shattered, hearts broken, and tempers ignited. It was these emotions that were unleashed when on July 28, superstar Mel Gibson was arrested under suspicion for drunk driving.

Drunk driving is bad enough, but Gibson spewed and slurred expletives, sexist, and anti-Semitic remarks.

"The Jews are responsible for all wars in the world. Are you a Jew?" asked a drunken Gibson to Deputy James Mee, who is Jewish (awkward).

The media exploded. Every news channel, including our own WGN,

reported the Gibson arrest every half hour. Rob Schneider openly declared that we would refuse to work with Gibson because of his remarks.

Normally, declarations like Schneider's would damage Gibson's image and "bankability." Fortunately, it's just Rob Schneider.

But now, it's time for forgiveness. Very recently, Gibson made a public apology on ABC's Good Morning America.

"I said horrible things to him... I'm ashamed of that, that came out of my mouth and I'm not that, that's not who I am," Gibson said to Diane Sawyer. "Alcohol loosens your tongue and makes you act, say and

behave in a way that's not you."

He recanted his remarks regarding Jews, but there will always be skeptics over Gibson's sincerity. They have a good point: he has a new movie ("Apocalypto") coming out and his run-in with the law wouldn't help potential ticket sales.

But I am not one of those skeptics. I forgive Gibson for. America should too, and America (and the media) has forgiven far worse types than Gibson.

On Dec. 8, 1984, Motley Crue frontman and rock 'n' roll superstar Vince Neil was driving a car along with Nicholas "Razzle" Dingley, the drummer of rock Hanoi Rocks. Neil

was drunk and speeding when he lost control of the car and hit an oncoming vehicle. Dingley was declared dead on arrival, and the driver of the other vehicle reportedly suffered serious injuries.

In 1963, a woman named Laura Welch ran a stop sign and hit an oncoming car, killing the driver. Coincidentally, the driver of that car was her current boyfriend.

She was not drunk, but no jail time was served. This didn't stop her husband from becoming the 43rd President of the United States.

Neil, Bush, and other celebrities have been more or less forgiven for their

past transgressions. It is time America extends the same courtesy to Gibson.

Do not mistake forgiveness as approval. Gibson was driving while intoxicated, and there is no excuse for that, especially since Gibson himself knows the dangers of alcoholism. He said anti-Semitic remarks, which should further his shame.

But still, it is time to forgive. If the Amish community can forgive Charles Carl Roberts IV for killing five girls in a small Pennsylvania schoolhouse; if Pope John Paul II can forgive would-be assassin Mehmet Ali Agca, then America can forgive Mel Gibson for this.

Tennis champ anticipates college play and shows love for younger teammates

By Ellyn Fortino

Although tennis may be overshadowed by football games and squad spirit, senior Jennifer Green's accomplishments throughout her four years on the team should not go unnoticed.

Leading as the team captain this year as well as the previous has helped achieve many individual wins and a second out of 8th place at the District 88 Willowbrook tournament Sept. 9.

Green has played on the varsity level four years and has played both doubles and singles, but she is especially proud of making it to state in 2004.

"Last year no one from We-go qualified for state, but my sophomore year Mary Hesterman ('06) and I qualified," she said. "We

were the first people in nine years to succeed from We-go."

In order to qualify for state, Green said she and Hesterman had to win two

I enjoy (playing tennis) because it's fun. It's my passion, and even when I get old, I can still play. It's something I can do forever.'

-- Senior Jennifer Green

matches in sectionals and together they won one out of the three matches at state.

Although no one qualified this season for state, Green hopes her younger teammates

will make it to state next season.

"We had the same goal every year to just do better overall than the previous year," she added.

The key players this year included juniors Heather Knoll, Melanie Linsenmeyer, Nanao Sakabe and sophomore Leigh Martino.

Green says the team has worked very hard this year and even though the season is over there is still room for improvement for seasons to come.

"All the girls can improve by taking lessons during the off season. They can also improve by having a few people to hit with at least a couple times a week. One of the biggest ways for them to improve is becoming an USTA member and playing at

least two USTA tournaments a month," she said. "In order for the improvement to take place, the girls have to have the desire to improve."

In addition to high school



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Green

tennis, Green has taken lessons at Wheaton Sports Center for 13 years.

"I have played there my whole life," said Green. "I love the facility and

instructors."

Green hopes to continue tennis in college, but it may not be possible depending where she attends.

"College of DuPage is a big possibility for me to play tennis at, if I decide on that school. I also have the chance to play at Dubuque in Iowa," she said. "If I don't go where I can play it will be hard for me to give it all up because I have been playing since I was 4 years old."

Green considers tennis the major passion in her life, being that it is the only sport that she has ever played.

"It pretty much consumes my life, but I really love it," she said. "I enjoy (playing tennis) because it's fun. It's my passion, and even when I get old, I can still play. It's something I can do forever."

Volleyball team still in high spirits as tough season comes to a close

Despite the many difficult losses, the girls focus on the positive aspects of their senior year

By Allison Rysell

Although the girls varsity volleyball team struggled through a tough season, they improved on their overall team effort and focused more on their potential instead of dwelling on their losses.

Coach Kristi Hasty feels that this was a very challenging year for the team of seniors, and praised her players for keeping their spirits high.

"Everybody kept their enthusiasm for the game and came to practice and worked hard until the last day," she said.

Team captain senior Courtney Antczak said that the girls played very well as a team considering the extremely tough competition in the DuPage Valley Conference, especially state champs Naperville Central.

Senior Deb Sosnowski believes that the competition was the main reason that the Wildcats had trouble finding a win.

"We're in one of the toughest conferences," said

Sosnowski. "We're playing with the top schools in the state."

The girls had only one win for the competitive season against Glenbard North, however, the girls believe that winning is not everything.

Senior Katrina Means said, "It doesn't matter how many games we won or lost, but it's about the friendships we've made and the people we've become."

Besides Antczak, Means, and Sosnowski, the varsity team consists of seniors, Stephanie Hish, Lindsay Krage, Laurin McCaffrey, Melissa Olsen, Megan Stuhr, Leigh Taddeucci, and Christine Williams.

"We've all been on the same team since freshman year. We know each other's strengths and weaknesses," said Sosnowski. "We kept coming out every game ready to play and stuck together."

With the entire varsity team graduating at the end of the year, Hasty faces the tough challenge of training the entire JV team to play varsity next year.

"It is hard to lose an entire team and rebuild from scratch," she said.

Despite the difficult season, the team had high expectations for the regional

match against Kaneland on Monday.

Results were not available due to publication time.

However, Antczak has high

expectations for the match.

"Kaneland is a seed below us so we have a very good chance at winning," Antczak said.

If the team wins the regional game against Kaneland, they will go on to play Saint Charles East on Wednesday for sectionals.

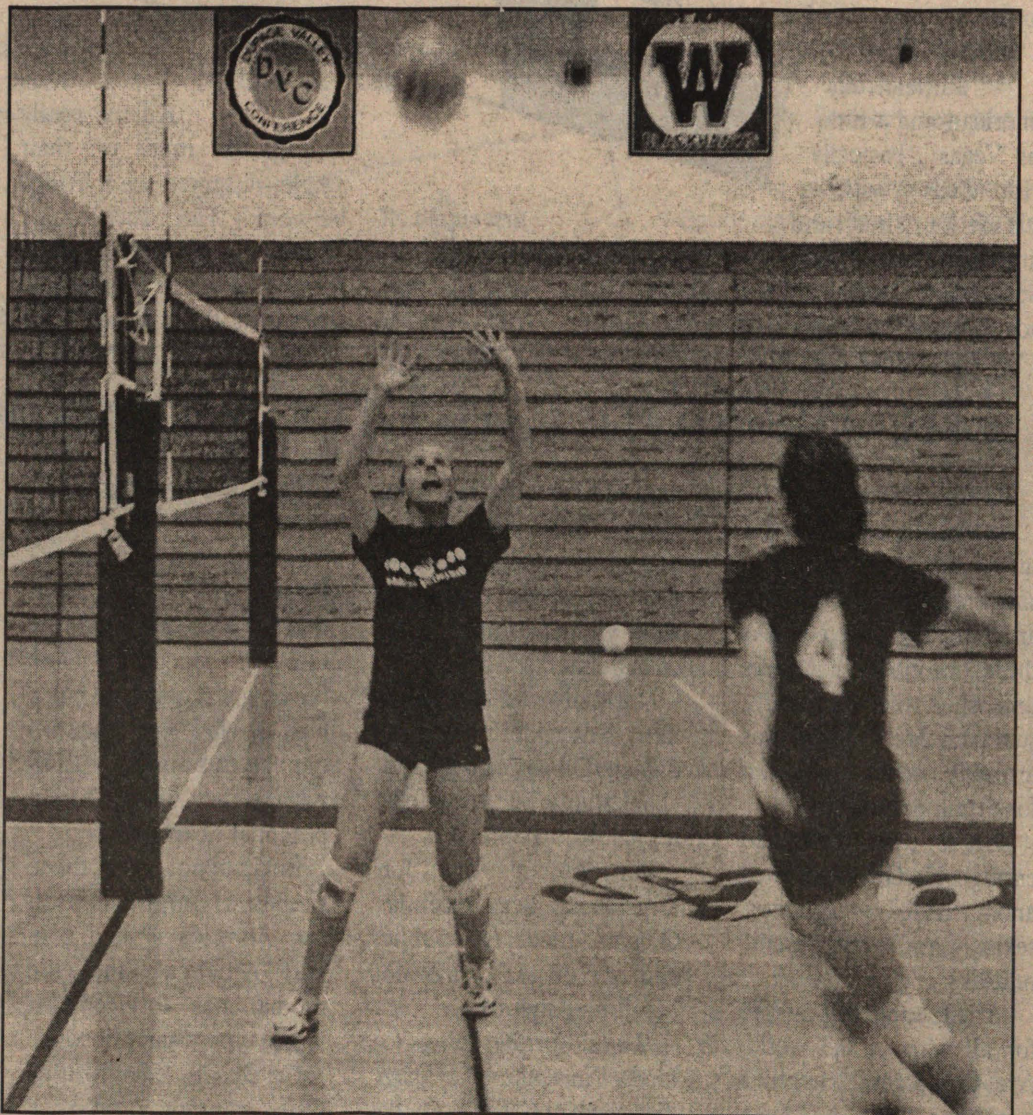


Photo by Kym McDaniel

Seniors Courtney Antczak, left, and Deb Sosnowski practiced setting and spiking all season, and feel that the friendships they formed made the season worthwhile.

Grimm shows off her golf swing and earns DVC all-conference title

By Kym McDaniel

Senior Kristin Grimm's hard work at varsity golf drove her to become an all-conference DVC athlete.

Grimm, who has been playing golf for about five years, placed 10th at the DVC conference.

"I'm proud of my accomplishments," she said. "I've worked hard to get where I am today."

Even though Grimm golfed a 96 point game, she said it wasn't her "full potential, I could have done better."

For achieving all-conference athlete, Grimm has received a medal and certificate. Her picture will also be posted along the wall near the Bishop gym with other school all-conference athletes.

"There has only been one other girl who has gotten all-conference DVC in our school's history, so I think

that's pretty cool," said Grimm.

Grimm was also a captain for the past two years and said her family influenced her to play.

"My goal this year was to lower my average," said Grimm who also placed 8th at the York Invitational where she successfully completed her goal and scored a 91.

Overall, Grimm is happy with the outcome of her season and said the team and coach Mike Kane were a large part of her success.

"The team this year was great. Our team is like a family," said Grimm.

Although she doesn't plan to play in college, Grimm is pleased with her performance the past four years.

"My favorite part of golf was that the team bonds so well," said Grimm. "We all worked hard and improved while having so much fun."



Photo by Kym McDaniel

Senior Kristin Grimm is extremely proud of her top 10 finish at conference, and attributes some of her success to the bond she shared with her teammates all season.

Football team fails to make playoffs

By Cristina Sarnelli

The football team ended their season in disappointment as they failed to make it to the playoffs.

In a final effort during the last game of the season, the boys lost 50-0 against Wheaton-Warrenville South.

Senior Sean Rubin

who plays defense on the team explained the overall frustration of the team.

"We were expecting to do something that this school

would never forget, to leave behind a legacy that teams decades from now would strive to match. Now we'll never get that chance," he said.

Coach Robert Stone agrees that it is a shame that the boys could not make their goal but feels that they played well nonetheless.

"I don't think anyone feels good about not achieving our biggest goal this year, but part of the reality is that we got to the tougher part of our schedule. We were against some tough teams," Stone said. "The team's biggest goal was to make the playoffs, and now they know they can't, so that's what we are trying to fight off."

The 40-20 homecoming loss Oct. 6 was unexpected, according to Rubin.

"We made a lot of mistakes on defense, too many for our offense to make up for," he said.

Stone feels that the boys put in a good effort despite the loss.

"Of course I think we could have played a little better, but it's not kids playing bad, it's just the little mistakes here and there add up," he said.

The team was optimistic for a win against Glenbard East on Oct. 13. Stone had high hopes that the boys would do well, hoping that senior night would add to the boys' enthusiasm. However, the team lost 20-0.

Despite the team's losses and disappointment in not achieving their goal, both Rubin and Stone find highlights of the season and find optimism in their experiences.

"High school football is a life altering ritual unlike anything else a person can do, and I think that generally it's the starters who go through this transformation. I am not the same person I was last year. I am stronger and faster physically and mentally, as well as more disciplined and respectful," Rubin said.

Stone's most memorable part of the season was the game against Naperville North.

"Naperville North was memorable because we had a chance on the last play to win the game, and although we didn't win, there was so much excitement in the game that it was a really memorable moment," he said.



Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Despite huge efforts and grueling practices during the season, the Wildcats again failed to make playoffs, much to the disappointment of players and coaches.

Racing to the finish line

Cross country ends the season with best times

By David Thomas

Freshman Mary Murphy qualified for sectionals at the Oct. 21 DVC regional meet for girls cross country. Murphy, who fell and tumbled within the first mile, came in 19th place.

"I'm really happy. I didn't think I could do it but I did it," said Murphy, whose knees were bleeding when she crossed the finish line.

Overall, the team came in 10th out of thirteen teams,

with their second-fastest runner, freshman Annette Eichenberger, coming in 44th place.

This year's season was, according to coach Robert Maxson, better than last year's, in which no runners placed for sectionals.

"We're much faster as a team," said Maxson, noting how junior Adi Huerta, the third-fastest runner, is much faster than Heather Olsen, last year's fastest runner. Olsen transferred to Oak Park High School.

But the division was also much tougher, said Maxson. The teams that West Chicago beat last year were replaced

with the much-tougher teams of Glenbard West and Glenbard South.

In preparation for sectionals, Murphy said she was going to do what she always does: "Keep running, but not too hard."

The only runners that compete at the regional level are the varsity runners. In addition to Murphy, Eichenberger, and Huerta, senior and team captain Kelly Tinnes, senior Amber Triner, junior Kara Triner, and sophomore Zoe Wisley competed. Huerta placed 51st, Kara Triner placed 74th, and Wisley placed 76th.

Despite the fact that

Murphy is the only one who placed for sectionals, Maxson said he was very happy at the goals the runners set. At the Oct. 13 DVC conference meet at Northside Park, almost every runner improved their personal times, the most notable being senior and assistant captain Leah Kuzmicz, who beat her goal pace by 20 seconds.

"I was just trying to do my best and knew that I could run faster than my expected time. It was my last DVC and knew it was the only chance I would get," said Kuzmicz.

Murphy also did well in that race; she was the top placer on the team, finishing in 27th with a 6:32 pace.

It hasn't been the easiest of seasons for the girls. Although Murphy, who sprained her ankle a month ago, is back running, Maxson said that junior Tara Wojchieowski was injured.

Nevertheless, she finished with a 7:50 pace at the DVC meet.

In addition, Maxson is also faced with the reality of graduation and the eventual leave of the senior runners.

"We're still a young team. It takes practice to learn how to run three miles. It's all about pacing," said Maxson.

He mentioned that this has been a "better end of the year" than previous ones, and even said he also he wants to try to beat another school for next year, noting that "several of their best runners are graduating." He just has to tell his runners.

Sectionals will be held at LeRoy Oak Woods in St. Charles, Saturday.

Swimmers anticipate a DVC success

By Leah Kuzmicz

As swimming comes to a close, varsity is still working on technique and improving their times.

While the junior varsity girls rest up for the upcoming DVC Friday and Saturday varsity will keep practicing.

"Our speed has improved in the 50s and 100s and our starts and turns have improved as far as quickness. We're working more on the little things. Julia Shallcross has dropped a lot of time in the last month too," said coach Curt Herrin.

He hopes that his other two seniors, Katie McLeland and Caitlin Kregel will qualify for state as well.

All three girls trained together on varsity since their freshman years and swam together during the off season on the West Chicago Sharks.

"We've worked hard for four years and it's our time to shine," said McLeland.

Kregel, trying to qualify for the 100 breast, is really trying to work for her goals following her motto: Never give up.

"The first two years I went to state, and last year I didn't make the cut," said Kregel.

"This year I am trying real hard to go."

The girls have been confident since their successful meet against Bartlett on Sept. 30, where the girls improved their times and swam great races.

Sectionals will be Nov. 11, where the girls hope to qualify for the state finals on Nov. 17.



Photo by Leah Kuzmicz

Senior Amber Triner, left, and her sister, junior Kara Triner, trained together all season and raced towards the finish line together at the DVC meet on Oct. 13.

Quit complaining; P.E. classes for all

To some students, physical education can be a time to



Greg Vodicka

exercise, work hard, and strive to become healthy. For others it may be their least favorite class on their

schedule.

An obvious benefit of P.E. is the exercise, but what else are students getting out of this required class?

Students get a lot more than just 45 minutes to work up their heart rate. In freshmen and sophomore academies, students learn about the importance of exercise, staying physically fit, team work, and basic knowledge of some major sports in our society.

In Illinois both freshmen and sophomore academies are required classes to graduate.

After passing both of

these classes, P.E. exempt is offered to varsity athletes and members of the school band. Some freshmen and sophomore athletes also feel they should be exempt. The question is, should these athletes still have to take a P.E. class like everyone else?

Athletes work hard at every practice preparing for games, meets, and matches. They spend countless hours working hard during their season and during their off season.

Some athletes even play two or three sports. That, without doubt, is a lot of physical activity, and maybe

even more activity than in a P.E. class. In that sense, athletes already meet the state's requirements without even taking a P.E. class.

Not only do some athletes feel they should get out of P.E. but some juniors and seniors who do not participate in organized sports also feel they do not need a class aimed for exercise.

I believe athletes are not born, they are made. Furthermore, there is an athlete in all of us.

Even the kid picked last at elementary school kick ball games has an athlete in them. Who knows, maybe they

could be the next Olympic track star or Heisman Trophy winner?

Without learning the basic skills in P.E., students won't have the ability or the interest to become good athletes.

Some of the only physical activity for students takes place in P.E. class.

Without a healthy body, you will not live as long and you are at a higher risk for many health problems in the future.

Letting these students out of their least favorite class is only going to mess them up later on in life. No one should be exempt from P.E.