



Finals week back to normal

By Leah Kuzmicz

The finals schedule will change back for second semester due to complaints.

Principal John Highland said he found too many problems with the new scheduling.

Many students also found their work load was heavier than before.

Senior Julia Shallcross spent six hours studying for two finals because of the different scheduling.

"It would have been nicer to actually have my finals split apart like they were last year," said Shallcross.

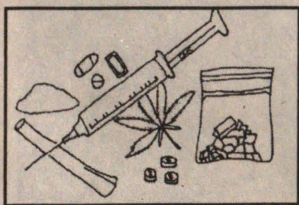
Highland also stated that seniors will be exempt from their finals during second semester if the PSAE results are good, and if individual teachers allow it.

Although PSAE scores are still not available, Highland believes that the results will be positive.

Inside

Center Spread

Among problems that students face, drugs is one of them. Read about how a few students suffered addiction and overcame it on page 8.



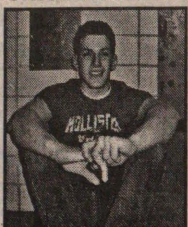
Features



Life is a little different for people who live in Brazil. Read about the Brazilian exchange student on page 10.

Sports

On page 16, Greg Vodicka discusses the outrageous wages of athletes in his column. Check it out!



PAWS program to replace block scheduling proposal

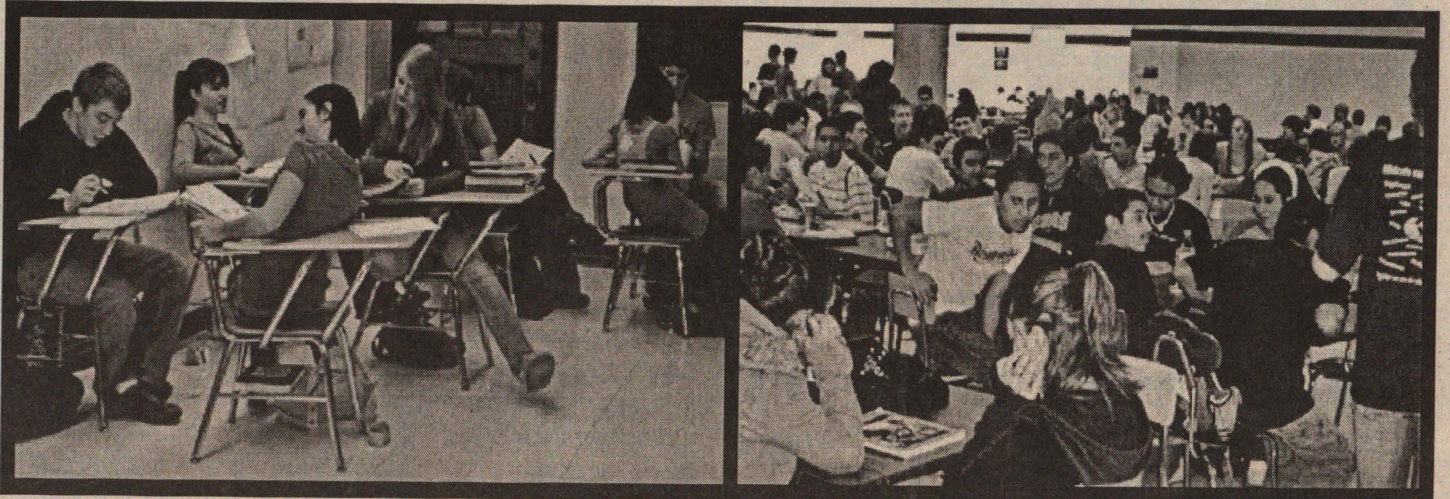


Photo by Greg Vodicka

The new schedule's main change will include having an advisory period and a lunch period right after one another.

By Leah Kuzmicz

A plan for an advisory period will be put into action for the '07-'08 school year.

According to director of curriculum and self development Judy Minor, a new curriculum, Purposeful Activities With Students, or PAWS, is still under construction but remains the plan for the '07-'08 school year.

This new scheduling will

put in a homeroom/lunch period where multiple topics will be discussed.

The topics that will be discussed are: Monday - current events; Tuesday - skills/learning processes; Wednesday - self and career information; Thursday - reading day; and Friday - self and career information/school news.

The advisory team composed of 13 people met in September on Saturdays to

discuss what they valued, and what was important to them about the current curriculum.

The team came up with an agenda known as PAWS which included a list of goals for students to reach and framework for each week.

The advisory committee would like to focus more on the four year plan for students and what they can accomplish during their high school careers.

Minor also wants to help the students remember their high school and the impact that it made.

Two counselors have also been working with the advisory committee to focus on emotional issues during their advisory period.

"I believe that this is a great opportunity to learn and grow, and in doing the PAWS curriculum the students can achieve their goals," said Minor.

Football head coach replaced

As Bob Stone steps down from his position, John Walters takes over the role

By Greg Vodicka

John Walters is named the head football coach, replacing Bob Stone after Stone's ten years of being head coach at West Chicago.

Walters assisted Stone as defensive coordinator for 11 years.

With all the demands of being the athletic director, Stone could not dedicate himself to the large amount of time the team needed. He decided to leave the program, feeling that his time was being split between his commitments.

"Both jobs require a lot of work," said Stone. "I felt like I was choosing one over the other when my full time job should be set on one."

When asked what he will miss, Stone replied, "I will definitely miss the game that I've been involved in since I was in

6th grade. It is going to be incredibly difficult for me when the season starts again."

Stone has coached for 33 years, 18 of them as a head coach.

With an off season program already in action, Walters is making steps towards a well prepared team.

Any player who wants to play for the Wildcats next year is expected to train in his off season. A minimum of three days a week of lifting and running is part of the program, along with max out dates to record progression.

"I want to hold athletes accountable for lifting and getting better," said Walters. "I want to make sure, as a program, they are prepared; every practice, every game, and every down."

His desire is for the team to

know exactly what their responsibility is, no matter what the situation.

Other major goals Walters desires are quality effort on and off the field along with building team morale and chemistry between all players.

"We need to get excited to

play football every day," said Walters.

Determined to reach the playoffs, Walters said that the number one goal is to be prepared.

Walters said, "I want the best for the students to move forward."

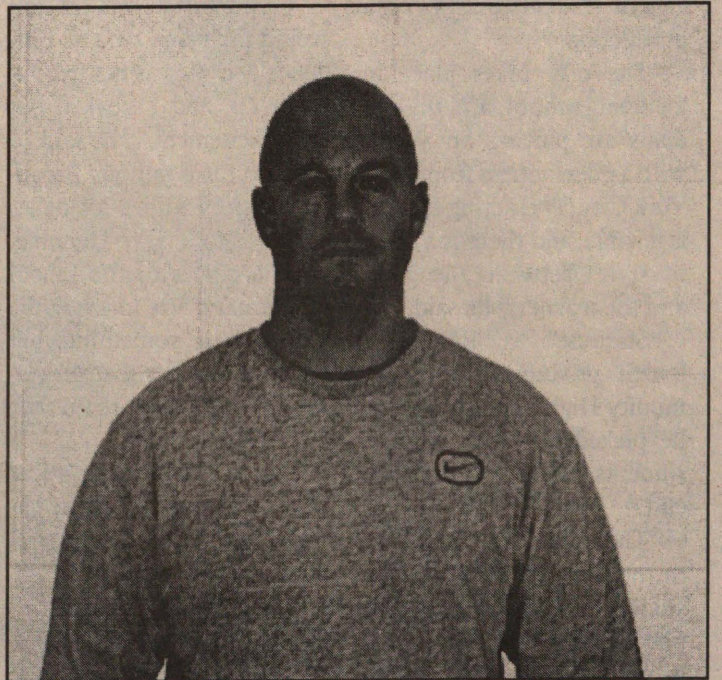


Photo by Greg Vodicka

John Walters said he is ready to take on the role as head coach and can't wait to get the team ready for next season.

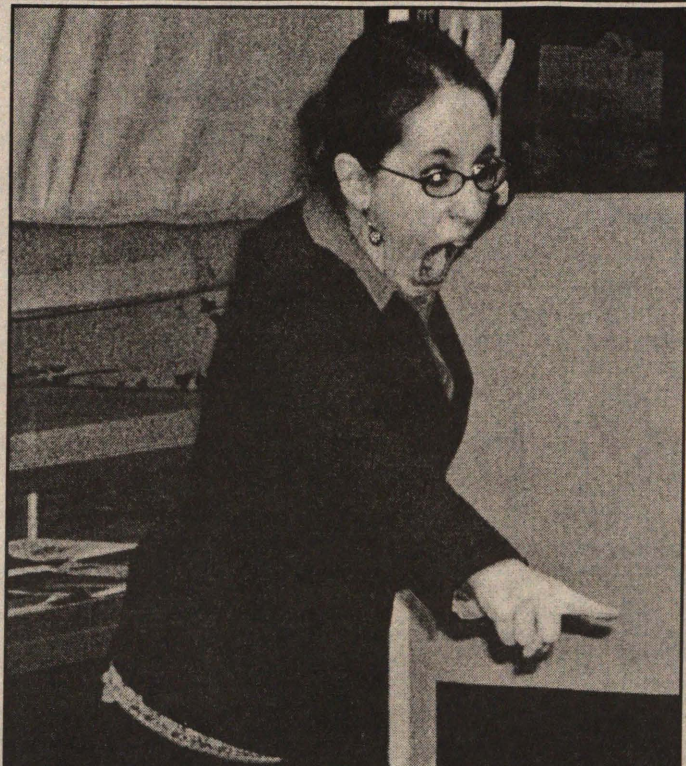


Photo by Jacob Wucka

The audience laughed as Lisa Daniels impersonated spotting a mouse.

Speakers receive highest rank

By Leah Kuzmicz

After placing fourth at the DVC meet and fifth at the regional meet, forensics has achieved the highest ranking the team has received while under the advisory of head coach Jason Kling.

Going into regionals on Feb. 3, Kling hoped that he would be able to take about five or six people to finals, and then three or four to sectionals. The team did just that.

Five of eight people made finals and four of five people made sectionals. Kling was excited to know that most of

the competition was familiar faces.

"A lot of kids beat who they would see again so I was excited about that," said Kling.

He brought four senior girls to regionals and three made it to sectionals.

Seniors Alexis Scott, Lisa Daniels and Rachel Hellman went to sectionals on Feb. 10 but unfortunately their season ended there.

According to Kling this has been the team's best year and Kling believes it has been a "great success overall."

'Stardust' to create a laugh out loud performance

Actors hope to thrill their audience

By Cristina Sarnelli

Experience what it's like to see a play within a play on Thursday at the production of "Stardust."

Winter play director Charles Berglund said that the play's subject was theater, and the story has to do with a cast of students putting on a production.

"The play takes place in an acting school, and the students are putting on a play with a guest actress from New York City. The acting teacher is terrible, and there is a clash of styles between the guest and the teacher," he said.

"Stardust" is Berglund's fourth production at Community High School. He said he picked this play because students easily relate to the cast.

"There are 17 characters in the play, 12 of which are students, so the actors will be playing their own ages. It was a preponderance of actors putting on their own age," Berglund said.

Lead parts for the play went to seniors Rachele Henning, Carissa Gerber, and Sean Rubin, junior Liz Showalter, and freshmen Mike Bryant and Brandon Cleek.

Henning was pleased to find out that she landed the lead role.

"Going to the cast list and seeing my name next to Prudence Mason was not expected at all, and I freaked out with excitement," she said.

Mason is a famous Broadway actress with a lot of attitude, according to Henning.

"She comes to the school of dramatic arts to teach the kids a little something, but she soon realizes that the students have a lot more to teach her," Henning said.

This is not Henning's first play performance, for she has been involved with other productions like "Lute Song."

However, for Rubin, theater is a new experience. Fortunately that did not prove to be an issue for him.

"Basically it was a last min-

Kickoff raises awareness

By Kait Taylor

Relay For Life, an overnight event, designed to bring together those who have been touched by cancer in the community, is set to take place overnight May 11 in the football stadium.

"At the event, all of the teams celebrate survivorship and raise money to help the American Cancer Society save lives," said senior MaryPat Flanagan, student organizer of the event.

The money raised goes towards cancer research, raising awareness of cancer prevention through education, counseling victims and their families, and an array of services for cancer victims, including transportation to cancer treatments, free wigs for hair loss, and cosmetic assistance for the effects of cancer on the skin.

"We aim to make people feel better about their appearance," said Lauren Brandmeyer, representative at the DuPage office for the American Cancer Society. "Helping them feel better about themselves is one step closer to getting better."

At the kickoff for the event on Feb. 1, Brandmeyer and others involved with Relay For Life spoke to those thinking about creating a team.

"It means a lot to see students caring about Relay For

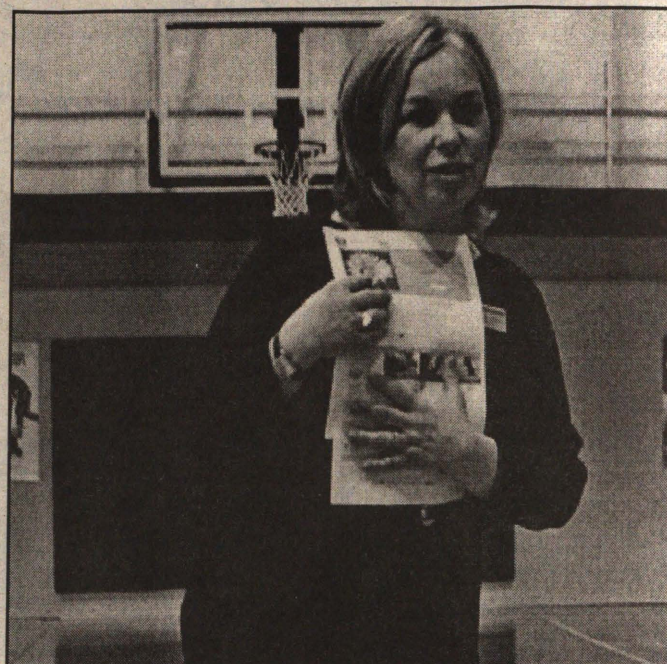


Photo by Kait Taylor

Lauren Brandmeyer talked about subjects such as second hand smoke at the kickoff.

Life," she said at the kickoff. "At Relay, the community comes together to fight cancer by supporting victims and survivors."

At the event, teams camp out over night on the football field and take turns running or walking along the track. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times. Teams arrive at 6 a.m. May 11 and remain until 6 a.m. May 12.

However, according to Flanagan, Relay For Life is much more than a walk around a track.

"It is a time to remember

those lost to cancer, current victims, and survivors," she said. By creating a team, volunteers help the American Cancer Society strive toward a future where cancer doesn't take the lives of friends and family.

"Everyone has been affected by cancer in some way, or will be someday. Relay for life gives students the ability to join together and do something about it," said Flanagan.

If you would like to sign up for Relay For Life, visit www.acevents.org/relay/il/west-chicago.

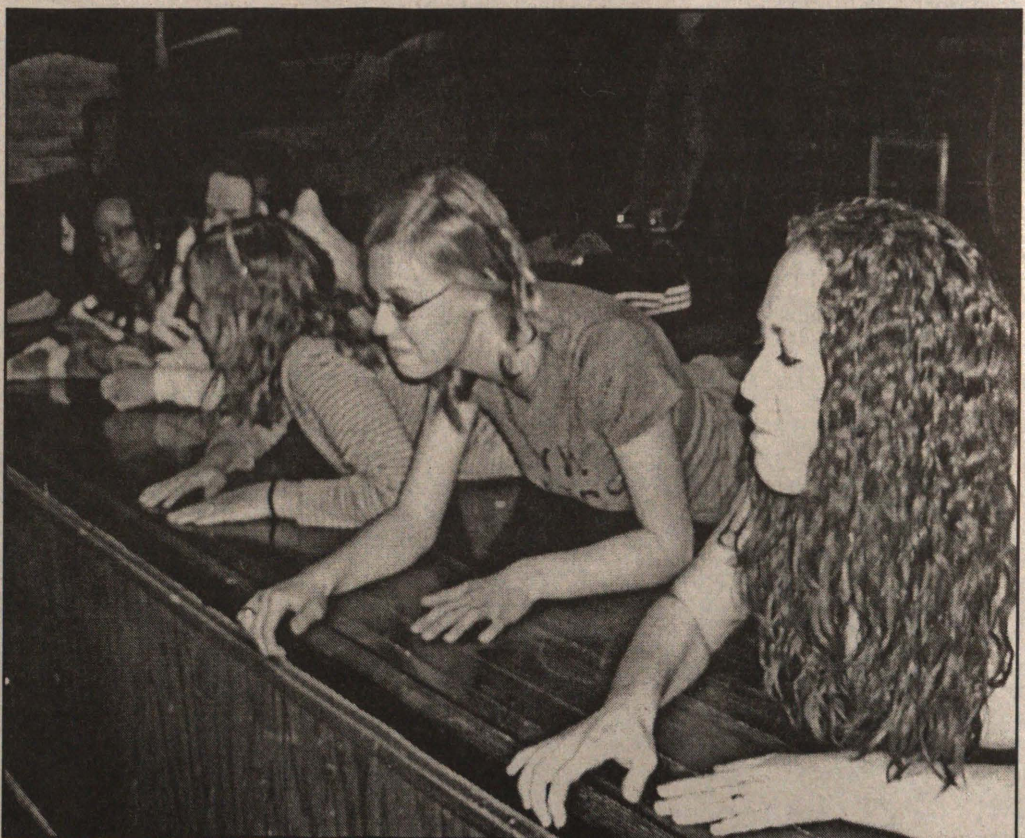


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

From left, sophomore Monika Parker, junior Natalie Ckuj, seniors Paige Kulie and Alana Koontz, and junior Susan Nowicki practice their chant and dance for their roles in "Stardust."

ute decision for me to try out for this play, and I surprised myself at how easily it came to me. A lot of people asked me where I had been for four years," he said.

Many of the cast members are excited to perform the play because of its hilarious script and relaxed atmosphere.

"This play is a lot more relaxed and funnier than the ones I've done," Showalter said. "I get to play a funny character which I've never done, and it's a fun experience."

The cast and director's main goal is to please the audience, and they hope the au-

dience will laugh out loud a lot while watching the play.

"I hope they will be falling out of their seats with laughter because that is how I feel when I'm on stage," Showalter said.

The play runs through Saturday in the Weyrauch Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Restructuring departments

By Dave Thomas

Departments will be reorganized into divisions next year, the Board of Education voted Feb. 6.

Under the new plan, the current math and science departments will merge into the math and science division. Other mergers include foreign language, bilingual, and the Welcome Center into the world languages division.

In addition, department chairs will become division heads and will have less teaching time than their colleagues.

"Part of the rationale for this is that we wanted to really empower division heads to take charge," said Supt. Lee Rieck.

Many teachers are concerned about the organization of the divisions and the potential consequences.

"(Math and science) is going to be the largest division. You're going to have one head supervising 29 other faculty," said human anatomy teacher

Hank Murphy.

He also noted that, between the science and math department, there is a lot of equipment that needs to be supervised and maintained.

There was also concern in regards to which departments were being combined. For example, the humanities division is a combination of social studies and fine arts, which includes band, orchestra, and art classes.

Interim social studies department chair Candace Fikis said that there were potential benefits of combining certain departments.

"We could combine music

with history or art with geography," said Fikis. "But someone who is strong in social studies might not be strong in

understand the math."

In a proposal written by Rieck to the Board of Education, there were several problems with the current department structure. One of the problems cited was that administrators were serving as chairs of certain departments.

For instance, Rieck is the unpaid chair of the Learning Resource Center (LRC) while Principal John Highland is the paid chair of the fine arts department.

However, Teachers' Association president Barbara

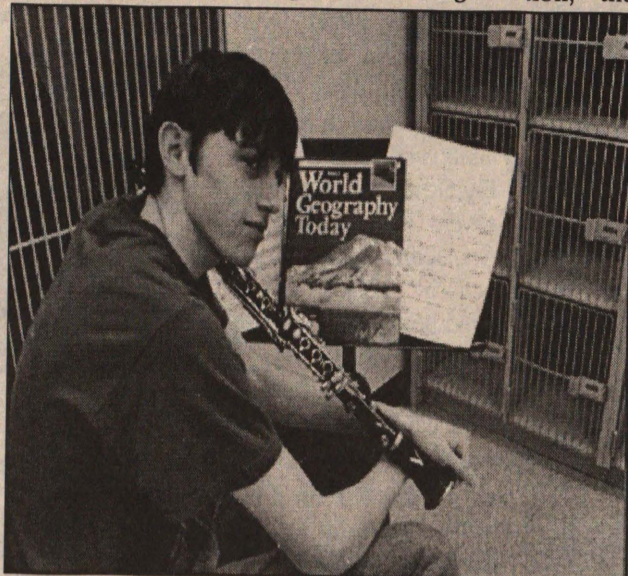
Laimins said that better communication in the past between the staff and administration could "alleviate some of the problems."

"It's always better to involve the people who are affected because they can see things you don't," she said.

Rieck said that he wants to instill a "sense of ownership" into the division heads and give them a bigger leadership role. That may be a result of the curriculum and staff development director, Judith Minor, being cut next year.

Rieck said that Minor's responsibilities will be assumed by the new principal and the division heads.

According to Rieck, the difference between the department chairs and division heads does not aid the budget situation but admitted that the reduction of Minor will.



Staged photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Next year, social studies and fine arts will be combined into one department, as demonstrated here by senior Billy Baron.

music education."

Math teacher Gwen Geiger also noted the many similarities between math and science and that for some math problems, "an experiment could be performed to help

Magazine wins award

By Aaron Pennington

Mind's Eye literary magazine received an excellent rating from the National Council of Teachers of English for its 2006 edition.

Mind's Eye is a showcase of student writing and artwork that has been running over 10 years, nine under the title Mind's Eye.

According to adviser Andrea Cobbett, she was notified by a letter NCTE sent to her.

"It doesn't come too much of a surprise to us that we did well, we usually set attainable goals for ourselves," said Cobbett.

Mind's Eye also received an excellent rating in 2005

after six years with an above average rating.

The magazine won the Bronze Medalist Certificate from the Columbia Scholastic Association last October.

"We were pleased to get that award because we never received one like that before," said Cobbett.

Cobbett said that during her tenure as adviser to the students, her role has not changed much.

"I just keep the kids aware of their deadlines and receive submissions. They choose what ones to print," said Cobbett.

The Mind's Eye team is currently choosing submissions for this year's issue.

Chili-Fest hopes to raise mural funds and school spirits with taste contest

By Jacob Wucka

The Booster Club is sponsoring the first WEGO Chili-Fest on March 1 to promote school spirit and raise money for a Class of 2007 mural.

Boys basketball, girls volleyball, swimming, band, poms, cheerleading, and FBLA are among those participating. They will bring a crock pot with two gallons worth of chili, and a decorative table display.

For a \$5 admission, guests will be able to taste the chili, play games like beanbag toss, and do other activities like karaoke.

Guests can also receive prizes at the door like spirit wear, tee shirts, and coupons to local businesses.

Money from admission and the sale of hotdogs and soft drinks will go to the mural.

Recipes will also be sold for \$1. The proceeds from the

sold recipes will go to the participant and will not be added to funds for the mural.

After the guests are done testing the chili, they will vote for three groups who they believe had the best recipes and the winners will receive a cash prize. The guests will then vote for the best table decoration. The winners will receive a cash prize.

The Chili-Fest is from 6-8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.



Photo by Jacob Wucka

The business and family, consumer science, and industrial arts departments helped raise awareness of recycling by taking care of the school's recycling.

They also did this to celebrate Career and Technical Education Month.

Teacher Nancy Blume said, "We want to encourage students to celebrate the great opportunities to take courses in career and technical education."

The teachers met on Jan. 25 after school with many recycling bins and garbage bags. They then split up into groups and went to different parts of the school. Patti Kozlowski, Donald Zabelin, and Doug French cleaned the LRC.

Other teachers who participated were Blume, Donna Durbin, Peggy Peach, Mia Wirth, Cara Blevins, Patty Clifford, and Christopher Bardey. Pictured here are Blume, left, and Clifford.

Teaching girls defense

By Kym McDaniel

Fighting like a girl is a good thing.

At least it is according to Erin Weed, founder of Girls Fight Back, an organization started after Weed's college sorority sister was murdered.

Girls Fight Back will be coming to West Chicago on March 9 during hours 9 and 10 to hold an assembly for girls on self defense.

"Having a personal and an outsider's experience will be good," said PE teacher Heather Goebel, who arranged for Weed to come. "She is also younger, so she will be able to relate better to the students."

While Girls Fight Back starts on teaching intuition to avoid violence, they also teach self-defense techniques.

"So many college girls I meet have already been victimized in some way before they even set foot on a campus," said Weed.

"Girls are dealing with frightening situations at a far younger age than ever before, so it's time for teens to fight back too."

Weed, who also said the violence against women is "one of the most serious human rights violations on the planet" is releasing a Girls Fight Back book in September.

"My plan is to write many safety books for women in all stages of their lives, but I felt teens were the next obvious group," said Weed.

Weed has been touring the country lecturing about violence against women.

December Student of the Month looks forward to college and life on her own

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 Dave Thomas

Over the course of four years, Jenna Bodie has competed in Skills USA and played both softball and basketball at the varsity level. And throughout her high school career, she has earned solid A's, cementing her title as December's Student of the Month.

What are your high school accomplishments?

My accomplishments are playing varsity softball and basketball, maintaining a 4.0 all four years, and getting first place at state for Skills USA for the interior design and extemporaneous speaking competitions.

Who has been your favorite teacher?

It's too hard to pick a favorite teacher. I had so many

good ones that if I tried to list all of them I'd leave one out so I'm not going to try.

What is your favorite school activity?

My favorite school activity



Photo courtesy of Jenna Bodie

would have to be playing softball and basketball.

What clubs are you involved in?

I am the senior class president for Student Council, and vice president for Skills USA.

What is your favorite memory of high school?

My favorite memory is my first regional softball game

sophomore year: we won in 15 innings (a normal game is 7 innings).

Where do you plan to go to college?

I plan to go to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

What do you want to major in?

I plan to major in mechanical engineering and I think I will take some classes in construction management.

What are you looking forward to about next year?

I'm looking forward to being on my own and trying to figure out how to live on my own. Plus the campus is only 20 minutes away from a lake and it's less than 30 minutes away from Mall of America.

What do you want to do for a living?

Obviously something that has to do with engineering, but I'm not exactly sure what I'm going to do, but I'm looking forward to figuring that out.

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

Someone must really like me!

Business students win stocks game

Seniors beat 1,196 teams to claim stock market title

By Jacob Wucka

A team of consumer education students beat out 1,196 teams to score first place in a statewide stock market competition.

Students in Donald Zabelin's first semester consumer education class participated in the games.

The winning team consisted of seniors Adam Olson, Mike Deimling, and Nate Sullivan. The team finished with a final balance of \$136,807.

"This first place team was very good at watching the trend to see which stocks to move at the right time. Also they took many managing risks," Zabelin said.

The team also had a return that was 29 percent better than the performance of the S & P 500.

The S & P 500 is an index used for tracking companies in big industries, financial services, transportation, and technology.

At the beginning of the first semester, Zabelin's students formed teams and were given \$100,000 in imaginary money.

The teams then had to buy four different stocks or mutual funds. How each team did was based off how the actual stock market did over the course of the semester.

The winning team received certificates, \$50 to split among the teammates, and

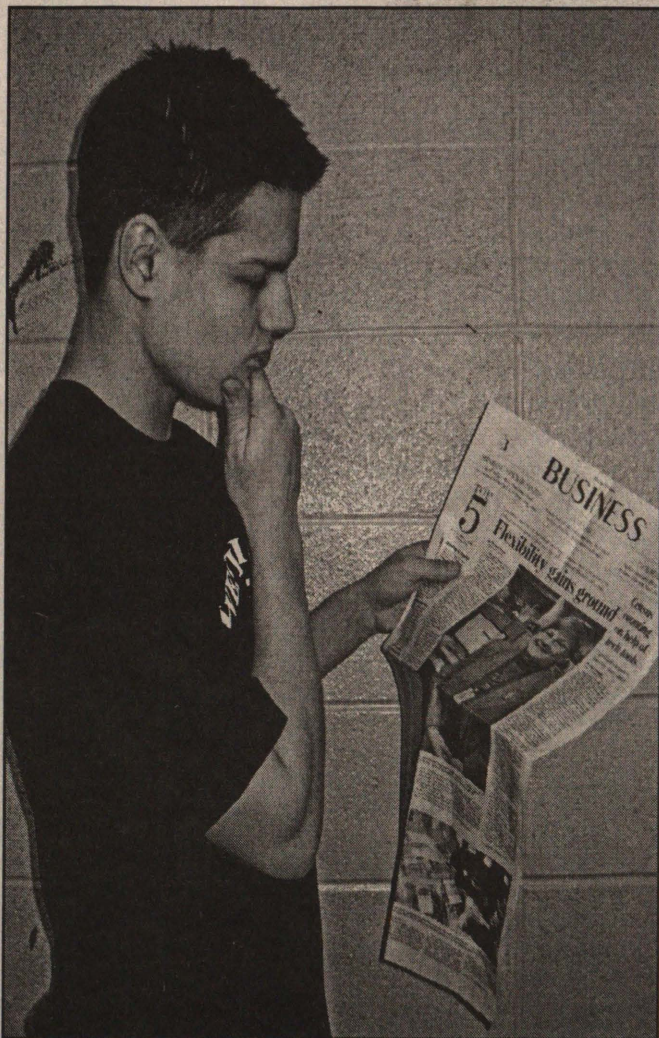


Photo by Kait Taylor

Senior Nate Sullivan was one of the students who won the stock market game competition. Here Sullivan reads some business articles.

monogrammed stock market games calculators.

"The experience was valuable for all students who participated. The students learned why a company's stock might be doing well in the market. They also learned about risk management and

how to manage a stock portfolio," said Zabelin.

Zabelin's second semester consumer education will start the stock market game in late February. Zabelin will begin teaching his class general stock market strategies prior to the games.

Athlete's hard work on field and in school pays off

Matt Claude is honored with the title of January Student of the Month

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

By Cristina Sarnelli

Being an exceptional athlete involved with many sports at school and displaying a good academic record led senior Matt Claude to the title of January Student of the Month.

What are your high school accomplishments?

My accomplishments include being on the National Honor Society and going to regionals for baseball.

Who has been your favorite teacher?

Mr. Zabelin is my favorite teacher.

What is your favorite memory?

My favorite memory is winning regionals in baseball.

Where do you plan to go to college?

I plan on going to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

What do you want to major in?

I want to major in physical therapy.

What extra curricular activities are you involved with?

I play golf, baseball, and basketball, and I am also in National Honor Society.



Photo courtesy of Matt Claude

What extra curricular activities do you plan to continue in college?

I will play baseball in college.

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

I have no idea.



Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

On Feb. 8, the jazz band performed their first concert of the year at 7:30 p.m. Freshman Emily Nash accompanies the band with her piano piece. Some songs played at the concert included "Four" by Miles Davis and "Got Rhythm?" by Doug Beach.

Biggest loser event sparks fundraising

By Ellyn Fortino

Key Club will kick off activities this month to raise money and awareness for Wego to Africa including Wego's Biggest Loser and Eat like an Angolan.

Corn mush will be available in the cafeteria every Wednesday and students can donate \$3-\$5 and get a taste of Angolan food.

"This is the main food they eat morning, noon, and night and most people do not know how long the process of making corn mush actually is," said Key Club adviser Ward Rau.

Rau said that the biggest difference between Angolians and us is the time and effort put into eating and is the reason why Key Club is focusing attention on the food.

"In West Chicago we may not be as rich like Naperville, Wheaton, or St. Charles, but when was the last time you had no food at all to eat?" he asked.

The other activity planned, Wego's Biggest Loser, kicked off Feb. 6 in commons and involved a number of teachers who have volunteered to lose weight and make the information of their progress public. Weigh-ins will be every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m.

Rau said that Wego's Biggest Loser is mainly an attention getter for the Wego to Africa project so students will bring items or money to donate.

Rau said that in Saku-topi, Angola in Africa many schools were destroyed due to their 27 year civil war.

"A whole generation of people have never gone to school or learned how to read," said Rau.

The clothing, shoes, school supplies and money collected from these activities will be sent to Africa in order to better equip the students in their newly built school. The monetary donations will help pay for shipping the supplies.

Senior boys needed for Mr. Wildcat event

By Greg Vodicka

Senior guys get their chance to show off their talent and style for the 2007 Mr. Wildcat title, March 9.

Terri Rohrdanz, adviser of Mr. Wildcat said, "The boys

must perform some sort of act like singing, playing a musical instrument, dancing or a comedian act. They are also judged on style."

As of now only five boys have signed up, and for the

competition to take place 10 must compete.

Any senior boy who wants to show off his talent and wants to sign up for the event can do so in dean Pete Marti-no's office.

give me guidance that matters
I'll take the initiative
just watch me

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Book Club succeeds

Students give overall positive feedback on the new program

By David Thomas

Stocked with sandwiches and pretzels, the first three meetings of Book Club were a "moderate success" said English teacher Chris Covino.

"Generally, we received positive feedback," said Covino. "The students said they liked to have a place to talk about books they like and not the ones they have to read for class."

According to Covino, 22 students, three teachers, and one administrator attended the meetings, which were held in the administrative conference room from Jan. 23 to Jan. 25.

During the meetings, Covino said they discussed the difference between the "Harry Potter" books and the movies, what makes horror such an attractive topic to some people, and even brainstormed a list of genres to read in the future. Horror and science fiction was the genre for January.

Covino described the meetings as a "successful first attempt," and even commented that one person who joined the club said that she had "never joined a club in her high school career" until

book club.

The genre for February will be romance, although Covino said he cringed when he made that choice. Covino said that he didn't read romance nov-

"The students said they liked to have a place to talk about books they like and not the ones they have to read for class."

-- Chris Covino

els, but he admitted that romance was "one of the most popular fiction genres."

Although sandwiches were served during the January meetings, the February meetings might not feature as much food. However, Covino said that raffle tickets will still be handed out if students come to the meeting and participate.

In addition, Covino said anyone who attends two meetings will receive a free Book Club T-Shirt.

The dates for the next meetings are Feb. 27 from 4th to 6th hour and Feb. 28 from 6th to 8th hour.

Our view

Tigger goes from happy to slappy

When people think of Tigger from the cartoon "Winnie the Pooh", they think of a bouncy, happy character; not a violent guy in a suit who hits people.

On January 7th, the Monaco family visited the Disney World theme park in Orlando Florida. There they posed for a picture with Tigger, and they got a little more than they bargained for.

While the children posed with the character, the dad recorded Tigger as he allegedly smacked one of the children. Oh no, not Tigger.

This story made a media firestorm, which in the end led to Tigger being suspended from work and gave this family their fifteen minutes of fame.

Now, maybe this family would not have a case if they did not record this incident, but they did and the tape shows Tigger hitting the kid while turning around to put his arm around the teenager for a picture. In the eyes of the media, this is an attack.

When the father, son, and lawyer appeared on CBS's "The Early Show" they used every defensive method in the book, also known as acting.

During the interview, CBS repeatedly showed the clip of Tigger hitting



the teen, however they stopped the clip before the teen slapped Tigger back.

The father said on the show that his son had not remembered anything from the time he was hit until he was taken to hospital and treated for neck pain. Seriously, this is America.

America has become a country where people are on the offensive all the time. It has become a country of lawsuits.

It's obvious; if someone can get sued over losing an iPod, then this case will end with a lawsuit.

The question is why? Why must everything in America end with a lawsuit and money? Maybe it is because America is the greediest country; maybe watching others suffer as they empty their bank account puts smiles on people's faces.

Or perhaps America has finally realized that the justice system is so flawed that it is the easiest way to make money from innocent people without working.

Whatever happened during that day of Jan. 7, whether an intentional attack, or an accident, a lawsuit may be imminent because of this society we live in.

Money is not everything

Many teens believe money and fame are the answer to happiness, but life is about way more than just riches

No one would mind getting rich. With Hollywood starlets like Lindsay Lohan being able to spend \$10,000 at one store and rap mogul Jay-Z buying his own color (it's called "Jay-Z Blue"), it's no wonder teenagers have money on the brain. According to a Pew Research Center a poll of 18 to 25 year olds, 81 percent said that getting rich was one of their most important goals in life.

There's nothing wrong with wanting to be rich. After all, the National Center for Education Statistics reported that the average total cost for college tuition, room, and board, was about \$26,000 for 2004-2005. Prices for gas, health care, and prescription drugs will inevitably rise between now and 2055 (the year the Class of 2007 can collect Social Security). And this is not assuming America gets hit with Great Depression 2.0.

Suddenly, aiming for a job or a career that

will pay the bills becomes all the more enviable.

However, in that same poll, 51 percent said their goal is to get famous, while 30 percent or less said their goal was to help the needy or be a leader in the community.

Upon reading this little factoid, some students will obviously wrinkle their face and be disgusted at their fellow students.

As if to cement the disgust, it was talk

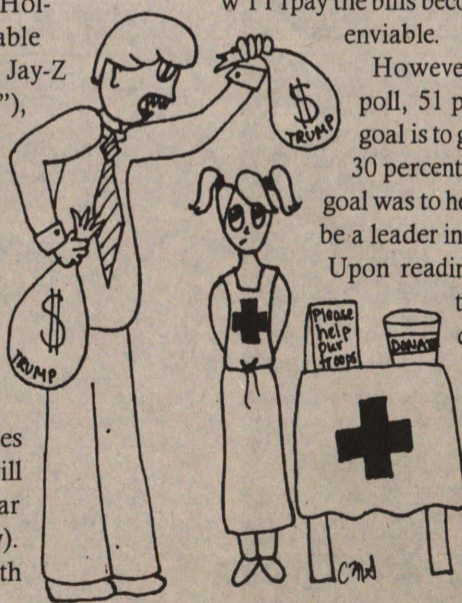
show goddess Oprah Winfrey who cited the materialistic obsession of American teenagers as the reason why she chose to build a school in South Africa instead of this country.

But is anyone surprised? Materialism has swept the nation. The program that showcases spoiled teenage girls at their worst, MTV's "My Super Sweet 16," is entering its fourth season. Product placement in television and movies are commonplace, and rapper 50 Cent regularly mentions Mercedes Benz, Cristal champagne, and AK-47 assault rifles in his songs.

It's right to blame the rampant materialism on teenagers. And it's right to pin teenagers' aspirations for more cash on materialism. According to the National Institute on Media and the Family, today's parents are spending 500 percent more money (inflation adjusted) on kids than the previous generation did.

But teenagers are not the only culprits. The fact that was just mentioned stated that parents are buying most of teenagers' desires. Parents need to tell their kids "no" and not give in to the thought that maybe their child will not fit in. If parents really believe that kids will accept their child for who they are, then the brand name jeans are not necessary.

Attention must be paid to the culture. To criticize teenagers without recognizing the source of rampant materialism is like treating a man for high blood pressure without addressing his weight. Blame the teenagers, but blame the culture as well.



show goddess Oprah Winfrey who cited the

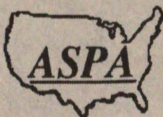
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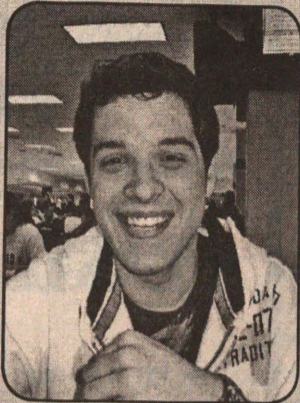
THE WILDCAT CHRONICLE is the student newspaper at Community High School. It is a public forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views. The chronicle publishes eight times a year, with the student editorial board making the decisions concerning paper's content. Unsigned 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 staff members 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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..... Students Speak

Would you rather be a good role model or be filthy rich?



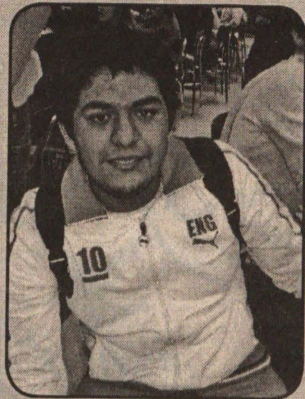
Ethan Dean
Sophomore

"A good role model because people looking up to me is more rewarding. Then you're not rich and stuck up."



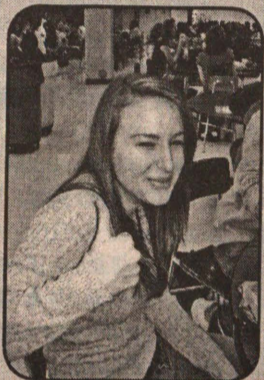
Vicki Lawler
Freshman

"A role model because people would think I have a good head on my shoulders."



Dave Flores
Senior

"I would rather be rich because I'm going to die someday so I'd rather live my life fulfilled and with materialistic things."



Tara Breinig
Sophomore

"I'd rather be filthy rich because after I get rich I could do things for people. Because money is everything."



Mike Dalton
Junior

"Filthy rich so I could pay people to listen to me."



Becca Howe
Freshman

"Probably a good role model because you influence a lot more people."

Earlier start deprives teens of sleep

I'm writing this column half awake, coffee in hand wondering why it is hard for me to concentrate. I listened to what my parents said and went to bed early.



Ellyn Fortino

I even went all out knowing it was the first day of second semester and had a good nutritious breakfast. If a bowl of Captain Crunch counts. Anyways, I followed all the rules I learned in food and fit and I still can't keep my eyes from drooping.

So why is it so hard for me and hundreds of other teenagers to get out of bed in the morning?

I can't imagine what it will be like next year with the school day starting earlier. 7:35 to be exact.

I will normally manage about seven hours on a school night, an amount that some working adults would kill for. And what's so bad about that?

Research has proven that changes in the teenage body mean they need more sleep, which explains why as a fifth and sixth grader I was wide awake and had no troubles getting up in the morning.

Sorry but that is no longer reality. In fact, teens need 10 hours of sleep at night, which would make my bed time 8:30. Yeah right.

Sleep deprivation doesn't just cause poor grades and disciplinary problems in schools, but it is also associated with ADHD and depression, so it is cru-

cial that teenagers find an approach to attack this problem.

Maybe it is because teenagers have way too much on their plate to handle. Teenagers juggle school work, part-time jobs, extracurricular activities, sports, family time, church, boyfriends/girlfriends, college preparation, and more college preparation.

I may not have a perfect solution for ending sleep deprivation for good, but I do have some ideas.

First, should parents stop nagging us for sleeping in on a Saturday. This is our natural sleep cycle, not us being lazy. According to Familyeducation.com most teens tend to stay up later, whether socializing or doing homework, and sleep later in the morning. Second, don't force us to play a sport or join a club if we have just way too many things going on. The extra stress will not help us catch up on some z's.

But probably the best idea, which makes a lot of sense, would be to start the school day later. Think about it, real class discussions first hour instead of glazed over eyes drifting further and further off to never never land. Everyday should be like our late start days. I like seeing people walking into class with smiles rather than cans of Monster.

Next year, school should not start earlier because it will be detrimental to a teenager's growing brain and their ability to learn. If the school day does need to start earlier, please schedule more three-day weekends or late start days so students can "re-fill" their tank.

And teachers, next year please don't hate your students if they should be late to class once in a while first hour.

High expectations of the things teens do at school and at home is ok, but we all need to take into account the fact that we need time to take care of our

Commentators are not real journalists Bias is present in the media

The media is powerful; with that statement, no one can disagree. However, many differ when debating the alleged liberal bias of the media. Now, before you start deeming CNN the "Clinton News Network," hear me out. The media can be biased in both directions, right and left, and more often than being politi-

cally swayed, the media is influenced by money.

But the biggest problem with the media is the kinds of programming and writing that are considered news and what sources are considered journalists.



Kait Taylor

Take the "O'Reilly Factor", for example. Bill O'Reilly, the host of the show, is not, I repeat NOT, a journalist. He is a commentator/TV and radio personality. However, because his show is broadcast on news stations, suddenly his opinions and convenient statistics are called news.

The media watch group, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, even published a book called "The 'Oh Really?' Factor" criticizing him for his biased reporting, which would normally end a news career, but Fox continues to broadcast his biased little show and write it off as news even though his show and most of the programming on Fox is for a specific audience: Republicans.

The other thing about the media that bothers me is that the owners of huge media corporations can self-censure reports about their subsidiaries.

Think of it this way: Time Warner owns CNN, a news network, but also owns companies such as HBO, AOL, People, Sports Illustrated, Fortune Magazine, and New Line Cinema (to name a few).

Because they own such wide array of media outlets, CNN isn't going to rip on Sports Illustrated if a huge scandal explodes as relentlessly as Fox News would have. Does that make CNN less credible? I certainly think so.

Unfortunately another problem is the amount of time people are willing to devote to getting news is becoming shorter, so the juiciest facts are being squeezed into a soundbite.

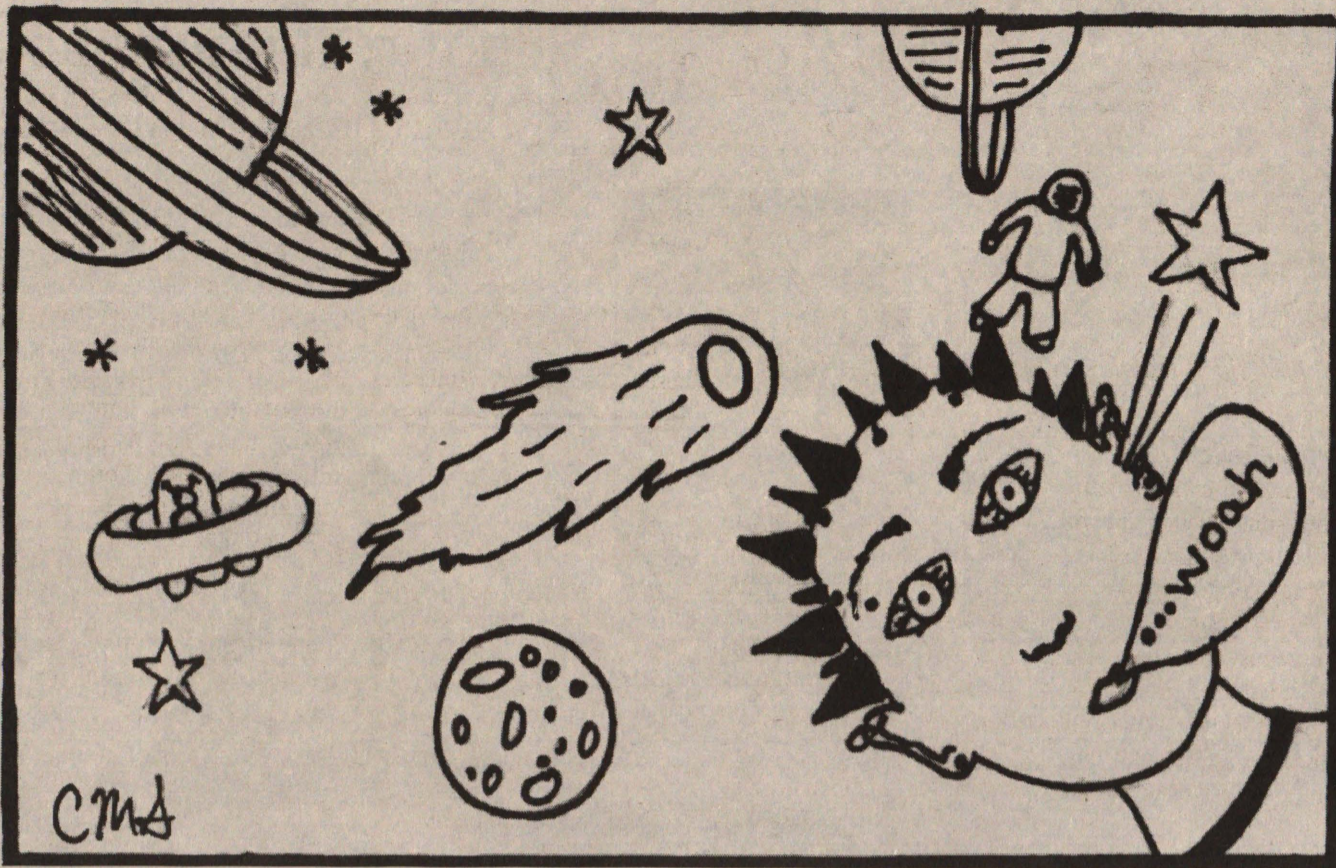
Pressure from advertisers is another way in which our capitalist society causes bias in what you might hear. If Dodge contributes millions of dollars in commercial advertising to ABC, how might that effect a story about Dodge recalls?

Government influence, whether it's public or covert censorship, biases the media as well. Who knows what kind of information the Bush administration or the CIA is hiding in their back logs of files to avoid tarnished reputations?

You have to realize that the information you're being fed isn't always cold hard fact. Unless you are reading or watching an actual journalist, the tidbits of "news" that you hear most likely have an opinion behind it and it most definitely serve a purpose for whatever media outlet you're hearing it from.

In the end, all you can do is be smart enough to not believe everything you hear. Look to multiple sources for your news, and be aware that money and political views may influence what you hear.

Also make sure that you know the difference between a journalist and a commentator. Commentators deliver comments, sort of like columnists do, and as long I'm a columnist, in which my writing can be filled with liberal treachery, I promise to deliver more of my opinions. Take it for what it is, an opinion.



Drugs have had
on both students
minds. Read about
addicts over

A shatter

By Ellyn Fortino

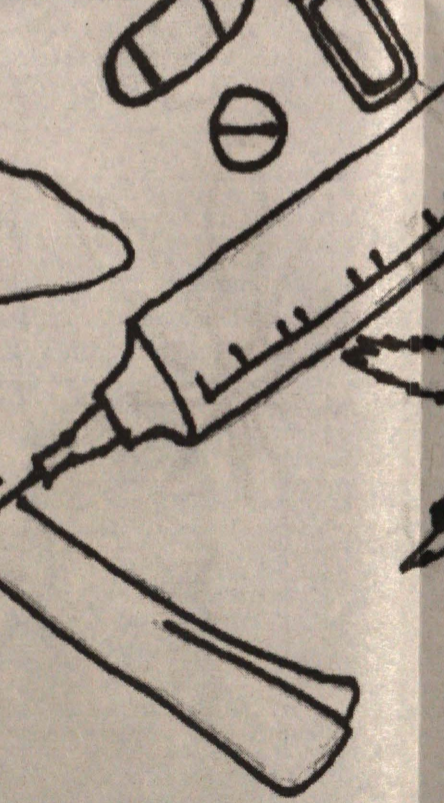
**The name has been changed to protect the privacy of the person involved.*
When his friend's grades started slipping and his behavior patterns changed drastically, senior Jack noticed something was right.

"My friend's personality flip-flopped. He was happy and then he became irritable and moody. He would sit inside his house all day and started drinking when I realized my friend was a drug addict. He was on heroin everyday for the past month."

Jack said that his friend had met a new group of people and hung out with them, ignoring his old friends. "Before he met his new friends and started drinking at school," he said. "It is sad that after one month his health was suffering traumatically."

When Jack confronted his friend about his drinking, he couldn't stop. Jack went to his friend's parents and they decided to go to a rehabilitation center. He walked out soon after.

"I didn't know how to help my friend," Jack said. "I knew that rehab



was the right place for him." His friends parents decided to put him in rehab. They brought him to a clinic in Florida. He stayed for a few weeks.

"He came back as the guy he used to be. He was clean other than heroin to live for. I was really proud of him."

It was going well for a month, until the day he came to his friend's house to find him blue with a swollen tongue. He was also choking and looked like he was having a heart attack. Luckily the owner of the house found him.

"Seeing him like that was the scariest thing I've ever seen. I lost hope for my friend. I couldn't leave him alone. Jack told him that if he did not stop using drugs, his friend volunteered to go into rehab a last resort."

"He told me that he was sick of living with his friends and couldn't believe he let them do that to him. This time in rehab he started his 12 step program."

Jack said that although his friend made a mistake, he didn't forget about him or not help him. Jack's friend has been clean for one year.

Easy access to over the counter meds considered more common than the cold

By Jacob Wucka

**The name has been changed to protect the privacy of the person involved.*

Cold medicines and prescription drugs are in everyone's home, which gives many teens seemingly unlimited access to them.

People addicted to medication, or pill poppers, usually do not know the effects that come with their addiction.

To get high off the pills, the abuser must ingest a large amount. This makes many pills extremely dangerous because they contain potentially fatal chemicals.

According to kidshealth.org, many popular cough medicines contain a chemical called chlorphenamine maleate. When abused this can raise blood pressure, and can have other harmful effects on

the body.

The most common medicine that is abused is called Coricidin Cold and Cough, also known as triple c or skittles, according to yorkcounty.gov. This is an over the counter drug that is only sold to people 18 years or older, but many younger teens steal this.

The effects of triple c happened to Oliver* when he first used the pills. Oliver was offered the pills while he was driving around with friends. He agreed to take seven pills, which would give him the

He also felt like he was driving extremely fast, when in all actuality he was going five miles per hour.

"I felt like my neck was going to snap off, and my spine had a tingly feeling," said Oliver about the effects which happened to him.

To his surprise, Oliver made it back to his house safely. He then went into his room, lay down, and listened to music.

"I noticed the fire detector in my room. There is a green blinking dot on it, and when I was in the dark, I felt like I was in space."

Oliver couldn't stand the feeling of being in space anymore. He turned on the lights, but everything seemed brighter than usual. Also, he couldn't feel that he was even standing up; he still thought he was lying down on his bed.

After a few minutes of standing at his door, Oliver went downstairs and waited out the high for the eight hours that it lasted.

After that night Oliver never did triple c again, mainly because he realized how fortunate he is to be alive.

"I felt like my neck was going to snap off, and my spine had a tingly feeling."

--Oliver

maximum effects.

At first the pills didn't seem to work, but then Oliver drove his friends to an apartment in Naperville.

To see if the pills were working yet, his friends punched him. Oliver didn't feel it, the triple C was beginning to work.

Oliver began driving back to his house when he began to see flashing lights everywhere.

10 signs your friend may be using drugs

By Jessica Bergmann

Stereotyping against drug users is common although a variety of students are using drugs. "Sometimes you would never think that they use drugs. They're athletes or cheerleaders or straight A students. You can't stereotype against it," said social worker Connie Sosa. Here's a list of signs you can look for if you suspect your friend is using drugs.

- 1) They have a poor self image. They become unhygienic where they are dirty, smelly, and don't clean themselves.
- 2) They don't care about the things they once liked, and no longer participate in activities.
- 3) They lack motivation towards their future. They no longer care about graduating from high school or going to college.
- 4) Their attitude towards school changes. Their grades begin to drop, they skip school, or they arrive late on a regular basis.
- 5) They begin hanging out with different people and start avoiding old friends.
- 6) They develop a sneaky behavior, where the pieces of their story don't fit together and they begin hiding things.
- 7) They become dishonest, lying about their plans for the weekend or what their doing after school.
- 8) They look to blame others for their problems. They talk bad about their parents and disrespect other people.
- 9) They begin to have mood swings where they become irritable, nervous, or throw temper tantrums.
- 10) They have an unexplainable need for money.

harmful effects
bodies and
the struggles
vercame.

ered life

the privacy of the person involved.

ping, money disappeared, and sleep-
ior Jack* knew something was not

. He used to be outgoing and energet-
ody," said Jack. "He would sleep and
l doing very poorly in school. That's
addict and was snorting and shooting

ew group of people at his work and
riends.

arted using he had goals. He excelled
only a short time of using my friend's

about his addiction he said that he
parents and told them what was go-
to check him into a local reha-
fter and relapsed.

d become clean," Jack



Devastatingly addictive drug

Crystal methamphetamine is a dangerous drug that 12% of all high school students abuse

By Kait Taylor

The use of crystal methamphetamine, better known as crystal meth or speed, is a growing public health crisis with devastating effects and a dangerous addiction rate. Once isolated in rural communities in the West and Midwest, it is increasingly finding its way into urban areas.

This dangerously addictive narcotic has also spread to teenagers across the nation, especially used while at raves.

According to the University of Michigan's Monitoring the Future Survey, nearly 8 percent of high school seniors in the United States used crystal metham-

phedamine at immediate death upon first time use," he said.

Also while on this dangerous drug the user will stay up eight to 12 hours depending on how he or she ingests the drug: smoking, snorting, swallowing, or injecting it according to msnbc.com.

Maxson knows this because of his personal involvement with a drug abuser, in fact, a former friend who fell victim to the powers of crystal meth.

"I had a friend in high school that became addicted to methamphetamine," he said. "When I ran into him years after high school, he looked horrible. Six months after our encounter, he died from an overdose."

Maxson's story attests to the reality about the dangers surrounding the drug. According to drugfree.org, long term use can lead to severe depression, rapid tooth decay, psychosis, massive skin sores, paranoia, delusions, hallucinations, stroke, heart failure, kidney failure, and formication, the sensation of flesh crawling with bugs associated with compulsive picking and infecting sores.

What is even scarier, says Maxson, is how easily it is made, and the poisonous by products of the manufacturing process.

"The products are simple to get. It is cheap to make and anyone who took a high school chemistry class can figure it out," he said. "What is scary is that when it cooks, incredible fumes are put off, and in urban areas, it's right next door to another family. There are extreme health effects associated with cooking meth and breathing in those toxic fumes."

And those producing the product are on the rise. According to stopmethabuse.com, meth lab seizures have gone up 577 percent nationally since 1995.

Maxson says that common signs of meth abuse are repetitive gestures, ma-

lor weight loss, and mood swings. He also added that there is hope for those addicted to crystal meth.

Those that seek treatment along with therapy have the best probability of function-

ferent about kids that take meth. Stimulants bring with them a feeling of confidence, and kids are always looking for a way to be more confident," Maxson said. "There is something missing, something painful in their past that makes them look to escape, and therapeutically you need to address those things."

Treatment involves meetings with groups such as Narcotics Anonymous and Teen-Anon, where kids learn to identify their addictive personalities and seek more healthy addictions.

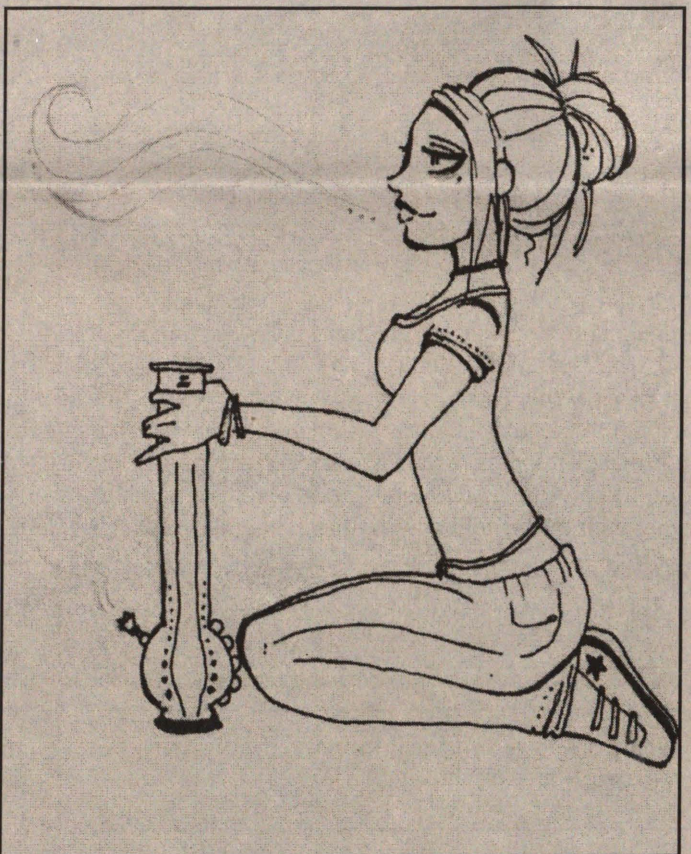
"Some people are born with that brain wiring for addictions," Maxson said. "Treatment has to do with structure and transferring an addiction to healthy things. People can get better with the proper help."

"I ran into him after high school... Six months after our encounter, he died from an overdose."

-- Robert Maxson

ing in the community after such a dangerous, life consuming addiction.

"There's something dif-



There is help: How to stop dependence

If you or someone you know is suffering from drug abuse, don't be afraid to speak up. Here are some centers you can contact to get help.

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
Hotline: 1-800-622-2255

Latin American Counseling Services: (630) 293-9707

Behavioral Health Services of Central DuPage Hospital:
(630) 653-4000

Amanecer Inc.: (630) 480-0058

DuPage County Psychological Services: (630) 407-6400

DUI Counseling Center Saint Charles Bayrach Services:
(773) 254-9122

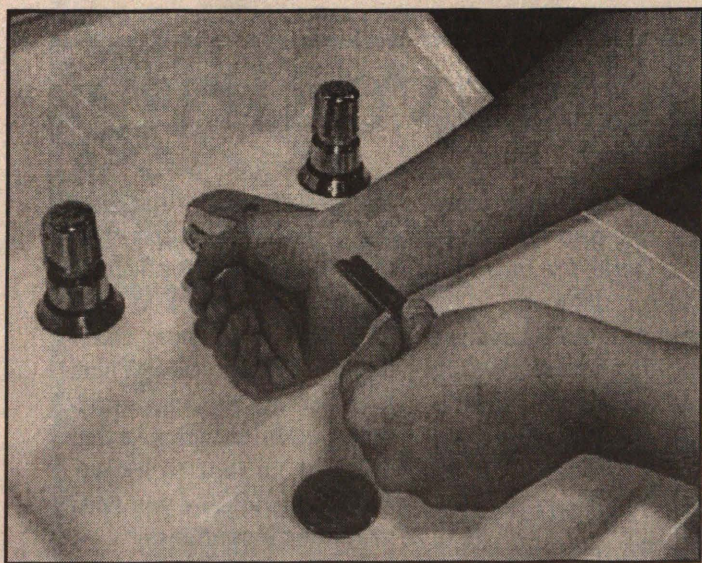
DUI Counseling Center/St. Charles Bayrach Counseling
Services: (630) 762-1122

Tricon Counseling Centers: (630) 933-9556

Professional Consultations Inc: (800) 428-7260

DUI Counseling Center/Carol Stream Bayrach Counseling
Service: (630) 510-7333

their son in rehab once again and
started a 12 step program and found
be before using and had something
y proud of him," said Jack.
the urge took over. Jack went over
with his eyes rolled in the back of his
d as though he was swallowing his
overdose was not fatal.
t thing I have ever faced. I couldn't
him then," he said.
using he would die. This time his
t time himself.
ng this way and he missed his old
n or his parents down," Jack said.
p program and completed it."
ade bad decisions, he would never
ear.



Staged photo by Elyn Fortino

Cutting is more popular than thought of in high school. In reality, 90 percent of self-injurers begin cutting as teens.

Did you know...

- An estimated two million Americans purposely cut or burn themselves.
- More than half of self-injurers are victims of sexual abuse, and most report emotionally abusive or neglected childhoods.

*Source: Time.com

- 90 percent of self-injurers begin cutting as teenagers.
- 60-70 percent of self-injurers are female.

*Source: Christianitytoday.com

What to do:

According to social worker Connie Sosa, people who cut can get help through any adult, for example a parent, counselor, social worker, teacher, church leader, nurse, or a dean. If a friend tells you he/she is cutting, don't keep it a secret. Tell a trusted adult. If you're afraid of talking to someone you know, you can call a couple of places that offer help to teens:

- The Teen Cutting Hotline allows you to call free and confidentially to talk to an experienced counselor. Just dial 1-800-366-8288.

- Central DuPage Hospital provides behavioral health services tailored specifically to fit the needs and issues that teenagers face. For more information about services for teenagers, call (630) 653-4000.

Damages from cutters run deeper than skin

By Jessica Bergmann

**The name has been changed to protect the privacy of the person involved.*

Cutting is something that most people see as 'emo,' but many teenagers, especially girls, have grown to look to it for relief and do not realize how dangerous it is.

Sheila* was an average girl with a normal life. She had a good boyfriend, trustworthy friends, and parents she could talk to.

She was never somebody that people would expect to be a self-harmer.

She began cutting herself in eighth grade.

"I don't remember what set me off the first time. Something made me really upset, upset to the point that I'd do anything to not have to feel that way anymore," Sheila said.

She found out about cutting mainly from the media.

She saw characters dealing with depression on TV and using it as their source of comfort.

Also reading about it in books, and knowing a few people who had experienced it first hand, gave her ideas.

"I heard that it feels so good, and I was willing to try anything," said Sheila.

According to www.eliteskills.com, the pain from cutting releases endorphins that help soothe both the body and mind of built up stress and anxiety.

This sensation makes cutters keep coming back for

more.

Sheila began cutting with a tack, which did not make her bleed but instead made her concentrate on the pain.

She said it is what took her mind off of her problems.

Sheila rarely cut to feel better about her problems.

"I only did it once in awhile, when really bad things happened, like finding out my parents were getting divorced," Sheila said.

But as time went on and her problems escalated, she began to cut more frequently, eventually leading up to the point where she would do it almost every other day, if not a few times each day. She became addicted.

"I remember one time in school I put a pair of scissors in my sleeve to hide them and asked if I could go to the bathroom so I could cut," Sheila said.

Sheila compared cutting to smoking, saying "It's like somebody who smokes and hasn't had a cigarette all day, and finally they smoke and everything bad goes away."

One day, one of Sheila's best friends noticed the cuts and scars on her wrists and knew instantly that she had been cutting herself.

Soon after her friend found out, Sheila told another one of her good friends, and eventually told her boyfriend.

"I promised them I wouldn't do it, and if I felt like doing it I would call them," Sheila admitted.

However, she said that her

promise was broken more than once, and she began cutting secretly on her hips so that her friends would not notice, and therefore would not ask anymore.

Her friends didn't push the subject that much, and her parents were oblivious to what was happening.

"There was one close call where my mom checked my wrist because she was suspicious of the way I was acting, but luckily I had moved to doing it on my hip by then," Sheila said.

Her parents never did find out what she had done to herself.

However, Sheila saw the damage that cutting did to not only herself but the people who cared about her.

It was those people, her friends and her boyfriend, that encouraged her to stop.

"I gave most of the sharp objects I had used to my boyfriend. But ultimately, it was up to me to stop. You can't take away every sharp object in the whole world. You have to stop either for you or the people you love," Sheila said.

Sheila's been cut free for about a year now, and her and her friends are proud of her accomplishment.

"I'm hoping that by exposing this thing often classified as 'emo,' people might take it more seriously. And maybe, by me going back to those times, re-feeling everything all over, I can show just one person that they are not alone," Sheila said.

Exchange student enjoys sight of first snowfall in America

By Jessica Bergmann

Coming to West Chicago with a ground full of snow was Camila Sokabe's highlighting moment of her stay in the United States.

Sokabe arrived Jan. 14 from São Paulo, Brazil which has a very mild climate year round, so cold weather is not common and neither is snow.

Sokabe's favorite thing about America is the snow.

"I really like it since we don't have snow in Brazil," Sokabe said.

She also likes American food like hamburgers and

cookies.

"In Brazil, there are American fast food restaurants like McDonald's and Burger King, but it's different," Sokabe said.

"It's nice because there are a lot of different American foods that you can buy here."

Besides the different types of food that Sokabe has tried, she said that the school here is very different.

"In Brazil, schools are smaller. We only have 250 people," Sokabe said.

Brazilian schools also have

different subjects that are taught.

"We only have the basic classes like science and mathematics," Sokabe said.

Brazilian schools also teach a mandatory English class.

"Everybody takes English classes in school and most people speak English," Sokabe said. However, Brazil's native language is Portuguese.

While at school here, she is taking advantage of the electives offered and is taking photography I and desktop publishing.

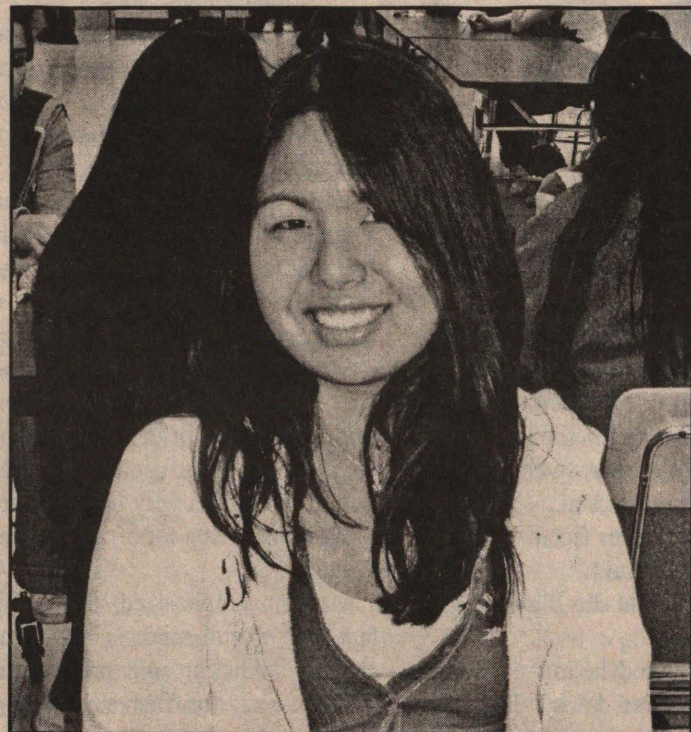


Photo by Jessica Bergmann

Although São Paulo, Brazil is a long way away and a completely different climate, exchange student Camila Sokabe said her favorite part of America is the snow.

Teens volunteer time *Students reap the benefits of lending a helping hand to the community*

By Cristina Sarnelli

Through all of the homework, family events, sports, and extra curricular activities, students still manage to find time to volunteer and reap the benefits of what it feels like to do something good for someone. The following students are only a few examples of teenagers who find time to give a helping hand.

Focusing on: Nick Secker

Instead of going away for a relaxing vacation, junior Nick Secker spends his spring break helping the less fortunate.

Last spring, Secker went to Bay St. Louis, Miss. to help the victims of hurricane Katrina. He said it was only a few photos that motivated him to get involved.

"Seeing the images of the devastation that had occurred because of the hurricane is what really made me want to go and help," he said.

The purpose of the trip, organized by Serve Management and the Chicago Youth for Christ, was to help rebuild the town.

Upon arrival, Secker and his group started to fix up the destruction.

"We did small construction jobs such as painting and drywall. Some of us also did roofing. It was really fun and

a great experience," he said.

Secker will return with the same group to the Algier District of New Orleans to do the same kind of work March 24-31.

He has also volunteered with his church youth group for Marklund, a disability center.

Secker encourages people to get involved with community service and volunteer work because it has positive results.

"It gives something back to the community, allows you to have good experiences, and can have good long-term effects such as being able to put it on your college application," he said.

Focusing on: Paige Kulie

On top of play practices and AP biology homework, senior Paige Kulie makes time in her schedule to help out children.

Every Monday-Thursday after school, Kulie goes to Winfield Middle School to tutor 4th and 5th graders in English, Spanish, and math. She has been helping at the school for two years.

Kulie said it makes her feel good to know she is helping out.

"I like it when the kids finally understand something just because you helped them.

It's kind of corny, but I feel like I made a difference and helped them to achieve more at school," she said.

Kulie's volunteer work doesn't stop there. Over the summer, she goes to St. John the Baptist Church to work as a teacher's aide at the Bible school.

She helps organize different activities with the children there.

"It's for a week in June usually, and the kids come and play games, do crafts, and sing songs.

I usually help out with the Bible station where they hear a Bible story and learn more about it," Kulie said.

Most of Kulie's motivation came from National Honor Society, and she also wanted to have services to put on her college application.

Kulie recommends getting involved with the community if you want a college to really notice you.

"Volunteering looks good on college applications. But volunteering is also fun, and you can meet a lot of people that will see what a good person you are and can help you out. It's all about the networking. It's also nice to do something for someone else without requiring compensation," she said.

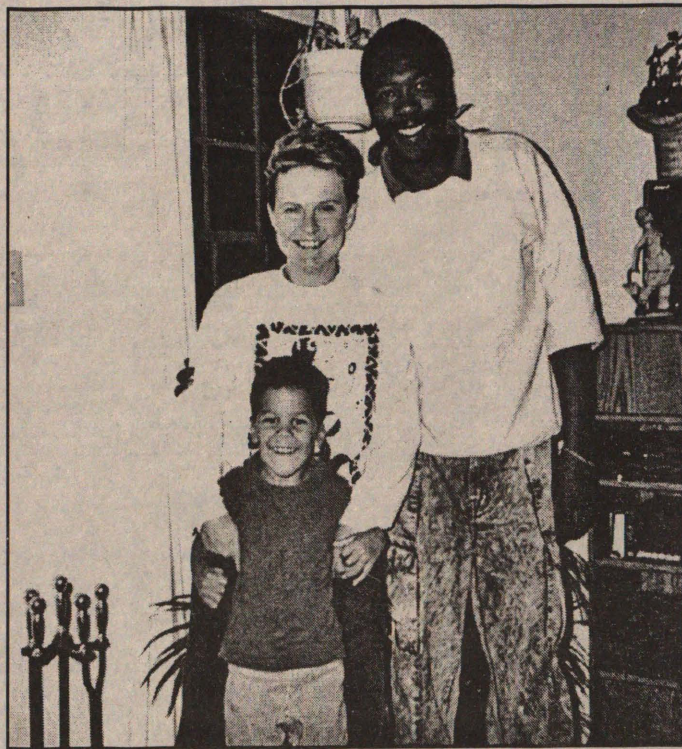


Photo courtesy of Ian McKoy

Senior Ian McKoy and his parents before they separated when he was 4 years old. McKoy currently lives with his mother and keeps in close contact with his father.

Living with single parents

By Aaron Pennington

While some people may enjoy the idea of having one less parent nagging them all the time, the actual reality of having a single parent is not as nice as you would think.

There are many ways that kids end up with a single parent.

Sophomore Christina Rico's 51-year-old mother died when Rico was in sixth grade.

"She died of lung cancer, because she smoked a lot," said Rico.

Even though Rico misses her mother, she said she learned a lot about herself since she passed away.

"Since she died, I have become more independent and more myself than I was before," said Rico.

However, there are certainly times where Rico needs a more feminine opinion on life.

Especially since she is the only girl.

"It's hard to be the only girl, since my dad doesn't really know how to deal with girl stuff," said Rico.

She said her older brother hasn't been at the house as much.

It makes her father her only companion at home.

"He mainly hangs around with his girlfriend. He was really close to my mom so he took her death harder," said Rico.

Senior Ian McKoy also identifies with living with single parents.

His parents divorced when

he was four years old but he said that he's learned to live with it.

"When I was younger, I had issues with it. I just wanted them to be together. Now that I'm older, I don't have much of a problem with it anymore," said McKoy.

McKoy currently lives with his mother.

"She's a good person, she helps me a lot with problems I have," said McKoy.

He still remains in contact with his father, as well.

"We talk once in a while, through emails and phone calls," said McKoy.

McKoy says it's hard to remember the divorce since it was so long ago.

He recalls not being involved with extra-curricular activities as much.

"I didn't play as much sports as I usually did," said McKoy.

For those who find themselves in a similar situation as Rico or McKoy, they have some advice.

Rico said, for teens that lost a parent like her, that life goes on without the other parent and things will be better.

"In time, things will get better and even though it'll feel new and weird, life will return to normal," said Rico.

McKoy said that it's important for teens with divorced parents to keep the relationship with the parent that doesn't live with them.

"Keep in touch with the other parent, they really do care about you," said McKoy.



Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Junior Nick Secker and senior Paige Kulie volunteer in the community and in their church to enhance college applications, and complete National Honor Society hours just for the fun of it.

From 'Pong' to 'WoW'

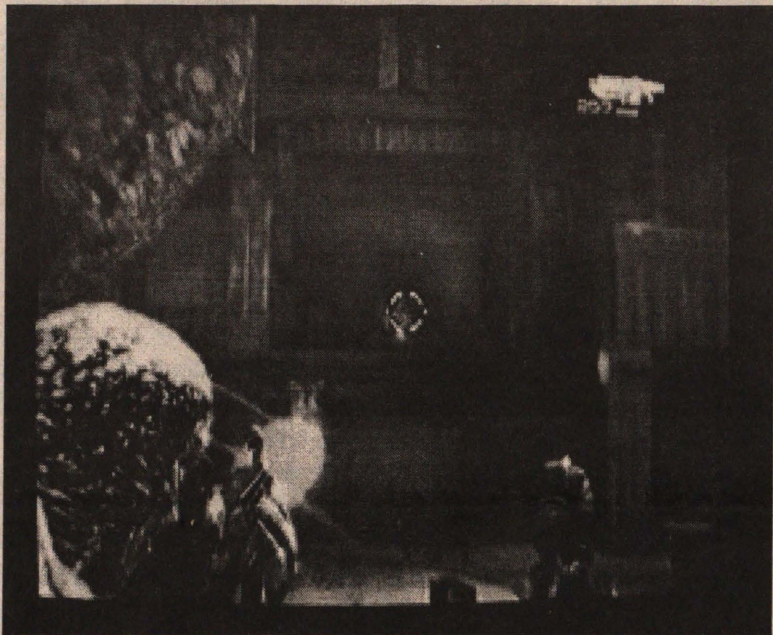
Video games have radically changed since the release of "Pong" in 1972. It's normal for games to have complex storylines, stunning graphics, and A-list actors providing the characters' voices. Here's a preview of some of the hottest video games today. Be careful: There are thousands of video games, but very little time to play them. Choose wisely.

Game: Gears of War
Platform: Xbox 360
Genre: Third-Person Shooter
Rated: M

Plot: War veteran Marcus Fenix has been released from prison...to help stop an unending horde of vicious aliens from destroying the human race. Amazingly violent.

What separates 'Gears of War' from 'Halo'?

"The action is more realistic and brutal," said junior Austin Pietrobbon. "If you weaken an enemy, you can smash his head in or rip him to shreds with a chainsaw."



Game: Halo 2/Halo 3
Platform: Xbox/Xbox 360
Genre: First-Person Shooter

Rated: M

Plot: Sequels to the game that launched the Xbox. "Halo 2" has an okay storyline: the Master Chief killing more and more aliens. However, the game really shines in multi-player mode, with destructible vehicles and new weapons. A release date has not been set for the third game, but judging by the trailer, the saga that is "Halo" will come to an explosive end.

Why is the game so cool?

"Because the hero is faceless and goes by the name of 'Master Chief,' you can imagine yourself fighting for the human race," said senior Kevin Pavnica.



Game: The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess

Platform: Wii

Genre: Action Adventure

Rated: T

Plot: What do you get when you take a legendary sword, a shattered mirror, and an evil sorcerer named Ganondorf? It's the latest adventure of Link, one of Nintendo's premier heroes. Use the innovative Wii controller as



Link tries to prevent the merger of the Twilight World and Hyrule. And of course...save Zelda.

What do you like about the game?

"The game is fun for because they're long games that are always there when you're bored," said senior Brad Rathe. "You don't start and finish it in one weekend unless you spend every waking minute playing it."

Game: Guitar Hero II

Platform: PlayStation 2

Genre: Musical

Rated: T

Plot: Ever wanted to be a rock god? "Guitar Hero II" gets you close. Pick up the guitar-shaped controller, and play your way to the top. Start with amp warmers like Motley Crue's "Shout at the Devil" and ascend to Metal Valhalla with Lynryd Skynyrd's "Free Bird."

What songs do you like to play?

"I like playing 'Hangar 18' by Megadeth and 'Madhouse' by Anthrax," said freshman Matt Thomas. "But it can be really hard playing some songs on the expert level, and it can really mess up your hand."



'Epic Movie' bombs with unfunny spoofs

By Aaron Pennington

After seeing horror films get spoofed in the "Scary Movie" series and romantic comedies parodied in "Date Movie", it was time to see big blockbuster films getting the same treatment, which they do in "Epic Movie."

Unfortunately, instead of having actual humor in the movie, the filmmakers resorted into making dumb and pitiful reenactments of the movies it is spoofing.

The main characters in the film, Lucy (Jayma Mays), Edward (Kal Penn), Peter (Adam Campbell), and Susan (Faune A. Chambers), are orphans that are all stuck in bad positions in their lives.

Lucy's guardian gets killed in a museum, which spoofs a similar scene in "The Da Vinci Code." Edward lives in a Mexican orphanage, akin to the one in "Nacho Libre." Susan finds herself trapped in a plane full of snakes, a spoof of "Snakes on a Plane." And Peter finds himself being picked on in his school of

mutants, a parody of the "X-Men" films.

They each receive a golden ticket, promising to show them an epic adventure. However, they just end up with a crazy eccentric candy-maker by the name of Willy (Crispin Glover), who uses human body-parts for his candy.

While hiding from him in his mansion, Lucy stumbles across a wardrobe, leading to a mystical world named Gnarnia (pronounced "Narnia," but the "G" is silent).

There she meets a faun named Mr. Tumnus (Héctor Jiménez), who tells her that four orphans are supposed to bring peace to Gnarnia and ending the horrid reign of the White Bitch (Jennifer Coolidge).

From here, it is basically the same plot as "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe," with references to other movies such as "Pirates of the Caribbean," "Borat," and the "Harry Potter" film series.

However, the jokes the filmmakers throw at the audience seem forced and highly contrived.

There was numerous times where entire scenes would not ensure a chuckle. Instead, the film is full of dead air.

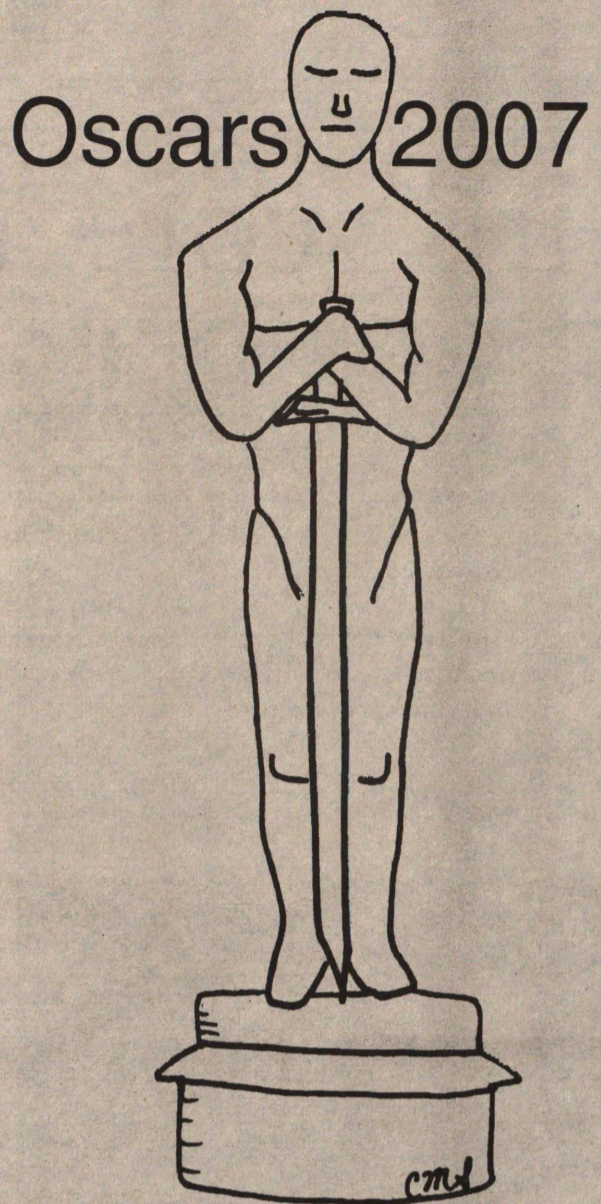
A scene that makes fun of the MTV show "Cribs" is a great example. The jokes are amazingly hackneyed and reek of sixth grade humor. It is hard to imagine anyone laughing at this.

It's also sad to see such talented comedians like Jennifer Coolidge, who plays the villainess, and Fred Willard, who plays Aslo the lion-man, in a film that does not use their talents.

The main cast made sure as well to look incompetent in front of the camera.

The sets and costumes look cheap and take the audience out of the movie as well. The cheesy special effects do not help matters, either.

"Epic Movie" leaves those who see it with a bitter taste in their mouth.



Hollywood's "big night" is set for Feb. 25, with Ellen DeGeneres hosting. The nominees have been released, and below is a spreadsheet sampling only some of the awards. The highlighted are the editor's pick for that category.

The Shins' new album full of rocking beats and deep lyrics

By Kait Taylor

The new Shins album "Winning the Night Away" is a success, blending steady rocking beats with vague overtures and sometimes hard edged cryptic lyrics to form a perfect cruise mix for long walks or lolling road trips.

The journey kicks off with one of the strongest tracks of the album, "Sleeping Lessons," an insomniac's eccentric, sleepless story. It starts out drumless and bubbly, very Flaming Lips-esque, trippy lyrics included. And then about two minutes in, almost in revelation, the song powers into a major key jammer in which lead singer and Shins mastermind James Mercer declares, cryptically so, "Put yourself in my new shoes!", totally exhilarating the listener.

A lot of Mercer's lyrics on the album are mysterious and secret, supposedly because of Mercer's admitted lack of self-confidence. Mercer is also open about his problems with insomnia, which then suggests the meaning behind "Sleeping Lessons" and the album's title, "Winning the

Night Away."

Frankly, by listening to this album, one would assume Mercer's sleeplessness could be caused by his inexcusable talent in creating catchy beats and insanely deep lyrics, which seems to plague his mind at night.

Another great song, clearly a possibility to be a single off the album, is "Australia." It is a much peppier, catchier track than "Sleeping Lessons" with a sturdy drum machine beat and soaring vocals from Mercer.

Mercer's voice is precise and soaring as always, though more processed than seen in famous "Garden State" tracks like "Caring is Creepy" or "New Slang."

"Pam Berry" is a fresh but forgettable bridge between "Australia" and the lead single "Phantom Limb," another great track that burns into the listener's skull and stays stuck there for days.

It is supposedly a hypothetical story of two young lesbians struggling to stay sane in a small, conservative town that is "hardly worth their time" because of the miscon-

ceptions and judgments of their way of life.

Mercer goes back and forth between first person and third, typical for his incredibly enigmatic and sometimes frustrating song writing.

"Red Rabbits" is another mind twister; an interesting electronica piece filled with Mercer's droning voice.

The album finishes strong with "Girl Sailor", a track that stands out in lyrics and overall structure, making it a likely contender for the album's second single.

Overall, this album is something that can be simply enjoyed for the melodies or, in contrast, a patchwork quilt of different sounds and words that one can dissect closely enough to pull a totally obscure meaning from what was ever intended, or was it?

"Winning the Night Away" is a well-executed album, with minor adjustments to their sound but still true the genre.

The only thing that should keep the Shins awake at night is wondering how to continue improving their sound for the next album.

Best Picture				
Babel	The Departed	Letters from Iwo Jima	Little Miss Sunshine	The Queen
Best Director				
Alejandro González Iñárritu (Babel)	Martin Scorsese (The Departed)	Clint Eastwood (Letters from Iwo Jima)	Stephen Frears (The Queen)	Paul Green-grass (United 93)
Best Actor				
Leonardo DiCaprio (Blood Diamond)	Ryan Gosling (Half Nelson)	Peter O'Toole (Venus)	Will Smith (The Pursuit of Happiness)	Forest Whitaker (The Last King of Scotland)
Best Actress				
Penélope Cruz (Volver)	Judi Dench (Notes on a Scandal)	Helen Mirren (The Queen)	Meryl Streep (The Devil Wears Prada)	Kate Winslet (Little Children)
Best Documentary				
Deliver Us From Evil	An Inconvenient Truth	Iraq in Fragments	Jesus Camp	My Country, My Country
Best Writing (Original)				
Babel	Letters from Iwo Jima	Little Miss Sunshine	Pan's Labyrinth	The Queen
Best Animated Feature				
Cars	Happy Feet	Monster House		

Girls score a slam dunk season

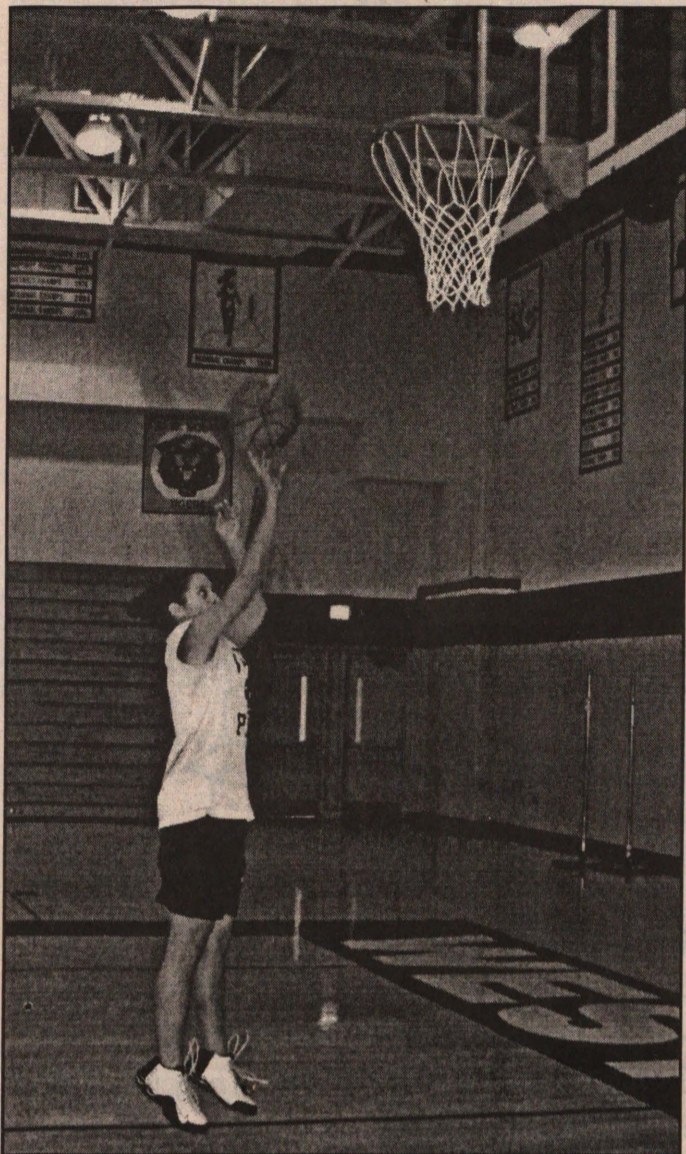


Photo by Kait Taylor

Senior Kristin Grimm helped carry the varsity basketball team to a 19-6 record and a second place finish in the DVC.

By Dave Thomas

The past two months have been a whirlwind for the girls varsity basketball team.

The team won their final conference game against Naperville Central by 10 points on Feb. 8, and their final home game against West Aurora 42-70 on Feb. 3.

However, the team lost to Maine West on Feb. 6, putting their overall record at 20-6.

The team's first game in the regional competition was Tuesday, however, due to time constraints, the results could not be reported.

"We've gotten better with our skills, and our maturity is better," said Wallner.

However, the team lost a critical game to Wheaton Warrenville South on Jan. 27. Both teams had the same record, and West Chicago's loss put the team in second place in the DuPage Valley Conference (DVC).

Wallner also noted that "we had a lot of experience coming back this year" and that the team has had a consistent level of confidence while playing. Senior and co-team captain Kelsey Monroe

agreed with Wallner's assessment, noting "last year, we would always lose a close game."

The confidence seems to have been spawned from an earlier game against Wheaton Warrenville South on Dec. 21. The two teams had faced off earlier on Dec. 9, with West Chicago losing considerably.

The Dec. 21 game seemed to be ending in a 34-36 victory for Wheaton Warrenville South, until junior Kayla Radloff scored three points with one second left on the clock, making the win 37-36.

"That shot uplifted the team to where we are," said Wallner, "It uplifted our confidence to where we are. The paper (The Daily Herald) called it 'a wing and a prayer.'"

Dec. 21 was the first game West Chicago played in the Naperville North/Benet Academy Invite, a tournament held during winter break. The team won four out of five games, losing only to Proviso East, a team ranked at the state level.

"We've lost a few times, and the times we have lost

were to really good teams," said Wallner.

During the tournament, Monroe and fellow senior/co-team captain Melissa Olsen reached the landmark of scoring one thousand points in their high school careers.

"It's a great accomplishment," said Monroe. "But I could not have gotten there without the support of my coaches and my teammates."

Wallner acknowledged that Monroe and Olsen both achieved great accomplishments, and that it's a "first for the program" at West Chicago.

However, Wallner said that she tries "not to overemphasize individual stats."

"It's a team sport. There are a lot of other things that go into a team besides scoring," said Wallner.

Despite the success of this season, next season is not looking as promising. With the exception of Radloff, the entire varsity team is graduating.

That said, Wallner said she's been playing some juniors and sophomores on the JV team to "get them some varsity playing time."

Junior varsity makes a splash at DVC as team anticipates sectional victory

By Greg Vodicka

Boys swimming team's expectations were met at DVC with many swimmers beating their best times.

Coach Kurt Herrin expected everyone to swim well, especially junior varsity. The goal was for 100 percent of the team to get lifetime best times.

"Varsity team did better than expected in times and places. Junior varsity swam fantastic with almost all lifetime bests," said Herrin. "It has been a great season for best times."

Placing 5th in varsity, 4th in junior varsity, 3rd in freshmen, the team exceeded his expectations.

Senior Brenden Sullivan and Junior Greg Pelke swam especially well, both beating lifetime bests.

Sullivan, in the 200 meter freestyle, had a time of 1:55:53 and in the 100 meter freestyle 52:83.

Pelke, in the 100 meter fly, had a time of 1:03:27 and in the 100 meter backstroke

1:03:81.

Varsity members will go on to swim at sectionals on Saturday, where they hope to qualify for state.

This year's team is larger than most years. This helped the boys practice because there are strong rivalries at practice which, Herrin admits, makes for good practice competition.

Herrin acknowledged sophomores Federico Garcia, Rodney Nasir, Tyler Murphy, and freshman T.J. Hahs, and junior Seth Kelley for their accomplishments this season.

In addition to size, the freshmen swimmers affected the team in a positive way.

Herrin said, "We had a good freshman class which made a good impact for the team."

Herrin said that the team was lacking in unity and that he wants them to give more support to their teammates.

Herrin hopes the team takes the off season seriously by practicing and swimming outside of school.

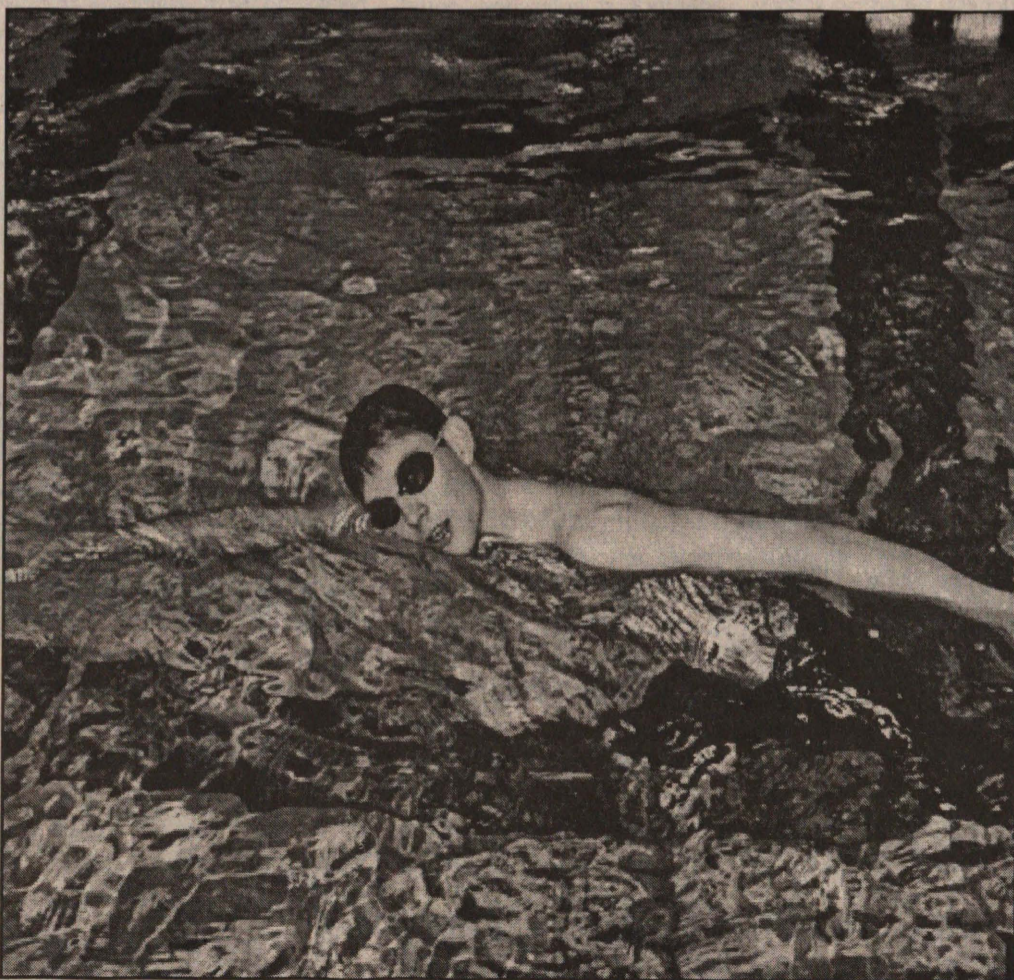


Photo by Greg Vodicka

Senior Jake Murphy swam with improved technique at DVC and is excited to swim at sectionals on Saturday.

Wildcats on top of their game

By Ellyn Fortino

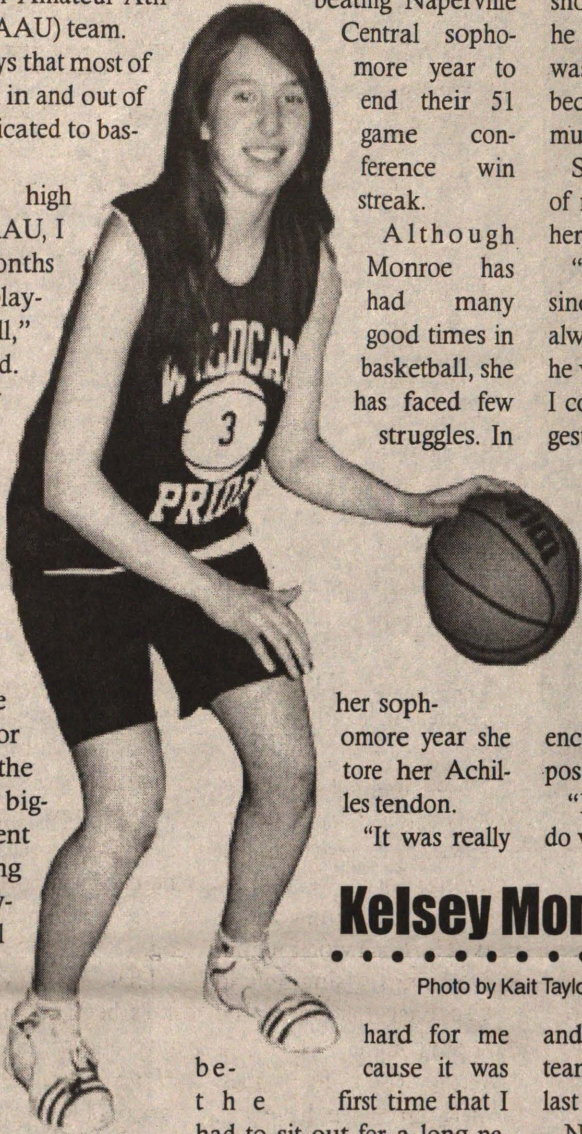
Playing basketball on her brother's team in second grade has paid off for senior Kelsey Monroe, who is now playing for the Illinois Lady Lightning, an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) team.

Monroe says that most of her time both in and out of school is dedicated to basketball.

"Between high school and AAU, I spend 11 months of the year playing basketball," Monroe said. "My only break is in August, where I don't even touch a basketball."

Monroe has been playing at the varsity level for four years at the school. Her biggest achievement has been being the first player in school history to score 1,000 points.

"I am not very athletic, so I had to work much harder to accomplish it," she said. "I am most proud of the things I have accomplished off the court, like maintaining my 4.0."



her sophomore year she tore her Achilles tendon.

"It was really

Kelsey Monroe

Photo by Kait Taylor

hard for me because it was the first time that I had to sit out for a long period of time. I have always struggled with my confidence level," Monroe said. "That has been the hardest thing for me to deal with because it is something that does not

Monroe's favorite memory in basketball is a close call between winning the Benet/Naperville North Christmas tournament after the team upset Benet freshman year or beating Naperville

Central sophomore year to end their 51 game conference win streak.

Although Monroe has had many good times in basketball, she has faced few struggles. In

get better on its own over time."

Monroe looks up to her brother most when it comes to basketball.

"He was always a foot shorter than all the people he had to guard, but he was able to hold his own because he played with so much heart."

She has also given the title of most influential coach to her father.

"My dad has coached me since second grade. He was always hard on me because he wanted me to do the best I could, but is also my biggest supporter," she said.

"Coach Walner has also helped me so much throughout high school," said Monroe. "She believed in me before I even believed in myself."

Basketball has influenced Monroe's life in many positive ways.

"I know that whatever I do will have an effect on my performance," she added.

"I have also made some really great friends and memories with my teammates that I know will last a lifetime."

Next year, Monroe wishes to continue playing basketball in college at either Maryville University in St. Louis, St. Ambrose University in Iowa, or Elmhurst College.

By Leah Kuzmicz

After four years of hard work, Tim Kirincic has a reason to be happy with his wrestling career: He is the first wrestler in 11 years to make it to state.

Kirincic started wrestling his freshman year after his father motivated him to join.

Sophomore year, Kirincic was on varsity wrestling at 145 pounds. As he worked harder at his goals, he moved up to 152 pounds his junior and senior years.

Kirincic has enjoyed his senior year on the

Tim Kirincic

Photo by Jacob Wucka

wrestling team and believes that this year will bring the most success.

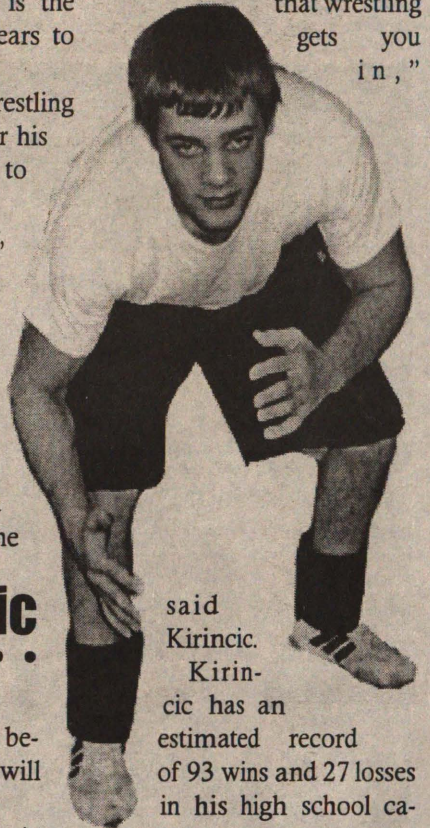
"This year is my favorite because I am more comfortable with my coaches and can joke around with them. I am also all around better this year than I was any other year," said Kirincic.

Kirincic believes that he is in better shape, and considers all of the hard work he does during practice. Kirincic said that an average practice consists of drills in which they practice their wrestling moves.

Then they move onto wrestling each other after the condition with sprints,

pushups, sit ups, planks, and rope climbing.

"No other sport can compare to the condition that wrestling gets you in,"



said Kirincic.

Kirincic has an estimated record of 93 wins and 27 losses in his high school career.

His accomplishments include Fresh-Soph state two times, placing 5th sophomore year. He also went to sectionals as a junior and placed 4th, and went on to win the regional champ title in his weight class his senior year.

After high school Kirincic plans on attending Southern University or Eastern University, where he would pursue his wrestling career at the collegiate level.

Kirincic plans on majoring in business but would like to be a fireman.

By Greg Vodicka

Since the age of 6, lefty Eric Wyman has spent his sunny afternoons, rainy springs, and frosty off seasons on the baseball diamond.

Pitching for the Wildcats for his third season this year, Wyman is a big contribution to the program.

Prior to playing for the high school, Wyman started his passion in the West Chicago Park District league, playing at the pinto level.

"I was not always a pitcher," said Wyman. "During my first season I was too scared to talk to my coach about pitching. I ended up mentioning it to my dad who told my coach I was interested."

Wyman also stated that he did not get serious about the sport until almost 7th grade.

He played for the Winfield Wolves when he was in 7th and 8th grade.

"My 8th grade season was my favorite because the team

was undefeated and until the very last game of the playoffs," recalled Wyman.

He had to pitch the last inning where he held the other team for two innings, but the wolves ended up losing the game.

High school ball was a lot different from little league for Wyman. He liked park district because it was fun to just play the game with his friends and have a good time.

High school baseball meant a lot more to him because the sport got more serious and competitive.

"It actually mattered towards my future," said Wyman.

The pressure of being on the mound in a game is his favorite part of baseball.

"It makes you strive for something instead of just the mechanics of pitching," he said.

During Wyman's freshman year he suffered a hamstring pull less than

halfway through the season. He did not play for the rest of his freshman year and went through a lot of physical therapy to get back into the game.

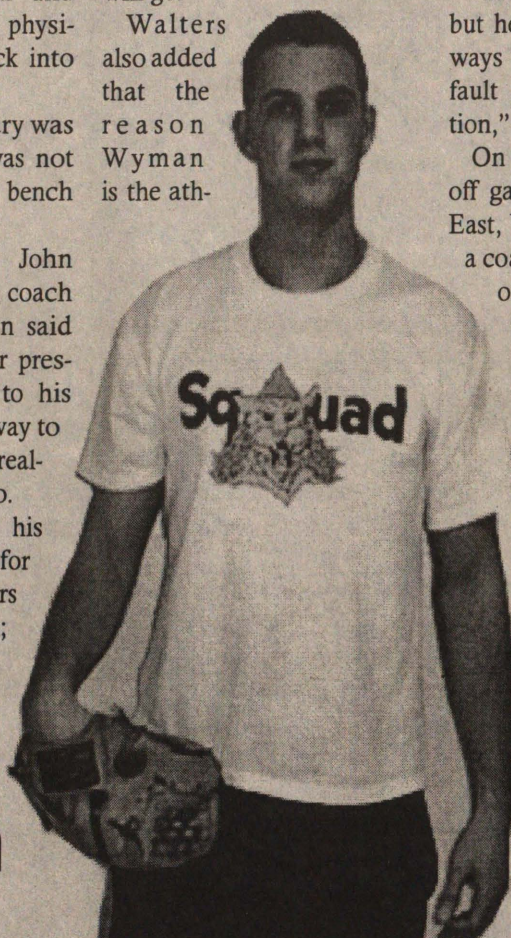
Overcoming the injury was difficult because he was not used to being on the bench like that.

Recognizing coach John Walters as his favorite coach he's ever had, Wyman said that when he is under pressure and it's getting to his head, Walters finds a way to make him laugh and realize what he needs to do.

When asked what his expectations are for Wyman's future, Walters said, "To be what he is; a stopper, to dominate a high school game, to be able to make a stop in any situation and to me a leader. If

Eric Wyman

Photo by Greg Vodicka



he continues to work hard, there's no telling how far he will go."

Walters also added that the reason Wyman is the ath-

lete he is today is a result of his hard work.

"He could have a great day, but he isn't satisfied. He always wants more. He finds fault and strives for perfection," Walters said.

On the first summer playoff game against St. Charles East, Wyman was spotted by a coach from the University of Illinois in Chicago.

The coach showed interest because he had seen Wyman pitch the previous Sunday and was impressed that Wyman pitched so well after only a three day period.

The two talked after school and offered Wyman a part scholarship to play baseball for UIC.

Wyman will major in engineering with the goal of getting drafted after three years of college ball.

Wrestlers pin big wins

By Aaron Pennington

Despite some tumbles this season, the wrestling team was able to qualify one member to state for the first time

match against Mooseheart, the team lost the second match against Marmion Academy.

"We felt that the match

niors on the team, because we don't have a lot and we're trying to get more people to come out as well," said Phillips.

rifice. They also need to be a hard worker and can be coachable," said Phillips.

Some of the top wrestlers this year, according to Phillips, are Klekamp, senior Garrett Welch and junior Austin Hall.

Klekamp has a record of 19-10 and Welch has a record of 20-10.

"They worked really hard, and are very confident," said Phillips. "The freshmen have been doing well too, especially during the end of the year. We've been pulling a lot of wins."

One of the freshman wrestlers is Alan Herrea, who joined wrestling after the football season was over.

"When the season ended, the football coach suggested that I should join. So I did," said Herrea.

Herrea enjoys Phillips' presence and thinks he's a good coach.

"He's awesome. He's funny and gives you advice when you need it," said Herrea.

Herrea says he learned a lot over the past year.

"I learned to be responsible and not to be selfish. I suffered the consequences from not doing those things," said Herrea.

Phillips motivates his athletes by doing an assortment of activities, like wrestler of the week t-shirts.

"We try to build confidence in them and make sure they have a good time. We have conversations with them to strengthen their morale," said Phillips.

Wildcats defeat Huskies in intense overtime
Finish season

with 7-7 record

By Cristina Sarnelli

Despite the boys basketball team's record of 4-18 overall and 1-10 in conference, the team continues to strive for their goals and be positive on the court.

"One of our biggest goals is to always give ourselves the opportunity in each game to win a game," coach Kevin Gimre said.

Their last game against Wheaton North on Feb. 9 ended in a loss, 67-57.

However, the team played well at the game against Naperville North on Feb. 2. The game went into over time, and the boys pulled through with a win 56-53.

The boys also have some fond memories from the season.

The main focus of the team is to keep playing hard and to win some more games.



Photo by Aaron Pennington

Seniors Tim Kirincic and Jesus Ibarra have high hopes for the team's success at state, as Kirincic is the first wrestler in 11 years to qualify.

in 11 years.

Senior Tim Kirincic placed third in the sectional tournament Feb. 10. He will go on to the state tournament Friday and Saturday.

Senior Brandon Klekamp placed fourth and will go to state as an alternate.

A meet that was held on Jan. 25 was a bittersweet moment for the team, however.

After winning the first

wasn't in the team's advantage. Some calls that were made we felt weren't in our favor," said coach Jamie Phillips.

Phillips said that his hopes for the rest of the season are to recruit more members. Currently, the varsity team has only three seniors.

"We're trying to get more individuals in the team. We're also hoping to get more se-

Phillips also says he's looking for wrestlers who know the sport well.

"We need people with experience, people who've done wrestling for a while," said Phillips.

Phillips says there are certain qualities and requirements in order to be a good wrestler.

"They need to have dedication and be willing to sac-

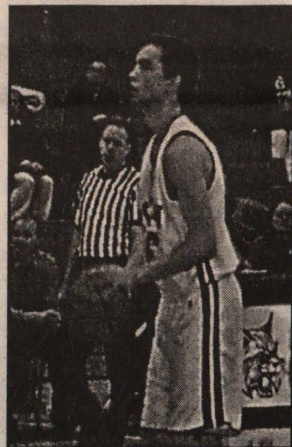
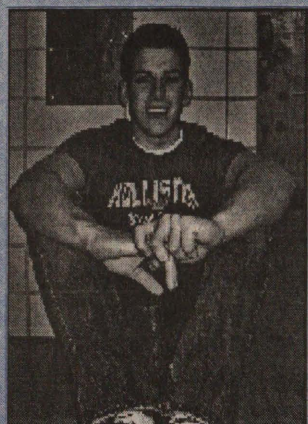


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Senior Mike Sotgatz has fond memories of the season.

Consumers' cravings fuel giant salaries of today's overpaid professional athletes

Often people criticize professional athletes for being paid high salaries they may not deserve.



Greg Vodicka

For example, Michael Vick's contract promises \$37.5 million a year and Tiger Woods makes \$87 million annually.

Some ask why individuals playing games make more money than educators or the man running our country.

When it is put into words like that, I would agree that these entertainers do not deserve their multi-million dollar contracts while teachers are making a small fraction of that.

However, athletes get paid to play by a certain team. The team representatives decide on an amount to pay an athlete to play for their team.

Often the players making the most money are paid that much because the team feels the player will help the team win games plus bring in fans. The more tickets sold and the more fans that attend the

games, the more money the team can pay their players. Teams treat this as an investment.

Here at Community High School there are teachers getting paid under \$40,000 a year. A new teacher with a bachelor's degree starts at around \$36,000. Teachers who have been teaching here for as many as 30 years are making around \$120,000.

Even these large salaries just over \$100,000 don't compare to Michael Jordan, getting paid over \$36 million for his last season with the Chicago Bulls, and he definitely hadn't been playing for 30 years.

Michael Jordan made about 360 times what the best

paid teacher here is making.

If Americans truly value education more than professional sports, why are the professional athletes paid more? What is the cause for this unbalance? It is us, the consumers.

Team owners sponsored by name brands such as Coca-Cola, Nike, and Ford pay the contracts of the athletes on these teams.

The world of professional sports would not exist without sponsors pumping money into the team. This money pays for stadium costs along with players' salaries in exchange for putting their name brand all over things such as stadiums and advertisements during games.

The hope is that sports fans absorb the media's advertisements and assume that since they have heard about a certain brand so much, it must be the best. With the choice of Coca-Cola and Walgreen's brand Cola, the sponsors hope that consumers select Coca-Cola.

All this does is give Coke more profit to spend on more advertisements giving athletes even larger salaries.

Next time you are sitting in front of the T.V. with the Bears game on, in your Nike shoes, sipping your Diet Coke saying, "Gosh, Rex Grossman makes way too much money." Think about the cause, the consumers.