



Second snow day, longer school year

By Cristina Sarnelli

The last day of school will now be June 4 because of the snow day on Feb. 13.

Supt. Lee Rieck said that students are required to be in school for 176 days.

Because of two snow days this year, the last day of school must be extended from the original May 31 date to June 4.

However, seniors will not be required to attend the last day of school, due to the graduation date which is June 3.

"Seniors will already have their diplomas, so the last day is a non-attendance day for them," Rieck said.

Teachers will also have to make up the extra days and will be staying until June 5.

Inside

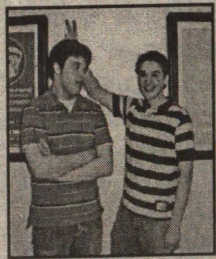
Center Spread

Community High School has one of the highest pregnancy rates in DuPage County. On page 8, students talk about what it is like to be young parents.



Features

Ever wondered what it would be like to have a twin? Read about twins at the school on page 11.



Sports

Check out some of the extreme sports that students play outside of school on page 15.



Seniors make AYP!

By Leah Kuzmicz

After months of stress and pressure waiting to find out the PSAE results, they are finally in and seniors can celebrate.

On the morning of Feb. 28, Principal John Highland walked calmly around senior hall telling seniors that there would be a meeting in the auditorium during the first five minutes of their first hour class. Seniors piled into the auditorium to await the news that Highland had to share with them.

Highland talked about the PSAE tests that were taken by the seniors last year as juniors. He focused on how important the tests were to the seniors, district, community, and school. Highland also said what the school meant to him and how it is not fair that a school can be judged solely on one test alone.

"Barely passing," as de-

scribed it was exactly what the seniors managed to do.

"This was something that took literally every single student to give their very best, and it worked," said Highland.

The senior class needed to surpass 47.5 percent and they did in receiving a 60 percent. Highland said that he was most worried about the Hispanic and the free and reduced lunch (FRL) students to pass.

In the reading section the Hispanic students needed a 35.86 percent and acquired a 43.3 percent. The FRL students needed a 42.59 percent and received a 54 percent.

In the math section the Hispanic students needed to obtain a 33.4 percent and received a 33.6 percent. The FRL students needed a 44.33 percent and got a 45 percent.

"Unfortunately schools are judged on this test alone, and

See AYP page 2

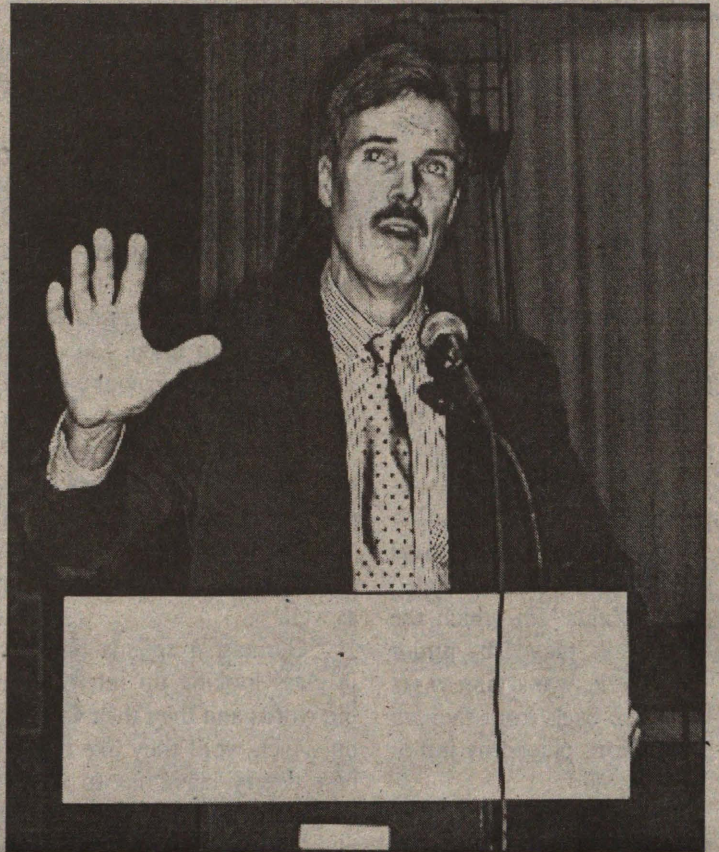


Photo by Kait Taylor

Principal John Highland expressed his pride in the seniors for the hard work they did to pass the Prairie State exams.

Upperclassmen get chance for cruise

After prom to be held on the Odyssey

By Kait Taylor

Upperclassmen will have the opportunity to step aboard a luxury cruise liner and enjoy a two-hour escape into elegance and entertainment on the Odyssey after prom on April 28.

Luxury busses will pick students up at the dance if they attend prom and at the school if they wish to only attend the boat cruise.

After the cruise, students will be delivered back to their cars at the high school or the Diplomat.

The event will be two hours long.

"The Odyssey is a much more upscale event than we have done in the past," said Mary Taylor, All Night Long committee member. "It is the most luxurious cruise on the lake. It will be an outstanding evening under the stars along Chicago's phenomenal skyline on a beautiful evening."

Unlimited hors d'oeuvres and soda will be provided on the boat, and three separate DJ's will be at the event.

There is also a quiet observation deck with table and chairs where students can relax and admire the skyline.

There will be security aboard

the ship provided by the cruise line and teacher chaperones will also be at the event.

There is a dress code on board: No jeans, t-shirts, or athletic shoes.

Students are encouraged to wear their prom attire and tote along more comfortable footwear. Those not attending prom should consider the dress code.

Only the first 450 students that buy tickets can attend the boat cruise, so students are encouraged to buy their tickets as soon as they go on sale.

Ticket prices will be announced after the planning committee's silent auction and St. Patrick's Day party and fundraiser at Tivoli Galleria on Saturday.

Money raised from the event will help make the price of the tickets more affordable for the students, which is a major goal for the committee.

"It will be a really fun event for parents and other adults in the community," said Taylor. "Keeping kids safe on prom night is something the entire community should care about. Kids should encourage their parents to buy tickets to the party to become a part of

this spectacular after-prom experience."

The planning committee has seen a large drop in the number of kids that attend after-prom events, and decided to plan a spectacular event to get kids excited about it again.

"We survey students every year after our event and the kids had said they wanted to do something new. A lot said that they were interested in a boat cruise," said All Night Long committee member and school board member Deborah Ramsey. "We thought we'd go for the gold this year and try the Odyssey, and it really is the gold standard."

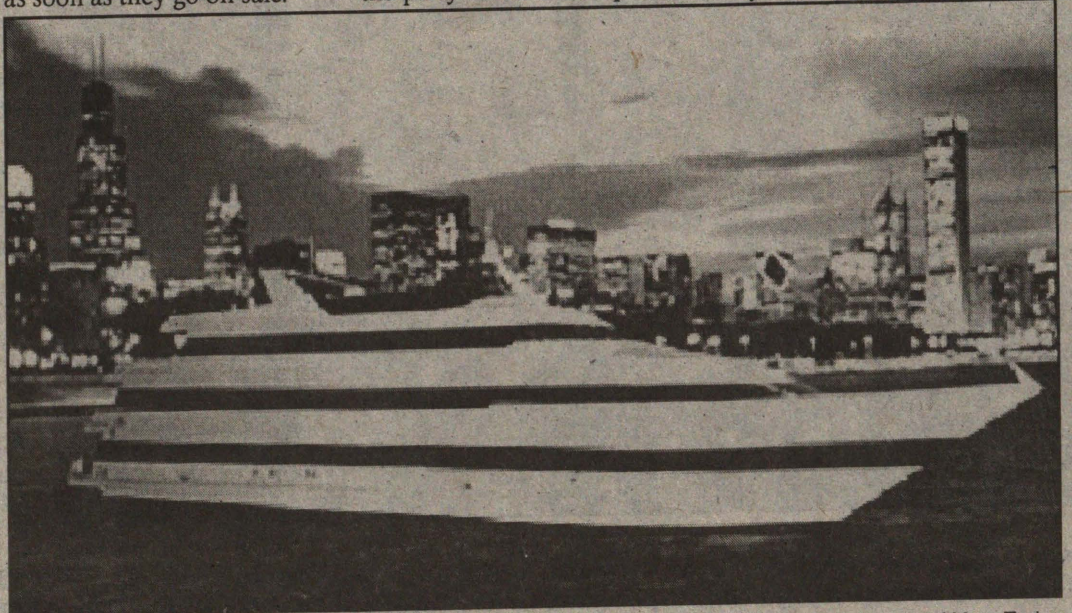


Photo courtesy of Mary Taylor

The Odyssey gives students attending prom an opportunity to see Chicago's famous skyline.

Plays save the day

By Cristina Sarnelli

With heroes as the theme for the German plays this year, it was no surprise to see students sporting Spiderman, Ninja Turtle, and Xena outfits in the auditorium March 9.

Every year, the German 1-4 classes put on a performance. German 1 puts together infomercials while German 2, 3, and 4 put together skits focusing on a specific subject.

"Usually we decide on some sort of class theme that all the classes have to work with. Often the skits may cross over into one another," German teacher Terry Strohm said.

German 3 picked the theme video games, and for German 4, the theme was superheroes.

One of the German 3 plays was focused on the video game "Zelda" in which the hero, Link, played by junior Tom Werle, was trying to get his horse back from the evil Ganondorf, played by junior Andrew Wirtz.

A clan of villagers, played by juniors Josh Becker, Da-

vid Musick, and Nick Secker tried to help Link rescue his horse.

The play that probably gathered the most laughs from the audience was German 4's "Reißer."

"Our play was a spin off of 'Thriller.' We were zombies trying out for the dance," senior Val McCluskey, who played one of the zombies, said.

The play also featured senior Matt Melone imitating the singer's crazy body language and funny sound effects.

The group also tossed in a baby doll to make fun of Jackson's crazy behavior with his children.

Along with incorporating the major theme into each play, every class had to feature the word of the year, chosen by the German 4 class as well.

"German 4 spends time in class looking up interesting words and then they vote on which word they like the best. Every class has to incorporate the word into the play," Strohm said.

The word for the plays this year was *rettungsmannschaft*, which means rescue team. The German 1 plays had to use the word once, German 2 needed to use it twice, German 3 needed to use it three times, and German 4 needed to use it four times.

At the end of the performance, winners are chosen for specific categories.

Winners chosen from the plays included best overall male performance: senior Merrick Doll; best overall supporting male performance: senior Matt Melone; best overall female performance: senior Rachel Hellman; best overall supporting actress performance: McCluskey; best use of the word in a play: "Mission Impossible"; best costumes: "Rettungsmannschaft"; best props: "BINGO"; best overall infomercial/play: "Rettungsmannschaft"; best superhero: junior Heather Tricoli; best overall choreography: "Reißer"; best use of music: "Rettungsmannschaft"; and best overall musical performance: "Reißer."



Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

From left, seniors Rachel Hellman, Merrick Doll, Matt Melone, Matt Miller, Val McCluskey, and Joe Fortman performed their dance to "Thriller" by Michael Jackson at the German plays.



Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

A poisoned Link (junior Tom Werle) lies unconscious underneath the helpful fairy Navi (junior Megan Carnes).

Stylish fashion show raises money for plant nursery

By Jessica Bergmann

Models from the clothing 2 class and the community sported fashionable clothes from Talbot's at the sixth annual spring fashion show on March 10.

Clothing teacher Patti Kozlowski said, "It's a great opportunity for students to see how they can use their

skills."

The charity event took place at the Courtyard Restaurant in Warrenville.

The proceeds of the show went to the We Grow Dreams greenhouse, where over 40 teens and adults with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and other mental illnesses are

able to have jobs and receive paychecks.

"Parents had adults with special needs who needed jobs. The nursery gives them one specific job that they can do and then they can be paid for it," said Kozlowski.

Jobs include folding boxes, filling pots with soil, and creating greeting cards.

Board candidates invited to forum hosted by JSA

By Kym McDaniel

Democracy will truly become a non-spectator sport on April 4 at 7p.m.

Junior State of America will be hosting a forum for all local school board candidates to attend.

"It is an opportunity for

the community to meet the candidates they are going to vote for on April 17," said teacher and adviser Barbara Laimins.

All voters in the district are invited to questions the candidates' views and plans for the upcoming year.

AYP: Class of '07 succeeds

(Continued from page 1)

this school is more than just a test and it's a shame that this is the one standard we are judged on. But we are more than that, and that is why we are a successful school," said Highland at the assembly.

"Walk around with your heads held high today. We will be looked at as a model school now," he added.

Highland did not forget about the promises that he made to the students last year at the first meeting, saying that they will win prizes such as iPods, and flat screen TVs if they passed AYP.

On the morning of graduation practice the prizes will be displayed and all seniors will have the opportunity to win.

Seniors' names will be in a jar and Highland will pick names at random and students can pick what prize

they would like.

Highland also said seniors will not have to take finals this year. He e-mailed the staff telling teachers that all seniors are exempt. He added that seniors in dual credit classes and AP classes will take their finals if they want to receive credit for that class.

As for the juniors, who will be taking the PSAT tests this year, they need to pass by 55 percent.

"I believe that they can do this. Looking back at their previous test scores the ratings have all been positive," said Highland.

The junior class should not expect the prizes that the senior class will eventually receive though.

Highland said that he already had some criticisms about spending a lot of money on the prizes, with all of the budget cuts.



Photo by Jessica Bergmann

Profits from the tickets to the fashion show went toward We Grow Dreams greenhouse. Sophomore Milena Camargo, left, and junior Ivonne Reza modeled skirts from Talbot's in the show.

Foreign language honors

Inductees praised for their outstanding academic performance and dedication in Spanish, French, and German classes

By Cristina Sarnelli

The foreign language teachers inducted 64 students into the Foreign Language Honor Society on March 6.

FLHS is an organization that recognizes outstanding foreign language students.

The ceremony featured speeches from French teacher Majorie Appel and Welcome Center director Miguel Arroyo's daughter, Jeanette Melone. Melone was a graduate of the high school and was also inducted into FLHS.

In her speech she talked about how great an honor it was for the students to be inducted into the society. She said that foreign language would help them go far in life.

After the speech, each foreign language class was recognized.

"All of the honor societies had to recite a pledge in the language that they are studying. They also, received

certificates," Spanish teacher Elizabeth Malinsky added.

Students who were inducted are French Honor Society seniors: Giovanni Duran, Jessica Fernandez, and Marco Reyes; juniors Ellen Gebhardt, Adi Huerta, and Jacqueline Lopez; and sophomores Jessica Bergmann, Dana Burgess, Yesenia Geromini, Marcos Hernandez, Paige Lawless, Diana Martinez, Kathleen Mason, Virginia Mason, Ashley Michnick, Kelly Nottingham, Donna Quiroz, Krupscaya Stevens, and Bibiana Valenzuela. Spanish Honor Society: juniors Maddy Albright, Jeannette Alvez, Teresa Barrera, Amy Bytof, Kelsey Gossen, Liz Showalter, and Paul Warkins; sophomores Carly Abraham, Greg Berg, Marisa Carter, Melissa Conway, Ryan Crawford, Linda Feltes, Elizabeth Gola, Jonathan Kinsella, Jonathan Krystinak, Tu-Nhi Le, Sara

Lim, Jordan Long, Caitlin MacDonald, Brian Mateas, Douglas Mateas, Josef Pavnica, Alex Puetz, Chris-sie Rovtar, Samantha San-Miguel, Joseph Serio, Priya Shah, Caitlin Shiga, Ania Skorupski, Lia Smith, Sara Smolucha, Patrick Stremel, Hannah Taylor, Matthew Thomas, Taylor Turner, Paul Warkins, Nathalie Wierenga, and Sarah Zaidi. German Honor Society: juniors Brendan Dyrda, Nick Secker, and Andrew Wirtz; and sophomores Drew Bowker, Rebecca Cisowski, Anna Lane, and Tim Loftus.

Smolucha encourages people to take a foreign language, especially Spanish, because it will help in the future.

"Foreign language can help you get a job or give you a better chance at getting a job, and in general it's just fun to learn about a different culture," she said.

To qualify for FLHS, a stu-

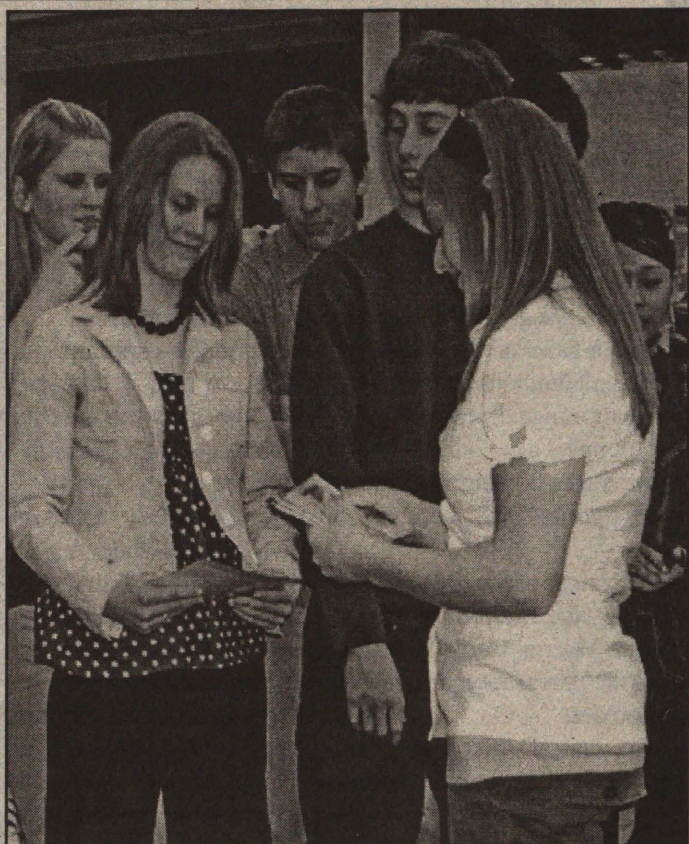


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Junior Amy Bytof, left, smiles as she receives her award from junior Rachel Nash for Spanish Honor Society. German and French students also received awards.

dent must have at least a 3.0 GPA and must be in his/her second year of studying language. The student also must have all A's for two years and need to be going onto the

third level of the language.

"Students who want to continue into the third level of the language need to be willing to help as a tutor as well," Malinsky said.

Swimmer splashes her way to February Student of the Month

Katie McLeland makes the grade

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 Leah Kuzmicz

Throughout Katie McLeland's high school career she has earned the right to be February Student of the Month. She has competed on the swim team for all four years, maintained her 4.0 and managed to stay balanced with the many clubs she participates in.

What are your high school accomplishments?

My accomplishments include my 4.0, valedictorian, Academic All Conference for four years, captain of the swim team, and team MVP.

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

My favorite teacher would have to be Mrs. Bortnick because she made biology really interesting.

What clubs are you involved in?

I am involved in National Honor Society, varsity swimming, Spanish National Honor Society, foreign exchange program, and school ambassadors.

Where do you plan to attend college?

I plan on attending University of Illinois- Chicago.



Photo courtesy of Katie McLeland

What do you intend on majoring in?

I plan on majoring in physical therapy or being a pediatrician.

What is your favorite memory from high school?

Swimming with glow sticks and all the lights off in the pool was pretty exotic.

Do you plan to do any extra curricular activities in college?

I plan on swimming in college. UIC is giving me a nice chunk of change to be on their team.

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

I had the highest to offer.

just watch me

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Bake sale for Buddies

Brownies, puppy chow, and cookies raise money to help club

By Jacob Wucka

Save room for dessert because the Wego Buddies are having a bake sale on Friday during all lunch hours.

Treats range from brownies, puppy chow, and decorative sugar cookies. All the profits go to funding for the club.

Special education teacher Abby Lynch and program assistant Valerie Cook helped with the preparation and sale of cookies.

The treats were made

Thursday night. Twenty five Wego Buddies members helped their buddies.

Everyone was split up into groups with their buddies. From there they made cookies, brownies, and other delights.

Wego Buddies, formerly known as Best Buddies, is a group of teachers and students who help out special education students. They do many other activities throughout the year like bowling and play mini golf.

Solving mysteries at Book Club

By Oscar Grajeda

With mystery as this month's genre, the Book Club will meet on April 3-4.

The Book Club will meet during all lunch periods on April 3 and after school on April 4.

Some novels chosen to bring in more students are "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation: Body Evidence: A Novel," "Summer of Fear," "The Christmas Killer," "A Candidate for Murder," and "The Weekend was Murder."

"After a showing of 12 students last month mystery could potentially bring in

more people because the authors are better known than romance novel authors. I'm expecting about the same turnout if not more this month," said book club adviser Chris Covino.

Students can also expect snacks and a chance to win gift certificates to restaurants, coffee houses, and movie theaters.

A complete list of novels will be handed out during English classes. If students have any questions they are to go see Dianne Mueller in the LRC or Covino in room 308.

Scheduling sparks conflict between board and staff

By Aaron Pennington

The West Chicago Teacher's Association president Barbara Laimins and Board of Education president Tony Reyes disagreed about the new school schedule at a board meeting held on Tuesday, March 6.

It started when Laimins read a position paper that represented how the Teacher's Association felt about the new changes taking place in the 2007-2008 year, which included the new "floating eight" schedule.

The paper mentioned a previous attempt to postpone the schedule to the 2008-2009 school year for more time to write the curriculum, and that the board

denied it.

"We've been talking about a new schedule since 2001. We took the amendment under consideration and saw no reason to extend a year," said Reyes.

Laimins said that teachers felt that writing the new curriculum would pull them away from their job.

"We're worried that it'll take time away from our regular classes," said Laimins.

According to Laimins, the teachers were hoping that the board will explain the need for the schedule, since it was originally proposed if Community High School didn't make AYP.

"It was designed to help us if we didn't pass AYP, but we passed AYP. We'd like answers

to explain the reasoning behind keeping it," Laimins said.

Reyes disagreed with a statement that Laimins made, that the board acted impulsively on its decisions lately.

"She knows we are having difficulties with the budget, she heard us struggle with this. It's untrue," he said.

Laimins says that all the teachers want is for the students to have a quality education.

"We have teachers here that love the students. We want to help them so we can get them to go to colleges," said Laimins.

Despite all the disagreements, Reyes said he is proud of the people that the board works with and thinks that the disputes make them better.

Celebrating the Year of the Pig

By Leah Kuzmicz

International Club celebrated their own Chinese New Year on Feb 26.

Club members gathered at junior Rachel Howe's house for a night of food, studying traditions and practicing the Chinese culture. The students also talked about superstitions that the Chinese believe in and the 12 different zodiac signs. They also ate traditional Chinese food from Jin's China in Wheaton.

This year China celebrated the Year of the Pig, so the students tried to incorporate that within their celebration.

International Club adviser Sarah Bellis also put together quizzes for the students to test their knowledge on the traditions.

Bellis said how this experience will benefit the students in the future.

"This is an opportunity to learn about other cultures traditions and will benefit the

students and they can understand everything better. They can see all of the opportunities that they can get involved in," said Bellis.

International Club celebrates with an activity usually once a month. They have been to the Art Institute, Mexico Chiquito, West Chicago Museum, and the Christkindlemarket.

This month International Club will see Irish dancing in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

Football team wins Chili-Fest

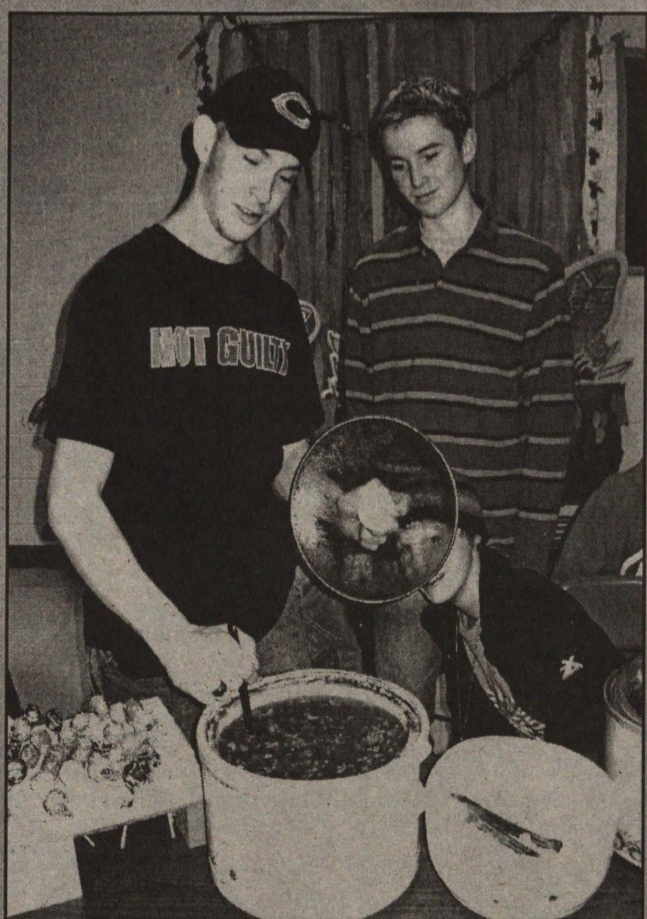


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Many students flocked to the WEGO Chili-Fest on March 1 for food, fun, and embarrassment during karaoke. Students ate the chili and voted for the top three. The football team came in first place claiming the \$100 prize, softball followed in second winning \$75, and foods 2 rounded out the top three winning the \$50 prize. Pictured above is senior Jake Murphy, freshmen Evan Krotz and Kyle Hunter. They were on the boys swim team.

Business team falls short of making 6 year record

By Jacob Wucka

Business teacher Donald Zabelin's LifeSmarts team lost the state competition ending their consecutive five year winning streak.

The competition took place on March 6 in Weyrauch Auditorium. Schools from around Illinois competed.

Schaumburg claimed first place to Zabelin's second place team.

Zabelin chose two groups that consisted of his consumer education students who scored the highest on an online test.

One of those teams was headed by junior Paul Warkins and senior Kevin Michaelson who Zabelin put together on the same team for a very important reason.

"Last year we finished third in the nation with Paul Warkins and Kevin Michaelson on the same team, and since they are here again, they are definitely going on the same

team," Zabelin said.

Warkins and Michaelson were on team West Chicago 1. On team West Chicago 2 were students including junior Kara Wolfe, and junior Doug Sills.

LifeSmarts is considered the "Ultimate Consumer Challenge" in which students from schools across the country boast their knowledge of consumer rights and money management.



Photo by Jacob Wucka

From left, junior Doug Sills, senior Becca Mueller, junior Kara Wolfe, and senior Bill Pusateri made up the West Chicago 2 team during the LifeSmarts competition which tested consumer education knowledge.

Debaters meet senators

By Aaron Pennington

Junior State of America met the potential leader of the United States when visiting Washington D.C. for their annual winter convention.

The members got to meet Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.), Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Rep. Peter Roskam (R-Ill.) and took a photo with them.

Members included adviser Barbara Laimins, chapter president and senior Dave Thomas, seniors Joe Tedeschi, Kevin Pavnica, and Zach Hund, juniors Austin Pietrobon and Nina Bojovic, sophomore Tara Breinig, and freshman Kyle Wolf.

JSA joined students from the Midwest, the Ohio River Valley, and Florida to discuss political issues.

The convention followed a similar pattern to the government simulations held at Community High School.

Students are assigned to house and senate committees and discuss bills and decide which ones are good. The students had a full day of debate and committees and a half day of full session.

A typical day consisted of getting up early in the morning and walking downtown, visiting museums and legislators' offices. Then the students would arrive back at night.

"We walked a lot around the city, it was the way we traveled," said Thomas.

Laimins said that the best part of the convention was letting students from different states interact with each other.

"Conventions are great because the students can meet



Photo courtesy of Dave Thomas

The JSA team met with Rep. Peter Roskam, left. Seniors Zack Hund, Kevin Pavnica, Dave Thomas, and an unidentified student talked about the economy and the war in Iraq.

different students from other states and see where their interests lie," Laimins said.

Wolf said of all the issues that were discussed, that the increasing incentive for people to become organ donors, where organ donors are bumped up two months higher on the donor list, was his favorite topic discussed.

"I liked it because it was a heated topic and had a lot of different views on it," said Wolf.

Some other issues that were discussed were aid for children in North Korea and allowing minors to buy M-rated games.

Pavnica and Thomas tried to pass a bill which would combine agencies like the FBI, CIA, and NSA.

"The bill ended up failing because of a lack of clarity of what the bill was," said Thomas.

JSA also got to experience

history when they watched the House of Representatives debate and vote on the Iraq resolution during their stay there.

Laimins said that being there while the Iraq resolution was being voted was the most memorable part of the trip for her.

"It was exciting to witness a major news story," said Laimins.

"We also got to see what Democrats and Republicans argued about."

JSA also got to see such historic monuments like the Vietnam, Korea, and World War II Memorials, and the Washington Monument.

The Vietnam Memorial, in particular, was Wolf's favorite part of the whole experience.

"It was great to see something so simple and yet so powerful at the same time," Wolf said.

Local library to move

Carol Stream Public Library may be rebuilt if referendum passes

By Dave Thomas

Carol Stream taxpayers will decide on April 17 whether or not to pay for a new building to house the Carol Stream Public Library.

According to library director Ann Kennedy, the project to build and furnish a library roughly three times the size of the current one will cost about \$26.5 million. Approximately \$25 million would be paid through a 20-year increase in property taxes.

Kennedy said that the library is asking people to give up about 30 cents a day, and that the upgrade is needed.

"When the building was originally built, Carol Stream had a population of 9,000. Carol Stream now has 41,000 residents," said Kennedy. "We're packed."

Kennedy said that the building's size limits the number of books, DVDs, and computers that people want.

In addition, the new library will be moved from Hiawatha Drive to Kuhn Road. Kennedy said that, because of nearby environmental features such as flood plains, the library cannot expand at its current location. Also, the new location will allow for easier access because it's more centrally located in Carol Stream.

Kennedy said that she's received mixed reactions regarding the library's referendum.

"A lot of people are very supportive. A lot of people can't believe we're working out of this little, tiny building," Kennedy said. She could not say whether or not Carol Stream Mayor Ross Ferraro supported the referendum. However, she did say that both Ferraro and mayoral candidate Frank Saverino were big supporters of the library.

Kennedy said that much of the opposition has appeared as letters to the editor in the Carol Stream newspaper.

Soutar crowned for his guitar skills and humor

By Greg Vodicka

After an eventful night of talent and poise, hosted by Dave Jennings and Mitchell McKenna, Senior Derek Soutar grabbed the title Mr. Wildcat Friday, March 9.

Judges and teachers John Chisholm, Whitney Snyder, Patricia Santella, Brandon Fantozzi, and Andrea Cobbet chose Soutar after a talent competition, formal wear show, and random questions. Dressed in black and white,

Soutar delivered an electrifying guitar solo.

"I was nervous, and I missed a few notes," said Soutar.

When judges asked Soutar what he learned from his mom, he told the audience he learned not to put his face down in food that he eats.

Others who participated were seniors Sean Rubin, Dave Thomas, Ken Cole, Eric Wyman, Geoff Wilson, and Leo Guili.

Recycling program changes

By Aaron Pennington

The recycling program for the school will be getting an overhaul due to a change in coordinator Pat Carrow's science curriculum.

The new program will require teachers to assign students to take the recycles to bins on the second and third floors. Then the custodial staff will take the recycling material from there to dispose of them.

The first floor's recycling will continue to be handled by the Special Education students, lead by coordinator Michael Koulos.

"The special ed students do a great job all year, so they will keep doing it," director of business Dan McCarthy said.

Custodial foreman Kevin

Kane said that they are planning to do this plan two days a week.

"We will continue to do this on a two-day basis, Tues-

Doing the program all year wasn't feasible so we had to change the program.'

--Pat Carrow

day and Thursday. We started on Thursday, March 1," said Kane.

The program originated as part of Carrow's science

class curriculum, where once a week, Carrow's students took the recycling materials out on the second and third floor. However, Carrow felt it wasn't possible for the students to continue it.

"Doing the program all year wasn't feasible so we had to change the program," said Carrow.

McCarthy said that he and Kane weren't comfortable with leaving all the recycling up to Carrow.

"It just didn't feel right and we wanted to keep the students involved as well because it's a great program," said McCarthy.

In school suspension students will also help out with the recycling.

The recycling program has operated since 1992.



Photo by Jacob Wucka

Senior Derek Soutar, pictured here with senior Nicole Parisi, played a guitar solo for his talent at the competition.

Our view

Drinking can lead to tragedy

Not to drink and drive has been reinforced in the minds of all high school students since the drugs and alcohol unit in fifth grade. However many teens neglect to remember this, especially around prom.

According to www.madd.org, 43 percent of all fatal traffic accidents in Illinois during 2005 were alcohol related, and that fatalities involving teens was on a 2 percent increase.

In 2007 there have been many accidents involving teens. On Feb. 11, eight teens got into a car with a drunk driver who smashed into a utility pole killing five, and severely injuring the other three.

Yet since the event there have still been many fatal alcohol related car crashes. This brings up the question, why haven't people learned the lessons that death brings?

Because it seems as though when a drunken driving tragedy happens, the community that it occurred in is the only place affected. Why should someone in West Chicago care about the teens that died in Oswego?

It doesn't matter where a tragedy happens; it could happen to anyone at any place. What so many people don't realize is that it could happen to them.

People don't seem to realize that they can die. Teens believe they are invincible and the younger the person the more invincible they are going to feel. That's why teens are fearless when it comes to drunk driving.

Another reason why teens haven't learned to stop drunk driving is because they think they're a good driver. According to www.rmiiia.org, the truth is 16 year olds get in more car crashes than any other age group.

If they get in more car crashes when they are sober, then imagine how many more they'd get in if they were drunk.

As previously mentioned, prom is fast approaching and many students have begun buying dresses, renting tuxes, and buying matching corsages and boutonnieres.

However not many teens have begun worrying about drinking and driving. According to the Center for Prevention Research and Development, 69 percent of West Chicago students have not used alcohol in the past 30 days. This means that 31 percent have and that many more may do so around prom.

First off, the legal drinking age is 21. Secondly, if no one has learned the risks of drunk driving then maybe law enforcement and lawmakers should make it so teens don't want to drive drunk.

For example, if teens get caught drunk driving then they should have their licenses taken away until they're 21. Enforcement like that will definitely convince someone to not do it.

Apparently since so many peoples' lives aren't important enough to them, the cops should take something important to them away: Their driving privileges.

Careers disappear in the World Wide Web

Many people call the Internet the greatest invention ever made, a lifesaver of sorts, since it makes researching just about any topic fast and easy.

What many people don't realize is that the Internet is chomping away at the list of occupations that future generations will be able to choose from. Jobs such as mail-carriers, librarians, and journalists are slowly dwindling away all thanks to cyberspace.

According to the Pew Internet Project, about 50 million Americans get their daily news online. That means that old fashioned newspapers are dying out, causing jobs to be cut and people getting laid off. As a matter of fact, The Chicago Tribune underwent a wave of layoffs

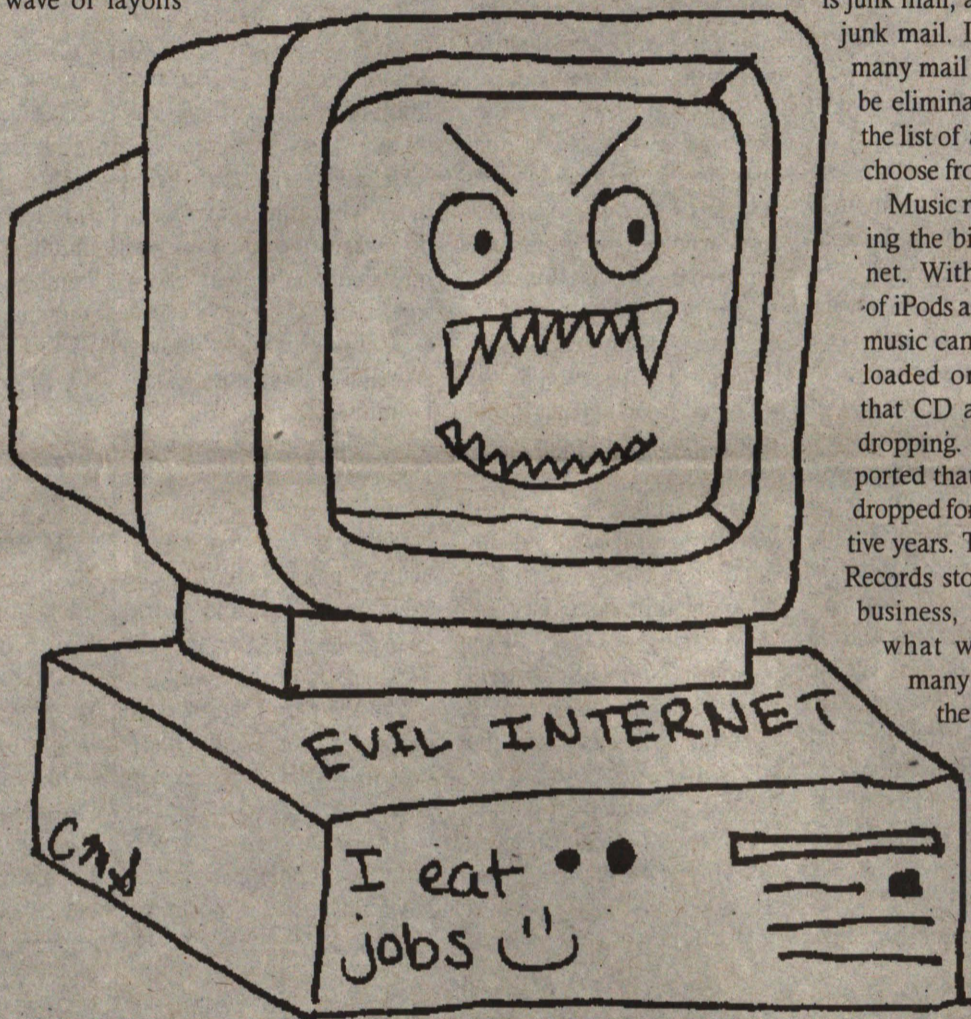
catalogue at a library, and then purchase the book. There's no need to actually get up out of the chair and drive to the library anymore because the Internet has it all conveniently stored away. Isn't that nice? All because of convenience, hundreds of librarians will suffer.

The postal service is also being threatened by the Internet. Snail mail is much too slow today, and e-mail is more convenient. Paying bills online has also become much more appealing to people, magazine subscriptions can be bought online, and even job applications have become computer friendly. Sooner or later, all the postal service will have left to deliver

is junk mail, and no one likes junk mail. In the long run, many mail carrier jobs will be eliminated, shortening the list of available jobs to choose from.

Music retail is also feeling the bite of the Internet. With the invention of iPods and Mp3 players, music can now be downloaded online, meaning that CD album sales are dropping. Variety.com reported that CD sales have dropped for seven consecutive years. The local Tower Records store went out of business, foreshadowing what will happen to many record stores in the future.

These examples are only a few, and the amount of jobs that will be depleted because of the Internet will only con-



about a year ago. The newspaper has also decreased in size due to budget problems. Why is this happening?

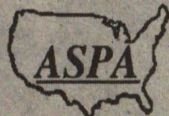
One of the reasons is simple; no one reads the paper anymore. The lazy way out has become much more appealing. A few keystrokes, some clicks of the mouse, and bingo: News articles online at your service.

Not only will newspapers eventually die out, but libraries as well. Google plans to set up a Google Book Search Engine that allows people to browse a book online, just like one would browse a card

continue to get larger. The main reason for this problem and these job cuts is consumers. If Americans continue to support the easy-does-it, faster is better lifestyle, hundreds of people will suffer from it. If Americans continue to sacrifice driving to a store to purchase items for buying items online, then it is guaranteed that more layoffs will occur in the near future.

Those people out there who are looking for careers in music retail, journalism, even yoga instructors (it's true, people can take yoga class online now) might want a backup plan because the future doesn't look so bright.

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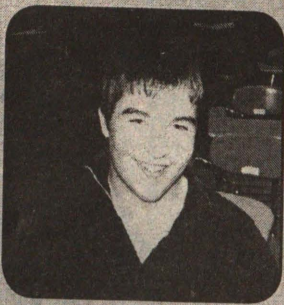
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THE WILDCAT CHRONICLE is the student newspaper at Community High School. It is a public forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views. The chronicle publishes eight times a year, with the student editorial board making 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.

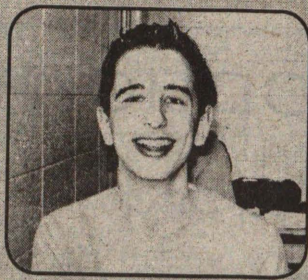
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Students Speak



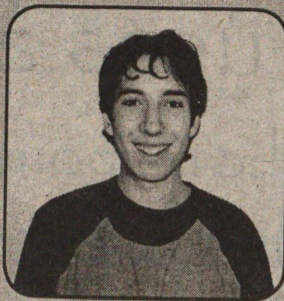
Jon White
Freshman

"Barack Obama because I didn't like Bill Clinton and I think Hillary would be the same."



Merrick Doll
Senior

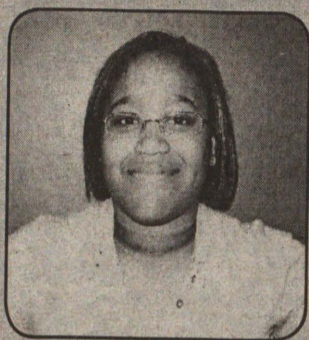
"Obama because I don't want the presidency to go: Bush, Clinton, Bush, Clinton."



Austin Pietrobon
Junior

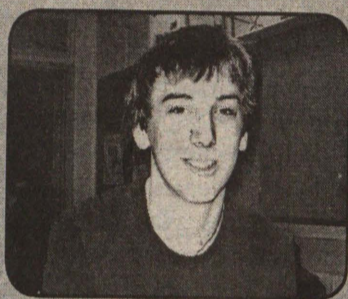
"I wouldn't want either because Hillary is a Clinton and Obama is too new and vulnerable."

Who would you rather see in the White House: Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama?



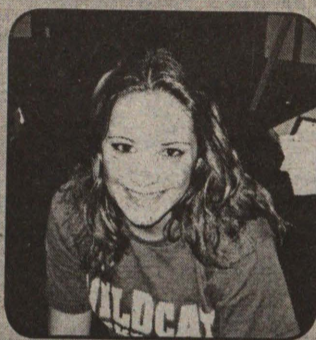
Jessica Freeman
Sophomore

"Clinton because she is a woman and women need to have more power in the White House."



Phil Lenertz
Sophomore

"Hillary because she would be the first (female president) and that would help show that women are just as good as men."



Jenna Bodie
Senior

"Obama, because even though it's great that a woman is running, I don't think it should be Hillary."

More reasons to hate winter

I think I have seasonal affective disorder. It's called winter sadness... or maybe it's just senioritis. But I've developed a hatred for frostbite weather along with a handful other things this winter. Here are a few:

I hate fast food, or rather my addiction to it. I'm speeding down a slippery slope towards certain obesity. And I hate food advertisements, because they

make me hungry.

I watch commercials now, and I "deconstruct" them. Thanks, Mr. Turnbaugh. I hate that. Or maybe I hate that I know how wrong it all is (the media) and



Kait Taylor

I go along with it anyways. For example, I hate sell outs, yet I listen to John Mayer. What a sell out!

I hate being young, because no one takes you seriously. I mean, seriously. You're not allowed to be in love, or make decisions about your future, or have strong opinions... young doesn't mean stupid.

Stupid means stupid. I hate stupid people. The ones who have nothing to say in heated government debates (no valid points or strong opinions); those are the people that make me angry. Apathetic is pathetic.

And I hate that being passionate makes you mean or scary. Since when were mediocrity and indifference attractive?

Also, I'm furious about how much college costs. I think. The school I will be at next year is over \$30,000 a year! I don't even know how much money \$30,000 is. I feel incredibly selfish basing my college choice on location rather than price. Is that horrible?

I hate that I feel like a horrible person. I'm more aware of global tribulations than most, I'd say, but fixing my iPod is at the top of my list next to buying a new pair of jeans and doing my taxes (yeah, right).

I hate taxes (love them fiscally for our country, but I hate having to DO them) because I hate money... I love having money, but I hate the truth behind the whole "root of all evil" thing.

I really hate flat tax. And poverty. And prejudice. I hate global warming, AIDS, and war.

I really hate the war in Iraq. I hate that I can't fast forward until 2008 when Barack gets elected (I love that guy). Or Hillary. Or even Gore, I don't know, anyone is better than Bush.

If I could really fast forward through time, I would like to speed through senior year. I hate senior year. I want to leave. Now.

I hate classes, homework, saving, cleaning, deadlines, working and responsibilities.

And I hate feeling sorry for myself given the fact that I have it a lot better off than most. I'm not homeless, HIV positive, starving, pregnant, poor, or hideous. I'm just bored and lazy.

And I hate sounding whiney, but I am... and at least I can admit it.

Life isn't always sunshine and kittens and candy. Sometimes it really sucks even when it isn't all that bad.

But if there's one thing I love, it's that I know I'll be okay. I know that I'll eventually be happy, even if I'm totally miserable at the moment. And all of these things, war and college and commercials... they can't force me to be unhappy.

Helen Keller was blind, deaf and mute, and she said, "Happiness cannot come from without. It must come from within. It is not what we see and touch or that which others do for us which makes us happy; it is that which we think and feel and do."

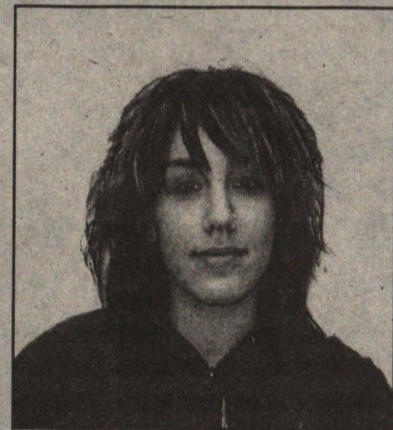
If that's good enough for her, it's good enough for me. Spring is right around the corner, anyways.

Addiction is so last season; Rehab is the hottest trend

Rehab is not somewhere to come and go whenever it is convenient. Rehab takes blood, sweat, and determination, and should be taken seriously.

But celebrities do not seem to think so and have recently checked themselves into rehab for every reason under the sun for a quick fix.

What is up with this "drive-thru therapy" popular among the celeb circuit? This seems oh too familiar, remember Miss USA Tara Conner? We saw her drama, we saw her enter rehab and leave, then suddenly become the poster babe for Alcoholics Anonymous.



Ellyn Fortino

Girl, give me a break. You've been sober for what, like 10 minutes, and you've already done a complete press tour? Have you even tried attempting the 12 step program or actually attended an AA meeting?

The message being received is if celebrities make a mistake they can redeem their popularity by going through rehab for a day, saying they are magically cured, but then getting hammered at a bar the next night. What is wrong with you people?

Even if these people were taking rehab seriously, exactly how much help are they receiving in these exclusive and expensive places?

It's in vogue to check into rehab for therapy. It's

chic, hip, and adventurous. Celebrities like Lindsay Lohan, Britney Spears and Tara Reid show off their addictions as if they're the latest Prada bags.

Lohan recently flashed her sober AA bracelet around town and the pictures were published in popular teen magazines. I'm going to bet in no time 13-year-old girls will be sporting matching Lohan bracelets.

But what is this telling young women in society? Of course nothing has been scientifically proven if these celebrities are turning pre-teens into drunken "prosti-tots," but a recent Newsweek poll found that 77 percent of Americans believe that these girls do have too much influence on teens.

But on the other hand, seeing celebrities' drunken antics may actually be turning teens off to the idea that "partying heiress" is a real occupation in life.

Falling around drunk, flashing private parts for the whole world to see is not my idea of "cool." More like disgusting. For me anyway, this lifestyle does not seem appealing and it confuses me to know that some young women may actually still look up to these celebrities.

I know in reality there are plenty of misguided girls who do want to emulate these celebrities and experiment with drugs, alcohol, or sex but honestly, we girls should feel superior to these insane celebrities.

We are stronger, more independent, and smarter. Girls, rehab is not trendy. It is not okay to party and enter rehab and party again and brag about it with friends.

It is not worth our time to compete with Lindsay or Britney, our lives are way better in comparison. These celebrities should be completely ashamed of themselves.

Teen mom refuses adoption

One student realizes the responsibility and sacrifices of having a child at the young age of 17

By Jacob Wucka

**The names have been changed to protect the privacy of the people involved.*

Community High School has the dubious honor of having the highest pregnancy rate in DuPage County.

Last year there were 33 teens in the teen parenting program, and this year there have been 25. 17 year old Heather* never thought she would get pregnant but things did not turn out as she had planned.

Heather found out she was pregnant four weeks after having intercourse with her boyfriend, *Walter. At first she was scared and nervous, mainly because she did not know how her mom was going to react.

Two days after she found out, Heather hesitantly told her mom.

"I was scared and afraid that she was going to yell, but she cried and told me to go upstairs," Heather said.

Over the next weeks, Heather told her friends and her boyfriend that she was pregnant. At first her friends said, "Oh, that's so cute," but after a while they didn't

care about Heather or her pregnancy anymore.

Her boyfriend was also very excited at first, and kept supporting her. However, things turned sour when Walter realized that he had to help take care of the baby.

"He said that he wasn't going to be part of the baby's life," Heather said. "Walter is still a kid."

Since she told her mom, her mom has been very mad at her but not as mad as she is with Walter. Walter has not been helping when it comes to buying things necessary for the baby.

Heather asked Walter for money to pay for a car seat and he said he would but he didn't. Then Heather also asked Walter to help pay \$20 for a medical bill but he didn't help with that either.

Walter also didn't help when Heather's mom suggested an abortion. Heather's mom said that Heather could have had an abortion if Walter's family paid for half of it. They didn't and Heather didn't get an abortion.

"I probably wouldn't have gone through with an abortion anyway because I

wouldn't feel comfortable," Heather said.

Heather also didn't want to give the baby up for adoption because she didn't feel comfortable with that either.

She said, "You can't give birth to baby, look at it, and just give it away."

Heather is now six months pregnant, yet she is not ready to give birth. By the time she gives birth, Heather said she needs blankets, bottles, milk, toys, socks, a crib, a stroller, baby wipes, diapers, and more. At this point all Heather has is a car seat and some clothes.

Also once Heather gives birth she will have to adapt to new changes in school, and at home. She will have to adapt to having a baby living in her home, and studying for her classes in between diaper changes.

Her mom said she would help when she wasn't working, and that during the week the baby will have to be dropped off at the school day care.

To help pay for her baby, Heather has said that she will also get a job, however she needs more money than

she will be receiving just by herself. That's why Heather wants Walter to get a job.

One reason why Heather believes Walter doesn't want to get a job is because he isn't mature enough.

Social worker Connie Sosa said that many of the pregnant girls at West Chicago have boyfriends that can support them because they are older and have jobs. Walter is the same age as Heather.

Although her boyfriend may not be mature, Heather has matured greatly due to this experience. She has even begun to worry about her daughter's future.

"What am I going to do so she can't get pregnant when she's a teen?" Heather asked.

Heather worries that her daughter will be a teen mom as well.

The highest pregnancy rate in DuPage County; and counting

By Aaron Pennington

Any woman who is pregnant is going face difficulties, but when she is still attending high school as well, she has a whole different set of problems that go with it.

Nurse Beth Jones said that out of the approximately 2,100 students in the school, only 2 percent of the students are pregnant.

She said that the amount varies each year, and this year is lower than last year.

"We noticed a slowing decline, which is good since we encourage students to think twice about having sex," said Jones.

Social worker Connie Sosa said that last year, 33 girls were pregnant or already had a baby. Out of those 33, 16 were seniors.

Jones said that the ages of the pregnant teens vary

greatly.

"They're all over the place, from middle school to 12th grade," Jones said.

Sosa said that while pregnancy isn't that common in the high school, she thinks that teens having sex is much more common.

"Now middle school kids are having sex, they're starting at that age," Sosa said.

As for the fathers, Jones said that most of the time they are not even in high school.

"They are mainly older or out of school. It varies a

lot; sometimes they stay and get involved with their kid. Sometimes they just take off," Jones said.

Sosa said that some fathers will stay but gradually leave due to the difficulties of raising a child.

"They'll stay for a little while for the birth. But after they notice how hard it is and the responsibilities that come with it, they come up with excuses to not be in the baby's life," said Sosa.

The families of the mothers, according to Sosa, usually react badly at first but learn to live with the pregnancy.

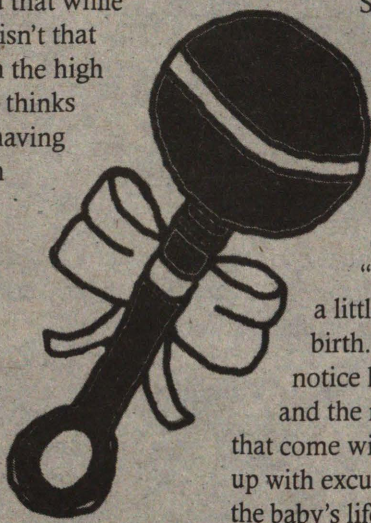
"They go through different stages, beginning with

anger and being upset, and then they start to accept the reality of the situation and help out their daughter," said Sosa.

Sosa says that there is a stigma that teen moms receive a lot.

"People think that teen moms are 'loose' or 'easy to get into bed', but in reality, when these girls get pregnant, it was usually their first sexual experience. Sometimes, they even plan to get pregnant," Sosa said.

A program for teen moms that is a combo of PE and Health credit is run by Jones and Sosa that teaches them how to take care of babies from birth to age three.



Teen mothers have the responsibility of buying their children all of the basic needs of growing up. On top of that they attend school while keeping care of their child. Learn how mothers and even a father deal with their daily stresses.

Student deals with fatherhood

By Greg Vodicka

**The names have been changed to protect the privacy of the people involved.*

Often, students stress over upcoming tests, and their biggest concern is their weekend plans. For Bernard*, there is a lot more on his mind. At age 17 he has a 2-year-old daughter to care for.

Like most teenagers, Bernard had not thought much about becoming a father at such a young age.

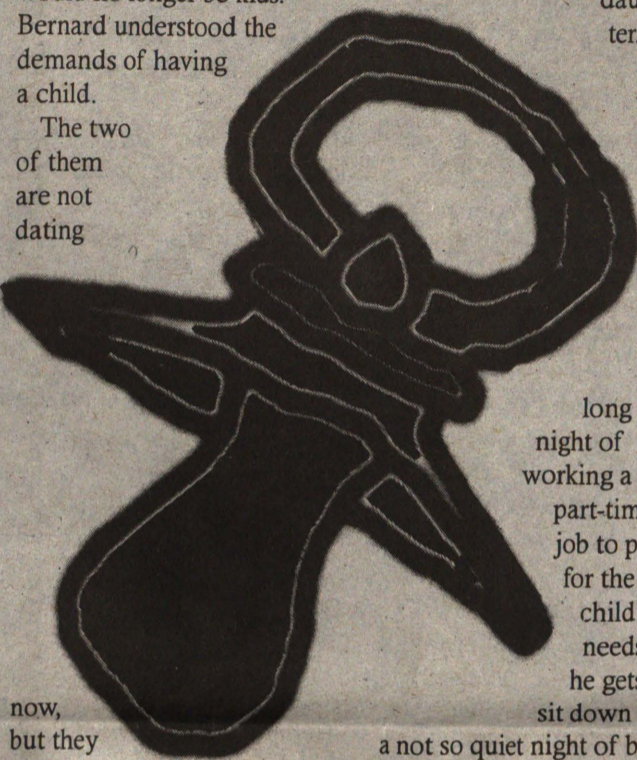
Being sexually active at 15, he thought he would never fall under the 1 percent of condom users whose protection failed.

"Dora* was my first," Bernard recalls. "She told me when she missed her period. After she got tested and found out she was pregnant, she and I discussed having a child. She told me she wanted to keep it."

After deciding to keep the baby, Bernard told Dora they

would no longer be kids. Bernard understood the demands of having a child.

The two of them are not dating



daughter. After a

"It is worth it in the end when she makes me smile," Bernard admitted.

Explaining how the child affected his life, Bernard said he second thinks everything now.

He said, "I have to think of the consequences to all of my actions now. I have to think for another person."

Bernard's parents were very supportive and a positive influence in his difficult situation. He said his parents always gave him the best they could, and he felt he had to do the same for his daughter.

"Some kids have no help from their parents. Mine have always been there and it really helped," said Bernard.

Bernard plans to finish school, and get a job to further support his young family.

"If you are man enough to have sex you should be man enough to take responsibility," Bernard said.

long night of working a part-time job to pay for the child's needs, he gets to

sit down to

a not so quiet night of baby sitting and doing his homework.

All his money goes to his daughter. He has nothing left for himself.

Along with school, Bernard's free time is diminished.

now,

but they take turns caring for their baby.

"I was there since the day she was pregnant," he said. "And I'm still here now."

Bernard's school life became a lot tougher after he decided to take care of his

Having a baby comes with a price

One student deals with the pressure of having a child and learns that paying for a loved one isn't always easy

By Jacob Wucka

**The names have been changed to protect the privacy of the people involved.*

No one ever said that having a child is cheap but no one ever said that having a child could be so expensive.

Charlotte* got pregnant in the summer before her sophomore year. When she told her parents, her mom and dad cried.

"I was really shocked to see my dad crying because

I've only seen him cry once before and that was at his mom's funeral," Charlotte said.

Charlotte also told her boyfriend. At first he was nervous, but then he quickly denied that the baby could be his, and the relationship quickly became abusive.

Charlotte ignored what her boyfriend said, and decided that if he wasn't going to change his life for the baby then she was going to change hers.

Charlotte changed by starting to eat healthier, stop drinking soda, and get more sleep. She also became much more mature. Charlotte said, "If I never had this baby then I would be wild."

To prepare for her baby's arrival Charlotte went to shopping with her mom,

but her mom surprised her a couple times by buying her baby many articles of clothing and even throwing her a baby shower.

By the time Charlotte gave birth she was prepared for what was to come, except that she gave birth two months early.

"I was really depressed because my baby stayed in the hospital for one month," said Charlotte.

When the baby finally came home with Charlotte, it came home with a surprise bill. \$5,000 for the first night the baby spent in the hospital.

Charlotte paid that bill, and expected more bills for the other 29 days her daughter spent in the hospital. Thankfully for Charlotte, they never came.

After her daughter turned 1 year old, Charlotte ended her abusive relationship with her boyfriend. He didn't expect their break up to last long because Charlotte had broke up with him in the past for short periods of time. However this time Charlotte never went back to him.

In Oct. 2006, Charlotte's ex boyfriend began paying child support. He pays \$100 every two weeks, which Charlotte still believes isn't enough because her daughter has gone through a \$30 box of diapers in less than three weeks.

When looking back on her life recently, and how it has been affected with her daughter, Charlotte said "I wish I were older but I don't regret my baby at all."

Students reminisce about toys and shows of the '90s *Thomas the Tank Engine, Tomagatchis and Pokemon bring back happy childhood memories*

By Ellyn Fortino

Some may remember the fanny packs or the Macarena from the 90's or maybe even the Budweiser's "Wasssssu-uup!" commercials, but teens identify with what they knew best, the toys and TV shows.

When someone says Pogs or Beanie Babies almost every teen gets a warm fuzzy feeling in their stomachs and travels back to a pleasant time in their childhood. They reply with an "Oh yeah I remember those!" and may even rattle off a few more fads like Tamagotchis, Fur-bys, or Pokemon cards.

Freshman Sam Venchus still owns his Tomagatchi and even received the new and improved version for his birthday recently.

Tomagatchi, translated from Japanese means "love-able egg" or "egg watch," and hit the toy scene in 1996. Tomagatchi is not a game, but a pocket size virtual creature that must be taken care of like a normal pet. Tomagatchis are small plastic egg shaped key chains with a simple black and white LCD screen.

They are attached to key chains to encourage the owners to keep them by their sides at all times.

"Tomagatchis were so fun when I was little, I had eight of them. They are a lot easier to play with and fun because they aren't real pets. They

poop a lot, but it doesn't smell," Venchus said laughing.

Tomagatchis also became collector's items because of their different colors and designs. Each pet also had their own unique game, food, or varying icons on screen.

"My tomagatchi is named Olivia and she is very good at dancing," Venchus said. "My friend Jessica and I connected our pets together and they became friends. They gave

"Tomagatchis were so fun when I was little, I had eight of them. They are a lot easier to play with and fun because they aren't real pets. They poop a lot, but it doesn't smell."

—Freshman Sam Venchus

each other presents and then got married."

Venchus also talked about his childhood love for Pokemon.

"I had so much Pokemon stuff, I didn't know what to do with it all," he said. "I bought the cards just for the fun of it and I never really

knew how to play. My friends and I would just trade the cards."

Venchus said that the character Ash was his favorite because he wishes that he could be a Pokemon trainer.

For junior Mike Dalton, Thomas the Tank Engine was his favorite childhood toy.

"I think I was in either preschool or kindergarten when my mom introduced me to the T.V. show. It was cool because it was about a talking train," he said.

The T.V. show was about a friendly blue train accompanied by friends like James and Henry. The show was meant to teach children morals.

"My favorite episode was when Thomas got the chance to pull a train full of passengers but was overexcited so he left the passengers at the station," Dalton said.

Along with the train, Dalton was also (and still is) a huge Peter Pan fan.

"Freshman year for Halloween I dressed up as Peter Pan. For my birthday my mom gave me a movie script of "Hook" that was signed by all of the actors," he said.

Dalton also owned a plethora of Power Ranger equipment, Charlie Brown videos, Aladdin action figures, of which his favorite was a Genie doll.

"I would use all of the play characters and fight with them," he said.

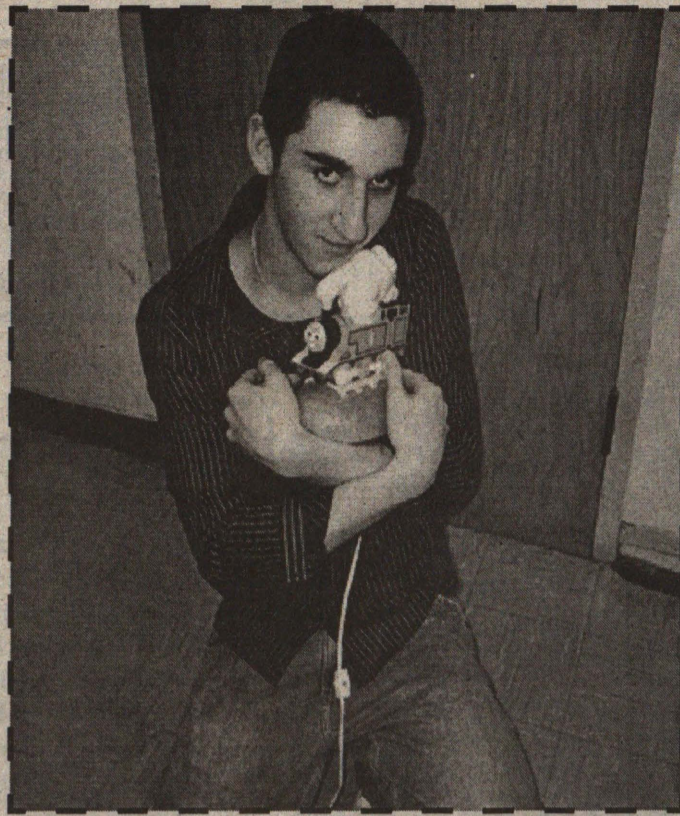


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Junior Mike Dalton cuddles with his Thomas the Tank Engine toy, a favorite of his since childhood.

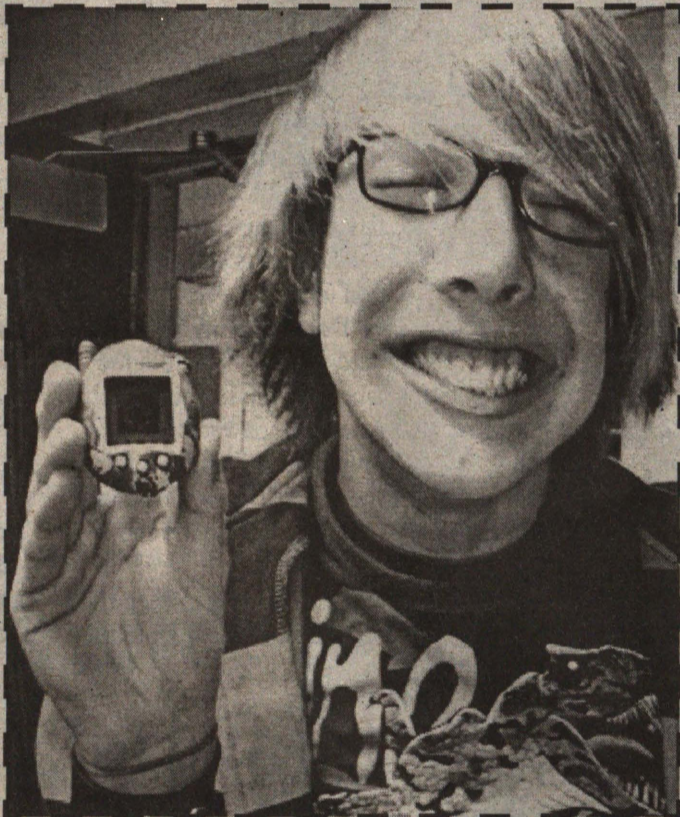


Photo by Ellyn Fortino

Freshman Sam Venchus buys digital makeup and CD players for his Tomagatchi pet, Olivia.

Obama explains presidential platform

By Kait Taylor

Thousands of people, young, old, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, gay, and straight arrived at the University of Illinois at Chicago Feb. 11 to support Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

In his speech at the UIC Pavilion, Obama spoke about the issues and asked young people for their help in his presidential bid for change, saying, "I need your time. I need your energy. I need your commitment."

Obama explained why he believes the current state of American politics needs to drastically change.

"Every four years we hear speeches about how were going to do something about

health care, how we going to deal with the energy challenges we face, and we hear stories about young people who are languishing in schools that aren't teaching them the basic skills they need to compete," said Obama. "We've all come here today because we want a change."

He stated that he hasn't worked in Washington for very long, but has been there long enough to see that it needs a transformation.

"At each and every juncture in our history, there have been moments where the situation got so serious that at some point we say to ourselves, 'As a people, as a democracy, we are going to pay attention, we are going to hold votes accountable,

we are going to demand that there are answers, and we are going to work to solve some of the problems that we face right here in America."

The crowd roared as Obama pointed out the struggles of the average working class.

"We hear about how the top 1 percent or top 2 percent of the population is doing great; productivity is up, corporate profits are up, but for the ordinary worker, they're not seeing their wages going up," he said. "They're doing all the hard necessary work to make society function yet somehow they never seem to get the benefits of this global economy." Obama also emphasized putting "hope" back in politics, calling the tone of current af-

fairs in Washington, "A business, not a mission."

"You aren't in charge of the agenda in Washington, the drug companies are in charge of the agenda in Washington, the insurance companies are in charge of the agenda in Washington, and we have to take that country back and make change," he said.

Obama also touched on ending the U.S.'s engagement in Iraq by March of 2008, calling it "a war that should have never been authorized."

Obama believes that entering the war was a mistake, but also believes that the U.S. should be "as careful coming out as they were careless going in."

He left the crowd with an admission of his own flaws,

calling himself an "imperfect vessel for your hopes and dreams."

"This campaign can not be about me," he said. "But ultimately, every time change has come, it's not because a particular leader created all that change. What's happened is that a movement began, of people who want change. And a leader says, 'If I can walk with you, if I can march with you, if I can work along side you, I want to help and I want to be a part of this process with you.'"

As the diverse crowd walked out of the Pavilion, some moved to tears, a chant of "Obama" continued to be heard as many signed up to volunteer their time and commitment to his campaign.

Double Take

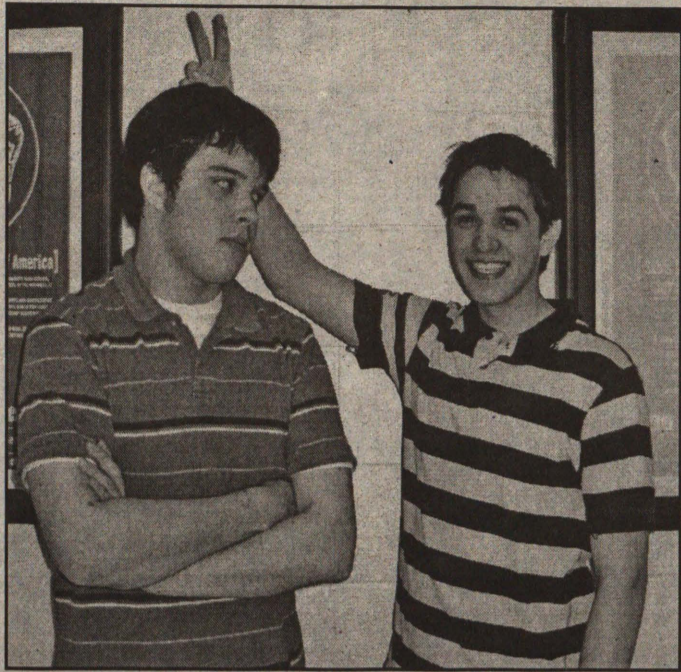


Photo by Jessica Bergmann

Sophomores Ethan, left, and Mark Dean have a very close bond and said that they laugh a lot and have many good times together as a twin:

By Jessica Bergmann

Switching places is a common twin stereotype seen in movies, with characters frantically exchanging clothes and shoes in order to fool their teachers, parents, and friends.

Sophomore twins Mark and Ethan Dean agree that they do not look alike and could not pull off switching places.

However, Ethan is a bit more optimistic for the future.

"We don't really look alike but we might be able to pull something off in the future," Ethan said.

The Dean twins also have an older brother, but Mark believes that the relationship

Living with a twin. Meet the Deans, Kerschners and Bruces

between a twin and another brother is different.

"There is a closer bond. We both know that we always have each others' backs," Mark said.

With a close bond, both twins agreed that without each other life would be pretty boring.

"Mark's the funny one out of the two of us, so he's the one who usually cracks jokes," Ethan said. "He has more common sense than I do, too. Except for when he put his hand in a pot of boiling water. That was hilarious."

However, having a twin is not always as simple and fun

as the movies make it.

"We're always in competition. Sometimes he wins," Ethan said, although Mark said that the real arguments start when Ethan doesn't want to do anything like play Nintendo or play catch.

But to all the negative views, there are also positive aspects to having a twin brother.

"I would rather talk to my twin than my older brother. Mark is probably one of the best friends I'll have," Ethan said.

"No matter where you go you are always going to be with someone you know. Of course, this could be a bad thing," Mark said.

By Kait Taylor

Senior twins Carl and Owen Kerschner are similar in more ways than the obvious genetics; they both love to "act, sing, imagine, play, relax, laugh, and discover," according to Owen.

Owen, who was born about a minute before his brother, said that he enjoys being a twin but is somewhat annoyed by questions like: "Can you read each other's minds?" and "Can you feel each other's pain?"

His brother Carl agrees, saying, "Twins do not even think about being a twin most of the time unless someone brings it up."

The Kerschners are fraternal twins although they look similar.

"You'd be surprised how many twins who look a lot alike are not actually identical," Carl said.

Despite looking similar, the Kerschners said that they

could never pull off switching places.

"We look, sound, and act too different. And the whole idea is just too dumb to even consider," said Carl.

Owen feels the same way.

"Our differences would expose the trick very fast," said Owen.

The subtle differences are size (Owen is a little taller with bigger feet) and ambitions. Carl will attend University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana to study aerospace engineering.

Owen plans on attending Knox College in Galesburg and is "completely undecided" in his major.

One perk of being a twin that the Kerschners agree on is the appeal to the ladies.

"I was dancing with a girl at the freshman mixer when Owen walked over. She did a double take and yelled ecstatically, 'I've got twins!' The grin on her face was price-

less," said Carl.

Owen had a similar encounter with a few girls.

"Once during my freshman year, just before my 3rd hour english class, two girls came up to me and said, 'We think you and your brother are hot!' and left. I never saw either of them again that I know of. Weird, eh?" said Owen.

While dances and girls are a bonus of being a twin for the Kerschners, having such a strong bond is what's really priceless.

"Neither of us play team sports, we were in karate for over half our lives, and we both had full schedules for all four years at the school," Carl said.

"We talk a lot, we both like science fiction and fantasy," said Owen. "I have someone my age to talk to about lots of things."

His brother Carl agrees saying, "I like always having someone to talk to."



Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Seniors Carl, left, and Owen Kerschner may say that they act, look, and even sound different, however both agree that they are alike when it comes to topics like science fiction and fantasy, acting, and singing.

By Jacob Wucka

Siblings are overrated. Siblings can't finish each other's sentences, nor can they break out singing the same song simultaneously. Such reasons are why Izzy and Maggie Bruce are glad to be twins.

Freshmen Izzy and Maggie Bruce are fraternal twins, and are the only children in their family.

Izzy said, "I'm pretty sure having a twin is better than having an older or younger sibling because you're the same age and can relate to them."

Maggie agreed, and she also considers Izzy a friend. "I tell her about a lot of things rather than my friends."

Both twins also agreed that

they are equal and are irritated when people compare them.

Izzy said, "One bad thing about being a twin is that people compare you all the time. They're like 'Oh, she's the nice one.'"

Although both girls may be compared by how they act, they are not compared by how they look because they are not identical.

They said that they would not want to be compared all the time by friends, teachers, and coaches who would guess which twin is which.

However Izzy does think that it would be cool if they were identical because then they could switch places and trick teachers.

Though Izzy believes it would be cool to be identical, both girls are happy the way they are now.

Maggie said, "If I didn't have a twin I would be an only child and that would have been really lame. It's better to know you always have somewhere there."

Izzy agreed with Maggie and even said that it would be hard to imagine life without her sister.

However Izzy said that both girls aren't the best of friends.

"I feel like talking to her most of the time because we have the same sense of humor but sometimes we are completely annoyed with each other," she said.



Photo by Jacob Wucka

Freshmen Izzy, left, and Maggie Bruce have a lot of the same friends, sing along to the same songs together, and are even both on the basketball team.

Set radio dial to local...bands that is

Somewhere to Elsewhere: Chilling their way to an EP

By Dave Thomas

The chords of the bass and electric guitar invade the mind as the drums are pounded into the action. It's the opening for "Sunday Drive" by the local band Somewhere to Elsewhere.

West Chicago senior Pete Wierenga helms the drums in the jam band. Filling out the rest of the line-up is DeVry student Mark Wright on vocals/bass; Will Scarlett on guitar; and Luke Iverson on keyboards/synthesizers and guitar. Both Scarlett and Iverson attend Wheaton-Warrenville South.

According to Wierenga, the band has been taken cues from the Beatles to Radiohead, however, he describes their style as "chill."

"That's the best word for it," said Wierenga. "It plays around with rock and funk. It's all about the groove."

The band started easily enough; Wierenga, Iverson, and Wright attend the same church and are best friends. The three started playing together during Wierenga's freshman year.

By the next year, the trio had committed themselves to Somewhere to Elsewhere.



Photo courtesy of Somewhere to Elsewhere

Somewhere to Elsewhere is currently busy recording their own EP. From left, Mark Wright, Luke Iverson, and Pete Wierenga.

It was only until this year that Scarlett joined the mix when Wierenga, Iverson, and Wright saw him play in another band.

"We all like the same type of music, with exceptions here and there, but we are different in creating music," said Wierenga. "Mark and I are very good with starting music or lyrics, Luke is good at completing these ideas, and Will is good at changing that concept completely with his part."

As for the name, Wierenga said there was nothing spe-

cial behind the name, in that it appeared on a list of potential names the band debated over.

Somewhere to Elsewhere has played a few gigs, but they have been focused on recording their new EP.

Although the band practices once or twice a week, Wierenga admits that, with everyone's different goals, it is "very unlikely we will even try to go professional."

"It is just something all of us enjoy to do," said Wierenga. "We just like playing and making music."

Lifelight: Finding God through their music and alternative rock

By Cristina Sarnelli

Many student bands feature songs about relationships, breakups, anger, annoyance: General teenage experiences.

But for the seven members of local band Lifelight, made up of junior and drummer Nick Secker, the only member who attends Community High School, guitarists Ronnie Rasmussen and Chris Rud, bassist Joey Veltri, singers Jessica Pope and Heather Bartels, and keyboardist Adam Kohout, making music is a way of worshiping God.

In fact, the name of the band itself came from the Bible, according to 16-year-old Rasmussen.

"We were looking through the Bible for verses, and the one we found was John 8:12. It has to do with bringing light into the darkness to bring life," he said.

The band formed through a youth group at First Assembly of God in Wheaton. The youth group was looking to start a band and so was Rasmussen's moth-

er, said 19-year-old Rud.

"Ronnie's mom and the youth group were both looking to start up a worship band, so they both got together to work on it, and all the members just kind of came together," he said.

Secker added that the band was also created to serve in future youth group gatherings.

"Ronnie's mom and my dad are going to be starting a youth center with a skate park in it. We are going to be the band to lead worship there," he said.

Lifelight has performed only four shows. However, they usually perform at churches.

Secker said the band plans on doing another show at the church in late March or early April.

Currently, the band, who describes their sound as "a blend of distorted guitars, loud bass, pounding drums, and moving vocals," plays covers of popular Christian songs. However the Christian/alternative rock band

See Lifelight page 13

Rosaline: Local rock gods on the verge of making it big

By Ellyn Fortino

It may be hard for some local bands to find their formula to success. It takes an amalgam of so many components; music, image, stage presence, lyrics and natural charisma, that sets one band apart from another.

Naperville-based hardcore band, Rosaline, possesses all of these characteristics making them one of the most established local bands in the area.

Rosaline is made up of drummer and senior Ryan Prindle, and from Naperville vocalist Nick Jones, guitarist and vocalist Madison Stolzer, bassist Matt Sliwinski, and guitarist Mark Blohm.

The enormous sound produced by these musicians is natural and effortlessly honest.

Rosaline's main influences include bands such as Thursday, Explosions in the Sky and Sigur Ros and describe their sound as melodic hardcore meets instrumental.

Although Rosaline has only been together for about

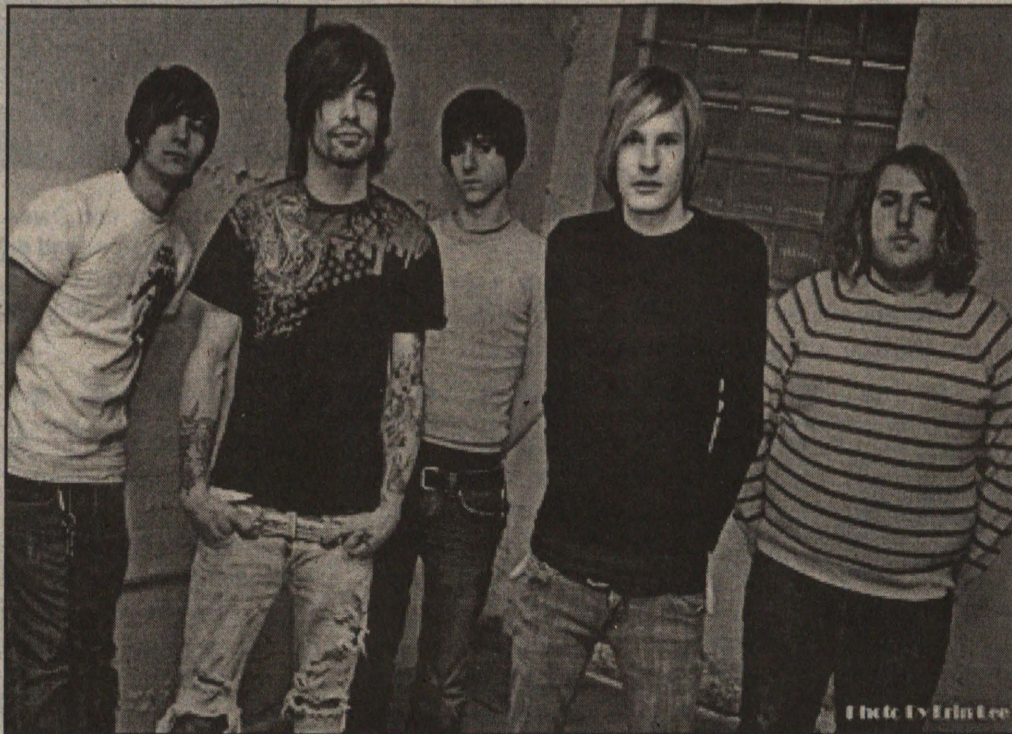


Photo courtesy of Rosaline

Rosaline has toured all over the Midwest with their melodic hard-core sound and dedication to music. From left, Ryan Prindle, Nick Jones, Madison Stolzer, Mark Blohm, and Matt Sliwinski.

three years, they have already experienced many hardships and lineup changes. Instead of crushed spirits however, they have only gained more passion and dedication.

Rosaline has played many out of state shows including

Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin and has hit almost every part of Illinois.

"We have played everywhere in Illinois, that if someone who lived here wanted to see us play they could have," Prindle said.

Rosaline has previously recorded an eight-song, full-length CD titled, "We're All Just Passing Through" and two untitled EPs at Attic Studio in Westmont.

In addition, the band is currently in the process of

recording a new 12 song full length titled "The Constant North" due at the end of the year.

The newly recorded song "Brother, We Will Save You" is about Rosaline's first singer who left the band and joined the army.

Prindle said that the best part of being in a band and recording music is being able to put how he feels into his instrument.

"I enjoy having one feel my passion I put into my music through hearing rather than reading," he said.

Rosaline has a mature sound but youthful zeal that will attract fans of bands such as Me Without You, AFI, and Saosin.

The meaning behind Rosaline's lyrics come from dreams, hardships, and God.

The lyrics in the song, "In True Pisces Fashion," deal with finding a higher meaning in life. Every note is relevant and every lyric poetic.

Check out tour dates and give a listen at Myspace.com/Rosalinemusic.



Photo by Ellyn Fortino

Items on the menu at Tay Do included the Bo Xao Xa Ot, which is stir fried beef with lemon grass.

Far East food a delightful surprise for Midwesterners

By Ellyn Fortino

Do not let the pawn shop or the most sordid Dollar General trick you. Tucked away in the corner of the little Glendale Heights shopping center sits a diamond in the rough, Tay Do, an authentic Vietnamese restaurant.

The inside is immaculate and spacious. Large scenic pictures hang on the wall and flowers and trees separate the dining area into two sections. A large plasma TV pumps out the sights of "Talladega Nights" and the sound system plays Vietnamese music. The atmosphere may not be completely realistic, but still cozy and gets the job done.

Die-hard fans of authentic Vietnamese food will not be disappointed.

The menu includes nearly 200 Vietnamese and Chinese dishes and ordering takes

about 15 minutes. On a recent visit I started out with the Goi Cuon Tom, un-fried shrimp spring rolls, and the owner, Khanh Le recommended Tay Do's appetizer specialty Banh Xeo, a crispy pancake with shrimp, pork, bacon and bean sprouts served with lettuce, cucumber and mint leaves.

The shrimp rolls were stunning. They had a clear wrap with three large shrimp in a row, noodles, lettuce and mint leaves stuffed inside and chilled. The rolls were served with sauces, but tasted better with a kick of hot sauce. The texture of the wrap was a little chewy and making hard to bite, however did not take away the flavor from the dish.

The crispy pancake arrived and Le gave us directions on how to devour this interesting looking meal.

The pancake was large and almost resembled a crispy omelet. The batter had a hint of coconut, making the dish alone sweet, savory, and crunchy. I was told to wrap portions of the pancake in a large lettuce leaf and roll it like a wrap and eat it like a taco. I added sweet and sour sauce, mint leaves, and cucumber slices.

Although it was a bit messy, it was fun to eat and the flavor was phenomenal, nothing that I have tasted before. The dish invoked the senses with the flavor and texture, and disappeared quickly.

For a main dish I had Bo Xao Xa Ot, stir fried beef with spicy lemon grass, and

Ga Xao Me, stir fried chicken with sesame seeds. Both dishes were served with a mound of steaming rice. The aroma from the lemon grass beef was strong, and included red and green bell peppers with a brown sauce. The first bite sent a sensation of lemon through my nose and mouth and then I felt the spicy kick. The beef was cooked perfectly; however the portion could have been larger. Those who do not like spicy foods would enjoy the mild version of the lemon grass beef.

The chicken with sesame seeds was sweet and tasted similar to the Chinese dish, orange chicken. The dish had thin pieces of chicken that were crunchy.

Along with the chicken, the dish included onion slices and was topped with sesame seeds. I added some soy sauce and enjoyed it mixed all together with rice. This dish was filling.

The staff was very helpful and attentive the whole time. They had great advice on what to order and how to prepare the dishes. The food is also inexpensive. Appetizers run around \$2.95 to \$6.95; salads, soups and sandwiches \$2.50 to \$10.95; entrees \$5.25 to \$32.95; desserts \$3. This meal cost only \$26 for me and one other person.

Tay Do is the perfect restaurant for those willing to try something new or those already familiar with the food. And with reasonable prices, Tay Do is ideal for dinner dates or lunches with friends.

Big star power fails to convert into comedy for 'Wild Hogs' flick

By Jessica Bergmann

"Wild Hogs" is filled with big name stars like John Travolta and Tim Allen, but lacks in the most important department of entertainment.

The film focuses on four middle aged men: Doug (Allen), Woody (Travolta), Dudley (William H. Macy), and Bobby (Martin Lawrence), who call themselves the Wild Hogs.

Each man struggles with some aspect of his life, usually with women. But it would have been nice to see them struggling with something else.

Either way, the group of friends decide to embark on a motorcycling trip filled with adventure, and lame, somewhat disgusting jokes. Then, the bunch comes across a biker bar, filled with "real" bikers known as the Del Fuegos.

Jack (Ray Liotta), the leader of the Del Fuegos, decides the middle aged men are posers, and takes Dudley's bike. In an effort to recover it, Woody cuts the gas lines on the Del Fuegos bikes, which in the end results in an explosion of the bar.

The explosion then causes

the Del Fuegos to hunt down the Wild Hogs, who are located in a town called Madrid, and decide to fight them.

With a predictable ending, the Wild Hogs withstand the fight, and the movie ends in a victory of the Wild Hogs over the Del Fuegos. It's the typical underdog story.

It's undecided whether the movie or the "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" spoof was better.

The spoof came dur-

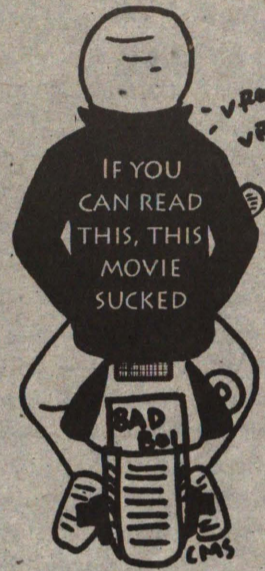
ing the credits were rolling, showing the Wild Hogs nominating the Del Fuegos to have their bar rebuilt on the popular TV show.

Both the movie and the spoof were probably tied for first place in ridiculous.

It's not that the movie wasn't funny. The jokes weren't enough to make the movie brilliant, just enough to make the audience laugh.

What was brilliant was the onscreen chemistry between the four actors. They really appeared to be lifelong friends.

Condemning this movie completely would be unnecessary, but then again, so would praising it.



Lifelight: Rock for God

Continued from page 12

is in the process of writing its own music.

"Right now we sing songs by popular Christian artists like Jeff Deyo. My favorite song that we sing by him is 'We Are Hungry,'" said the 16-year-old Bartels.

Pope added that once the band starts writing their own songs, the message would remain the same.

"Once we start writing lyrics or getting together some good songs, we want to send out a positive message that Jesus is amazing and just praise him through our music," Pope said.

Other influences on Lifelight are artists such as Hillsong United, Chris Tomlin, and Matt Redman, all of

which send out messages about God, just like Lifelight does.

"Our music is 100 percent influenced by God and how the modern world can relate to God and how the Bible is still relevant to God," Rud explained.

Even still, the band still struggles with challenges any music group can sympathize with.

"Our biggest challenge is getting everything to mix and sound good together," Rasmussen said.

In the end, the band is there for one huge reason: To use their talents to worship and pray.

"I love singing and I like worshiping God, and I joined the band because I wanted a way to worship Him," Bartels said.

Tay Do

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Glendale Heights

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Serves various types of Vietnamese and Chinese food.

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Girls track lands first place

By Ellyn Fortino

Although the girls track team may still be adjusting to a smaller and younger team and two new coaches, that has not stopped them from achieving victories and personal bests so far this season including first place at Fenton Saturday.

Freshman Annette Eichenberger, sophomore Kara Triner, junior Rachel Jefferson and seniors Kristen Klouda and Amber Triner all came home with first place medals in their individual events.

"We have a very strong group of freshman, most of who have recently been bumped up to varsity," said coach George Petmezas. "We have an enthusiastic group of girls this year. I feel comfortable in saying that we have strong girls in each event, which earns us a good share of points in meets."

The team will compete in the DVC on Friday at Whea-

ton North.

"We hope to place in the top three. More important though is their personal improvements made thus far," said Petmezas.

Sophomore Tara Breinig said that she at least hopes the team places at the DVC. Although the team is currently focusing on the indoor season, junior Rachel Howe hopes some of her teammates will go to state later in the season.

"My personal goal would be to three step in-between hurdles so I can finish faster," Howe added.

Petmezas said that although it is still too early for record breaking, the team has had many outstanding performances on all levels.

Some personal achievements include Breinig who captured first place with a high jump of 4-6 feet. However, she said that she hopes to jump 4-10 feet before the

season ends.

Other achievements include Amber Triner who received first place in 55-meter hurdles and senior Leah Kuzmicz also won first place in the pole vault and accomplished a personal record of 8 feet.

The team is off to a successful start, but Petmezas said that improvements are never ending.

"Every athlete looks to improve their times, heights and distances at every meet," he said.

Junior Kristen Johansen hopes to improve her personal best in shot put at 34-1 feet.

"We encourage all girls to come out and give track a try. We are a growing team, and I know that the school has many talented girls out there. Outdoor season starts right after spring break. We look forward to seeing some new faces," Petmezas said.

Lady Wildcats hope to make a name by going back to the basics Drills, technology, and experience gives softball team the upperhand

By Kym McDaniel

The Lady Wildcats are on fire this year as the softball team gears up for another smashing season.

"Our team goal every season is to win conference and win regionals," said senior Jenna Bodie.

The team, according to assistant coach Laurie Davidson, will work on improving their overall record and status in the DVC.

"Offensively we are breaking down the mechanics of our hitters in an effort to improve our results," said Davidson. "We incorporate a

which will help improve their field and batting skills.

Although the coaches do not directly select captains, they aim to have leaders "emerge and naturally take on the role of a captain." The team has 14 girls.

"We have a lot of girls that have a lot of experience so I think our biggest thing will be confidence," said Bodie. Along with Bodie, senior Kristin Grimm and Taddeucci have played softball for 12 years.

Grimm said that she is most looking forward to working hard and having fun.

Baseball team strides for conference title after experiencing sectionals last season

By Greg Vodicka

Ready to hit it big, boys baseball begins preparing for their upcoming season.

After a very successful season last year, the team has high expectations due to many starters returning along with talented incoming players

Head coach John Walters is excited to be back in the season after being such a competitor in the sectional finals.

"We beat Bennet, who

was number one in state and expected to win it all. We ended up losing to Hindsdale Central," said Walters.

Walters also added that four of the five starting pitchers will be coming back.

With the number of guys who are coming back and the way tryouts looked, Walters feels that, on paper, the team looks very competitive.

Senior Jim Mazzone has high hopes for the team to win conference and make it to state this year.

"We were two games away from going down to state last year and I think we are a stronger team this year," Mazzone said.

Mazzone also anticipates breaking the school record for wins in a single season.

"We have a lot of experience coming back, four pitchers and four fielding stops," Mazzone said.

The team has had open gym practices every Wednesday since the end of November. It is not mandatory to come, and the coaches do not coach like they would at a practice, but it is a great time to get back into the swing of things.

"At the end of November when we started open gym all of the players knew each other but there wasn't a bond between us. Now after this short amount of time we really got to know each other," said junior Jake Venchus.

Venchus said that the team is definitely still growing but the chemistry between the players is there. "That is one of the main things a team needs to be successful," said Venchus. "Of course there may be problems but we will overcome them as a team."

With a new press box on the already high-quality field, the team looks forward to their first home game to begin their thrilling season.



Photo by Aaron Pennington

Seniors Kristin Grimm (left), Keri Mederich and junior Amy Bytof wait as teammates practice hitting skills.

variety of hitting stations for the players to work on their skills."

Along with the drills, the coaches also plan on video taping the players while hitting to help them see their strengths and errors.

"I hope to achieve all conference this year," said senior Leigh Taddeucci. "For the team, I hope we win but most importantly, have fun."

Bodie said that even though the team hasn't won conference or regionals in a while, the team still has a lot of returning senior varsity players that could make a difference.

The team has certain drills

"It's not easy to beat any team in this conference," said Bodie. "I know we're all looking forward to beating Glenbard North, along with everyone else."

Taddeucci agreed that Glenbard North would be the toughest competitor since they "have some good players, especially Michelle Batts, who is a good batter." Last year the team lost to Glenbard North in a tie breaker.

"Our games aren't as boring as people think," said Bodie. "Softball is a quick game and it can get really intense when you're up or down by a run and it's the seventh inning."

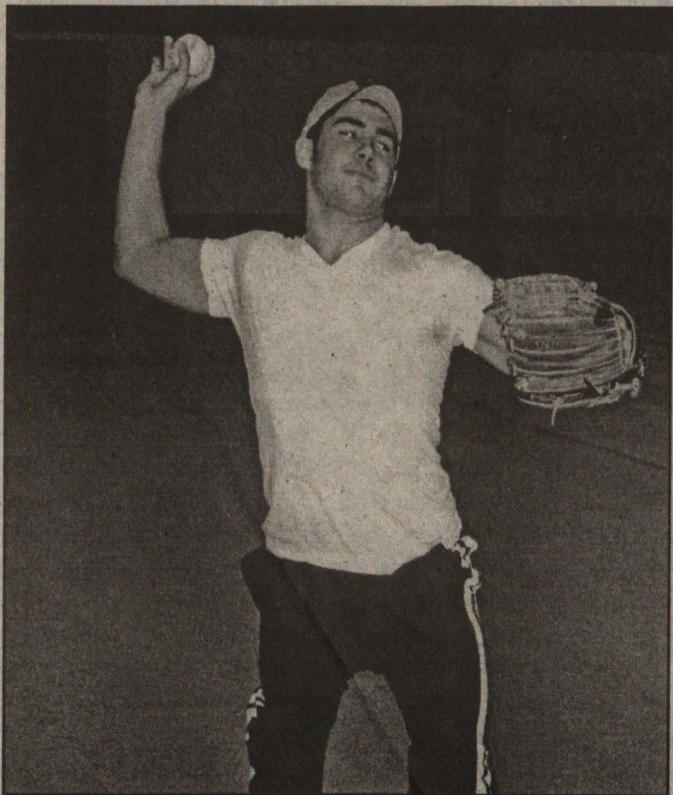


Photo by Greg Vodicka

Senior Jim Mazzone prepares to deliver a pitch in the field house at an early season practice.

Not your average teen

By Jessica Bergmann between skateboarding and snowboarding, Demas says the tricks and other aspects are much different. "My friends who skate were the ones to introduce me to snowboarding. I loved it," Demas said, who's been snowboarding for only three years. Although Demas says he's still not very technical with snowboarding, he's been to places like Colorado, Nevada and Michigan to ride the slopes. "I've done some really hard runs, and after a couple seasons I got a feel for it. I'm good when it comes to cruising and riding," Demas said, although he admits to still

Chad Demas

Although skateboarding and snowboarding are not parts of the extracurricular program, junior Chad Demas still considers both real sports. "Any type of physical activity that requires a lot of skill and that people participate in for entertainment and enjoyment is a sport. Skateboarding and snowboarding are just at the next level. They're extreme sports," Demas said.

Demas has been skateboarding for 8 years, beginning after he first saw pros compete in the X-games on television and watched other kids in his neighborhood skate.

Demas liked the idea of the individuality skateboarders could create among each other.

"Skateboarding is something you make into your own. It's your own style, your own creativity. It's like art. There are no teams. It's not like you have practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. It's just your own sport," Demas said.

Demas prefers skateboarding over snowboarding. He said, "Skateboarding is my thing. I am much better at it than snowboarding and I just love the environment at parks and with my friends who skate with me."

Demas prefers skating and snowboarding with friends rather than being alone.

He says the moments shared between buddies are all the fun anybody could ask for.

Although the ultimate feel of riding a board is the same

being an amateur when it comes to tricks.

"Of course my first time learning I had to try some tricks, but just basics like 180's, 50-50's and boardslides on rails and boxes," Demas said.

However, Demas' snowboarding fun ended after he fell in January.

"I was on a trip in Michigan and I just fell on my right wrist and fractured my scaphoid," Demas said. "I couldn't get my cast wet, and snowboarding requires snow."

Fortunately, Demas recently got his cast off and is continuing to skateboard and snowboard.

Despite various injuries Demas has aquired during his years of skateboarding, he always gets right back up and continues to enjoy the sport.

By Kait Taylor

After school, senior Kim Redden saddles up and spends time in the stables with her friend, Jake.

Jake is her horse, the stable darling known for his playful demeanor.

"Everybody loves him because he's so obnoxiously friendly," Redden said. "He's sort of the barnyard favorite."

Redden has been an equestrian for nine years.

She rides in Dunham Woods Farm in Wayne up to 18 hours a week, and also shows horses at the prestigious "A" shows at Lamplight Equestrian Center.

"It keeps me in great shape. The feeling of jumping is exhilarating and riding such controlled power is amazing," Redden said. "It takes ultimate teamwork to be successful."

Redden mentioned that such teamwork requires a

deep admiration for the animals, which she believes she possesses.

"I love their personalities and their willingness to work and learn," she said. "Riding and having a horse is very important to me and has taught me a lot."

Every committed athlete experiences troubles in his

Kim Redden

or her journey, and Redden thinks that the high price she pays to keep her horse and the difficulty seeing a horse get injured are the worst parts of being an equestrian.

"Riding is unbelievably expensive and horses are very delicate. My horse was injured for six months last year with navicular bursitis, and it's heartbreaking then they're hurt or sick," she said.

She also mentioned that she was unable to be P.E. exempt for riding, which is frustrating considering the amount of time she spends at the stables.

Through all the hardships, Redden is thankful to have been able to ride and compete at Dunham, where she has made memories that will last a lifetime.

"The friends and memories I've made are amazing," she said. "I will always ride and have a horse; it makes me happier than anything else."

Redden plans on staying close to home to study biochemistry at North Central College and to continue riding.

"I only looked at local liberal arts colleges because I don't want to move my horse," she said. "I want to continue competing with the same trainer I've had for nine years. My horse is in his prime."



Montage by Jessica Bergmann, Cristina Sarnelli, Greg Vodicka

From clockwise: Junior Chad Demas, Jake the horse, senior Kim Redden, and senior Sam Seibel.

By Cristina Sarnelli

Senior Sam Seibel likes to be on the cutting edge.

Sam Seibel

Since eighth grade, Seibel has been competing in figure skating, a passion she discovered at a young age.

"My step dad played hockey, so I started skating with him when I was three," she said.

Seibel took up recreational lessons for a short time but eventually quit.

Thanks to a relative, she became inspired to take up figure skating.

"A year or two later (af-

ter quitting the recreational

moves in the field. I don't work on freestyle tests too much, but I do work on pre-juvenile," she said.

When she's not practicing, Seibel skates with "a highly prestigious team" called Chicago Jazz.

She hopes to continue figure skating after college.

"I plan on skating for another prestigious adult team in Michigan after college. Unfortunately, I can't skate in college because there is no team at my school. I would skate just on my own, but the nearest rink is 45 minutes away. I would love to coach as a part time job too," Seibel

said. Though figure skating looks very graceful, Seibel said it is quite challenging. In fact, her favorite aspect of the sport is the thrill of competition and the hard work that goes into skating.

"The biggest challenge is having good extension and posture and also the amount of pressure you need to put on yourself in a competition. It's nerve-wracking and very psychological," Seibel said.

Along with the challenge comes risk of injury.

Seibel has been hurt many times while skating, but it doesn't keep her from getting

right back up.

"I broke my tailbone, my wrist, and rotated my knee cap to the point where it was on the side of my leg. Last year, the week before prom, I hit a divot in the ice and literally stabbed myself with my blade. The open heel end on the blade went pretty deep into my inner thigh," she said.

Despite the threat of getting hurt, Seibel encourages others to try figure skating.

She said, "The intensity of the sport is huge, and so is the feeling you get when you skate your heart out, even if you don't get first place."

Powerful line-up

Star runners race to the finish line with one goal: Continue to leave the competition in their tracks

By Dave Thomas

The boys track team put on a strong performance in the March 6 meet against St. Francis, Larkin, and Wheaton Academy.

The team placed second, losing only to St. Francis. However, at the sophomore level, West Chicago placed first. According to coach Paul McLeland, a few sophomores who usually competed at the varsity level were switched to freshman/sophomore for this meet.

One of the star runners at the meet was senior Mike Deimling. Deimling placed first in both the 55-meter dash and the long jump. He was also the first runner in one of the lap relays. McLeland said he was nominating Deimling for the Board of Education's athlete-of-the-week.

In addition, senior and field captain Jim Foreman placed first in pole vaulting and even tied the field house record. However, Foreman was unable to finish because he injured his ankle on the pole vault box.

"Hopefully it's nothing and he'll be feeling better," McLeland said.

Another strong runner at the meet was senior Lee Bennett. According to McLe-

land, Bennett ran a "real gutsy race." Bennett was behind during most of the 400-meter run, but he ended up passing the lead runner and "held him off until the race was finished."

In addition, junior and co-sprint captain David Musick placed second in the triple jump and third in the meter dash. In both instances, Musick beat his personal best.

As the indoor season draws to a close, the team has experienced both ups and downs. At their previous meet at Glenbard North on March 3, the team placed fifth out of nine teams.

But at that meet, both Foreman and Musick placed first in pole vaulting and the long jump, respectively.

"It's the second meet I jumped over 20 feet," said Musick, who jumped 20-3 feet at the meet and is listed in the state's top 20. "I'm glad to be back where I finished last year."

Foreman has also been performing exceptionally well in pole vaulting this year. His height of 14-9 feet broke the field house and meet record. Foreman achieved the same honors at the previous meet at the Fenton Varsity Invite on Feb. 24.

Last year, Foreman was ranked fourth in state for pole vaulting. This year, however, Foreman said he was in second place, if not third.

"Jim is modest," said McLeland. "But he's worked hard. He's done a lot of off-season training and camps for pole vaulting."

However, McLeland admitted that the team wasn't performing as well as he expected. However, it was not because of the team's lack of effort, but due to a recent rash of injuries and sickness.

For example, senior and co-sprint captain Ken Klein, a returning state qualifier, has been hampered with a hip problem. Despite the injury, however, McLeland continues to name Klein as one of the star players on the team.

In addition, both senior and distance captain Kevin Pavnica and Musick noted that the team struggles more with fewer runners.

"We need more people in general, especially freshman," said Musick. McLeland also reiterated the call for more runners, noting that track was good for football players in the off-season and that "there are no cuts."

However, a lack of runners has not stopped the team



Photo By Dave Thomas

Co-sprint captain and junior David Musick's long hours of training helped him to place in the states top 20 jumpers.

from shining.

McLeland praised Pavnica for his leadership skills, saying that "he's influencing a lot of sophomores and freshman members into becoming better runners."

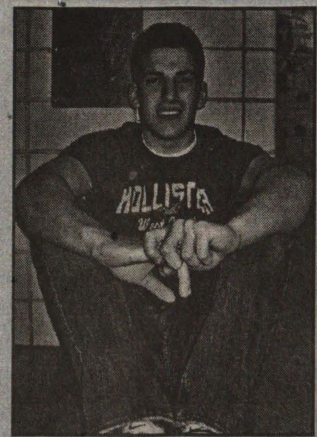
McLeland also praised sophomores Kyle Nichol and Zach Mowen, who have been

running at the varsity level at some of the meets. On Feb. 20 against West Aurora and Elgin High School, Nichol broke the sophomore field house record.

As for Mowen, McLeland said that he's been "helping with relays" and "worked hard in the off-season."

Athletes' expectations are higher than most despite few bad seeds

Another star athlete is arrested for driving under the influence and a blood test reveals he has recently smoked marijuana. Why



Greg Vodicka

does this not shock anyone?

Whether they like it or not, athletes are, and always will be, in the spotlight. Society knows where they go, what they do, and when they do it.

People have always looked up to athletes. They are role models to kids and career idols for teens.

It's not a secret that everything an athlete says or does is reflected on his or her sport and more importantly, all other athletes as a whole.

If they are good athletes, they get more attention.

This is where the "one bad apple" theory comes into play.

As a whole, athletes may be very good people who try to avoid drugs and alcohol because they interfere with their playing ability.

For example, Drew Brees of the New Orleans Saints contributes to his game on and off the field.

In addition to passing 4,418 yards and topping the NFC with 26 touchdown passes last season, Brees is dedicat-

ed to improving youth and high school programs with donations.

Not only does he contribute to the community through generous donations, but within days of his arrival in New Orleans, he partnered with Deuce McAllister on a fundraiser to rebuild the NFL Youth Education Town and Pan American Football Field.

This is an example of a true athlete. With the talent and the ability Brees has he could easily continue just playing and making millions of dollars.

Instead, he uses his status and his fame and fortune to help the community.

On the other hand, Tank Johnson was arrested on misdemeanor weapons charges. After pleading guilty a nightclub valet reported seeing

Johnson with a handgun in his sport utility vehicle.

To top it all off Johnson's bodyguard, Willie B. Posey, was arrested on felony drug charges. Later Posey was shot and killed during an early morning fight while he and Johnson were at a nightclub.

Illegal weapons and drugs are just a few examples of the many crimes we see in professional sports today. Society acquires a bad view on all athletes by choices that pros like Johnson make.

Even in high schools, teachers have different expectations for athletes. Some teachers view athletes as a special kind of student. Not everyone can do what they do each and every day: Long hours of exhausting practice during the season followed by a work loaded off season.

On top of that, they come

home to the mountain of homework and demands of a part-time job.

Teachers may not expect these student athletes to be the smartest in the class but they should expect certain characteristics from them.

They should expect them to be respectful, responsible, and committed, all characteristics taught through organized sports.

It's sad to say that not all student athletes share these characteristics.

There are some who give all athletes a bad name because of their poor choices and their inappropriate actions.

True athletes should want to make a good impression on everyone they meet, not only for their own benefit, but for the pride of being an athlete.