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# Goodbye electronics?

By Aaron Pennington

Students may lose the privilege to talk on their cell phones or listen to their iPods if the Board of Education has its way.

The board has reviewed a policy that bans the use of any electronic devices in school, like cell phones and MP3 players but has suggested modifications to the policy, such as requiring students to get permission from the principal to carry electronic devices.

However, no changes have been made to the policy as of press time.

According to Supt. Lee Rieck, the policy was discussed throughout the year.

"There's been a lot of theft of electronic devices in the school and it takes an unusual amount of time to investigate those types of cases," said Rieck.

Rieck said one of the reasons for banning cell phones is that their need has gone down.

"One time, after the events of Columbine, cell phones might have been helpful in cases of emergency but now they can be used to jam channels and make things worse,"

Rieck said.

Rieck doubts that many students use their cell phones for emergencies.

"It's rarely happened, and the parents usually call the students when an emergency has occurred," Rieck said.

Assistant Principal Josh Chambers said that classrooms get easily distracted by a student's cell phone ringing.

"On average, a student will get 15 phone calls a day. There's no need for that," said Chambers.

There have been inappropriate videos taken by students at the school as well.

"It had been reported that electronic devices have been used to take uncomplimentary videos of people and placed on the Internet, like people changing in the locker room," said Rieck.

Rieck is worried that students could cheat on tests using electronic devices, sending text messages with the answers.

"I know other schools have this problem, and our school might or might not, but students could get answers for tests during class," said Rieck.

Chambers said that violat-

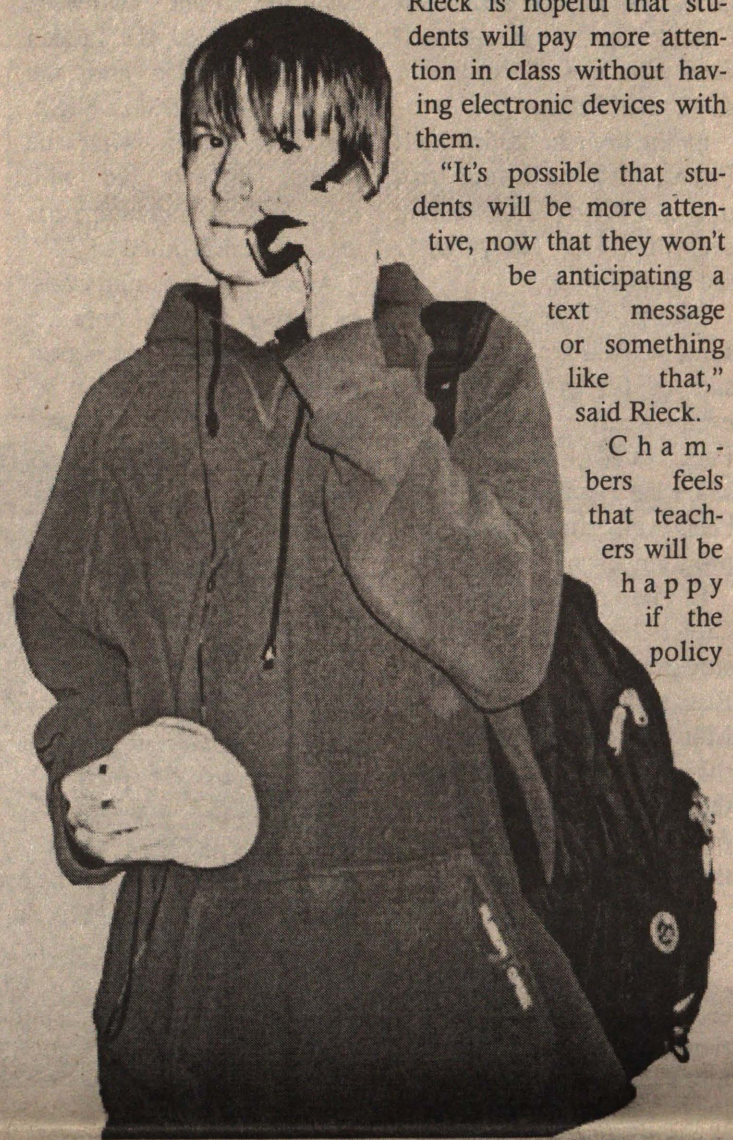


Photo by Aaron Pennington

Senior Ray Benner takes advantage of his opportunity to talk on his cell phone at school. Next year, students may not be so lucky to use their cell phones.

ing the policy will lead to serious punishments. Such punishments include calls to the parents, suspensions, and expulsion if students continue

passes.

"I think a lot of staff will be very grateful and glad to get rid of electronic devices," Chambers said.

# No time to relax for juniors

By Kati Siembieda

Juniors should not sit back and relax because seniors made AYP; they should be studying harder because they have to pass by 10 percent more in order to make safe harbor.

According to Principal John Highland, juniors need to pass by 55 percent in order to make AYP.

Teachers and students are doing everything they can to help prepare for this jump, including giving practice tests and identifying struggling students.

"We've got stem questions that are very similar to the Prairie State and the SAT, we have identified the population of the kids from the Explorer and Plan tests, and we figured out how they will do," Highland said.

The juniors have been divided into three groups, green,

yellow, and red to help identify student needs.

The green students are at grade level. Yellow students perform just below grade level.

Red students are significantly under grade level.

"The red kids are who we are focusing on and we are helping them to improve,"

said Highland.

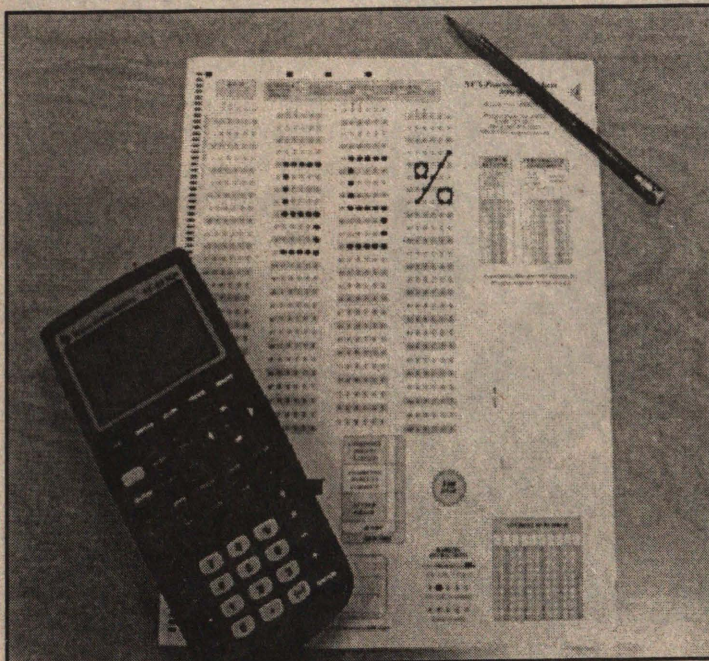
The Hispanic and free and reduced lunch (FRL) students are the most concern.

In the reading section the Hispanic sub groups needed to pass by 35.86 percent and they passed by 43.2 percent. Now they need 45.86 percent.

The FRL students needed 42.9 percent and passed by 54 percent which means that this year's group needs to pass by 52.9 percent. In math the FRL students needed to pass by 43.33 percent and passed with 45 percent. Now they need 53.33 percent.

The Hispanic sub group needed to pass by 33.4 percent and passed with 33.6 percent. Now they need 43.4 percent.

"This test unfortunately is what the state looks at to see improvement of students. It is unfortunate because this high school is so much more than a test score," Highland said.



Staged photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Juniors should prepare because they need to pass by 55 percent in order to make AYP this year.

# French students experience busy lifestyle of the Windy City

By Dave Thomas

Twenty-five students from Grenoble, France arrived in Chicago on April 6 to experience what it is like to live in the United States.

By the time the students left Friday, they made four trips into the Windy City, visiting everything from Navy Pier to the Sears Tower.

"Some of them shopped, some walked around the outside of the pier, and some even went to Millennium Park," said French teacher Marjorie Appel, who has been overseeing the exchange program since its inception.

Elodie Policand and Anais Cretet-Graciot, the exchange students of freshman Chelsea Ross and sophomore Monica Montoya, respectively, said they were frightened when they looked down on the city from the observation deck of the Sears Tower.

"I was so afraid," said Policand.

In addition to the skyscrapers, the French students experienced another dose of culture shock when they viewed the roads, saying it's "like a maze."

"In France, when we can drive, we use our parents' car.

We don't have our own," said Policand.

During their two-week stay in America, the French students attended both the French plays and Jazz Night, but often times, what the French students did with their American counterparts was on an individual basis.

According to senior Carissa Gerber, she said both her exchange student and herself often hangout with fellow se-

niors Maggie Stremel, Kim Wanous, and their exchange students.

"We've taken them shopping and to Starbucks. They really enjoyed the Starbucks," said Gerber.

But while some of the students approved of the coffee, other students did not have the same feelings for the food.

"I don't like fast food. I don't eat many times during

the day. I eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner," said Policand. However, she said she likes pancakes.

According to Appel, this is the 21st anniversary of the exchange program between West Chicago and its French sister school, Lycée Mounier. But it is also Appel's last year of teaching.

"They (the Board of Education) haven't hired anybody. They've hired a division head, but they haven't hired a French teacher yet," said Appel. However, she was confident that the program would continue.

The following students participated in the program and each had a French student to host: Freshmen Tyler Austgen, Alina Nunez, Herlinda Romero, Ross, and Jacqueline Salgado; sophomores Jess Bergmann, Yesenia Geromini, Leticia Hernandez, Kathleen Mason, Virginia Mason, Montoya, Donna Quiroz, and Ismael Sanchez; juniors Nina Bojovic, Brenda Romero, Maria Romero, Stacey Santillan, Samantha Siefert, and Adam Timko; seniors Lisa Daniels, Gerber, Stremel, Kait Taylor, and Wanous.



Photo by Kait Taylor

From left, French exchange students Maëlle Chassande-Barriez, Annabelle Fenet, Lyla Toualbi, Lucas Hybord, Sarah Denoux, Elodie Policand visited Navy Pier in Chicago.

## ACT scores higher than national average

By Aaron Pennington

According to the school report card, Community High School's ACT average scores for the 2005-06 year are higher than the nation's averages.

In every category, the school's scores beat out the nation's. For English, the school got 22.3, and the nation got 21.6. In mathematics, the school got 23.0, and the nation got 21.8. The school got 22.8 in reading, while the nation got 22.3. For science reasoning, the school got 22.8, higher than the nation's 21.7. And for composite, the school got 22.9, while the nation got 22.0.

The report card contains information such as PSAT scores, and class size. The card shows that the district either met the state standards, or exceeded them, in categories such as reading, mathematics, and science. It also shows that every ethnic group and students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged students made AYP in all the categories.

The purpose of having a school report card published, according to Supt. Lee Rieck, is to compare school districts.

"The main purpose of the report card is to communicate how the school districts compare in certain categories, like classes, student achievements, and cost per student," Rieck said.

However, extra information not required by the state was added, like enrollments and class ratios by departments.

Working with parents was the main reason for publishing the report card, stated Rieck.

"It came about mainly because of the No Child Left Behind Act and that the state of Illinois wanted its schools to cooperate with the parent population," said Rieck.

Rieck said that the school report card is accurate as it can be. "The information that is on there is information that we submit to the state, which is good," said Rieck.

When the law first passed, the report card was to be mailed. "It was going to be mailed to everyone in the school district, but it turned out easier if we published it on the website. People can also call and ask for one," Rieck said.

# Blood drive collects 124 units



Photo by Kait Taylor

Senior Kristin Grimm was among the many students who donated their blood to the Heartland Blood Center. Over 120 units of blood were donated. That blood will save over 300 lives.

## Donations can help over 300 people who are in need of blood transfusions

By Kait Taylor

Key Club, along with many students, helped give the gift of life to many at the spring blood drive April 18.

The drive produced 124 units of blood, which Key Club adviser Ward Rau considers a big success.

"Our goal is always to get 100 units or more of blood, which we achieved today," he said. "One hundred units of blood can help save 300 people."

According to Rau, 75 percent of all citizens will need a blood transfusion some time in their lives, and because supplies of blood get lower in the spring and summer, there is a great need for blood donations during the spring.

"It costs nothing but some time to donate, and it's a great way to help others who are in need," said Rau, who unfor-

tunately cannot donate after contracting hepatitis in his youth. "I can't donate blood, so being here and helping out with the blood drive is my way of giving 100 units."

Senior Ron Mozalewski shares Rau's desire to help out those in need.

"(Giving blood) is a good way to help people out. I like giving back to people who need blood," he said. "Plus, we get food!"

The donations were given to Heartland Blood Center to provide and maintain a sufficient supply of blood to area hospitals that can be used in order to meet the needs of their patients.

"Who knows when you might need surgery or for some reason need blood," said Rau. "I hope, when you need it, someone has donated for you."

## Board examines possibility of administrators teaching

By Ellyn Fortino

Students could see administrators in their classes next year if the school board president gets his way.

Board president Tony Reyes said that since division chairs teach one class, the administrators should also teach a class.

Supt. Lee Rieck discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal saying that it would be a good idea because administrators would have more direct contact with students and daily involvement in their subject of

interest. However, he also said that many factors make the proposal insufficient. Rieck said that the proposal would pull administrators away from their duties.

"Administrators are required to attend frequent out of school meetings and have substitutes teach their class, which is not ideal," he said.

Rieck said that it may be hard for administrators to respond to emergency situations and accessibility may be difficult when need exists. Also a great deal of preparation would be needed.

Rieck later said that admin-

istrators may not have valid certification and would not be highly qualified. The proposal would also take away overloads from teachers and the Association may want to bargain the positions.

At the meeting Reyes commented that this proposal would be good for morale and save the district money.

Although Rieck said that there has not been much public interest for the idea to be explored, the proposal is evolving in terms of discussion with the board.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Manimbo

Jeff Manimbo, left, gives suggestions to Anders Erickson and Allison Henry for his movie "Lost Along the Way."

## Audio technician makes first movie

By Dave Thomas

His job title may say "audio-visual support," but Jeff Manimbo has always had a passion for filmmaking.

And during the summer of 2006, Manimbo acted on his passion when he made his first full-length movie. Entitled "Lost Along the Way," it's the story of Joe, a man going through a "quarter life crisis."

"A quarter life crisis happens usually to people who just graduated from college," Manimbo said. "They're not even sure they want to work in the field they studied in."

Although Manimbo says there are a few inside jokes relating to him in the movie, Manimbo insists that the movie is not autobiographical. However, "Lost Along the Way" is Manimbo's brainchild; he wrote and directed it.

"I wrote it five years ago. The first draft was about 70 pages long," said Manimbo. "And I wrote the last 20 pages a month before production."

According to Manimbo, the first day of production was June 12, 2006. It was shot in eight days, which Manimbo described as being "fast for a movie."

Some students, senior Rachael Hasse and graduate Davy Taylor, helped out Manimbo during pre-production, and senior Scott Lichtfuss was a production assistant for a day.

Special education teacher Rose Briones became the associate producer/production coordinator during the film. Her duties during production included budgeting, securing locations for filming, getting insurance for the cast and crew, coordinating conflicting schedules, and catering.

"Usually, there was an average of 25 people there for filming and they had to be fed. Three meals a day," said Briones.

By the end of all stages of

production, the film's overall budget was \$15,000, and Briones said Manimbo paid for it himself.

"He wrote it, directed it, he was busy answering phones, trying to get permission from DuPage County Airport to film there," said Briones.

In addition to the airport, the movie was filmed in a variety of locations, from a tuxedo shop in Schaumburg to the house of social studies teacher, Barbara Laimins.

All of the actors in the movie are professional, said Manimbo. He held two days of open auditions at Columbia College in Chicago, the same college where Manimbo graduated from with a degree in filmmaking.

Most of the actors are theater actors, with some experience in film. The actor playing Joe, Anders Erickson, was working on another movie during production. Allison Henry, the actress playing Taylor (an old crush of Joe's), had recently starred in a commercial for Sargento's cheese.

Although no West Chicago students are featured in the movie, some teachers are. Industrial arts teacher Chris Bardey, band conductor Steve Govertsen, Spanish teacher Elizabeth Malinsky, and German teacher Terry Strohm appear as extras.

Currently, Manimbo is working with Ken Gayton (Jim in the movie), to produce films for Gayton's new comedy-improve troupe, Adjusted Gratuity. He's also plans on directing a film Gayton is currently writing.

The movie will be shown in the auditorium on May 5. Ticket prices are \$3 for everyone, and all proceeds will go to the Sharon Bokker Scholarship Fund, a scholarship for wish to become teachers and who take business classes.

Trailers and images of the movie can be seen at [www.islanddreammedia.com](http://www.islanddreammedia.com).

## Wedding bells ring in commons

By Jessica Bergmann

A wedding is not something that is done spontaneously, but takes a lot of effort and work to make possible, which is exactly what the family and consumer sciences students learned from the mock wedding that took place April 11.

"When you do things hands-on, students see all the work that goes into it and how much they need to think it through," said Patricia Clifford, family and consumer science teacher.

The mock wedding is run by students, who plan, decorate, and set up for the wedding, just like they would in real life.

This includes the actual wedding, as well as a reception and a fashion show with clothes made by the clothing construction classes.

"I ask what part of the wedding they would like to participate in. Then I narrow it down to who is reliable and will come," Clifford said.

This year, girls from the contemporary life class had to invite boys to attend the wedding with them, since there were not enough boys in the class.

This year's married couple was Jen Green and Adam Olson.

The wedding was more expensive and time consuming than Green thought it would



Photo by Jacob Wucka

During the *Midnight in Paris* production, seniors Jen Green and Adam Olson simulated a wedding. The mock wedding is put together by the consumer science department every year.

be. Fortunately, all the materials for the wedding were donated.

"I had to go and pick out a wedding dress at David's Bridal, write my wedding vows and pick out the music

for the whole wedding along with the DJs," said Green.

Proceeds from the tickets sold for the wedding went to the Skills USA Scholarship Fund, with over \$400 donated.

## Association Mother's Day pancake breakfast set

By Asusena Ruiz

Bring your mom to the Teachers' Association second annual Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, May 12 in commons.

Money is being raised for

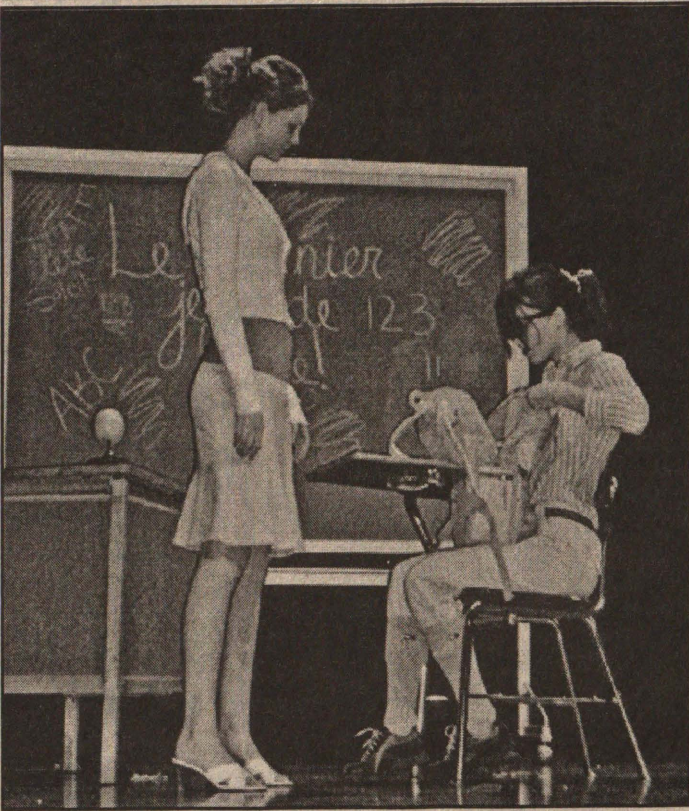
the Sharon Bokker Scholarship fund which is a scholarship for students who wish to become teachers and who take business classes.

Photography Club, Key Club, and art teacher David

Exner will help and provide entertainment.

The event will take place between 8-11 a.m. Adults are \$4 and kids \$2.

There will also be a raffle for gift certificates.



By Jessica Bermann

French 2 play "Le Dernier Jour de l'École" starring Ashely Michnick, left, and Virginia Mason displayed typical stereotypes in school.

## Stars shine during French performances

By Oscar Grajeda

"James Blunt," "Britney Spears" and the stars of "Zoolander" all made an appearance at the French plays April 12.

Well, they were actually students from all French levels participating in the annual French plays.

French 1 performed commercials, French 2 performed an eight minute skit, and French 3-5 performed a 12 minute skit.

"All levels had about six weeks to prepare by going into the auditorium every day. I was happy by the way they turned out," said French teacher Marjorie Appel.

The skits are graded on creativity, quality, class preparation, the performance, and the skit itself.

Awards were given to students from all levels.

Winners for the best commercial/play award were, L'Auto Stopper, Le Demuer GroudEcole, and Les Amis.

The best actresses were freshman Brianda Barrera, sophomore Tara Brenig, and senior Kim Wanous.

The best actors were freshman Brendan McCormick, sophomore Ismael Sanchez, and junior Justin Leduc.

Not only did they win an award but students also received 10 extra credit points if their skits won and 20 points if they won individual awards.

"It feels good to finally win something, but I didn't know that I had won until people kept congratulating me," Leduc said laughing.

He was also surprised because there were some technical difficulties during his play and because of that he thought his chances were ruined.

Another satisfied student was sophomore Alex Almarez who re-enacted the World Cup incident with soccer star Zinedine Zidane head butting Italian soccer star Marco Materazzi.

"I thought my group did great and the audience seemed to like it so I was satisfied," said Almarez.

"We also created a chest plate so it would give the effect of a good head butt," she added.

Winner of the funniest play, and best music was "Zoolander" performed by juniors Sim Kurup, Ellen Gebhardt and Greg Pelke, and seniors Gio Duran, Emma Townsend, and Katie Zajac.

Kurup said, "I was really proud of the way my group came together and just went out of our way to make it the best possible play we could have."

She was right, Pelke and Duran had the crowd laughing when they both reached into their pants to reenact the "underwear scene."

Although there is still some time for next year's plays Leduc is already planning his next play.

"I'm trying to come up with a great idea so the French plays can finally blow the German plays out of the water," said Leduc, referring to the annual German plays held in March.

# Wildcat Chronicle wins best rating ever

By Aaron Pennington

The Wildcat Chronicle won a first place award from the American Scholastic Press Association for the issues published in first semester.

Out of 1,000 points, the paper received 950. In order to get a first place award, a publication must have scored over 850 points.

The score is a record high, beating last year's score, 920 points, by 30 points.

Editor in chief and news editor Cristina Sarnelli praised the staff and their work.

"I knew at the beginning of the year that the staff had huge potential to bump up our numbers this year. It was amazing to see a staff

of only five people put in so much effort to make our newspaper successful," said Sarnelli.

The points were split into categories, with the Chronicle scoring two perfect scores. For content coverage, the Chronicle got 350 of 350 points and in art, advertising, and illustrations, the paper got 120 out of 120 points. In page design, it received 160 out of 175 points. For general plan, the Chronicle received 185 out of 200 points. In editing, it got 90 out of 100 points. And in creativity, the Chronicle was given 45 out of 55 points.

Sarnelli felt that the staff worked hard this year and was happy to see the ASPA recognize it.

"The judges gave us 100 percent on our content, which is something the whole staff should be proud of. We spent so much time in staff meetings trying to come up with ideas that students would want to read about, and our effort shows through the articles we have come up with," Sarnelli said.

Adviser Laura Kuehn agrees with Sarnelli.

"The staff works amazingly hard and it shows in the quality of the paper and the recognition they receive in awards such as this one," said Kuehn.

First semester staff members also included seniors Ellyn Fortino, Leah Kuzmicz, Kait Taylor and Dave Thomas.

## Learning journalism in New York

By Jacob Wucka

Scholastic journalists from across the nation, including members of the Wildcat Chronicle, flocked to the annual Columbia Scholastic Press Association conference in New York City in March.

Seniors Ellyn Fortino, Leah Kuzmicz, Cristina Sarnelli, Kait Taylor, Dave Thomas, and journalism teacher Laura Kuehn participated in the conference.

At the conference, the students attended sessions to learn how to improve the Wildcat Chronicle, how to avoid censorship, and how

to make their newspaper more appealing.

"There were so many people there, thousands of students, and it was impossible to get to go to so many sessions," said Fortino. "It was a very rewarding experience for the sessions that I did go to."

In addition to attending sessions, the students examined other school newspapers.

"There were some papers that were really great, that could inspire new ideas for our newspaper," said Taylor. "However some of them had huge staffs

and were nowhere near as professional looking as our paper. It made us feel really confident in our staff and our paper."

Besides attending the conference, the students explored New York landmarks.

They went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, and Ellis Island.

Ellis Island was especially important to Kuzmicz, not just because she is a "big history person," but because the island traces back to her family lineage.

"I always wanted to go there since I was a little girl because all my family came through there as immigrants," said Kuzmicz.

The students also visited Times Square, which Fortino referred to as overwhelming because of the numerous lights.

"We'd leave the hotel in the morning and Times Square was busy, and by the time we came back it was just as busy, if not busier," Fortino said.

Sarnelli said that she would like to go back, and possibly live and work in New York.

"If I could work there as a journalist I would do it because the lifestyle is always on the go. They are always on the go because they have to get the latest news story and New York is the typical journalist place," Sarnelli said.



Photo by Laura Kuehn

The Chronicle staff enjoys Times Square after a day attending journalism seminars at Columbia University. From left, Leah Kuzmicz, Ellyn Fortino, Kait Taylor, David Thomas and Cristina Sarnelli.

## Classic fairy tales come to life

By Kati Siembieda

Going into the woods has never been so fun.

"Into the Woods" is a musical about life's journey that mixes characters from well known fairy tales, and is the spring musical.

The musical features a couple trying to have a baby but a witch put a curse on them. To break the spell the couple has to obtain certain objects from other characters.

For example they need Little Red Riding Hood's red cape, Jack and the Beanstalk's cow, Rapunzel's hair, and Cinderella's slipper.

"For the past few years we have done traditional Broadway plays. We needed to do something more modern and we have a lot of good voices this year that we wanted to feature," director Mary Hafertepe said.

Main characters include the baker and his wife played by seniors Sean Rubin and Paige Kulie, and the witch played by senior Rachele Henning.

Although there are more girl roles than boy roles, Hafertepe says it is still all well balanced.

"It is a cast with many seniors in it, (including) eight senior boys. The leadership is very nice. It is a good group of kids," Hafertepe said.

Hafertepe said everything is going well at rehearsals and

she hopes for the best come production day.

"The majority of practice so far has been in the choir room practicing our singing. We've recently moved to the auditorium to start singing there and currently we are

blocking out the musical," said senior Carissa Gerber.

"Into the Woods" is May 17-19 at 7:30 p.m. in Weyrauch Memorial Auditorium. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and students.

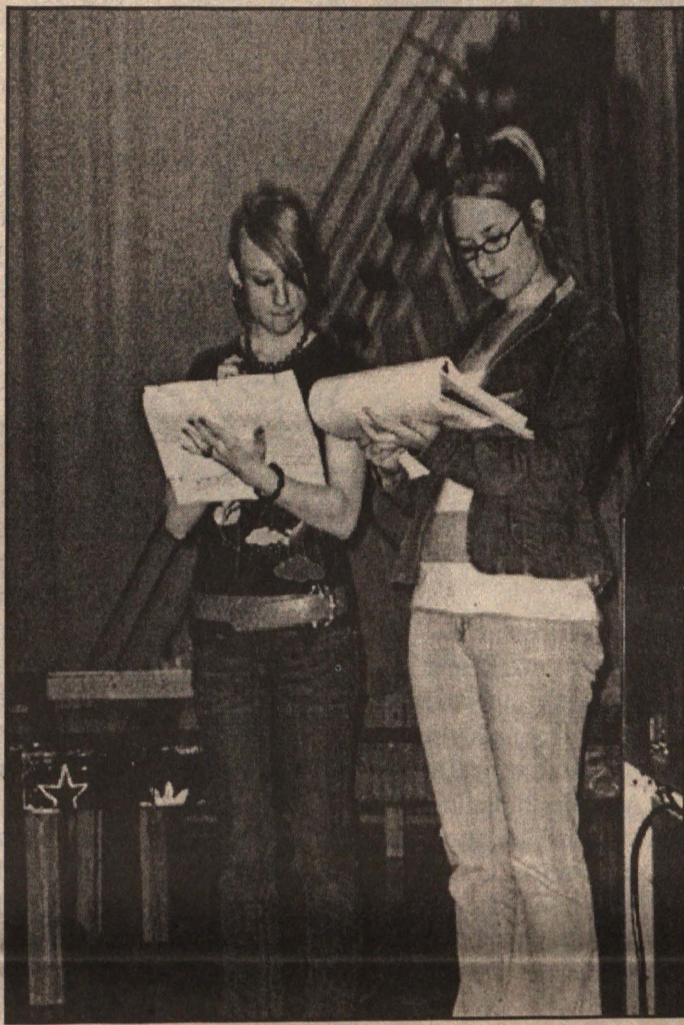


Photo by Aaron Pennington

Junior Sam Siefert, left, and sophomore Megan Green practice their lines for "Into the Woods," which runs from May 17-19 in Weyrauch Memorial Auditorium.

## Foreign languages inspire student

### Jessica Fernandez's dedication to help others names her March Student of the Month

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

By Cristina Sarnelli

Balancing two language classes and a full schedule has paid off for senior Jessica Fernandez who has been named March Student of the Month.

**What are your high school accomplishments?**

My high school accomplishments are National Honor Society, French Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, ESL Student of the Month, and Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics.

**What clubs are you involved in?**

I am involved in Horticulture Club, International Club, and Ambassador Club.

**Do you do any community service?**

My community service is Snowflurry. It is a drug free program that helps 4th, 5th, and 6th graders to make good choices.

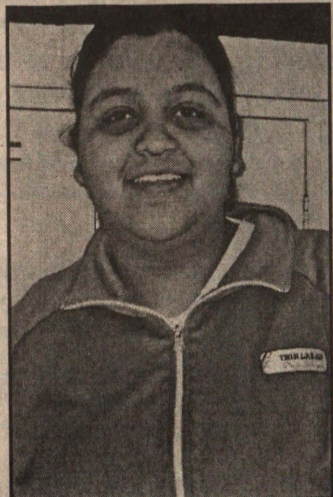


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

**What college are you going to, and what will you be majoring in?**

I am going to COD and then I will transfer to Wartburg College in Iowa. I'll major in education and minor in foreign language.

**What job do you aspire to have?**

I aspire to have a job in a school helping children that don't speak English. Basically an ESL teacher.

**Who is your favorite teacher?**

I don't have a favorite teacher because every teacher is different and special to me.

**What is your favorite high school memory?**

My favorite high school memory is from last spring when I went to Europe because it was so fun, and I met people from different places.

**What are you looking forward to after high school?**

I am looking forward to going to college and studying abroad.

I also look forward to helping children make the right choices.

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

Because I try to work hard and do my best.

## Students to travel to Germany

By Griselda Sanchez

Auf Wiedersehen to German exchange students, who will be leaving for Gunzenhausen, Germany June 7.

For 21 days, students going to Gunzenhausen in the state of Bavaria will be guided by German teacher Terry Strohm and math teacher Kristina Mallon. The students traveling there include freshman Alex Tirabasso; juniors Ben Barclay, Megan Carnes, Krista Kraus, Jim Miner, Doug Sills, Andrew Wirtz, and Kara Wolfe; and seniors Rachel Hellman, Joe Fortman and Alana Koontz.

"We usually take from 11 to 14 students and this year we're taking 11. We like to keep the program small so all the students can get to know each other very well," said Strohm.

Visiting sites in Germany are not planned yet, but Strohm said the students

can expect welcoming and farewell parties. They expect to visit castles, including the Neuschwanstein castle that Walt Disney modeled his Disneyland castle after.

The students will experience school in Germany. They will attend school from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. seven days a week.

"If there's a hot day, about 86 degrees, students in Germany don't attend school because it's too hot and they don't have an air conditioner," said Strohm.

Strohm also added that the German exchange programs have been successful throughout the years.

"I've had some students from my past years still keep in touch with their German host," said Strohm.

"I think the students realize they have more in common than they have different, and that is why it is so successful."

## JSA president earns title of April Student of the Month

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

**What is your favorite school activity?**

My favorite activity was doing the student announcements.

**What clubs are you involved in?**

I am in JSA, NHS, thespians, and the Wildcat Chronicle.

**What is your favorite high school memory?**

My favorite high school memory was JSA's Washington D.C. trip this year.

We were able to meet Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Dick Durbin and were able to witness a moment in history when the House approved a resolution to withdraw from Iraq.

**What college are you attending?**

I'm going to Northern Illinois University to major in journalism and political science.

**What are you looking forward to next year?**

Being in a new place and the fact that I'll be away from my parents.

I love my parents, but I'm at the point in my life where I'd like to be away from home.

**What occupation do you aspire to have?**

I would like to be a journalist for whoever is hiring.

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

I'm an exceptionally gifted student.

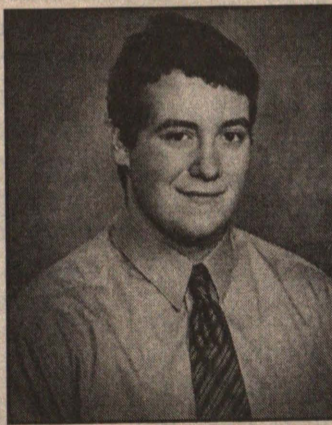


Photo courtesy of Dave Thomas

By Cristina Sarnelli

Dave Thomas is the April Student of the Month thanks to his huge amount of involvement in school and academic success.

Thomas' participation in school plays and musicals and his involvement in NHS are among his achievements.

**What are your high school accomplishments?**

I am the president of JSA, an editor on the Wildcat Chronicle, I've been in many plays and musicals, and I am a member of NHS.

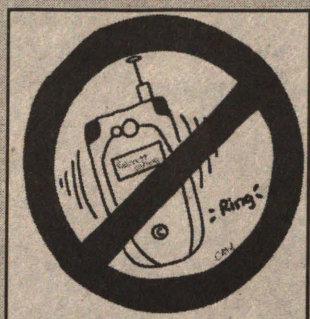
**Who is your favorite teacher?**

It's a tie between Mr. Hayes and Ms. Kuehn.

Our view

## Electronics ban is not fair to students

Many students find it easier to pass a study period by listening to their iPods, watching a video in commons, or even sending a text between classes. But this may end as the school board might cut electronics from the school starting next year.



Students use their iPods as an escape and as relaxation while doing homework in class or in commons.

Also, when students bring in their MP3 players and watch movies, videos and television shows in commons it is for relaxation, not rebellion. This is something that passes the time, and it's not harming anyone.

What about the brief texts that are sent to a friend during a passing period? It is not something that is harming anyone and under certain circumstances, students need their phones with them during the day. A lot of students bring their phones to school because parents or younger siblings might need to reach them. They also might be having a family emergency that they need to be notified about, and the only way that can happen is through their phones. However, students should not push this privilege and be freely text messaging on their phones during class periods.

Students need to learn to not abuse the few privileges that they have but rather respect them and follow the rules. Yes, iPods can be used but when a teacher tells a student to put it away, then he or she should.

At the same time, if the school wants to better itself, it should not be focusing on taking electronics away. It should be focused on helping students better their education, not having a high pregnancy rate and maybe making students have an enjoyable time while at the school.

If the decision turns out for the worse for students, there will be many students rebelling, getting angry, and becoming annoyed at their teachers for yelling at them to put the iPods away.

This idea sounds like a recipe for failure. The school once tried to make every student wear ID cards around their necks, but that failed.

Instead of going from one extreme to the other, the administration should be sensitive to what the students actually feel, instead of making such harsh decisions.

This is not something that is going to make the school a place where students want to go, instead it will make it a place students have to go.

## Civil liberties lost

### National security comes at too high a price today

The comic book world mourned as America's finest, Captain America, was assassinated.

The death came following the super friends arguing over the government's plan to have all superheroes registered.

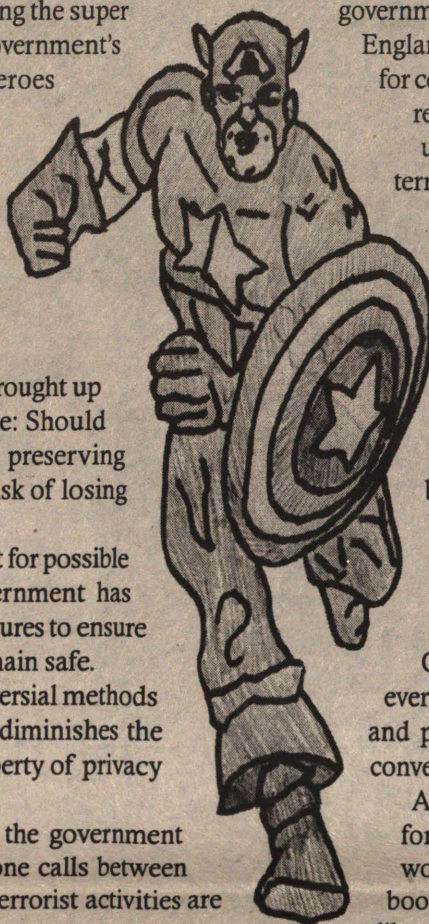
Captain America was against registering all the heroes because he said it was against his civil liberties, yet many others said that it would improve national security.

The comic books have brought up a serious government issue: Should people be worried about preserving their civil liberties at the risk of losing national security?

Since America is on alert for possible terrorist attacks, the government has come up with several measures to ensure that this country shall remain safe.

One of the most controversial methods is the Patriot Act, which diminishes the American citizen's civil liberty of privacy in the pursuit of terrorists.

Under the Patriot Act, the government can eavesdrop private phone calls between citizens to ensure that no terrorist activities are being plotted.



Still, some people believe that the Patriot Act has worked because there have been no terrorist attacks in America since Sept. 11, 2001. However many wonder if this is the result of domestic spying or pure luck. Pure luck seems most likely.

Instead of wasting time tapping phone lines, the government could look at England's solution.

England has been the target for terrorist attacks for centuries and instead of enacting anything resembling the Patriot Act, England has used old fashioned police work to crack terrorist cells.

The United States should follow suit. Government agencies need to fund more police stations so that more officers may be hired, and that the officers can track down potential terrorists without invading people's civil liberties.

Nevertheless, the Patriot Act will not be reformed or repealed until people realize that the only way to save America is to revert back to the old fashioned America, the land that Captain America fought to protect.

Old fashioned America was a place where everyone had freedom of speech, assembly, and privacy without people listening in on conversations.

Although Captain America and his fight for civil liberties may be dead, the real world should take a hint from the comic book world and act to preserve their civil liberties.

## Hidden cameras slam the brake on bad drivers

From knowing what a stop sign looks like to avoiding road rage, driver's education has taught the basics of good driving. However, one subject brought up in driver's education was a controversial one: Installing cameras in teen drivers' cars.

American Family Insurance offered to install cameras in their customers' cars who have teen drivers. These cameras keep track of safety with teen drivers. They record the actions of the driver as well as speed, reaction time, and harsh braking. If movements like these occur, the camera records and sends the information to DriveCam, a company that analyzes the data. Parents can log onto a website and view the videos recorded.

Is this considered an invasion of privacy? No, not at all. Teenagers need to learn the definition of the word trust.

It's something that is built between teenagers and their parents. If parents cannot learn to trust their child, then why should he or she be driving in the first place?

Driving is a privilege, not something to be used to show off to friends. If teenagers would realize this, their parents would have no reason to install one of these cameras in their car.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, automobile accidents are the leading cause of death among teenagers in the United States. However, most teens think "It won't happen to me." But why would anyone think that? It has to happen to someone, doesn't it?

These cameras are not an invasion of privacy but a way of enforcing safe driving among teens to avoid accidents, and unnecessary deaths.

Studies from American Family Insurance show that teen high risk driving events decreased by over 70 percent after cameras were installed and seatbelt usage went up to 100 percent. If that's what it takes to make a change, then so be it.

But don't worry yet; cameras are only being installed for free in the states of Indiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin for now.

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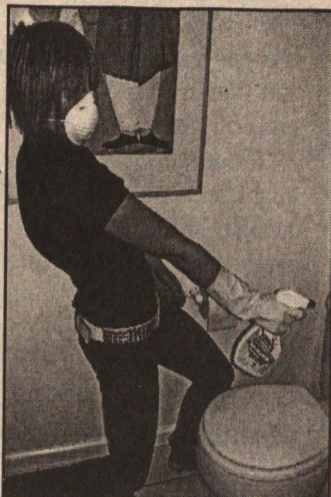
THE WILDCAT CHRONICLE is the student newspaper at Community High School. It is a public forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views. The chronicle publishes eight times a year, with the student editorial board making the decisions concerning paper's content. Unsigned 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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## Bathroom passes should be flushed away forever

Since elementary school, lavatory passes have been a classroom ritual. Take the obnoxiously bright laminated pass and flush all of one's worries away, right? Wrong, ever think about how disgusting a bathroom



Ellyn Fortino

pass actually is? At least a dozen teenagers touch each bathroom pass every day, spreading germs like wildfire. The passes are so gross they should be carried around with tongs.

The most germ-infested places in bathrooms are sinks and on the floor. And who really knows

where the passes will end up? Hopefully in a student's pocket but that is very doubtful.

Our parents taught us how to wash our hands when we were younger but we are all guilty of skipping the suds when in a rush. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that about one in three people don't wash their hands after using the

restroom. Even if someone does wash their hands, think about all the greasy, dirty fingers that have touched the pass previously. Unfortunately the clean hands would be coming in contact with the same repulsive germs just washed off.

The only way the pass system could ever be considered somewhat sanitary would be if each pass was drenched in antibacterial liquid or boiled after each bathroom visit, which is completely ridiculous.

Besides the pass being unsanitary, it is embarrassing. I feel like a walking billboard that says "I have to pee!" every time I walk down the halls.

Not every class has a permanent pass however; some teachers write fresh copies or give students a stack of their own passes. What a fabulous idea! More teachers should follow their footsteps. Hello freedom, goodbye nasty germs.

The bathroom pass is also demeaning for students. If students need to use the washroom they should be able to get up and go, no passes attached. Going to the bathroom is a right, not a privilege.

Look, I'm not always the tidiest person in the world and I'm not a complete germaphobe but these bathroom passes still freak me out. Until the student population starts washing their hands with soap, I will not carry another bathroom pass. I guess I'll start wearing mittens.

## 'American Idol' is complete garbage

Seacrest, contestants, and judges are talentless hacks; Bad karaoke is not amusing

I hate "American Idol." There... I said it! I really, really, really hate "American Idol." There are about 33.6 million people that disagree with me, but I have to ask, what's with people's fascination with such an over-hyped non-talent show?

From the dense, unqualified host and judges, to the demise of the music industry and valid vocal talent as we know it, "American Idol" is the most overrated, and, frankly, stupid show on TV today.



Kait Taylor

First off, Ryan Seacrest is annoying. The man needs to take a break from the tanning bed and work on his comedic timing or something. Seacrest really bothers me; maybe it's the bronzer or just his squeaky voice that gets me, but I have no idea why he is famous. Seriously, why?

I should ask the same question about the judges. Apparently '80s hack-job Paula Abdul must help people distinguish real musical talent (Please, Paula, help me tell the difference between William Hung bad and just a "Justin to Kelly" disaster).

And then there's Simon, whose musical prowess is marked best by his brilliantly produced singles and records for the Power Rangers. Wow! I get it... he's British. What gives him a warrant to be such a snobby jerk? He discovered Il Divo? Who cares? And what's with all the black t-shirts?

Only one of them has any sort of credibility, and that's Randy. At the very least Randy knows how to play an instrument. Then again, he does say "dawg" too much to be taken seriously.

"American Idol" is just karaoke... and it's usually bad karaoke. Contestants sing parts of songs created and made popular by artists infinitely more talented and deserving than them. These idiots prance around on stage, smirking at the judges and winking into the camera simply to get votes, not express their "talent" (if there happens to be any).

I shudder at the thought of how the future of popular music in this country rests in the hands of teenage girls with cell phones who can text their votes for jerks with bad hair like Sanjaya Malakar. There is no real winner; people like Sanjaya stay on the show because they are joke shows with a fan base, not capable musicians.

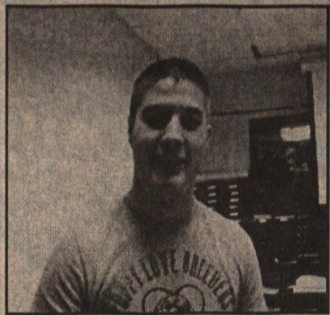
And to think how many truly talented and dedicated musicians are touring in old beat-up vans, playing anywhere and everywhere to survive, while anyone who thinks he or she can "sing" can skip the steps required to reach his or her pinnacle of fame and success in the matter of one season on some stupid reality show.

No one pays their dues anymore. To me, a successful artist is someone who takes years of hard work to achieve goals of fame and artistic accomplishment, not someone who inks a record contract as a result of "performing" for 2 minutes every week on Fox.

The fact that this scummy talent search is so insanely popular makes me angry. People spend so much time vested in "Idol" only to discard this season's winner once the season is over and "Dancing With The Stars" captures their attention.

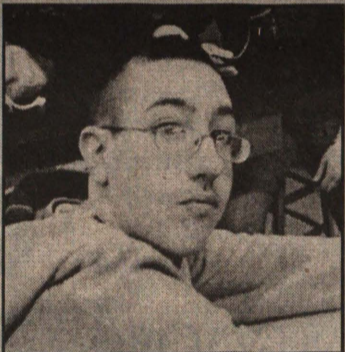
If you can appreciate the difference between Clay Aiken and Paul McCartney, don't watch "Idol." America needs to stop watching such garbage and tune into something more intelligent.

## Students Speak



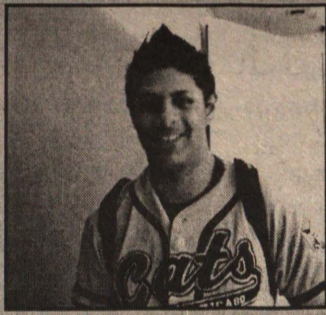
Scott Staiton  
Senior

"I don't think cell phones should be banned in case of emergencies, but I think it is okay to ban iPods."



Angelo Soll  
Sophomore

"(The ban) is bad because we should be able to use whatever we want."



Deven Lopez  
Freshman

"I think the idea is dumb because we shouldn't have a ban on our personal stuff."

*How do you feel about the ban of electronics the administration is proposing for next year?*



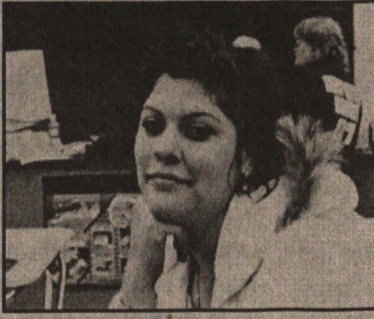
Karen Taylor  
Senior

"I think cell phones shouldn't be banned because of emergencies, and iPods should be left as long as students don't listen to them during class."



Kelly Nottingham  
Sophomore

"I think that it should be left up to the teachers to decide if it is a distraction or not."



Briseida Mendoza  
Freshman

"That is wrong. (Listening to) electronic devices is the only thing we are able to do besides school work."

## Developing morals adds to stress levels

**By Cristina Sarnelli**

All is fair in love and war...or is it?

Relationships are a big source of stress for teenagers, stress being one of the biggest struggles they have to fight throughout their high school careers.

According to social worker Connie Sosa, relationship stress starts with students feeling anxious or in some cases, they may suffer from panic attacks. Eventually, they experience stress overload, whose side effects include moodiness, problems concentrating, lack of sleep, changes in eating habits, and early stages of depression.

Sosa said it is normal for teenagers to experience relationship stress because they are at a stage in their lives where they are developing morals.

"For students in long term relationships, stress is good because those relationships help students establish their values and prepare them for the future," she said.

A common occurrence that causes relationship stress for teenagers is communication problems, according to Sosa. She added that this type of stress is beneficial because it forces teenagers to improve their relationships.

"It's common for girls to freak out over their boy-

friends talking to other girls," Sosa said. "That forces the girl to talk to her boyfriend and let him know how she feels, which improves the relationship."

For senior Nicole Coconato, relationship stress proved to be too much which caused her and her boyfriend to recently split. During the relationship, Coconato experienced lack of communication.

"My boyfriend liked to not tell me things and then made me figure out what's wrong with him two weeks later. It was stressful because I told him whenever I had a problem with something but when he had a problem and I asked what was wrong he always said, 'Nothing,'" she said.

Another factor of stress in relationships is distance.

"It is more stressful when you don't have a loved one nearby because you don't have the physical contact with them that most couples are used to. Communication is harder as well because you have to use e-mail and wait for a response," Sosa said.

Junior Mike Dalton knows how hard a long distance

relationship can be. His girlfriend is a freshman at Augustana College.

"Long distance is a pain in the butt, let me tell you. The fights increase to a whole new level. Jealousy is something that won't die," he said. "You just

"When you start to develop stress in a relationship it affects almost all of your other areas of life. Your academic performance suffers, you develop negative relationships with family and friends because they perceive you as a negative person, and it affects behavior," she said. "Hormones in your body send neurological messages to your brain that make you anxious, thus causing you to perform badly in school and sports."

Senior Kate Krecek finds that she gets distracted at work if she and her boyfriend, senior Ben Warren, have a fight beforehand.

"If we have a fight, I'll go to work and it will bother me for awhile, even though eventually I'll forget about it," she said.

Warren said that the biggest factor of stress in the relationship is the negativity.

"I get stressed

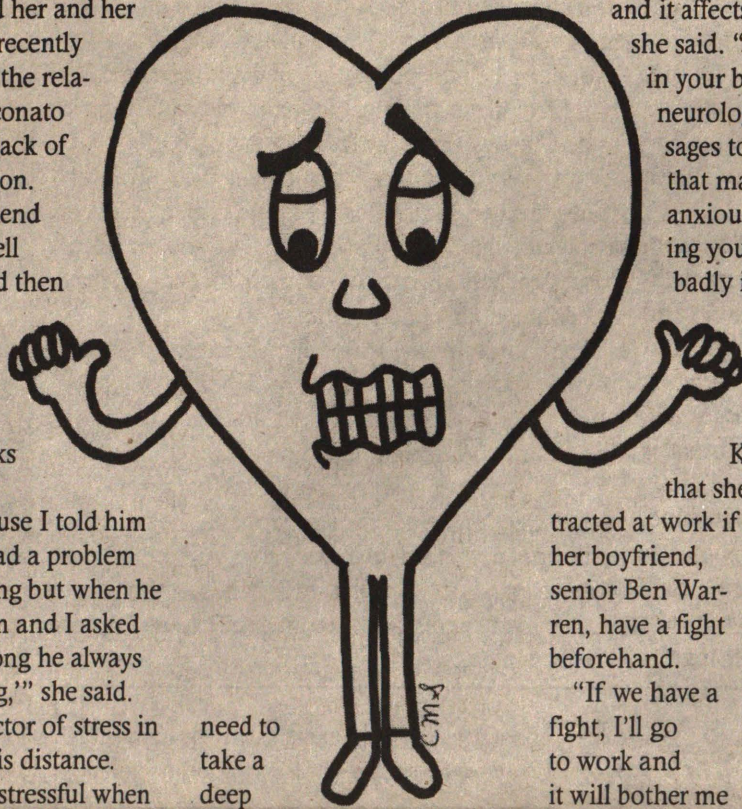
out most by her negativity. I'm a positive person, and it really drags me down when she has a negative attitude," he said.

Krecek also stresses over the fact that one day she and Warren will go to separate colleges.

"It bothers me that he might find someone else in college. I actually thought about that right away when we started going out," Krecek said.

Despite all the stress, Dalton thinks that his relationship is all worth it in the end.

"The relationship on top of school on top of work on top of extracurricular activities is a hard thing to juggle, and at times I ask myself 'Why am I doing all this?' But then the answer is pretty obvious: I love her," he said.



need to take a deep breath and let things calm down and then realize that it doesn't have to be so dramatic."

Relationship stress not only puts strain on the relationship, but it also spreads to other aspects of teenagers' lives, according to Sosa

## Temptations meddle with school

### Overwhelmed students concentrate less in class

**By Greg Vodicka**

Seven hours a day, five days a week, 40 weeks a year. This is the amount of time students spend in school. Not to mention the countless hours spent on homework and extracurricular activities including sports and clubs.

It is no secret that stress occurs after enduring the long hours that student life calls for.

Stress is a combination of hectic schedules and school work.

Junior Cory Gierke stresses about things such as grades, ACT, finals, and college.

"Junior year is a lot harder than previous years because it is the last year that really counts," said Gierke. "I didn't realize how fast it

would go, and now I'm overwhelmed by the pressure."

Gierke admitted that she spends at least two hours a night on class assignments.

According to www.helpguide.org, stress can cause headaches, abnormal eating patterns, muscle pains, sleep disturbances, and weight gain or loss. It can even cause students to have trouble concentrating in classes.

This often will lead to students getting behind in their work. When the work starts to build up and as due dates approach stress becomes unavoidable.

In a lot of cases parents are not much help dealing with school stresses.

"My parents can't help me anymore because they don't understand what I'm learning. They don't understand

why I am always tired and sleep a lot more now," said sophomore Alex Eterno.

According to www.healiohealth.com, handling stress starts with managing time wisely. When you know what you have to do and how much time you have to do it, planning this time helps the stress disappear.

Gierke finds it easier to get her work done at the library.

Being organized is another key part of managing your school work and maintaining a stress free agenda. Keeping good notes and important papers gives off the feeling that someone has plenty to work with.

"I make sure to take good notes. I like to have everything in front of me when I study so I don't worry about unknown information on the test," said Gierke.

Gierke also finds it easier to get her work done at the

library rather than a study period in commons or even at her house.

Many students have trouble finding a good work environment. Even studying at home has the temptations of flipping on the T.V. or logging on to MySpace.

A quiet library or study hall might be a wiser choice. Even if the environment seems too quiet, it will help finish work quickly, giving you plenty of time to run home to catch an episode of "South Park."

Whether it's a paper for English or a test in math, the school stress will be there.





## Work brings more than loads of money

### Sleep deprivation strains many students'

By Dave Thomas

The days when parents paid for everything are coming to a close for most upperclassmen. To replace that fading income, many students take a step into responsibility and adulthood by getting a part-time job.

"I got a job because I needed the money for prom," said junior Allison Fletcher who works at Hollister. Her official title at Hollister is "model" although, really, she patrols the store and folds messed up clothes.

Other students are like Fletcher. Senior Kim Wanous, who's a waitress at Baker's Square, said she works because "I like having lots of money."

"I like to get money so I

can frivolously spend it while I can," said Wanous.

Other students save the money they've earned from working. Often times, the money they've saved will go to college.

A year's tuition at Northern Illinois University is about \$7,000, while Harvard is just over \$33,000.

Fletcher said she's considering working longer hours during the summer to get a jumpstart on saving for college.

But whether the students fold clothes or bus tables after school, stress usually follows right behind. A typical student may juggle homework with a job, sports, or other extracurricular activities.

Usually, it's the homework that suffers. Wanous said that on work nights, she doesn't do her homework

because of how late it is. Instead, she saves it to do during one of her free periods.

Some students are able to do their homework at

blood flow increasing to the heart and larger muscles.

The fight-or-flight stage stress causes may have been use-

before I start homework."

The reach of sleep deprivation and exhaustion is nationwide. The American Institute of Stress estimates that approximately one million people do not show up for work as a result of stress and exhaustion.

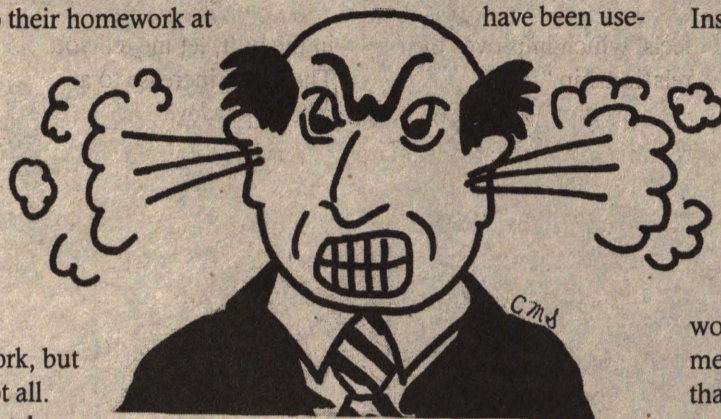
Some students opt to work on weekends. Senior Matt Miller, who works in the produce department at Super Target, said that he works about 20 hours a week, the majority on the weekends.

Miller admitted that he often does not know his schedule, and that can be stressful when making plans with family and friends.

However, despite the stress work causes, some students find the allure of money to be too strong to resist.

Even still, students manage.

"Sometimes I wonder how I get stuff done, but it all works out in the end," said Miller.



work, but not all.

Fletcher said the Hollister managers do not allow students to do homework while they are working.

Eventually, the pressure of work and school can overload the body. Stress has been widely connected to an entire host of health problems.

According to the American Institute of Stress, stress invokes some of the reactions the human body undergoes when it enters the "fight-or-flight" stage, like

ful when hunting or fighting an armed aggressor, but it can be dangerous if the person is working as a cashier.

One result of stress or being overworked in general is sleep deprivation. Not getting enough sleep is a common complaint among student workers.

"On days I have to work, I also have musical practice, and I usually get home at around 10:30 to 11 p.m.," said Fletcher. "And that's

## Home is where the tension is

By Kait Taylor

Stress can be caused by a variety of factors, but some of the most destructive and disabling anxiety comes from where the heart is: The home.

Family issues such as divorce, death, abuse, pressure, and poverty contribute to the already mounting stress teens experience in discovering who they are and what the world is like, according to social worker Vivian Walsh.

"Adolescence is such a time of rapid growth, physical, intellectual and emotional, and there's naturally a lot of internal anxiety, emotion turmoil and stress going on inside the person," said Walsh.

"Parents and school partner to act as a lighthouse to guide students into adulthood. Serious family stress fractures this process."

The pressures of poverty, unemployment, moving, and other family issues cause tremendous pressure and many times, teens find it difficult to focus on academics.

"It's hard to have time to study when a family member is ill or has died, when you have no stable

shelter, when you have to work a full-time job after school to help feed your family, or when you have to miss school to stay home and care for your younger siblings while your parent goes out to find or keep a job," Walsh said.

Family trauma is different and sometimes more stressful than relationship problems or work issues, especially if a parent is mentally ill, an alcoholic, or physically or emotionally abusive, because family is constant and teens are dependant upon family until they are finished with school.

"That's a very stressful position to be in when you are dependant upon an abusive or neglectful parent. You just can't walk away and take care of yourself," Walsh said. "The feelings are very complicated, ranging from love, need, anger, sadness, and guilt."

However, Walsh believes that such immense family stress can be resolved and teens experiencing such issues can become successful individuals, both emotionally and externally. Talking to a counselor, dean, or social worker is a good option when in need of help.

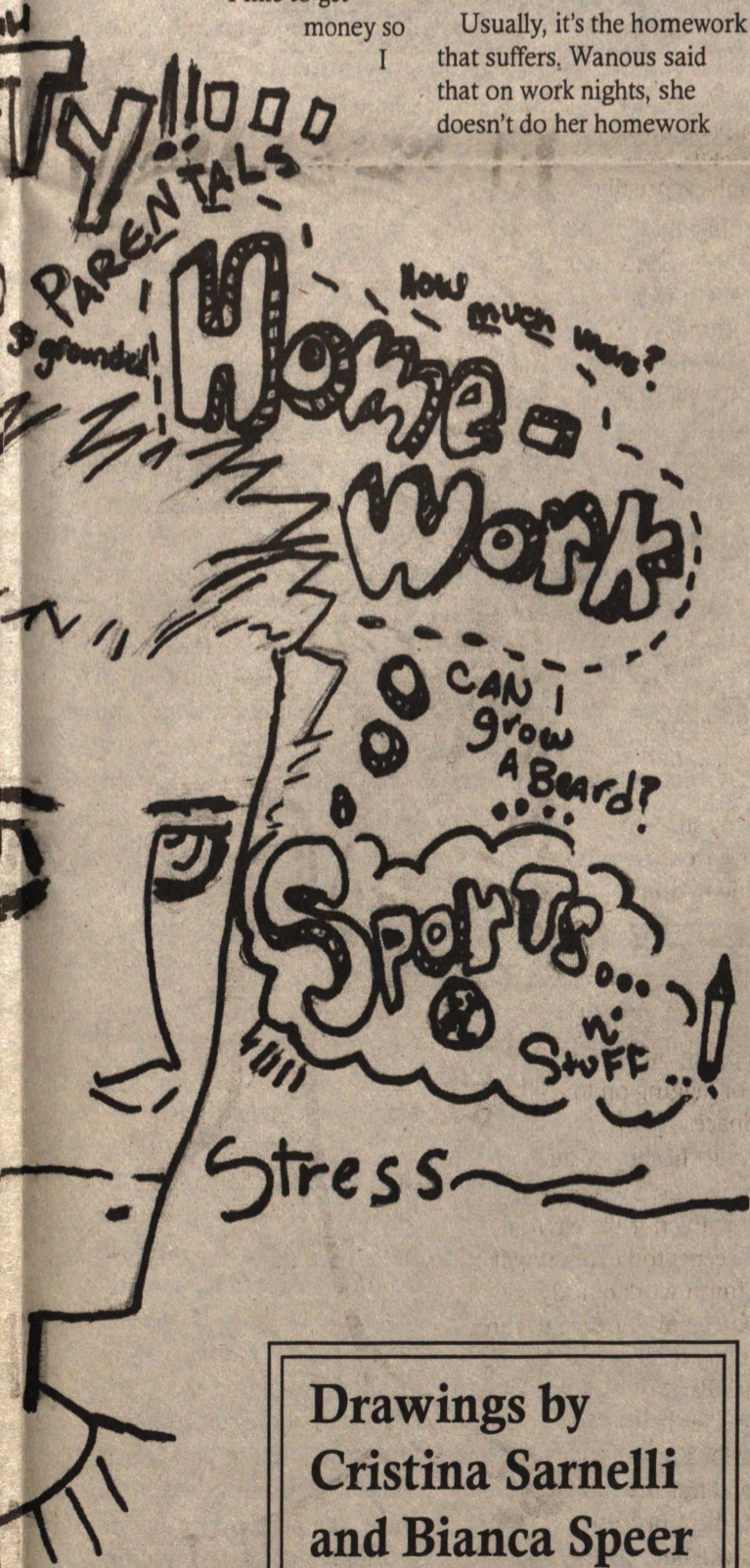
"(Students) shouldn't carry such a heavy emotional burden alone," Walsh said. "We talk to dozens, maybe hundreds of students every year who are going through similar stress. We can help (students) problem solve some situations. We are in touch with the community resources that provide food, shelter, medical and financial assistance to families in need."

Walsh also encourages parents to support teens and realize that the family stress that they go through is also experienced by their children.

"Realize that your adolescent absorbs family stress and may never show it outwardly because of their need to appear strong and independent. Let them know it is okay to be scared and feel anxious. Empathize while you normalize these feelings. Be positive and focus of the temporary nature of extreme stress," Walsh said. "It always passes, it always gets better."

Those experiencing extreme family stress are encouraged to speak to a social worker, said Walsh.

"We will listen, care and coach (teens)," Walsh said.



Drawings by  
Cristina Sarnelli  
and Bianca Speer

## Poulterer in line for a long, worthwhile wait

By Leah Kuzmicz

When ESL teacher, Mark Poulterer and his wife decided to adopt a child, they knew that they would be venturing into a long process.

"We knew we wanted to even before we got married. We would talk about how we felt about adopting a child," said Poulterer.

Poulterer has experience with adoption because he grew up with an adopted brother.

"There are a lot of children that need homes. We just want to save a life of a child in a really bad position," said Poulterer.

Although adopting a child may seem like a fantastic idea, it does come with a price tag.

Poulterer will have to go through a lot of paperwork, and then an expensive home study which costs roughly \$3,000 - \$3,500.

After that long process he will have more paperwork, and finally go through actually getting the child. That process will cost roughly \$30,000.

"It's very frustrating talking about a human life like you can put a price tag on it, but we're trying to do this as inexpensively as we can. Unfortunately money has to come in somewhere," said Poulterer.

Poulterer's wife is from Brazil, so they are hoping to

adopt a child from Brazil, but the child could be from Guatemala or China, too.

The sex of the child does not matter to Poulterer. At first his wife wanted a girl for their 2-year-old biological daughter, but Poulterer wanted a son. After thinking about it they are open to both options.

Poulterer definitely wants the child to know that he or she is adopted, whether the child is the same ethnic background or not.

Seeing that the child be kept in contact with the birth mother is a different matter.

"If we were to adopt a child from the United States it would be harder to allow the child to stay in contact with their birth mother because they might feel torn between two families," said Poulterer. "But if the parents want the child to know, then that is fair."

Poulterer said that after the child turns 18 it would be the child's decision to contact the birth mother and/or father.

In the future Poulterer said it will definitely be a possibility to adopt more children. "I've heard adoption is addicting," said Poulterer.

"I really hope that it works out. Either we need to come up with \$30,000 or do it through Brazil. I don't know how it will happen, but things always work out," said Poulterer.

## Normal American family with one unique story

By Ellyn Fortino

The adoption process may not be speedy, but for physical education teacher Amy Gibson the time was more than worth the wait.

After being told that Gibson could not have children, she knew that adoption was the only option for her to have a family.

Gibson said that she had to wait on one list before being put on another list to be a considered parent, undergo an agency home study, have a social worker come to the home and have many family and friend references. She also underwent a background check where she was fingerprinted and a financial report. She also needed to have proof that she could not have children.

Gibson said that in order for the birth mothers to get to know her family she created an appealing autobiography including facts, such as what religion she practiced and what church she attended.

"Healthy Caucasian infants can have thousands of people on a waiting list and only those families who cannot have children are considered. Older children or those with disabilities are more often given to families who can have children," Gibson said.

In 1986 Gibson received her newborn son Chris from a mother in Springfield and

the children were adopted and read books about adoption and look at photographs.

Gibson said that in the 1980s during the adoption of her son, only closed adoption was available, so she did not meet the birth parents and only received medical information.

However, during her daughter's open adoption, Gibson met the birth mother during the interview process and later openly exchanged videos and letters letting her know that her daughter was healthy and happy.

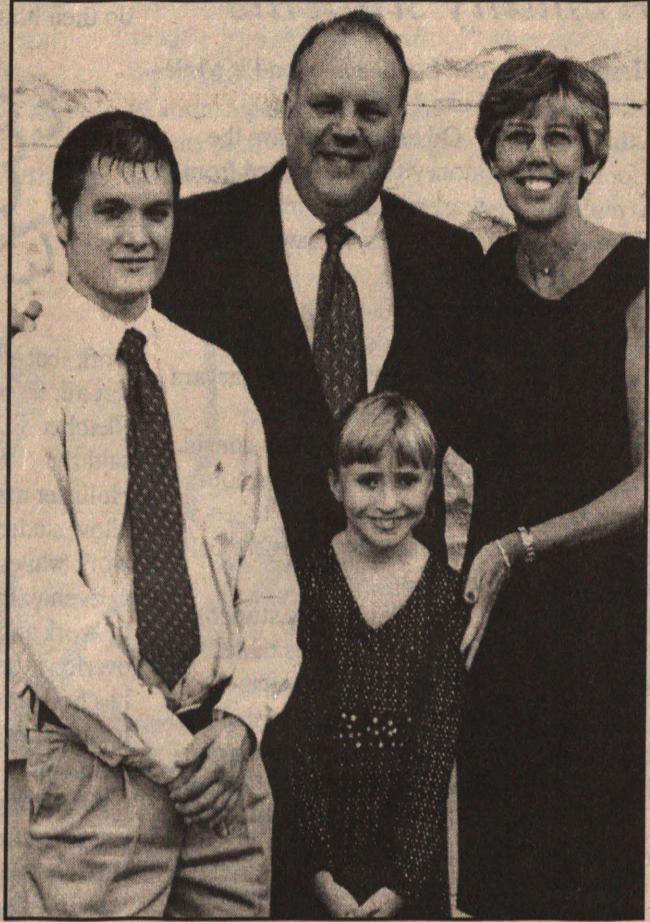


Photo courtesy of Amy Gibson

Chris, left from clockwise, Ron, Amy and Kathryn Gibson celebrate adoption day rather than birthdays.

then waited 10 years on a waiting list for her now 10-year-old daughter Kathryn from Ottawa.

Although Gibson may not be the biological mother to her children she said her family is similar to everyone else's.

"From the time you hold them in your arms, they are yours and you do everything just like you are the biological parent," she said.

The only difference in the home is the celebration of birthdays. Instead the Gibsons celebrate adoption day where they celebrate the day

said that she will support her children in the future if they decide to contact their birth mothers.

Gibson said that many adopted children struggle through their teenage years.

"The best is for the teens to talk to others who have also been adopted," she said.

Gibson said anyone considering adoption should not be discouraged by the long process.

"Look at adoption as a journey. It takes a long time but don't give up hope. It is well worth the wait," she said.

## Adoption adds up for Burzynski

### Process similar to a 'newborn' math class

By Jacob Wucka

Adopting his three children was like receiving a new class for math teacher Frank Burzynski.

Each new class needs parenting and he has to get to know them and befriend them.

The difference between a new class and his children, however, is he got his children at their births.

His adopted children in-

clude son Jason, 29, and daughters Tasha, 24, and Tracy, 22.

Burzynski and his wife had always planned to adopt because his wife, brothers-in-law, and nephews were adopted.

In addition, Burzynski's wife had medical issues that would make a pregnancy difficult to carry to term.

Burzynski said his wife was pregnant once, which result-

ed in a tubal pregnancy. The baby miscarried after the first month.

He said, "We didn't even know that she was pregnant until I brought her to the hospital and they said that she had a miscarriage."

The miscarriage only made the Burzynskis want to adopt even more.

They adopted Jason in 1978, Tasha in 1983, and Tracy in 1985.

He believes that adopting at birth made the process easier, not just for him, but for his children.

Burzynski said that his chil-

dren knew that they were adopted from the start, and they did not know their biological parents.

Telling the children they were adopted at a younger age made parenting easier for his wife and himself, Burzynski said.

This also made the process easier because after revealing that a child is adopted, a child may become angry at the adoptive parents for not revealing the adoption earlier, Burzynski said.

However Burzynski believes that every child is different, and if he did reveal

that his children were adopted when they were at an older age, they might not have reacted in a negative way.

"In a family of five, all children born naturally, some of the children will be defiant from the start and some will be good. Adoption has nothing to do with it. It's all nature," said Burzynski.

Although there are many differences between adoption and receiving a new class, Burzynski said there are some similarities: He has to be there to guide his children, parent them, and especially be there to tease them.

## A call from God

By Dave Thomas

It felt like a call from God. That's how math teacher Kevin Gimre and his wife Tami felt when they began the long, tedious process of adopting a young girl from China.

"We have three kids, but my wife and I felt called by God to adopt a child," said Gimre. "That's the main reason for it."

That was in 2005, when Zhang Yi, renamed Sarah Yi by the Gimres, was 2. Now 4, Sarah does not know that she was adopted, but Gimre said she's learning fast.

"Sarah will eventually know. She knows she's from China, and she has already begun to ask questions like 'Why are my eyes different from your eyes?'" said Gimre. "It's not going to take her long to figure it out. It's part of the process."

According to Gimre, he is not in contact with Sarah's biological parents. He said that for most of the children in China, they're dropped off at orphanages or police stations.

In Sarah's case, she was left in a basket near a train station.

The adoption was arranged by Journey of the Heart, a U.S.-based adoption agency. Gimre said that the agency performed numerous background checks on the Gimre family and that "tons of paperwork" had to be filled out.

"It's a long process. There are a lot of hoops to jump through," said Gimre. Gimre also credited his wife for "running around and doing a lot of errands" and added that, if it wasn't for her, they probably would not have gotten Sarah.

Finally, after 11 months of paperwork and background checks, the Gimre family was approved to adopt Sarah. With no objection from the Chinese government, which has the power to ultimately deny any adoptions, the Gimres traveled to Changsha, located in the Hu Nan province.

According to Gimre, most people choose to adopt a healthy infant that the agency

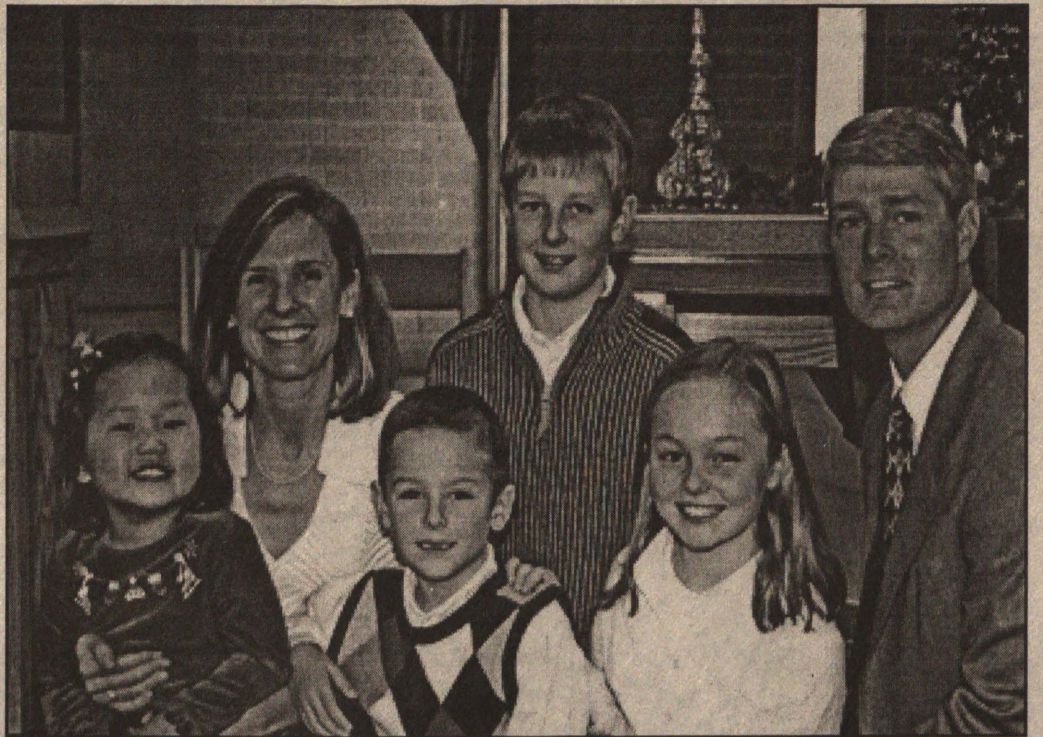


Photo courtesy of Kevin Gimre

Sarah, left, Tami, Jason, Josh, Mae Elizabeth, and Kevin Gimre easily assimilate into their multi-cultural family after the new addition of Sarah from China in 2005.

chooses.

However, Gimre said they were able to choose Sarah because of her age and her physical abnormality. She was born with a club foot, where the child's foot is twisted in and down, giving the appearance that they're walking on their ankles. Gimre said that this has been fixed.

Since her arrival in the United States and the Gimre family, Sarah has made remarkable progress assimilating.

"When we first got her, Sarah didn't know any English. But after the first four months, she was able to speak sentences in English," said Gimre. "It's like she's been with us all along."

Adoption is nothing new to Gimre. His wife's brother and cousin are adopted, and his 6-year-old niece was adopted from China, giving Gimre another reason to adopt from there.

"My niece lives in Carol Stream, and we thought it would have been a great opportunity for them to grow up together," said Gimre.

## Miracles line the road of adoption

By Cristina Sarnelli

After a child is born, parents often call their children "miracles."

For math teacher Aaron Hayes and his wife Sheli their first miracle, Caleb, was received through adoption.

The couple could not have children of their own, so they decided that adoption was the best road for them to take.

"Since we couldn't have kids, we had to ask ourselves if we wanted to be parents or a genetic legacy.

We wanted to be parents, so we didn't go through the fertility options," Hayes explained.

Caleb was born in Rockford in 1998. His birth mother, Megan, was in college when she was pregnant with him, and was no longer with the father of the child. Megan wanted Caleb to have a solid family, which is why she chose to place him with an adopted family, according to Hayes.

Before being able to adopt Caleb, Hayes and his wife had to fill out an application, and a lot of paperwork, and undergo background checks. The Hayeses were directed to the first birth mom who decided to meet with them, and she later pointed them to Caleb's mother.

"The birth mother meets

with a social worker to get an idea of a family that she wants to adopt her child. The mothers go through usually three applications at a time until they come to a family that sort of clicks with them. For Megan, that family was us," Hayes said.

Megan and the Hayeses went out to dinner after she selected them. Shortly after, Megan went into premature labor, which ended in a false alarm. Caleb ended up being born three weeks later, and luckily for Hayes, he got to be there.

"Sheli actually got to hold him when we were there, so that was really something I didn't expect to experience," said Hayes.

Miraculously, shortly after the adoption, Sheli found out she was pregnant with their own child, and the Hayeses were blessed with another

son, Benjamin.

Now almost 8 years old, Caleb has two brothers to play with, Elijah being the newest addition to the family. The relationship between the siblings is normal, according to Hayes for the children play and fight just like siblings do.

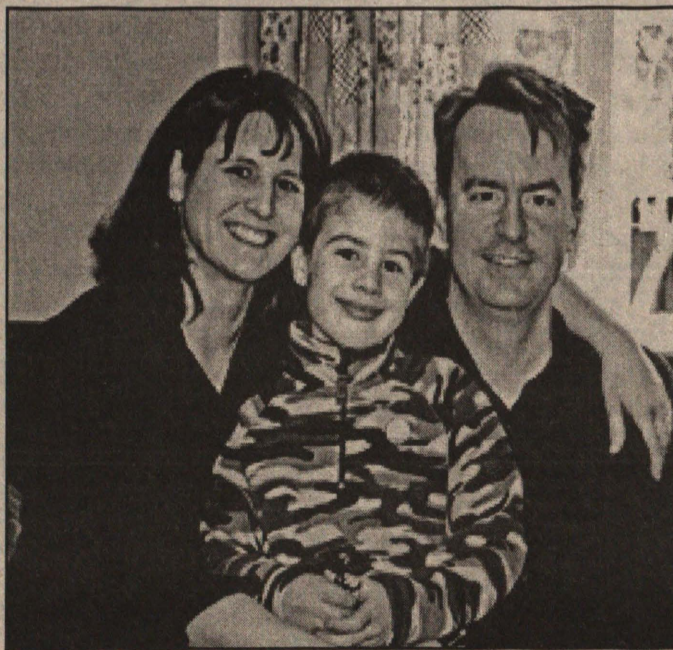


Photo courtesy of Aaron Hayes

Sheli, left, Caleb, and Aaron Hayes admit that every family has its own little 'glitch,' and adopting Caleb has only made them that more special.

Caleb knew right away about his situation.

"We explained it to him by saying that everyone has a birth mom and a mom, but in Caleb's situation, he has two different people filling out those roles," he said.

Caleb also keeps in touch with his mother and visits her around Christmas and on his birthday.

Hayes joked about how lately Caleb has been taking advantage of having contact with his birth mother whenever he doesn't get his way.

"He's just now at the age where he pulls the 'I want to go live with Megan' line whenever he isn't happy about something, and Megan will just say 'No, you have to listen to your parents,'" Hayes laughed.

Hayes said that Caleb's birth mother got married two years ago when he was almost six.

"After Megan called to tell us, Caleb got very withdrawn. He was concerned that she didn't love him anymore, essentially he wasn't man number one in her life anymore. We talked through that fact that he was still important and he is well

over that now," he said.

When asked if he would ever adopt another child, Hayes said yes. His boys have been hinting that they want a baby sister.

"They keep saying, 'Our mom needs a little girl,' so if we were to ever adopt again, we would get a girl," Hayes said.

He added that he would like to adopt an international child, preferably from the Philippines since he worked there.

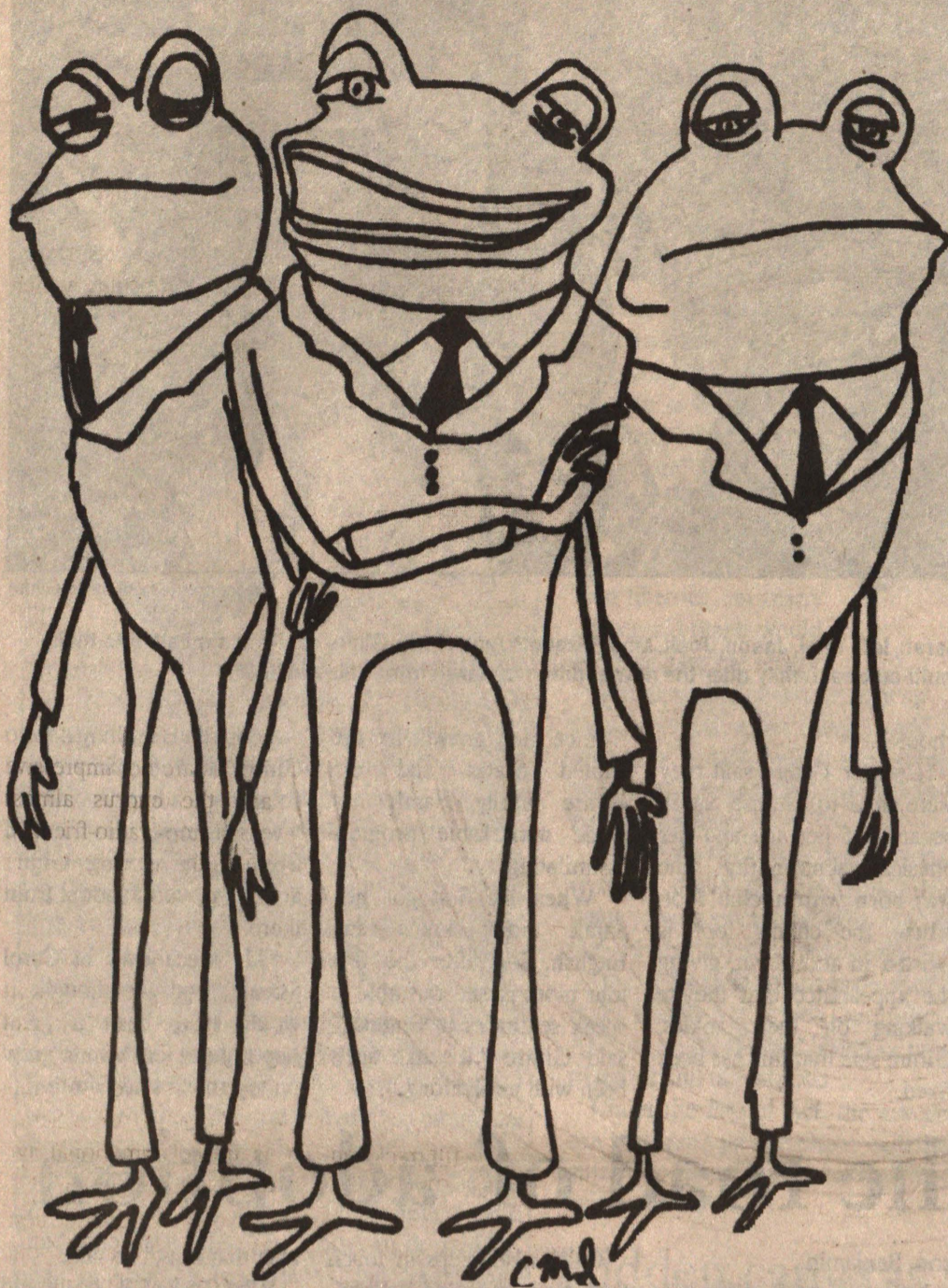
The Hayeses intended to adopt an international child the first time, but they were too young to do that.

Hayes encourages other people to consider adoption, especially if they face the situation of not being able to get pregnant.

"There are different stress levels involved in trying to get pregnant, and for us, adoption took away a lot of that stress," Hayes said. "I tend to believe adoption offers a solid home as well."

He also encourages anyone considering adoption to feel free to stop by his office and ask him questions.

"You know, every family has their own little 'glitch' that makes them a family, and for us it happens to be that Caleb is adopted," Hayes said.



## Confusing as time travel

*'Meet the Robinsons' becomes unorganized and complex as the heroes venture through time*

By Jessica Bergmann

Disney's latest animated movie "Meet the Robinsons" is an unorganized jumble of sympathy, humor, moral codes, nightclub singing frogs, and 3-D graphics.

Equipped with 3-D glasses, it was impressive to see that they were nicely made of plastic, not flimsy cardboard.

But it appears that the excitement of 3-D lead to disappointment as the 3-D graphics were not as good as what was expected.

Lewis, a nerdy orphan, is on the edge of inventing the world's greatest machines and technology. His only problem: When it doesn't work, he gives up.

So, when he invents a machine that will scan the brain for lost memories, the evil villain known as the "guy in the bowler hat" wishes to steal it and claim it as his own. The "guy in the bowler hat" unscrews a screw essential to the structure, so when Lewis

turns it on, it breaks.

Lewis, being aggravated with another failure, forgets about the brain scanner, allowing the "guy in the bowler hat" to steal it and repair it.

*'The plot is warm and touching, but it was scattered and unorganized... For a children's movie, the writers should have kept the plot simpler.'*

When a boy from the future, Wilbur Robinson, comes to convince Lewis to fix the machine, Lewis is taken to the future, where he sees that he is the greatest inventor of all time, but more importantly, he has a big family who loves

him.

Although the plot is warm and touching, it was scattered and highly unorganized. It was hard to follow being in the present, then going to the future, and then back to the present to see the future. Confused yet?

For a children's movie, the writers should have kept the plot simpler and understandable.

It was, however, refreshing to see that something as simple as a 96 minute children's movie was still funny, from a talking dinosaur that has a big head and little arms, to the interesting futuristic Robinson family characters, to Frank Sinatra-sounding singing frogs.

At least kid's movies have yet to be bombarded with sexual references, obscenity, and advertisements, like everything else.

Overall, the movie was worth seeing, just not while wearing silly 3-D glasses.

## Ferrell and Heder score a comedic 6.0

By Dave Thomas

It seems like a stupid movie, taking Will Ferrell, of "Anchorman" and "Talladega Nights" fame, and Jon Heder a.k.a. Napoleon Dynamite and having them both ice skate.

Yes, it's stupid. But it's pretty funny.

"Blades of Glory" opens on the 2002 World Winter Sport Games, and Chazz Michael Michaels (Ferrell) and Jimmy MacElroy (Heder) are in a fierce fight for the gold.

The convenient video histories of Michaels and MacElroy tell us we need to know about the characters. MacElroy is a sensitive, feminine skater who strives for complete perfection on the ice.

Michaels, on the other hand, is a rowdy sex addict ("I'm never satisfied! It's a curse...") who improvises entire routines.

The two tie for the gold, but their conflicting personalities start a fight during the awards ceremony. The board bans both Michaels and MacElroy for life from men's singles competition.

Fast-forward three years later. MacElroy is working at his dead-end job when a deranged fan tells him that he was banned from singles competition, not doubles.

MacElroy gets motivated: He re-enlists his old skating coach (Craig T. Nelson, whose known only as Coach in this movie), and sets off to find a female partner. He searches, coincidentally, at an ice skating kiddy show that Michaels was just fired from. MacElroy and Michaels meet in the stadium, and start to fight again.

Meanwhile, Coach sees

clips of the two fighting on TV. Remarkably, during their fight, both ex-skaters perform moves similar to that of doubles partners.

Eventually, MacElroy and Michaels are persuaded to pair up, creating media frenzy. This catches the ire of the brother-sister duo of Stranz (Will Arnett) and Fairchild (Amy Poehler) Van Waldenberg. The duo is notorious for winning the gold in doubles competition, and are willing to guilt trip (it's a long story) their relatively-unknown sister Katie (Jenna Fischer) into spying on the competition.

All of the jokes and gags in "Blades of Glory" are uninspired and unsophisticated. This movie isn't going to be on AMC's "100 Funniest Movies of All-Time" lists any time soon.

Ferrell is remarkable with his outrageous characters. When MacElroy tells Michaels that he's gotten fat in the last three years, Michaels replies, "Yeah, well you still look like a 15-year-old girl but not hot!"

Heder does a fantastic job. At times, he seems like a 15-year-old with his inability to talk to a girl.

But the other characters shine as well. Fischer, best known for her role as Pam on "The Office," manages to hold her own between Heder and Ferrell. Poehler is great as the conniving sister while Arnett's character comes across as sexually confused. Perhaps it's just all the jewelry he usually sports.

Overall, "Blades of Glory" succeeds in its original intent, which is to be hilarious. All of the jokes are aimed low, but they score a perfect 6.0.

### What to do this Friday night...

So you're not going to prom. While all of your friends are having the time of their lives, you might as well sit down with Ben & Jerry, and enjoy these fine flicks...

#### "Sixteen Candles" - 1984

It's 23 years old, but regarded as one of the best chick flicks ever.

#### "High School Musical" - 2006

Go ahead, sing-a-long to the songs. It's not like anyone will know.

#### "Carrie" - 1976

The ultimate revenge movie. A tormented girl learns about her psychic powers and unleashes hell at her prom.

## Chevelle: The best of alternative rock

*Chicago-based family band changes their musical style to produce an instant classic*

**By Cristina Sarnelli**

With the release of their fourth album, "Vena Sera," alternative hard rock band Chevelle demonstrates yet again their undying talent and proves that the saying "Change is good" rings true.

"Vena Sera" (vein liquid in Latin), which was released on April 3, displays a whole new musical style compared to that of their last album "This Type of Thinking (Could Do Us In)." Vocalist and guitarist Pete Loeffler sacrifices his usually aggressive singing, full of screaming and ripping lyrics, for more elevated pitches and passionate tones.

The forceful guitar and bass rhythms which are Chevelle's trademark sound, are toned down but they support the vocals.

Not only did the Chicago-based band undergo changes musically, but Pete and drummer and brother Sam had to let go of their former bassist and brother Joe due to irreconcilable differences. Their brother-in-law, Dean Bernadini replaced Joe, and he blends right in on the record.

For avid Chevelle fans, the record might take them by

surprise at first listen, but that shouldn't stop listeners from liking the tracks. Though Chevelle did give up some of their style in "Vena Sera," their new

sound definitely shows how they have grown as a band and avoided the "sell-out" title.

The CD begins with two excellent tracks: "Antisaint" and "Brainiac." With an introduction that is heavy and

rich with guitar and bass, "Antisaint" is strongly addicting. Though Pete's voice starts off a bit flowery (his higher singing voice proves much more effective in other tracks), the chorus turns aggressive with

bouncy and rockin' guitar rhythms that definitely require some head banging. It gets better at the chorus where Pete's voice shines bright with heart wrenching lyrics that make the listener want to get up and rock out to the music.

The next track slows down a bit, and is by far one of

laby like, and the guitars accentuate the beauty of this song with their consoling rhythms.

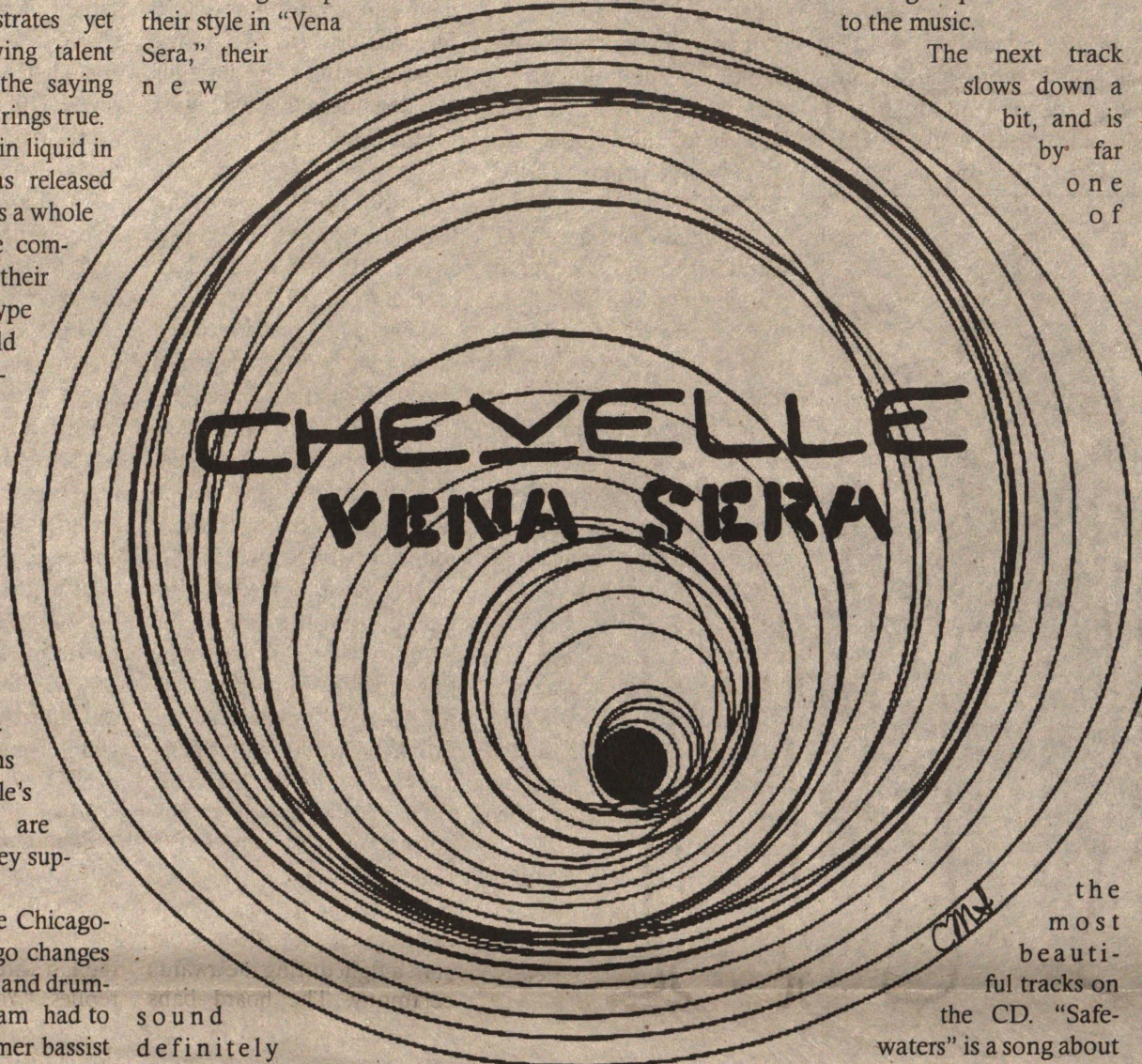
Track four is the first single that was released for the album. "Well Enough Alone" begins with a deep breath and a scream that "penetrates (the) skin" as the lyrics go. Here the listener gets a taste of Pete's old hostility which then blends into the new style of music. The guitar does not stand out in this song but serves as a foundation for the climaxing vocals. This is a song where you can hear the passion in Pete's voice.

After the first four brilliant songs comes a weak link in the chain. "Straight Jacket Fashion" starts off with a funky drum beat but starts to drag immediately afterward. The vocals are not impressive and the chorus almost seems too radio-friendly, like a mix of typical punk rock and pop rock sound, especially in the drums.

An honorable mention goes to "I Get It." It opens with a pretty drum rhythm and whisper soft vocals.

Chevelle's overwhelming talent shines in "Vena Sera." It is full of emotional lyrics and addicting guitar riffs. Pete's voice is one of the best, and he goes above and beyond making his sound unique.

Chevelle sets the example for all other alternative rock bands, and is, in essence, what alternative rock should sound like.



the most beautiful tracks on the CD. "Safe-waters" is a song about "crawling back to sea" and retreating to a safer place, sort of like home sweet home. This is the track where Pete's new singing style works the best. He sings with calm and resonating tones, almost lul-

repetition of "You poor little antisaint."

"Brainiac" has a comparable introduction to that of "Antisaint" since it includes

## 'Revival': A mix of punk and techno

**By Jacob Wucka**

Good Charlotte's follow up album "Good Morning Revival," to 2004's "The Chronicles of Life and Death" mixes their guitars and drums with new techno beats and a keyboard to make an effective rock album.

The first single, "The River," is a powerful way to start. The lyrics are catchy, and the verse sang by the Avenged Sevenfold front man, M. Shadows, only improves the song.

Shadows' verse also makes "The River" a punk rock song, not a pop rock song, which usually compares to first tracks off Good Charlotte's previous albums.

The next song, "Dance Floor Anthem" is a techno and modern song, that sounds like a song that Fall Out Boy would make. However hearing it from Good Charlotte

is refreshing and the song shows lead singer Joel Madden's singing talents.

However in the next track, Good Charlotte based a whole song on a techno beat along with Madden's sing/rap lyrics. The song, "Keep Your Hands Off My Girl" is a ridiculous mesh of no talent.

The lyrics are mainly spoke, and occasionally rapped, except for the refrains which have four seconds of someone singing, "Uh huh!"

Still, there were some of these techno and rock songs that did work. One of the best songs on the album, "Misery," has the perfect blend of the two.

"Misery" starts with a techno beat similar to the beginning of "Keep Your Hands Off My Girl."

However don't be fooled because the song quickly

shows off much more talent with the vocals and the mixing of techno and rock.

Another song, "All Black," which honors Madden and punk nation's favorite color, is a pure punk rock song.

"All Black" starts off with an organ playing and sets up the rest of the song as dark but powerful. The lyrics are memorable, but they rhyme and are repetitive, and after a while the song does gets frustrating.

The refrain irritates mainly because black is heard repeatedly, and because there are more refrains in the song than actual verses.

"Take a look at my life, all black, take a look at my clothes, all black, like Johnny Cash, all black, like the Rolling Stones wanna paint it black," and the refrain continues with four more comparisons of things that are

black. Maybe this refrain would've worked if the song didn't have four refrains and three verses, including a short 10 word verse.

Repetitive lyrics have worked for Good Charlotte in the past. The 2002 hit, "Boys and Girls" echoed the phrase "Girls don't like boys, girls like cars and money. Boys will laugh at girls when they're not funny," and that worked.

Although there are some questionable songs on the album, there are many more good songs as well, like "The River", "Dance Floor Anthem", and "Misery."

This album also proves that Good Charlotte can now do two types of music, techno and rock. Maybe techno will be a back up plan if the whole rock and roll lifestyle catches up to them.

**Dancin' for Prom**

**You're going to prom, but you're nervous about dancing. Practice dancing to these songs with a trusted friend (or parent) beforehand.**

- "Baby Got Back" by Sir Mix-a-Lot
- "Dig" by Incubus
- "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)" by Green Day
- "Sandstorm" by Darude
- "You and Me" by Lifehouse

## First outdoor meet disappoints indoor fans with only personal bests to recognize

By Dave Thomas

Despite the relative success of the indoor season, the boys track team had a rough start at its first outdoor invitational on April 14.

The team finished seventh out of nine teams at the Geneva invitational, but according to coach Paul McLeland, it was "the worst performance" the team has had at

that invite.

"It was a pretty tough competition," said junior/co-sprint captain David Musick, who placed third in the long jump with a length of 20-5. The student who won first place jumped a length of 21-4, and the second place jumper a length of 20-11½.

According to Musick, the student who won second place set the sophomore meet record for the long jump the previous year.

"It was better competition than we're used to. I was an inch away from my personal best," said Musick.

The only West Chicago member to win at the Geneva Invite was senior/field captain Jim Foreman in pole vaulting. Although he vaulted a height of 14 feet, Foreman wasn't completely thrilled about his jump.

"I have mixed emotions about that jump. I was expecting to jump higher," said Foreman, who estimated he jumped 15 feet during practice.

In addition, senior/co-sprint captain Ken Klein was sidelined by an injury and was

unable to compete in the 110 high hurdle dash. According to McLeland, Klein hurt his hip when he was warming up for the first race.

Klein, who McLeland consistently names as one of his top three runners, placed first in the 110 high hurdle dash at the April 10 home meet against Wheaton North and Naperville North. The team placed third at that meet, but they managed to win in a few events. In addition to Klein, Foreman and Musick placed first in pole vaulting and the long jump, respectively.

Only a few weeks have passed since the end of the indoor season. Foreman, the only athlete from West Chicago who competed, placed fifth in pole vaulting at the indoor state meet on March 31. He tied his personal best with a height of 15-3.

"He was the fourth best going in, but he did just slightly worse," said McLeland. "Not every vault is the same."

Because of the recent cold temperatures, the team has had to practice inside instead of outside. However, McLeland said they've been doing

some "tough workouts," including exercises in the pool and on the bikes in the spin room. Only recently has the team been able to practice outside.

"Training wise, we've been able to practice outdoors," said McLeland. "We're trying to get back on track."

The team's last invitational was Friday at Glenbard South. However, due to press constraints, the results could not be reported.

According to McLeland, sophomores Zach Mowen and Kyle Nichol were going to be upgraded to varsity runners for the next few meets. McLeland described Mowen and Nichol as being the fastest runners in the 200 meter and 400 meter dash, respectively.

Other honorable mentions include freshman DJ Muzzy and sophomore Tim Loftus. McLeland said Muzzy was doing "very well in distance" and gives consistent efforts during meets and practices.

"Tim Loftus, he's right up there with Kevin Pavnica, who's our best distance guy," said McLeland.



Photo courtesy of David Musick

Senior Lee Bennett, back, and sophomore Zach Mowen exchange the baton at the track meet on April 17.

## Boys volleyball serves up major victories on the court

By Greg Vodicka

Following a strong pre-season, the Wildcats are proving they belong on the court, after a remarkable game against Naperville Central, April 19.

After a dominant performance against West Aurora, Wheaton Warrenville South came out on top, beating the Cats, April 17.

On April 10 the Cats suffered a close loss to Naperville North.

Coach Kristi Hasty described Naperville North as being one of the toughest teams they are going to play.

The team has taken a new approach, setting their concentration on defense.

"The team has always been great on offence, but we can't win on offence alone. Compared to last season, this group is more solid as a team," Hasty said. "There is more intersquad competitiveness for positions."

Hasty said that competition for positions helps everyone

work harder to keep, or take positions.

The team has high expectations and looks for leadership from players such as seniors Ryan Kuhlmann, Nate Sullivan, Erik Sorgatz, Kevin Carrington, and Dave Rundell.

The team spiked their pre-season with a string of victories.

Hasty said the team played the best she'd ever seen them play at the Hoffman Estates tournament, March 23.

The second place title was given to the Wildcats for the tournament with a record of 3-2.

The Cats had two straight victories beating Naperville Central on April 3 and a solid victory against Glenbard North April 4.

At the St. Charles East invite, April 5, the team beat Hindsdale South, Zion-Benton, Fenton, Oswego, and again, Zion-Benton for the championship.

The Wildcats walked away

with a perfect record and the first place title.

"So far, my favorite part of this season has been winning the St. Charles tournament," said Sullivan.

With five returning starters from last year, experience is not an issue.

Kuhlmann acknowledged that there is a lot of depth on the bench.

This means if someone were to get injured or is just not playing well, there will be someone on the bench who can step it up and contribute to the team.

"The team has a lot more experience this year than last year," said Sullivan. "But we are plagued with inconsistency."

Sullivan also admitted that the team can be "emotionally distraught" on the court.

On the plus side, according to Sullivan the team is the best hitting team in the conference and has a tough offence.

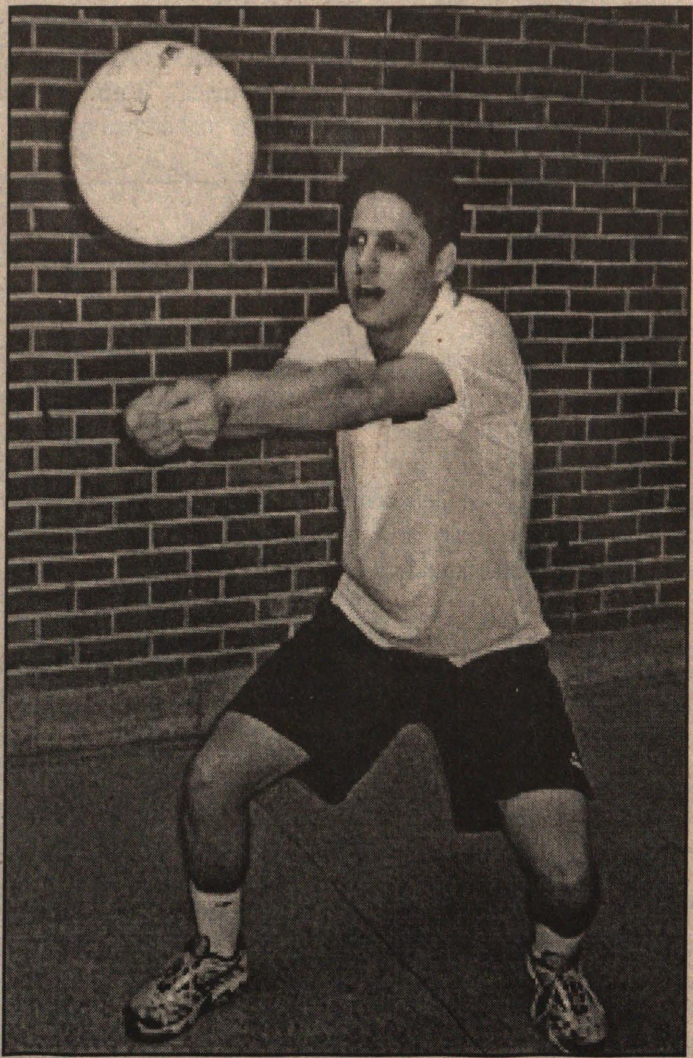


Photo by Greg Vodicka

Senior captain Nate Sullivan warms up outside the gym before a game against Naperville Central, April 19.

"We have a great group of guys. We have an eclectic collection of personalities on the team which makes everything more interesting," said Sullivan.

## Stress free start leads to success against Nequa Valley

By Oscar Grajeda

With high hopes and ambitions, lacrosse coach Dave Libby expects nothing but the best from all levels.

With the varsity team at a 3-2 record Libby's expectations could be met this season.

They proved that when they beat Nequa Valley 8-3 April 17.

Their conference consists of Geneva, Benet Academy, Glenbard West, Champaign Centennial, Naperville North, Wheaton South, St. Charles, Nequa Valley, and Waubonsie Valley.

"The varsity team will have to be on one of the top 12 teams in our division to make the State Playoffs, and we have a good start at this goal," stated Libby.

The team has come out on

top. They have reached the second round of playoffs every year.

Junior Aaron Cracraft said,

free start compared to last season's start.

With seniors Jim Foote, Jim Roman, Ken Cole, and Steve Rolseth having only one year of experience they've been performing at a higher level.

"Yes, we have a lot of talent on our team and a lot of experience," said Cracraft.

The freshman/sophomore team has two new coaches, Mike Elliot and Don Koltz, both former players of Libby.

Elliot was an All Conference player from St. Charles, and Koltz was one of the founders for the school's lacrosse team as well as a former player.

"In the first two games played they have taken a group of kids who haven't really played much

before and have molded them into a promising team," said Libby. "They'll be a fun group to watch come through West Chicago."

The teams have a 0-3 record.



Photo by Aaron Pennington

Little previous experience did not stop seniors Steve Rolseth, left, and Jimmy Roman lead the team to victory against Nequa Valley, April 17.

"Every year our program has made it to the second round of playoffs, but this year we expect state or state runner up."

The biggest change Libby has seen this season is a stress

## Inexperienced varsity calls for a rough start in early season games

### Girls look to improve defense and teamwork

By Aaron Pennington

Despite a rocky start, the girls soccer team is working hard getting up to speed.

In this season so far, the team has experienced one win, two ties, and seven losses, including the game against Naperville North on April 18, which they lost 0-3.

Coach Julio DelReal explained that most of the players on the team aren't used to being on varsity, which explains how they have been playing.

"They are very inexperienced in playing varsity, and

it has taken its toll on our playing," said DelReal.

Team captain and junior Jessica Jones said that the team needs to improve on how they work with each other on the field.

"As a team, we need to work on our communication on the field, but that will come as our season progresses," Jones said.

DelReal feels the same way about the team's weakness.

"We need to make use of our passing skills and should be looking out for other players. We also need to make more productive defensive runs," DelReal said.

For their strengths, Jones thinks that they are flexible and fierce.

"We are very versatile when it comes to positions. We are also very intense and dangerous in the air," said Jones.

DelReal believes that cer-

tain players on the team are the top athletes.

They are seniors Jamie Voelz, Gina Adduci, Sarah Scardamaglia and juniors Kayla Radloff and Jones.

"We try to take advantage of them and get the others to pick up from their skills," said DelReal.

Jones explained some of the qualities that the players have.

"We have skilled midfielders, a strong defense, and speed in our attackers. Several of our seniors will be going to play in college," said Jones.

DelReal chose Jones and Voelz as the captains because of their support for the team.

"Jones has a special way of leading her teammates and is committed to the team. Voelz has experience and the capacity to make others around her feel better," DelReal said.

## Crucial innings determine Lady Wildcats record

By Cristina Sarnelli

With a record of 5-4 as of Thursday, girls softball is keeping up well especially since all of the teams they face have been challenging, according to coach Laurie Davidson.

"All of our games have been close and we have to execute and play solid defense in every game. There are no freebies on our schedule," she said.

To prepare for their games, the girls have been practicing offense and strategy.

"We have been focusing on our offense, and we have been breaking down the fundamentals of hitting and decision-making. We spend a lot of time working on the little things that win games such as bunting, hitting cuts, and base running," Davidson said.

Softball's latest game against Naperville North on April 18 ended in a loss, 6-4.

"We lost because the umpires took the opportunity for us to come back. We played really well, but we let the other team slip back in one inning," varsity softball player and senior Christine Williams said.

Despite the loss, Davidson said that one thing the girls do well is stay positive and support each other no matter what.

On April 16, the girls managed to gain a win, beating Wheaton North 4-3.

It was one of the best games they played according to Davidson.

"We played great defense against Wheaton North. They are a tough team and we got the job done," she

said.

Another loss for the team occurred on April 9 against Glenbard West. The girls lost 8-4.

Davidson said that the team's biggest challenge when it comes to winning games is all determined by performance in one inning usually.

"We tend to have one bad inning and rebounding from that has been difficult," Davidson explained. "Defense and decision-making when the pressure is on are the things we need to continue working on."

However, the girls worked well under pressure against Geneva on April 2. They won 3-2.

"We were really excited because it was one of the first home games, and we played awesome. Our defense and offense were fired up," Williams said.

Coach Jim Shaudt has high expectations for the girls.

He thinks they will do well in their future games.

"I always expect the girls to play well. They are a great team," he said.

As for the team's biggest goal, Shaudt said that the team has two.

"Our main goal every year is to win DuPage Valley Conference, which we haven't won since 2001. Our second goal is to win regionals and move on from there," Shaudt said.

Davidson added that she wants the girls to do better than last year.

"Our goal is to be competitive in the DVC and to have a better record than last year," she said.



Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Freshman Molly Efferton faced the Naperville North pitcher, April 18, making contacts to advance runners. The team hopes, once again, to make it to the tournament, which the team hasn't won since 2001.

## Varsity tennis sweeps away competition at local tournament

During a losing streak, win boosts team morale for freshmen and sophomore team

By Jacob Wucka

Varsity boys tennis received a bittersweet taste of victory as they swept competition at a local tournament, boosting morale for inexperienced players who are having a rough start to the season.

On April 14, the boys varsity team won every match against Dundee, Lisle, and Montini high schools.

Winning these matches boosted morale for the team.

Confidence was low due to the team's losses against York, St. Francis, Larkin, and Glenbard East high schools.

The team lost every match against York, and they only won one match against St. Francis.

Coach Sione Moeaki said that those losses were caused by inexperienced players on all levels.

Team captains and seniors Joel Rehbock and Chris Savaglio agree with Moeaki.

However they believe that this year is "slightly better" than last year.

"Last year we had one experienced player and he graduated. This year we have many more experienced players," said Savaglio.

Rehbock believes that the team is going to do better this year because of their tourna-

ment win.

Rehbock said, "This year, we actually have a chance."

Inexperience was mainly caused by the large turnout of freshmen and sophomores this year.

Usually there are 30 players, a mix of all grade levels.

However this year, 24 freshmen and sophomores tried out, leaving normally only six spots for juniors and seniors; however Moeaki allowed nine spots for other students.

This made many freshmen and sophomores, some experienced and others not, go straight onto the varsity team.

Those freshmen and sophomores joined with the ranks of seniors Jamon Malan, Rehbock, Savaglio, and sophomores Jozef Pavinca, and Jose Padilla, who are all players Moeaki is counting on to make a successful season.

One of the sophomores who made it onto the varsity team is Casey Powrozek.

Last year Powrozek was on the freshmen and sophomore team.

Then Powrozek challenged himself to progress in skills he lacked last year.

"I need to work on backhand and serve, but I'm still improving," said Powrozek.

Improvement is needed everywhere this season.

Moeaki and the rest of the team have scattered expectations and opinions for this year.

Moeaki expects his team to win 50 percent of all games, and win a few DVC matches as well.

Still, Savaglio believes that the team isn't going to do as well because there is not enough time to practice.

"We're definitely not Naperville," Savaglio said, as he compared the time West Chicago has to practice to the time Naperville has.

Nonetheless, some students still have hope for a successful season, while still being practical.

"It is such a hard division, and it is hard to beat other teams," said freshman Evan Krotz.

Krotz added that this season is mainly a practice season for many of the freshmen, who Krotz believes joined the team because of an interest in the sport.

Krotz believes many freshmen joined the team because their friends joined for fun.

"This is my first year and I've never played competitively before," Krotz said. "Most of the kids that play this year

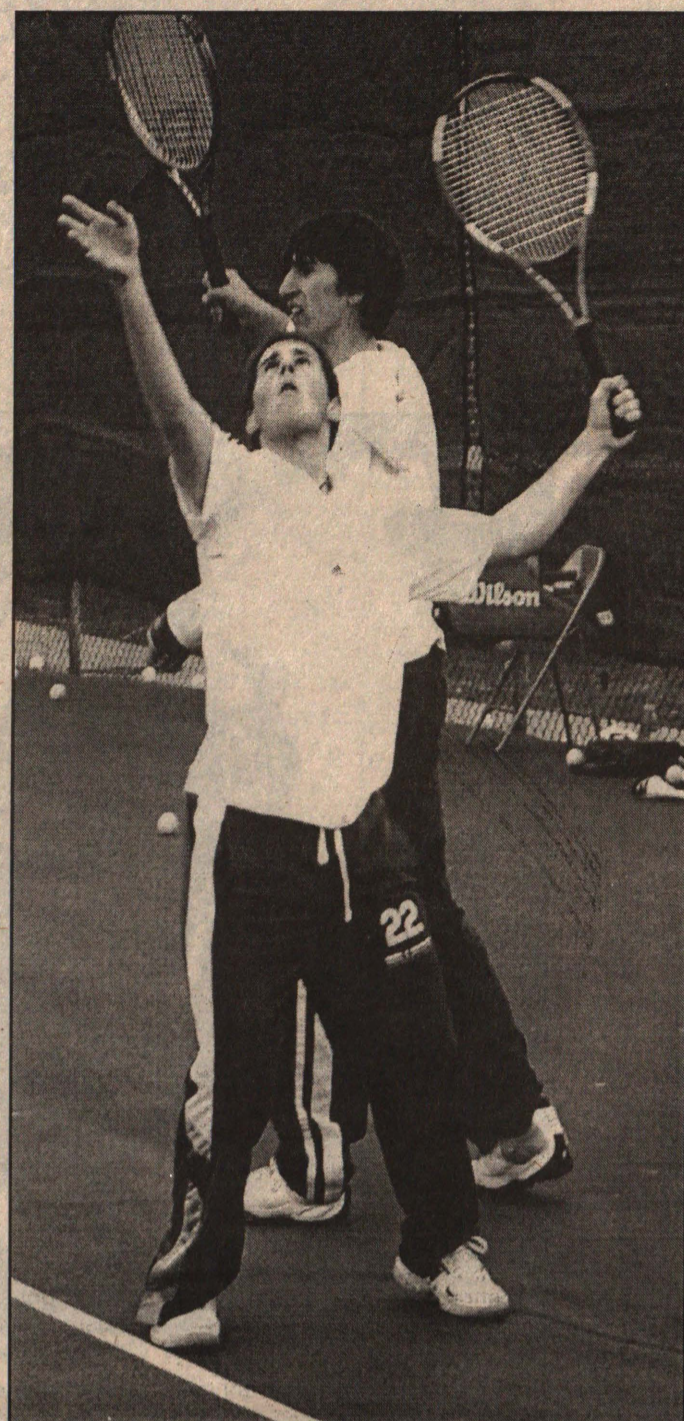


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Team captains, seniors, and varsity players Chris Savaglio, front, and Joel Rehbock practiced serving form for the tournament against Dundee, Lisle, and Montini. The varsity team won that competition, coming out victorious in every match played.

weren't even in tennis clubs before high school."

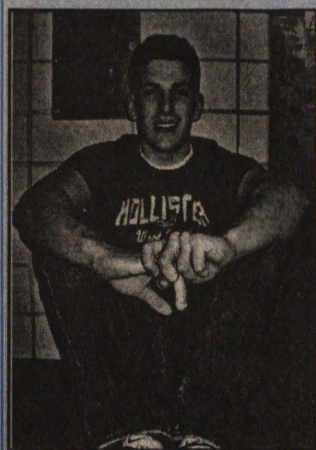
Many players also have challenges, besides inexperience, to overcome.

Rehbock broke his left arm during a practice, but he is still playing.

"All I need is my right arm anyway," he said.

## Demands of today's sports leave many athletes off the different playing fields

What started out as a game, a pastime, or a hobby has turned into so much more.



Greg Vodicka

Sports began as a way of entertainment for the player and the viewer. It is in our schools, our media, and in our lives.

Thirty years ago it was common to have athletes who participate in two or three different sports. Once one season would end, they would begin their next sport and another entire season.

In addition to three sports they may have participated in school plays or the school band.

Now it is rare to see a successful three sport athlete because of the demands of each sport. It is almost impossible to be in a school play that is during the same season as the sport you play.

The world of high school sports has changed a lot since the '70s. It is a whole new level of sports.

There is much more required work for a player to be

able to be involved in athletics, let alone be a successful starter.

In some circumstances student athletes will go over and above the required work for their sport.

In addition to the after school practices, they will train during their off season and even do extra work after practices.

You may hear people complain that they can not participate in all the activities they want to because each team doesn't work around the other schedules.

It is a shame that students need to choose one sport over the other, but in this case, it is a good thing.

It is more important that athletes are actually passion-

ate about their sport.

If athletes are truly spending their time working at their game in their off season, they should be making more progress than their teammates involved in several sports.

For example, if one basketball player chooses to play baseball during the spring, while another attends open gyms, speed training, weight lifting, and working on shooting, which basketball player do you think will have a better basketball season the following year?

It's great that athletes put forth all they have into one sport, rather than splitting their time and efforts between two or three sports. This produces better trained athletes in every game.

Of course, there are some exceptions. Some multi-sport athletes make it work and are very successful in their game. These athletes deserve special recognition because there are not many who can do that.

Most athletes would agree that it is so much more than just a game now.

It is not just something to do for fun in your free time, or something that takes up your lazy Saturday afternoon.

Whether you play one sport or more than one, a committed athlete knows how much the sport means to them. The pickup games played as kids are replaced with the intense play on and off the high school field.