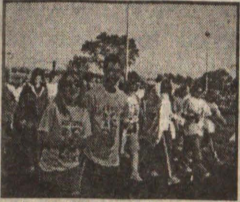




Inside

News

Relay for Life raised over \$51,000. Read about the event on page 4.



Perspectives

Earth 2.0 has been discovered! But before we move there, we need to fix a few problems first. Find out which on page 6.



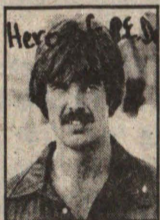
Center Spread

The long awaited cicadas are finally here! They only come every 17 years, so get to know them on pages 8-9 before they are gone!



Features

Can you recognize this face? Here's a clue: He's retiring this year. Find out who it is on page 10.



Entertainment

Did "Shrek the Third" live up to the high expectations? What new adventures did the green ogre encounter? You can find out by reading page 13.



Sports

Boys volleyball are the regional champs! Read their story on page 14.



CRACKDOWN

Strict new policy takes hard line against truant and tardy students

The board has approved many changes to the 2007-08 Student Discipline Policy and the Student Handbook. Here are the main changes.

- Unexcused and truant students will not be able to make up homework.
- Excused absent students have five days to make up missed work.
- Seven or more absences in a quarter result in a failing grade.
- Five truantries per class result in being dropped from the class and a failing grade.
- Chronic truantries can result in expulsion.
- Tardy students must see the dean before going to class.
- Study periods will become quiet study halls.
- Random enforcement of the dress code at main entrances.

By Elynn Fortino and Dave Thomas

Socializing in commons next year is over during study periods and so are weak punishments for class-cutters.

The Board of Education approved the proposed changes to next year's Student Discipline Policy and Student Handbook regarding the attendance policy, homework make-up policy, study hall assignments and consequences for violations at the May 22 meeting.

Assistant Principal Josh Chambers, who presented the changes to the board, said the new policy is in place because throughout his nine years at the school, staff has expressed concerns about the attendance and discipline policy.

According to the new policy, students who are unexcused, unaccounted for, or truant will not be able to make up homework. Excused absent students have a five-day window to turn their work in.

Chambers said that this window gives students more than enough time to meet with the teacher if there are any questions and to turn missed work

in on time. He also mentioned that in special cases the principal can extend the window.

Excessive absence cap

Other changes will include an excessive absence cap.

"If a student has seven or more excused absences in a quarter they would receive an F for the class and if their attendance improves they can earn their grade back for second quarter," Chambers said.

Should students exceed 14 absences in a semester, they will fail the semester and be dropped from classes. Students with special circumstances will be able to appeal to a review panel.

However, students who are absent for seven days or more due to an illness can bring in a note signed by a doctor, nurse, or "any other medical professional" and it will not count towards the cap.

"The student would have to bring the note into the attendance office and they'd file it," said Chambers. "Everything would go back to normal."

But some students said that they don't always go to a doctor when they get sick.

"I think it's ridiculous," said junior Allison Fletcher. "I get pink eye, and I don't always go to the doctor because I've got eye drops for them. I don't

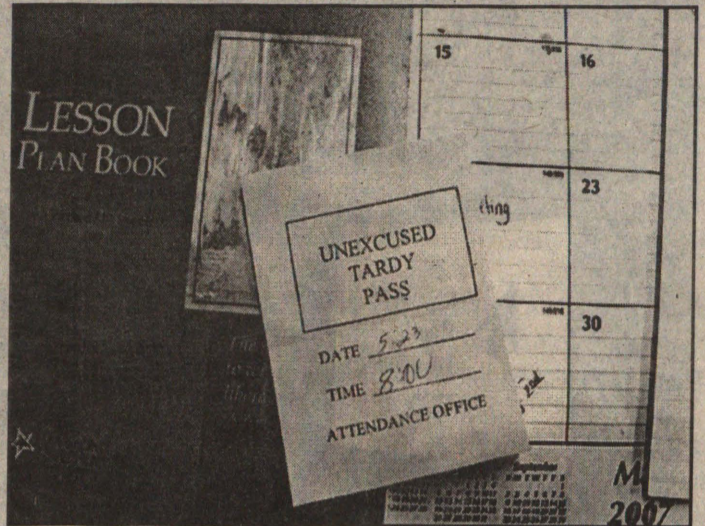


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Students who receive five truantries per class within a semester will receive an F and be dropped from the class. Also, truant students must see a dean before returning back to class.

think it's possible to set a limit for a student's illness."

Truancy policy

As for truantries, Chambers said that five truantries within a semester of a class would result in the student receiving an F and being dropped from the class. Chronic truantries may result in withdrawal expulsion or alternative placement and a ticket from the police. Fines usually are \$75.

If a student was truant the previous day, the student must see a dean before returning to class.

"If Johnny doesn't show up to class and comes up unexcused, truant, or unaccounted for the next day (the teacher) should not let him in the class until he gets a pass from the deans' office," Chambers explained.

Some students were positive about the changes. Freshman

Kyle Wolf said he was fine with the changes, mainly because it didn't affect him.

Teachers receive attendance reports every morning and Chambers said that it is the responsibility of the teachers to not let truant students into class the next day. However, he also said it is not the teacher's responsibility to add up how many truant days a student has had. The deans' office would handle that.

However, some students had expressed skepticism about the changes.

"Wouldn't this (policy) make students even later to class and cause them to miss more important information?" said junior Austin Pietrobon.

Routine monitoring

Board president Tony Reyes said that it is crucial for teachers to routinely monitor the codes in the morning and to take attendance.

Chambers also said that the new policy will improve the collection systems for hourly attendance.

"We will be able to make the calls to home on a quicker basis," he said.

Students that are tardy to class will also not be allowed to enter class without seeing a dean or tardy supervisor, and all classes including study hall are to be treated the same.

Electronics ban

The changes in the student handbook also touch on the ban of electronics. All electronics must be turned off during the school day (see related story page 3).

OCTOBER 2007						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

If a student is absent seven or more times during a quarter, he/she will receive an F in the class.

See Changes page 4

Leaks from the rain cause ceiling to bow

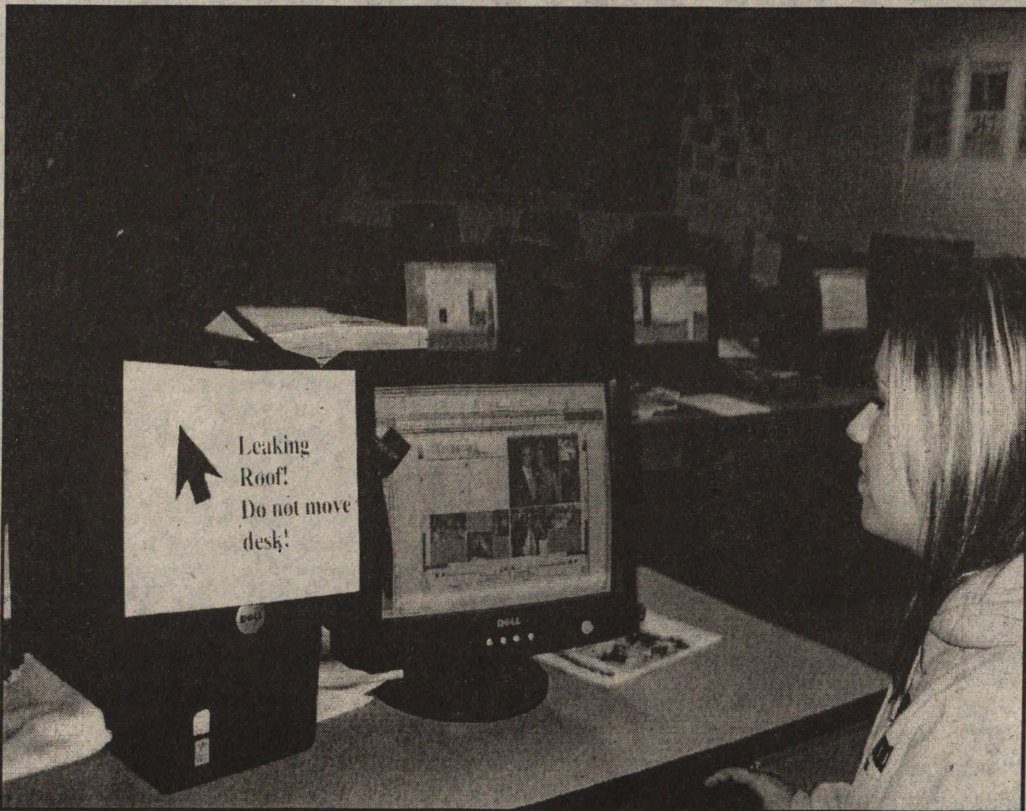


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

The desk in the journalism lab where junior Michelle Nitti is working had to be moved due to a ceiling tile that started to bow and drip. The journalism lab isn't the only room suffering from leaks. The weight room is also dripping badly.

By Jacob Wucka

April showers might bring May flowers, but they also brought roof leaks and

dropping ceiling tiles.

In response to the rain damaged roof, the Board of Education agreed on a plan

to repair the damaged areas but not the entire roof.

Supt... Lee Rieck said that rebuilding the roof is not in

the budget at this time.

"We have set aside money for temporary repairs," Rieck said.

Rieck added that the board hired a roofing contractor who surveyed the roof and estimated the cost of temporary repairs to the cost of rebuilding.

In an informal survey of the school's hallways, the Chronicle found 380 tiles with water spots, cracks, or tiles that are starting to bow from water damage.

Other places where leaks were reported were the weight room, the Bishop gym, and the girls bathroom in the math hallway.

Some teachers and students think that the school needs to rebuild the roof because they believe the damage is substantial.

Health teacher Heather Goebel was teaching a class when a roof tile crumbled in.

Goebel found that a leaky tile had begun to bow during her first hour class. She called maintenance to check out the condition, and they said the tile was fine.

Two minutes after maintenance left, the tile crumbled to the floor. Goebel believed the tile rotted after months of leaking.

Fortunately, the students who sat in the seats below the tile were out of harm's way.

"Our classroom still doesn't have a tile," said Goebel.

Freshman Evan Krotz believes that the falling tile in Goebel's room could've been prevented when water dripped on him last semester, from the same tile, in the same classroom.

"I heard a tapping noise and then I looked and my test was wet and then I got wet too," said Krotz.

The same occurrence happened to a student in English teacher Patricia Santella's class.

Last year, Santella's yearbook production class was working in the lab when a student's keyboard filled with water, and the roof started leaking on the student.

"Taking care of the roof is essential to the students' education. The students can't learn by bringing an umbrella to class," said Santella.

Nonetheless, if the roof's condition does worsen, Rieck has come up with a solution.

"We're thinking of a roof fund, where \$150,000 will be put aside each year over the next two to three years," said Rieck.



Photo by Kait Taylor

From left, new board members Katherine Doremus and Tammie Murphy, incumbent John Jensen, new board member Ruben Campos, and incumbents Rich Nagel, Gordon Cole, and Tony Reyes at the May 8 Board of Education meeting.

New board members elected

By Kait Taylor

School Board President Tony Reyes was re-elected to his position May 8 after board members, both sitting and newly elected, confronted him about his leadership style.

The board first swore in new members Katherine Doremus, Ruben Campos, Tammie Murphy, and incumbent John Jensen. After the oath, the board proceeded to elections, in which Reyes took some heat.

"Mr. Reyes has somewhat taken over running the district like it's his own business," said member Rich Nagel, who suggested new leadership on the board in

order to respond to community concerns about a lack of communication.

Jensen was nominated to take over his post, but objected stating that he was not ready for the responsibility of the position. Reyes was elected by a majority of five votes. Campos supported Jensen and Nagel abstained.

Reyes, who had previously stated he would resign from the board if not elected president, defended his so-called "abrasive and forceful" management style stating that "he doesn't hesitate to bring up tough issues."

He also added that he always allows the public to come to meetings and com-

municate with board members, and has "never intimidated or disrespected someone who wants to speak up at a meeting."

Jensen responded stating, "I'd like to see that we can step above this and come together."

Campos echoed Jensen's statement, saying, "This is not an indication that the board is going to be at each other's throats. This just means that I'm going to be watching Tony very carefully."

Jensen retained his seat as vice president, Murphy was voted as secretary, and Gary Saake, who ran unsuccessfully for a full-term seat, was appointed treasurer.

Art auction raises money for Louis Ransom Art Scholarship

By Anjelica Koelsch

Students from art classes displayed their work in the 4th annual art show May 9 - 11 in the conference room in commons.

Students submitted work such as drawings, paintings, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics, and photography.

Photos taken by children in the Welcome Center were also on display.

Art was up for bidding.

"The show is a great chance to get bargains on artwork," said Chris Bardey, art teacher and head of the auction.

Half the proceeds from the auction went to the Louis Ransom Art Scholarship. The rest went to the artists.

The art was back on display Thursday for the closing reception where teachers also displayed art.

The other teachers in the art department will be running the show in place of Bardey next year.

He will be traveling to Las Cruces, N. M. to attend New Mexico State University. He plans on going into printmaking and earning his master's degree in fine arts.



Photo by Anjelica Koelsch

Art by teachers and students was displayed before the spring choral and orchestra concert on Thursday.

Electronics and phones turned off for good

By Cristina Sarnelli

Put away your cell phones, iPods, and PSPs because the use of electronics on campus is banned next year.

The new policy states that in order to "prevent disruption and promote student learning, safety, and welfare, and to restrict actions which may endanger student safety, no student shall use any electronic device on or about school property at any time during the school day."

The only way a student will be allowed to use an electronic device is if the student has written permission by the principal or in a case of "bona-fide emergency."

Supt. Lee Rieck added that the policy says the school is not responsible for the loss of electronics.

"We have had a big problem with theft in the school,

so that was one of the reasons the policy was put into effect," he said.

"If an electronic is lost, responsibility resides with the student."

The policy bans the use of electronics during school only. Electronics are still permitted on campus as long as they are not on. Also, once the school day ends, students are able to use them again. Rieck explained that the reasoning for this is because many students' cell phones and iPods have been disrupting classes.

"We have a situation now where parents are calling students during the school day,



Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Electronics must be turned off in school next year. Failure to follow the rules can result in suspension.

That is always disrupting. Students who listen to iPods hinder their ability to learn and concentrate in class," he said.

The punishment for students who violate the policy is that the device will be taken away the first time, and the student must have a parent conference with school officials.

"If a student violates the policy a second time, he or she may be subject to suspension or expulsion," Rieck said.

Junior Mike Dalton disagrees with the new policy, especially the punishments.

"I think they are being way

too strict with the policy. They are making it a way bigger deal than it is. They're taking away our learning time by suspending us after the second violation all because of a cell phone," he said.

When asked if he thinks the policy will cause any problems at first, Rieck said that there may be complications.

"I think students will probably test our seriousness of implementing the policy at first. I anticipate that there will be interventions," he said.

Sophomore Kelli Lyne also expressed concern for whether or not people will obey the new rule.

"I don't think people are going to follow it because people will find ways to hide their cell phones and other electronics," she said.

Daneels to teach at school in Angola over the summer

By Aaron Pennington

Social studies teacher Mary Ellen Daneels will be teaching at the WeGo 2 Africa sponsored school in Angola, Africa over the summer.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, who were a sponsor of WeGo 2 Africa, are sponsoring Daneels.

Daneels will be going with RISE International to help with their teacher training.

According to Daneels, the organization got interested in sending her after they sponsored WeGo 2 Africa, giving \$500.

"Once they saw what we were doing, they were willing to sponsor me to go to Angola," Daneels said.

Teachers in Angola are not as educated as American teachers, explained Daneels.

"Most teachers in Angola have an eighth grade education," said Daneels.

Along with teaching, Daneels will be involved with

construction of more schools, as well as leadership training for some of the village leaders.

Daneels is the VFW's school liaison and helps them with their projects for the school.

"I help them organize the Voice of Democracy program in the fall and their senior scholarship program in the spring," said Daneels.

Having the opportunity to work in Angola over the summer is something Daneels is thankful for.

"I'm honored to represent the school and be able to give back firsthand my experience," said Daneels.

One of Daneels' hopes is that her teaching and helping out makes a change for the people in Angola.

"I hope to make a difference and help the Angolans get the tools they need to build a democracy and better future," Daneels said.

Wildcat Chronicle wins trophy



Photo by Laura Kuehn

The Northern Illinois School Press Association awarded the Chronicle staff the Golden Eagle trophy and two certificates. Back row from left: Senior Aaron Pennington, freshman Jacob Wucka, seniors Leah Kuzmicz, Elynn Fortino, and Dave Thomas, and sophomore Greg Vodicka. Front row from left: Sophomore Jessica Bergmann, and seniors Cristina Sarnelli and Kait Taylor.

By Jacob Wucka

The Wildcat Chronicle won the Golden Eagle trophy and two certificates from the Northern Illinois School Press Association (NISPA). This was the first gold award the staff received from NISPA.

"Everything came together this year. We had strong writers, strong editors, and strong contributing writers from the journalism 1 class," said adviser Laura Kuehn.

Senior and editor in chief Cristina Sarnelli believed that the award was earned by the staff's continual improvements.

"Last year there were 13 people on the staff and there was lots of dysfunction,

and people didn't get along. I believe with the group of five, we put away most of the pointless drama and we all focused on the newspaper," said Sarnelli. "Also, since we were so small we knew we had to be on top of our deadlines. In the past, everyone pushed stories back later and deadlines were never met. This year we knew how essential the deadlines were."

Sarnelli also believed that the staff was motivated to win the gold after coming close last year.

"Little things put us out of reach, and this year I knew we could fix them," said Sarnelli.

Sarnelli also said that she wanted to be as helpful to

everyone on the staff, and incoming journalists.

"Before, some people were very negative towards incoming journalists. They would say that the new kids didn't know anything. That's not true. They do know what they're doing. All you have to do is give them a chance, and they prove to be just as successful as some of the older members on the staff," said Sarnelli.

Supt. Lee Rieck also praised the staff's outstanding involvement and Kuehn for her leadership.

"It's been fun to watch the evolution of the Chronicle over the past five years," said Rieck. "It keeps getting better and better."

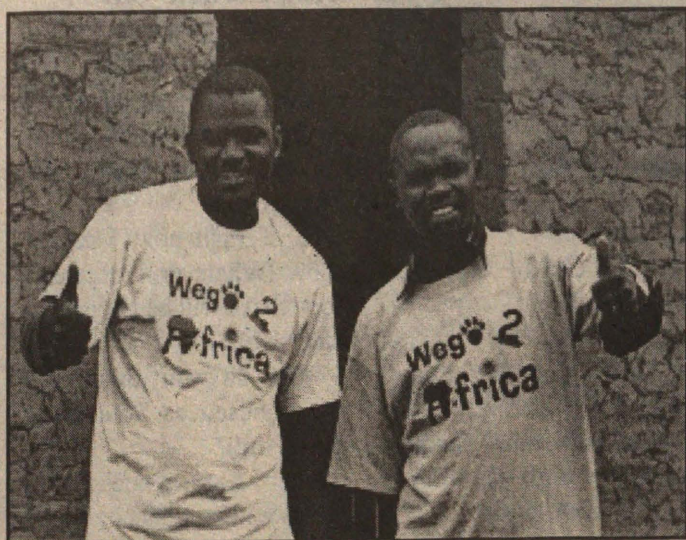


Photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Daneels

Angolan students will receive an education from teacher Mary Ellen Daneels this summer.

Changes: Policies enforced

Continued from page 1

Quiet study hall

Study periods 1,2,3,7, and 8 will now all be quiet study halls (but still held in commons) and periods 4,5, and 6 will be held in the small gym.

"The study periods currently are not what you call a typical quiet study hall," Chambers said.

The study halls will have specific seating arrangements and students must arrive on time. But many students resent the idea of turning study period into a study hall similar to freshman year.

"We can handle our own

time," said Fletcher. "We should be able to talk with our friends if we want to."

Sophomore Frank Stoerber also expressed his frustration, saying "we got done with (study hall) freshman year. This is our only time to relax."

Enforcing dress code

Next year students must also abide by the dress code in the student handbook and security and deans will have random enforcement at main entrances in the mornings

Students must have appropriate clothes delivered to school or wear clothing provided by the deans' office if they are not dressed appropriately.

Over \$51,000 raised from Relay for Life

By Kait Taylor

Nearly 300 volunteers came together to raise over \$51,000 at the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of West Chicago and Warrenville on May 11-12.

Teachers, students, community members, and cancer survivors walked around the track from 6 p.m. May 11 until 6 a.m. May 12 to help raise money towards cancer research, programs, and services for cancer victims.

An increase in involvement and fundraising were the major goals of committee members, and those ambitions were met. Twenty nine teams registered compared to 12 in 2006 and over \$51,000 was raised compared to the \$20,000 raised last year, surpassing the goal of \$40,000.

The event started with speeches by John Czech, American Cancer society volunteer, Dick Youngwith, cancer survivor, and West Chicago Mayor Michael Kwasman.

After the commencement, survivors walked around the track for the survivor's lap, which student volunteer and senior MaryPat Flanagan called "touching."

"Everyone ran across the football field, cheering for



Photo by Kait Taylor

Seniors MaryPat Flanagan, front left, and Kevin Michaelson showed their support for cancer research by spending 12 hours walking around the track.

the survivors and caregivers. It was an incredible moment that kicked off a successful night," she said.

Jan Bedard, the event's top fundraiser and team captain of the Wildcat Poms relay, considered the relay an educational event for the community's youth.

"To me, the relay is hope for the future and our kids," she said. "It is very educational, and hopefully the kids walked away knowing what Relay is really about."

Flanagan called the event an overall success, especially

the luminaria event, in which glowing bags representing those whose lives were affected by cancer are lit around the track at night.

"The luminaria ceremony was an essential part of the relay because it truly symbolized the whole meaning behind the event," said Flanagan.

After 12 hours of walking and thousands of dollars raised, participants packed up their tents, made for one last lap around the track, and congratulated each other on a job well done.

MaryPat Flanagan's effort in community service pays off

Coordinating Relay for Life helps win her title of May Student of the Month

Student of the Month is based on a solid academic history, commitment in extracurricular 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 Ellyn Fortino

Senior MaryPat Flanagan's dedication to her studies and involvement with many charitable community service projects has brought her to the top as May Student of the Month.

What are your high school accomplishments?

I was the student coordinator for Relay for Life and helped raise over \$51,000. I am the vice president for Pep Club and president for dance production, and I am in NHS and Foreign Language National Honor Society for Spanish.

What clubs are you involved in?

Poms, dance production, Pep Club, NHS, and the First Presbyterian Youth Group Leadership Team in Wheaton.

Do you do any community service?

I help out at Hessed House homeless shelter, the convalescent center and PADS. I also went on a mission trip to Toledo, Ohio and will be going to Westermore, Tenn.

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

University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, but my major is undecided.

What job do you aspire to have?

One that I love!



Photo courtesy of MaryPat Flanagan

Who is your favorite teacher?

I've loved all my teachers, but I have especially enjoyed my classes with Mrs. Mallon and Mr. Kling.

What has been your favorite high school memory?

My favorite memories are poms, having the best snow day ever, and spending time with my best friends.

What are you looking forward to after high school?

I'm looking forward to having a fun summer and going off to college in the fall. I want to travel, go on mission trips, be with my friends, and be independent.

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

Hopefully because I've been working hard for all of high school in my studies and extra curriculars, and I've always tried to have a positive attitude.

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What are your high school accomplishments?

High honor roll: 2003-2004, 2005 (2nd semester), 2006-2007. Honor roll: 2005 (1st semester). Academic all-conference: all four years. Foreign Language Honor Society: 2005-2006.

Who has been your favorite teacher?

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What is your favorite school activity?

Varsity golf.

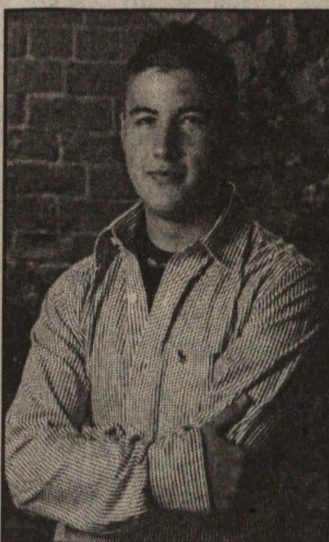


Photo courtesy of Scott Staiton

What clubs are you involved in?

I was in the Foreign Language Honor Society, and on the varsity golf team.

What is your favorite memory of high school?

Sophomore year, I was playing number two on the varsity golf team with my brother, Joey, who was

number one.

Where do you plan to go to college?

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

What do you want to major in?

I'm undecided, but I'm leaning towards a career in business. I may even end up opening a business with my brother.

What are you looking forward to next year?

I look forward to the challenges of college, the friends I will make there, and the freedom that is available.

What do you want to do for a living?

As of right now, I do not know. Whatever I decide, I hope that I will be happy and successful.

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

Apart from grades, I get along with practically every teacher I've had. Also, I get along with my fellow students so perhaps this may be why.

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Continued from page 1

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

What do you want to major in?

I'm undecided, but I'm leaning towards a career in business. I may even end up opening a business with my brother.

What are you looking forward to next year?

I look forward to the challenges of college, the friends I will make there, and the freedom that is available.

What do you want to do for a living?

As of right now, I do not know. Whatever I decide, I hope that I will be happy and successful.

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

Apart from grades, I get along with practically every teacher I've had. Also, I get along with my fellow students so perhaps this may be why.

Intergalactic phenomenon

When looking back on the last 6,000 years of recorded human history, there have been times where we, as a people, really messed up.

Perhaps the Crusades should have ended after the first one, or maybe slavery should have been banned in a country where the citizens are created equal.

Maybe My Chemical Romance should have taken some music lessons.

Mistakes have been made and, as a people, there are no opportunities to really get a fresh start. Not on Earth, at least, but maybe on Earth 2.0.

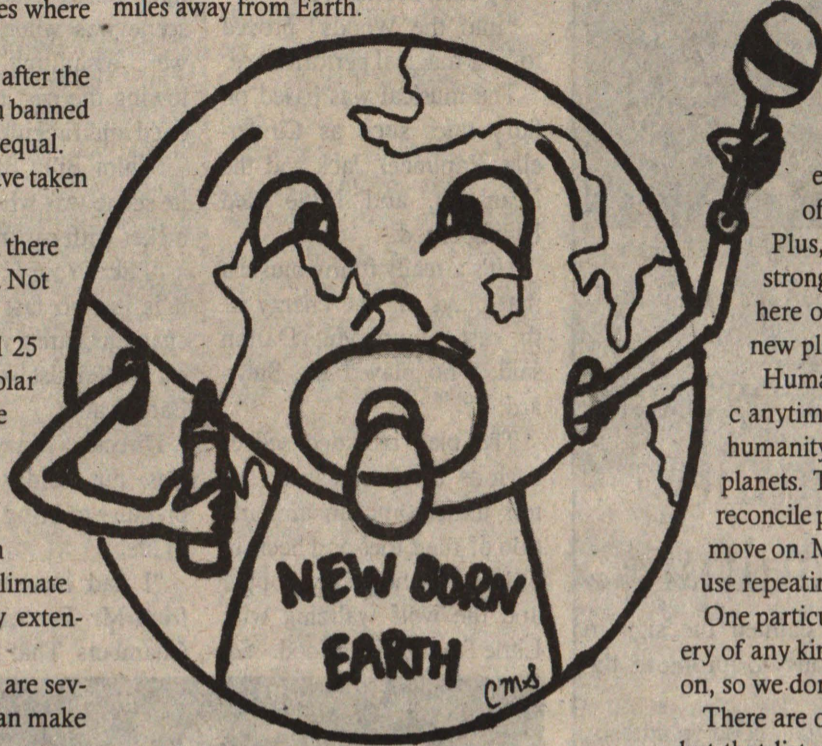
The Associated Press reported on April 25 that they've found a planet in another solar system that is potentially habitable because of its Earth-like qualities.

According to European astronomers, the average temperature of Gliese 581 c (the name of the planet) is somewhere between 32 and 104 degrees Fahrenheit. With a climate like this, the possibility of water—and by extension—other life exists.

But don't shout "jackpot" just yet. There are several obstacles in the way before humanity can make "the jump."

The first is distance. 581 c is the "nearest" habitable planet to the Earth, about 20.5 light years away. One light year is approximately 5.9 trillion miles. To

simplify the math: 581 c is approximately 120 trillion miles away from Earth.



In addition, there are also some really odd features about the new planet. For starters, 581 c orbits very closely to its star. Picture our moon in the sky,

only 20 times bigger. The reason why it can orbit next to its star, Gliese 581, so closely is because the star is a red dwarf. Red dwarfs are low-energy, tiny stars that give off dim red light.

The new planet also orbits its star every 13 days, so the entire concept of birthdays will have to be rethought. Plus, gravity is estimated to be 1.6 times stronger on 581 c. A 120-pound cheerleader here on Earth would be pushing 192 on the new planet.

Humanity will not be reaching planet 581 c anytime soon, but this is good. Time is what humanity needs before our species occupies two planets. There needs to be time recognize and reconcile past mistakes before we, as a people, can move on. Mistakes have been made, but there's no use repeating them on another planet.

One particular mistake would be slavery. No slavery of any kind on Earth 2.0. Also, limit waste early on, so we don't have to worry about pollution.

There are other things that can be put on the list, but that list will change over time, because man is fallible. Mistakes will be made on 581 c/Earth 2.0, but let's make sure they're not the same mistakes that were made here on Earth.

Gun policies inadequate

In the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings, serious mental background checks are vital

The 2002 documentary, "Bowling for Columbine," brought up serious issues about gun violence and control, and the recent Virginia Tech massacre has reignited the debate of the right to bear arms.

On April 16, a mentally ill student at Virginia Tech, Seung-Hui Cho, took the lives of 32 classmates and teachers before turning the gun on himself.

Shockwaves enveloped the nation, as people heard of Cho's past, which involved visits to psychiatrists at the wishes of his teachers.

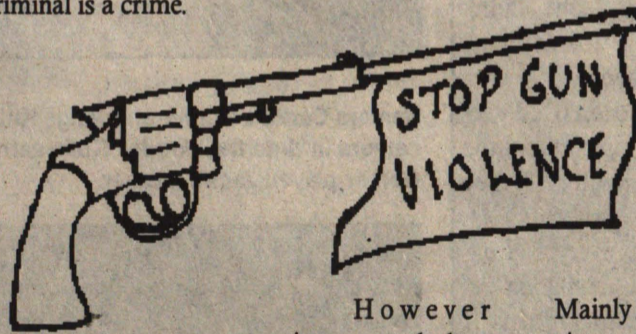
Under Virginia law, a mentally ill person may purchase guns but they must be registered and be under specific supervision.

In Illinois, it is illegal for a person who has gone through mental treatments to purchase a gun. Yet it is legal for a person who has attempted suicide to purchase such weapons.

How could anyone believe that a mentally ill person is going to handle a gun responsibly, let alone, a mentally stable person?

Guns are dangerous, and no one should be trusted with them. Even if a person says that he owns a gun for self defense, he should realize that shooting a criminal is a crime.

However many anti-gun control advocates believe that owning a gun is a freedom that no one can take away. It is stated in the Bill of Rights that people have the right to own guns, and that this freedom cannot be violated or changed. Hello? That right was enacted more than 200 years



ago, back in a time when it was okay for white people to own African Americans as slaves.

It is time for a stricter policy against guns.

First off, whoever plans on purchasing a gun needs to go through an extensive background search every time in every situation, no loopholes.

Also, not just anyone can own a gun. Former convicts and people with a shady medical background should not be allowed to buy, or even operate, such weapons.

Whoever would allow a convict to purchase a gun? The answer is the person behind the register.

Gun store owners do not care about who they sell their merchandise to, as long as they make a profit and their business keeps buzzing, they will remain happy.

This was proven after a background search revealed that the guns Cho used were purchased from a Roanoke, Va. store, which previously sold guns to murderers.

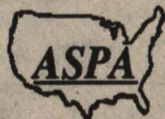
Since it is well known that guns are dangerous, why aren't there stricter laws?

Mainly it is the second amendment, along with politicians who are afraid of losing votes if they propose a bill banning gun use.

"Bowling for Columbine," posed this important question, "Are we a nation of gun nuts or are we just nuts?"

We need to decide the answer before more people die at the barrel of a gun.

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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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Hunting is murder

US should pass laws to end the cruel sport

Warning to those who like aiming rifles at Bambi, Peter Rabbit, Rudolph or other innocent creatures: If you like hunting, you're not going to like what I have to say.



Kait Taylor

I have heard arguments, pro and con, concerning hunting. I know that it's a sport. I know it is common family tradition. I also understand that some populations must be controlled. I really do.

However, I believe that hunting is killing. Plain and simple.

Does anyone remember watching "Bambi" as a little kid? I remember running out of the room crying when his mom was shot, and to this day, the image of a dead animal lying in their own pool of blood only to be gutted and mounted on someone's wall makes me sick.

I've heard hunters try to justify their violent hobby, calling it a huge business that pumps tons of money back into animal conservation. But whatever they say to the contrary, in my opinion, hunting is the premeditated, cold-blooded murder of innocent animals.

If hunters were the TRUE conservationists they

claim to be, they would pursue every humane, non-lethal possibility for caring for wild animals and their surroundings.

In my opinion, photographs of jolly hunters posing with their lifeless victims hardly reveal any kind of love for nature that I have ever heard of.

And no matter what anyone says, hunting is not acceptable because it's an old tradition. In some areas of Europe there is a long tradition of anti-Semitism, but you don't see them switching back on the power to concentration camps.

I mean, come on! It is ridiculous to believe that someone who actively sets out to kill a healthy living thing for fun, trophy or profit really cares about animals or nature in general. Isn't the butchery of animals a warning sign that an individual may be a masochistic serial killer?

Hunting is vulgar, brutal, and uncivilized. While we're at it, why don't we move back into the caves and rediscover fire? Sir Paul McCartney said something along those lines that I totally agree with.

He stated, "Hunting is a barbaric practice that in no way can be justified as sport, and must be banned in our society before we can think of ourselves as civilized. The animals with which we humans share this planet deserve our respect and kindness rather than the cruel tortures we too often inflict upon them. There can be no rational reason for this practice to continue, and only when it is banned will we be able to emerge from the dark ages into the light of a new century."

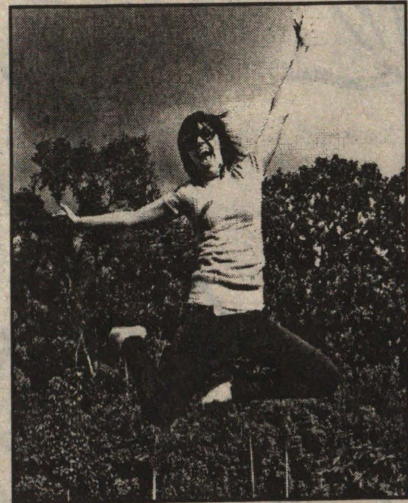
The US should pass laws banning this insanely cruel sport because the killing of wild animals as recreation is against the values of a humane, just, and caring society.

So call me idealistic, a bunny-hugger, or even emotional for caring about animals and ending the cruel sport made out of their lives. At least I'm not a brutal, uncivilized, cold-blooded murderer.

Saying goodbye to high school means being ready to grow up

This final column will not be filled with witty remarks or rants and raves. I am sucked dry of ideas and the senioritis is so bad my brain hurts. Instead my last column of my life will be inspiring and uplifting. Aw, tear.

As I prepare for my journey ahead into adulthood there are so many aspects of life after graduation that freak me out. I am sure the class of '07 can agree with me on this one.



Ellyn Fortino

We all have worked so hard to get to where we are now, but we only have to work that much harder.

Money on a silver

platter doesn't apply anymore.

Here come the bills, school work, insurance, and all other responsibilities to smack us straight in the face.

Whether some decide to work full time, go to school, join the army, or have no clue what they are doing after high school, reality is about to sink in quickly.

No more mommies to pick up our filthy clothes from our barely visible floor, wash them, and fold

them in a neat little stack on our bed. No more daddies to pay for our massive text messaging bill after sending over hundreds of messages to so and so.

This is our turn to show our parents, teachers, coaches, or any other important people in our lives that we are officially ready to grow up. We're out of the prankster and 'I don't have to respect authority' stages in our lives and are ready to take whatever life throws at us.

Not all of us will become doctors or lawyers, and that is ok. The fact that we want to better our lives only because that is what we want to do means more than any salary or any title in life.

My lifelong goal is not to make millions of dollars, I just want to be happy. I want to be excited about what the new day has to offer and take every opportunity that comes my way. I want to learn how to live on my own and grow as a person. I don't want to live in the past, but rather live every day to its fullest.

Our parents will say, "That's our little girl or little boy" on graduation day, and although our relationship with our parents may never quite be the same again, we know that if it wasn't for them we wouldn't be the strong men and women we are today.

We owe a lot to our parents, teachers and mentors because we have learned everything we know from them.

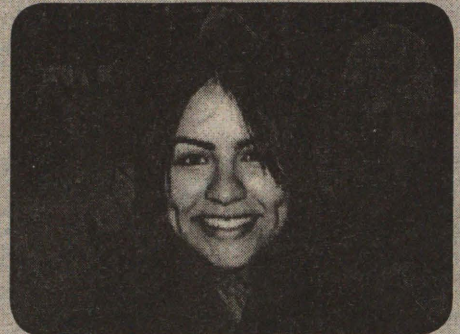
Some of us will keep in touch, and some we will never see again.

We're not yet out of school and not yet in college. Am I afraid? Yes, maybe just a smidge. But you know what? I am pretty darn excited too.

Come on world, bring it on!

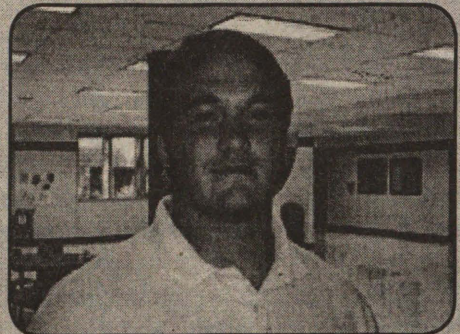
Students Speak

How do you feel about hunting animals for sport?



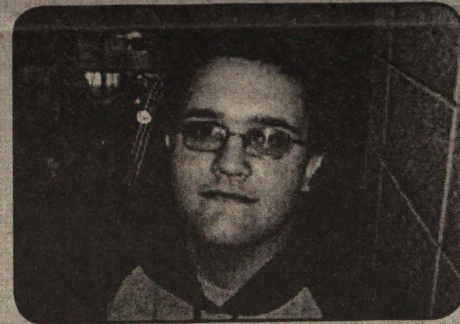
Elizabeth Reyes
Junior

"I would never do it. It seems gross, and it makes no sense."



Tucker Hauptman
Junior

"It's sweet. I love hunting deer and duck."



Josh Martin
Freshman

"I think it's wrong. They're harmless animals."



Annette Sanchez
Freshman

"It's okay if the animals are not endangered and the animal's whole body is used. Nothing is wasted."



Kelsey Monroe
Senior

"I think it is disgusting."



Friend or foe? Definitely friend

By Cristina Sarnelli

Slowly and silently, they creep up out of their holes in the ground, struggling to be free of their 17-year-prison. Two giant red orbs pop out of each hole, seeing light for the first time. Soon, millions of them will cover lawns and trees across Illinois.

Al- sounds like horror movie "The War of the Worlds" doesn't it? The invasion of the 17-year-cicada! But the cicadas are not as horrific as they sound, according to human anatomy teacher Hank Murphy. In fact, he finds them more interesting than scary.

Murphy remembers what it was like 17 years ago when the cicadas swept through Illinois.

"I was digging to prepare a garden bed, and I kept running into these big brown bugs," he said. "The next day my 60-foot-long 6-foot-tall white fence was covered with these bugs with big red eyes and white wings. It was spooky looking."

Biology teacher Mike Fuys said people are overreacting about the cicada situation.

"I don't think it is as traumatic of a situation as people are making it out to be. I remember them being on the trees, and you know how leaves sometimes get clotted up in your windshield? For awhile those would be cicadas," he said.

Not only are the bugs strange in physical appearance, but

they are also known for their extremely loud buzzing, which Murphy has also had experience with.

"After you first see them, you hear them for about four weeks. At first it's kind of fun, but after awhile, you'll be having a conversation with someone, and you'll be shouting because it is so loud," said Murphy.

Despite their loudness and their potential interference with planting a garden, Murphy said that the bugs are great to learn from. He enjoys watching their behavior, and he thinks that people should take advantage of the coming of the cicadas since they only come every 17 years.

"It's interesting if you go out at dusk with a flashlight and watch them pop out of the ground. It almost looks like popcorn. They emerge from their shell the next morning, dry out, and go up to the trees," he said.

Fuys is also going to take advantage of the coming of the cicadas by using them with his class.

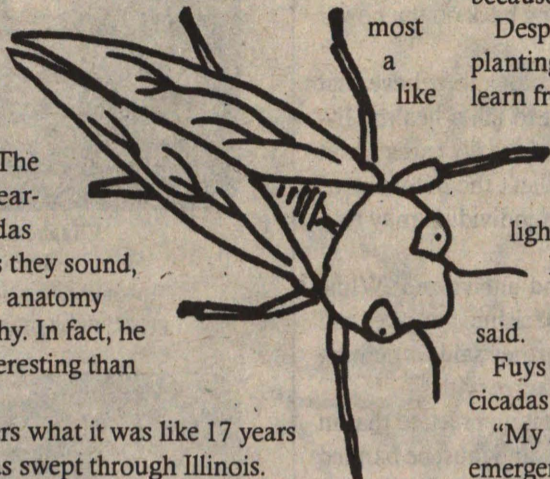
"My AP biology class will go out and watch their first emergence. People that have been digging have started to find them, so we expect to see some," he said.

Cicadas can be quite useful to humans too because many people like to cook them and eat them, and the animals love them too.

"You can use the pupa as fishing bait. The fish will engorge on them," Fuys said. "The dogs, cats, and birds love them too."

They don't last for a long time either. Eventually, the buzzing stops.

"As they start to die, they fall from the trees, and it goes from this melodious humming to crunching because their corpses are everywhere," Fuys said.



most a like

Unwelc

By Kait Taylor

In case you haven't heard, cicadas are here! Like a troupe of ants, they are here to stay for years and make a

The cicadas spend their lives underground and suck sap from trees every 17 years, transfo

An estimated five billion of these black skeletons all over sidewalks and mowed lawns. If you see anything else they can lay their eggs on.

The good news is that they are practically harmless. Sparky munches on a few (some people think they are known to be extremely noisy. According to the University of Illinois, cicada neighborhoods is expected to be particularly noisy around O'Hare International Airport.

When it comes to the bug spray, Chicago's health department says insecticides do not kill cicadas.

"It's just introducing a toxin into nature," said the Streets and Sanitation Department in a statement.

The visitors are only expected to be here for a few weeks. Spend time inside and dread the year 20



That noise in the summer? It's a cicada, but a different kind

Do not confuse yourself with the regular cicadas and the periodicals

By Dave Thomas

The last time any thing like this has happened was in 1990.

During the summer of 1990, millions of cicadas invaded the Chicagoland area to the point where some people had to use snow shovels to clear off their sidewalks.

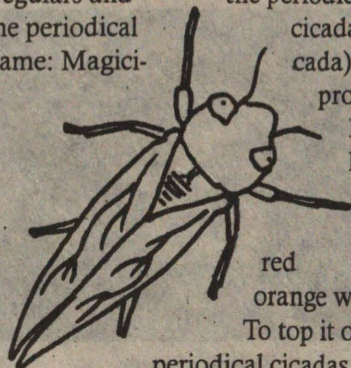


Seventeen years later, the cicadas are emerging, but then again, they've also always been here. The fact is, two different types of

cicadas will be sharing the trees this summer: the regulars and the periodicals.

The periodical cicada (species name: Magicicada)

are approximately 1.5 inches long, with black bodies, red eyes, and orange wing veins.



To top it off, the periodical cicadas also have a black "W" on the wingtips.

According to the University of Michigan's Museum of Zoology, only a few cicada

species have multiple-year life cycles, with adult cicadas being found every year because the population is not synchronized.

Periodical cicadas, on the other hand, are synchronized so that "almost all of them mature into adults in the same year." For the periodical cicadas, the life cycles are 17 years.

This is opposed to the Tibicen cicada (the regulars), which emerges every summer. Tibicen cicadas have two to seven-year life cycles, and are primarily green in color.

Despite the cycle differences, both periodical and Tibicen cicadas undergo the same life. Upon being born, the cicada drops to the ground and burrows itself until it finds a root to feed on.

Then, two to 17 years later, the cicada emerges as a nymph. It flies to the nearest tree, and sheds its exoskeleton. Once it's done, the adult cicadas quickly find mates and the process repeats itself.

According to the "2007 Cicada Mania" feature of the Lake County Forest Preserve website, 12 broods of the periodical cicada exist in the northeastern section of the United States. The brood in the Chicagoland area is Brood XIII.

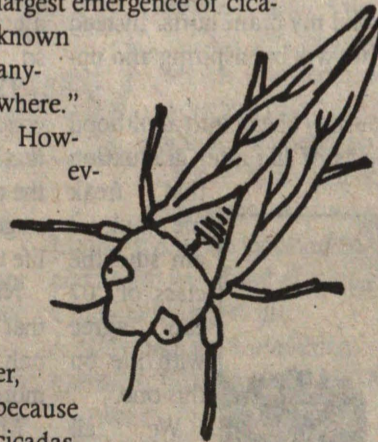


It is unknown how many cicadas will emerge. In an acre alone, the number of cicadas that emerge will reach into the hundreds of thousands, and in areas near a forest preserve, as high as

1.5 million. According to a cicada website associated with the University of Illinois, Brood XIII has "a reputation for the largest emergence of cicadas known anywhere."

How- ever,

because cicadas reside near the surface of the soil, any area that has recently undergone development will probably be devoid of any burrowed cicadas.



the cicadas

cat Chronicle

May 30, 2007

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welcomed visitors

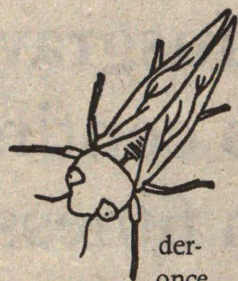
aylor
haven't heard, some unwanted visitors are here. Of annoying family members, they come every 17 years and make a lot of noise. The 17-year-cicadas are back! Cicadas spend most of their lives burrowed underground sucking sap from tree roots. They emerge, transform into adults, reproduce, and then die. The black, shrimp-size bugs with beady red eyes are ready to shed their exoskeletons on lawns in order to carpet trees, buildings, poles, and just about any surface on.

practically harmless to humans. They are safe to eat, so don't worry if people even make recipes out of them!). The downside is that they're according to CBS 2 news, the noise level of their mating calls in some residential areas is reported to be higher than that of the jet engines in some Chicago suburbs surrounding O'Hare Airport.

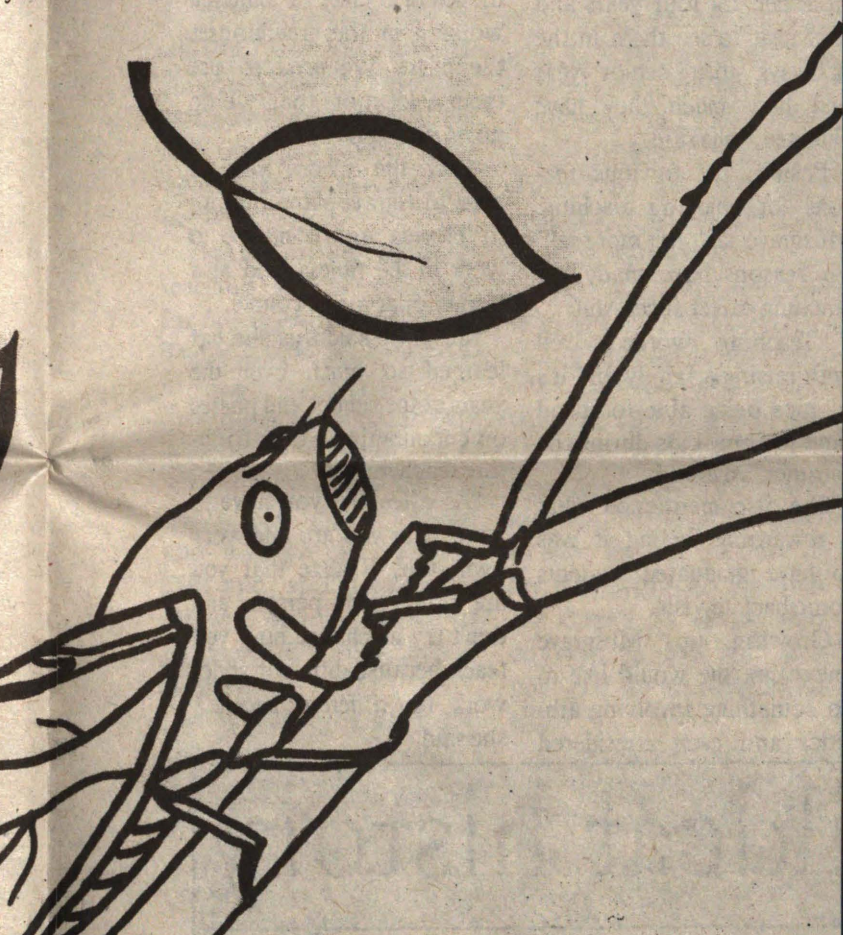
Chicago officials suggest individuals can take the idea because bug sprays and

to nature unnecessarily," said Matt Smith, spokesman for the Chicago Department of Public Health in a press release.

to be here for three to four weeks, so until they're gone, all one can do is wait until next year 2024.



der-
once
die.



Buzzing invaders: harmless like a fly

By Leah Kuzmicz

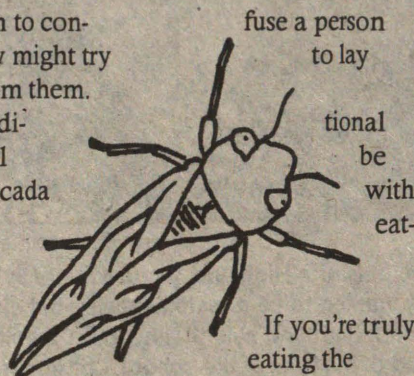
No need to run away from the creatures with bright red eyes and a shriveled up shell crawling all over your plants, shrubs or garden because the cicadas are harmless.

Although the 17-year-cicada may be intimidating to look at, don't be frightened if they are crawling all over your yard or even your house.

Cicadas are not equipped to bite or sting, according to www.cicadamania.com. The worst that the cicadas will do is swarm around with their prickly feet sticking to you.

Also, if they happen to con-
fuse a person
to lay
eggs or drink fluids from them.

If you follow the tradi-
tional
be
fine unless you eat a cicada
with
pesticides on it. Also
eat-
ing too many cicadas,
more than eight,
might become toxic.
concerned about
cicadas consult a
eat them at all.



If you're truly
eating the
doctor, or don't

Cicada-licious recipes

All recipes have been compiled by Elynn Fortino.

Source: Cicada-licious: Cooking and Enjoying Periodical Cicadas

All cicadas should be blanched (boiled for 4-5 minutes) after collection and before consumption. This will make their insides solidify and will get rid of any soil bacteria living on or in them.

When the recipes call for dry-roasted cicadas: place cicadas on cookie sheet and roast for 10 to 15 minutes at 225 degrees. They should be a soft, dry consistency, a bit like a nut.

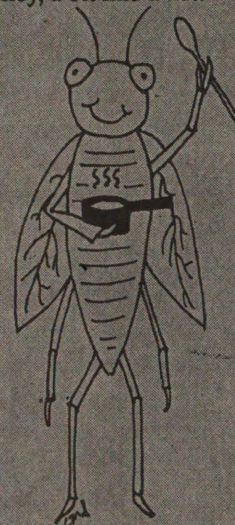
Chocolate-Chip Trillers

Ingredients:

2 ¼ cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
1 cup butter, softened
¾ cup sugar
¾ cup brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
2 eggs
1 12-ounce pkg. chocolate chips
1 cup chopped nuts
½ cup dry-roasted chopped cicadas

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. In small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt; set aside.
3. In large bowl, combine butter, sugar, brown sugar and vanilla; beat until creamy. Beat in eggs.
4. Gradually add flour mixture and insects, mix well. Stir in chocolate chips.
5. Drop by rounded measuring teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet.
6. Bake for 8-10 minutes.



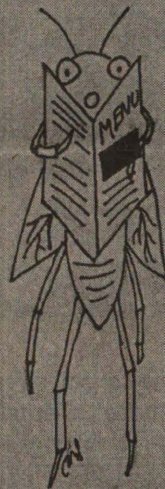
Shanghai Cicada

Ingredients:

30 newly-emerged cicadas
2 tbsp. anise seeds
1 tsp. salt
2 cups sherry
1 tbsp. soy sauce
Additional water and sherry or rice wine
10 cloves mashed garlic
Celery to garnish
Turnip greens to garnish

Directions:

1. Boil the cicadas and anise in salted sherry for five minutes, then remove the cicadas.
2. Sauté the mashed garlic and soy sauce, adding enough of equal parts water and sherry to make a thick paste.
3. Deep-fry the cicadas, then skewer them with bamboo picks. Arrange them on a plate with the turnip greens, celery, and garlic paste to look like cicadas climbing out of a mud pie into green foliage.



Cica-Delicious Pizza

Ingredients:

3 cloves garlic, pressed
3 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
2 tbsp. chopped fresh oregano
2 tbsp. chopped fresh basil
2 tbsp. chopped fresh Italian parsley
4 cups chopped tomatoes including juice and seeds
1 ½ cup coarsely chopped shitake mushrooms
¾ cup coarsely chopped red onion
¾ cup kalamata olives, chopped
1 ½ cup blanched cicadas
1 cup feta cheese
1 cup mozzarella cheese
1 recipe of your favorite pizza dough (for a 12" pizza)

Directions:

1. Heat oil in sauté pan over medium low heat. Add the garlic and sauté for 2 minutes, or until just beginning to turn golden.
2. Add the herbs and cook for another minute, until wilted.
3. Add the tomatoes and juice, turn the heat to low, and gently cook, covered, for 10-15 minutes until the tomatoes are soft and the liquid had been absorbed and the sauce has thickened. Remove from heat.
4. Meanwhile, prepare the dough by rolling it out to desired thickness and shaping it into a 12 inch circle. Using a shallow wooden spoon, spread the tomato sauce over the pizza dough to the desired thickness.
5. Distribute the rest of the ingredients evenly over the top of the pizza.
6. Place pizza in a preheated 375 degrees oven for 15 minutes, or until the top is bubbling and the crust is golden brown.

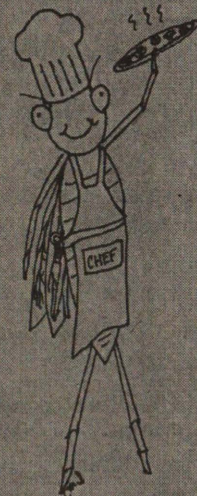




Photo courtesy of Deborah Musgrave

After 33 years at the school, science teacher Deborah Musgrave, seen here in the '80s, right, will retire with the hopes of pursuing athletics and fitness. Musgrave said that she will miss all of the nice staff members she has worked with and the students.

Musgrave wishes to continue passion in fitness or golf

By Ellyn Fortino

Science teacher Deborah Musgrave tees-off after 33 years of teaching at the school, with plans to pursue a career in fitness and brush up on her golf swing.

Although Musgrave said that she will not miss grading papers, she will miss watching the freshmen students she has taught grow over their four years.

"I have been teaching freshmen for four years and it is neat to see them in the hallways their senior year and how much they have changed," she said.

Besides the obvious reasons for enjoying teaching, Musgrave said that more selfish reasons have made her teaching career successful.

"Teaching worked well with raising a family and it's so nice being able to spend time with my kids during the summer," she said.

She also mentioned what a rewarding feeling it was to have graduated students come back to visit.

Growing up Musgrave knew that she would like to do something involving athletics and even considered

the idea of a physical education teacher, but realized she could not scream enough to get the job done.

"I would have loved to be in sports when I was younger, but it wasn't cool for girls to play sports in those times," she said.

Musgrave enjoyed science and mathematics and found her niche teaching physical science and botany.

"A lot of fun things happen in science class. I enjoyed working in the greenhouses the most. We used to use them a lot more than we do now," she said.

After the school year is over, Musgrave plans to move to Florida and continue to work in the fitness field as a trainer or at a golf course.

Musgrave said that she has learned so much over the years at the school and passes on encouraging words to future teachers.

"As a teacher you have to learn who you are and your own style. Realize that you are your own person and don't try to change how you teach because different styles work for different people," she said.

Highland impacts Wildcat history

By Kym McDaniel

Although Principal John Highland will retire at the end of the year, his impact on Wildcat history will remain.

Highland has been involved with the school for 32 years.

Besides being principal, Highland has also been the director of guidance and counseling, student activities director, dean of students, assistant principal, and director of the fine arts department and science.

Highland attended the University of Iowa, Western Illinois and Northern Illinois to complete his education.

"[I got into administration] by taking a job at the junior high," said Highland.

Although Highland had wanted to become a professional football player, he realized he needed to do something to make a living,

and immediately connected with kids and "got hooked."

"I love the kids, hands down," said Highland. "Our kids are talented, enthusiastic, and down to earth, which is the tremendous proof of the combination of staff and teachers."

Coaching football has become one of Highland's fondest memories.

"I loved working with student activities on a day-to-day basis," said Highland. "I coached for 12 years and loved getting close to the kids."

Throughout his career, Highland has enjoyed becoming a part of a team, and having a different focus and challenges to work together to accomplish common goals.

Highland's accomplishments as principal within the school include the blue ribbon award in 1994 and making AYP in two consecutive years.

"These are perfect examples of everyone working together towards common objectives and accomplishing them," said Highland.

Although unsure of whether one of his goals was getting his mustache shaved off, it has been one of the more memorable times in his career.

"I'll never forget that, obviously," said Highland, who also said that riding in the Bishop Gym on a motorcycle and "whaling" on the Wheaton North mascot during homecoming festivities was another favorite memory.

Although Highland won't miss the pressure of education that will be lifted with retirement, he said he will miss the kids, which has been the most gratifying part of his career.

"I'm going to walk away with my head high, proud of everything I have been involved with," said Highland.

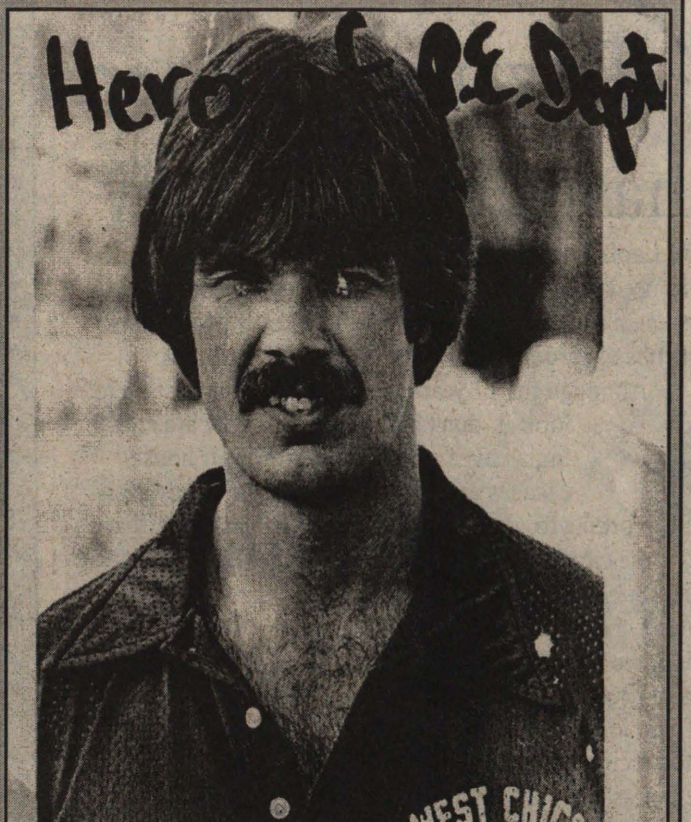


Photo courtesy of John Highland

Principal John Highland, pictured here in the '80s, originally wanted to be a football player, but chose teaching instead. Highland said that he loves the students and is proud of his time at the school. Comment on top of the photo courtesy of the PE department.

Turner plans to sightsee in United States

Independent studies teacher previously taught social studies

By Leah Kuzmicz

After many years of hard work and dedication, independent studies teacher Susan Turner will be retiring.

Turner started off her career in 1977 teaching to hearing impaired preschool children. It was definitely an enjoyable experience, said Turner, but after teaching preschool for 10 years she decided that she needed a change.

That is when Turner started teaching general education for 6th grade social studies. Turner taught in Broadview at Lindop, a middle school.

"I really did enjoy middle school," said Turner.

Turner then decided she wanted yet another change and became the independent study special education teacher, who helps students finish credits in every area of high school.

It also helps transfer students become accustomed to the school by adjusting to this program.

After 10 years here, Turner has decided to retire.

Although there are many memories that will remain

with Turner in regards to her students she will also fondly remember her colleagues.

"The staff here at West Chicago is so kind. Also, so many things have changed with No Child Left Behind and it is fun to be in the changes," said Turner.

Turner has experienced many varieties of teaching throughout her career, but she said that her favorite would be high school.

"With preschoolers it was very fun, but it's also very easy to build trust. With high school students they do not trust you right away, but I like that challenge," said Turner.

In retirement, Turner said that her friends advise her to relax for the first year of her retirement; she says that she cannot sit around and do nothing, and she does not want to be substituting either.

"I have always traveled to Europe every summer, but now I want to see the USA. There is a lot to see in the country and I think I want to travel around America for now," said Turner.



Photo by Leah Kuzmicz

Independent studies teacher Susan Turner will take her friend's advice and relax her first year of her retirement, but said she won't sit around and do nothing. She is looking forward to the summer and will travel across the United States. Turner was previously a preschool teacher and a 6th grade social studies teacher before coming to the high school.

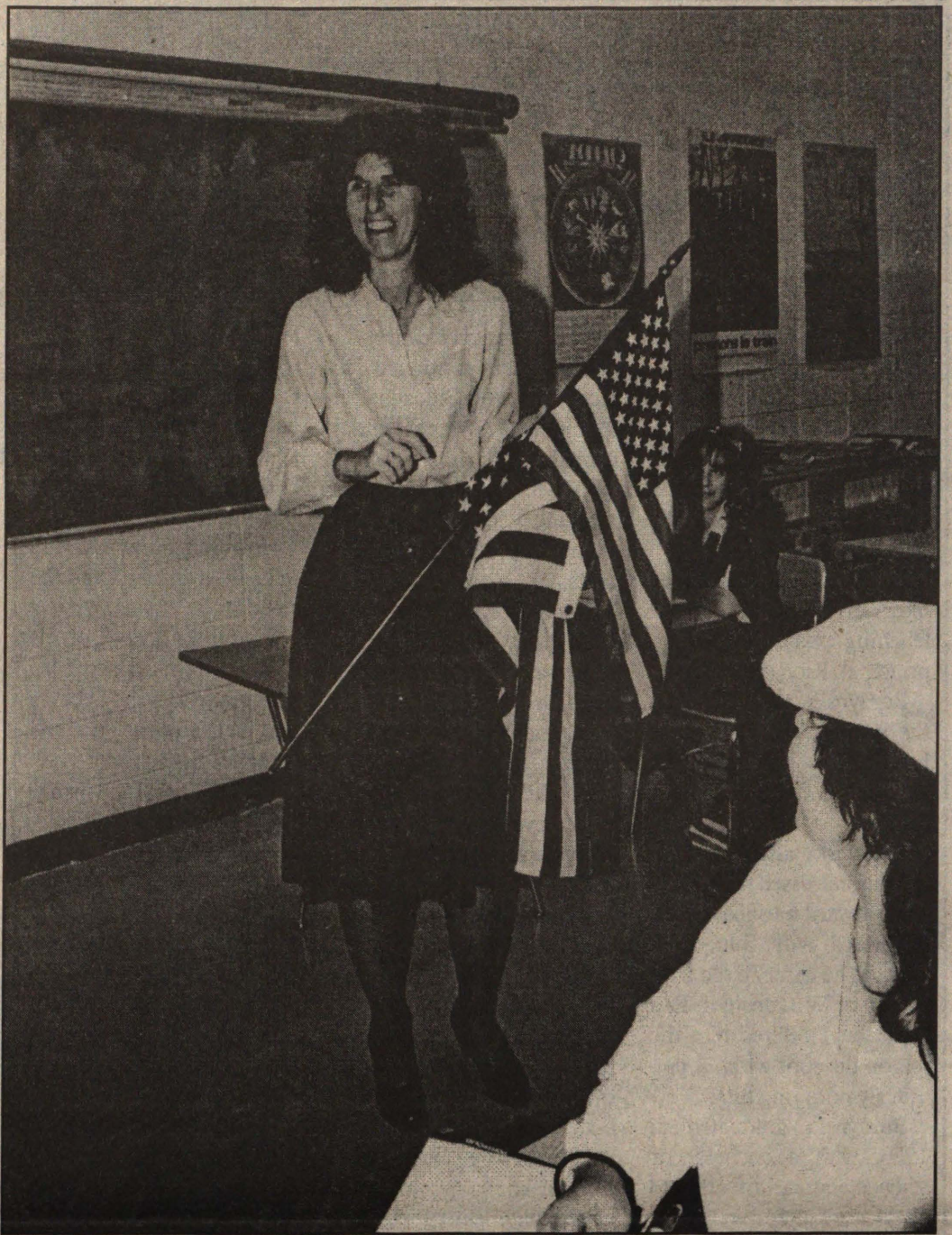


Photo courtesy of Marjorie Appel

French teacher Marjorie Appel, seen here in 1976, started teaching the same year and established the student exchange program with Lycee Mounier in Grenoble, France in 1986. Appel said she will miss seeing the French and American students laughing and having fun together.

Au revoir Appel!

Teacher hopes exchange program will continue between West Chicago and sister school

By Kait Taylor

Foreign language department chair Marjorie Appel will say "au revoir" at the end of the 2006-2007 school year, after 31 years of teaching French.

Appel, who got her teaching degree from Harvard University, plans on going to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to become a professional translator, and is considering teaching part-time.

"I would like to continue to teach," she said. "But as a translator, I can interpret important French literature into English so that those important works can be globally appreciated."

She also plans on spending more time visiting her daughter and grandchildren, who

live in California.

Appel considers the establishment of a student exchange program with Lycee Mounier in Grenoble, France her most noted contribution to the school. The exchange was started in 1986 and will, according to Appel, hopefully continue after she retires.

"The exchange is lots of work, but it is worth it," said Appel. "When I see students, both French and American, laughing and dancing together, it makes me feel like I have really accomplished something."

Other highlights of Appel's teaching career include winning an Illinois Master Teacher Award and teaching abroad in Paris, France in

1984.

Although the professional accomplishments mean a lot to Appel, she considers her relationships with the students the most rewarding aspect of her career.

"I'm going to miss the students most of all," she said. "I have enjoyed turning them onto more than just past participles, but also life in France, French plays, opera, literature, traditions, film and popular French music."

Appel said she has thoroughly enjoyed her years of teaching and that she could not see herself in any other career path.

"It is all I ever wanted to be," she said, with a tear in her eye. "It's an old cliché, but it has gone by so fast."

Burzynski looks forward to relaxation as schedule ends

By Jacob Wucka

After 37 years of dedication to teaching students and challenging them to reach their potentials, math teacher Frank Burzynski is retiring, leaving a main part of his life behind.

In 1970, Burzynski was interviewed for a math teaching position by then principal, Richard Howard.

Burzynski said, "I liked the principal a lot because he was a former math and science teacher. He knew a lot."

Burzynski also said that he was impressed with Howard. Howard must have been impressed with Burzynski, because he came to the University of Wisconsin in Eau Claire and offered him the job on the spot without previously notifying him.

Burzynski graduated in 1970, with a bachelor of science degree in math and physics.

He started working at West Chicago that following fall.

In 1971, Burzynski enrolled in a summer school course at Notre Dame. In 1974 Burzynski received his

masters of science degree.

Burzynski continued to work at West Chicago, yet many other opportunities came his way.

In 1983, Burzynski started working with computers at Fermi Lab during the summers.

Another opportunity that Burzynski thought about was teaching physics instead of math.

"I really wanted physics because it is more challenging" said Burzynski.

However Burzynski stayed with teaching math.

Now, the time has come for Burzynski to retire, but he said that his retirement is more for the students than for himself.

"I'm slowing down, and it's getting harder to get things graded faster. It's not better for the students. They need quick feedback," said Burzynski.

Although Burzynski said his retirement is for his students, he did say he has no plans, or commitments scheduled, just relaxation.

Also Burzynski is looking forward to having the summers off to spend with his

family.

"In the 37 years I have been here, I have only had three summers off and those were the years I adopted my children," Burzynski said.

However, Burzynski will miss West Chicago and the students.

Burzynski said all of his students have impacted his life greatly. He also believes that he has impacted many students' lives.

He will also miss working with the kids, and helping all of his students with their problems, especially before and after school.

Burzynski also said that he appreciates when students come in before or stay after school on their own because it shows their dedication, and also it is a time for him to tease them.

Of course, Burzynski's departure from West Chicago is going to be a big one, yet he knows of no plans for a surprise party, and doesn't want to have one.

"I'm not a party person. I am really a quiet, private person," he said.



Photo courtesy of Sandra Chavez

Special education teacher Sandra Chavez enjoyed her time in Colorado many years ago so much, she has decided to retire to Crested Butte, a little ski town. Chavez taught at Batavia and St. Charles before coming to the school.

Double major has paid off

Special education teacher Sandra Chavez retires to a quiet life in Colorado

By Greg Vodicka

After seven years in front of countless students, special education teacher Sandra Chavez looks to her retirement, leaving behind many friends.

With the goal of being an educator, Chavez started her career at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colo., doing her undergraduate work.

After four tough years of having a double major, Chavez was ready to begin her career.

"I was one of the first people to have a double major of special education and general education," said Chavez.

Working as a full-time teacher was difficult for the beginning teacher because her husband was in the Navy.

The two had to move around often so Chavez substitute taught for a few years.

In 1987 she went back to school to get her master's degree in special education and administrative certificate from Northern Illinois University.

After leaving NIU, Chavez taught in Batavia and St. Charles for five years each.

At St. Charles Chavez learned a lot about high school students.

"I learned how to appreciate their free spirit, their great

outlook on the future and their passion for what they feel is right," said Chavez.

She also headed up two federal grants to teach general education teachers how to work with learning-disabled students in their classroom.

Chavez worked with many teachers, students and program assistants to help them understand techniques that would not only help special education students in their classrooms but all students.

Finally, Chavez came here, and worked in the special education department for seven years.

"I have loved every minute of it," admitted Chavez.

Chavez recognizes her "amazing students she has had the pleasure of working with" as her major influence.

"There is nothing more amazing than the look on a student's face when the light bulb goes on and they have learned something new," said Chavez.

After leaving West Chicago, Chavez plans move to a little ski town, Crested Butte, Colo.

"If you love to ski and like 50 inches of snow in the winter it is the place for you but I will miss my friends, the staff and the great students at WCCHS," admitted Chavez.

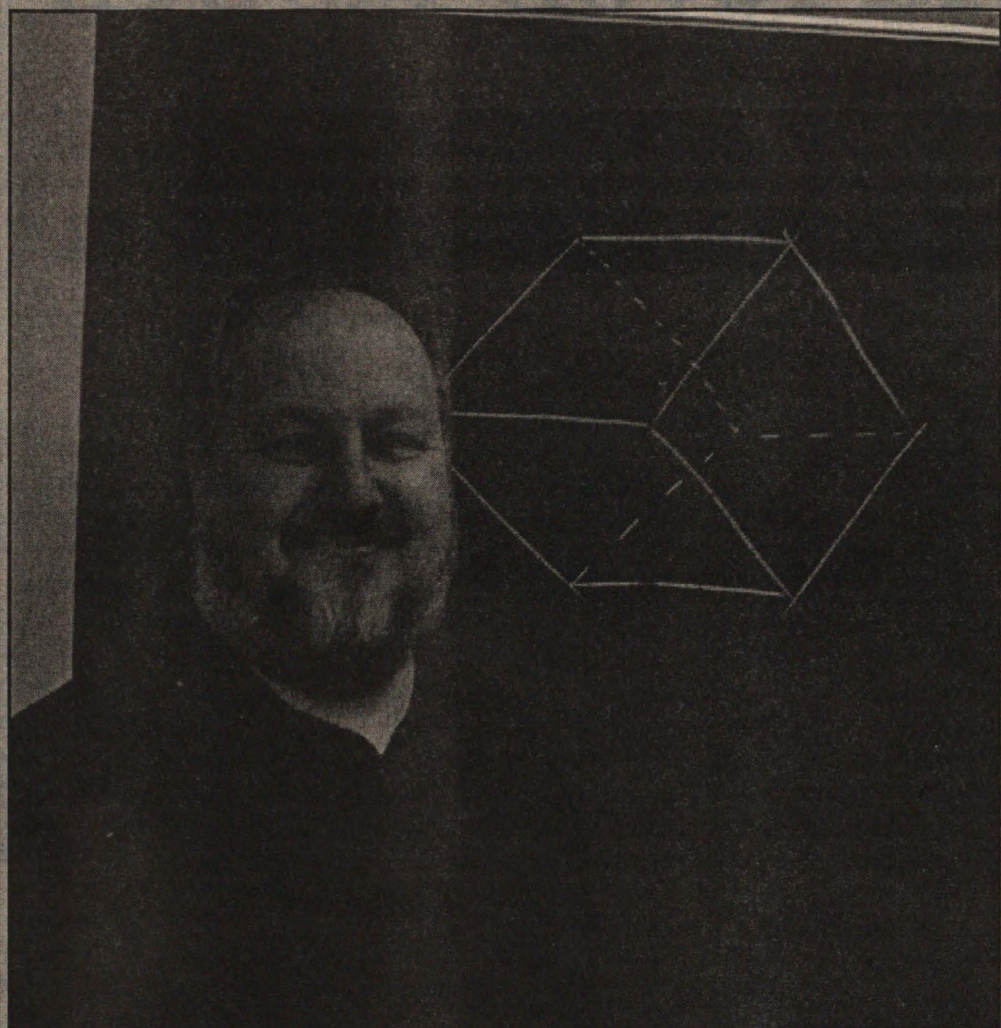


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Math teacher Frank Burzynski will leave a large part of his life behind after retiring but he is looking forward to spending time with his family. Burzynski said that his students have impacted his life greatly and he hopes he has impacted theirs as well.

Musical echoes from the future...

Rock n' roll is the tune of the summer, as school ends and musical festivals begin. Here's a preview of some of the fesitvals in the Chicogoland area.

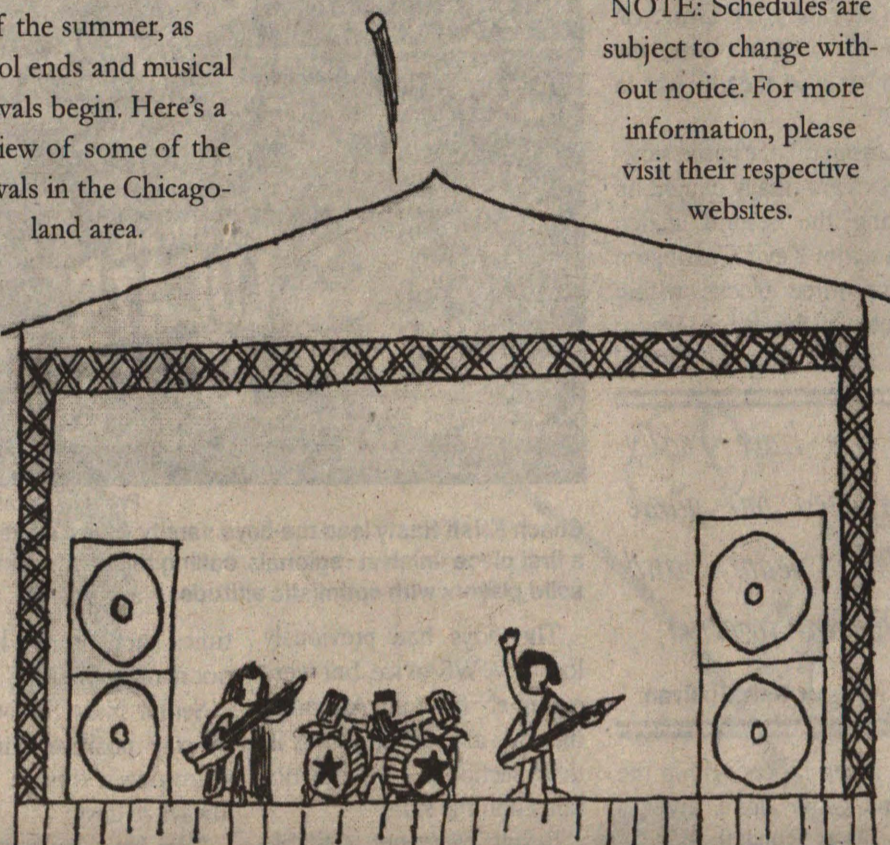
NOTE: Schedules are subject to change without notice. For more information, please visit their respective websites.

Vans Warped Tour
July 28
First Midwest Bank Amphitheater in Tinley Park
\$25.25
Who's playing: Alkaline Trio, Evaline, Hawthorne Heights, Killswitch Engage, New Found Glory, Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, and more!

Lollapalooza
August 3-5
Chicago's Grant Park
\$195
Who's playing: Pearl Jam, Daft Punk, Ben Harper, Muse, Iggy and the Stooges, Modest Mouse, Snow Patrol, and more!

Summerfest
June 28 - July 8
Henry Maier Festival Park in Milwaukee
\$8-\$15
Who's playing: Ludacris, Ne-Yo, Papa Roach, Puddle of Mudd, Roger Waters, Sevendust, The Fray, Tool, Wolfmother, and more!

Ozzfest
August 8
First Midwest Bank Amphitheater in Tinley Park
Tickets are FREE
Who's playing: Ozzy Osbourne, Static X, Lordi, Hatebreed, Behemoth, Nick Oliveri, and more!



A double-edged sword

By Aaron Pennington

"Shrek the Third" continues the story of the highly successful franchise, and contains the same, witty sense of humor and funny satire that is inherent to the series.

However, it turns out that this is a double-edged sword, as the film's biggest strength becomes a major flaw: There is nothing new.

While the film certainly has its moments, all it does is try to repeat the same plot formula from the other films. This makes the movie stale and unoriginal.

The movie opens with Prince Charming (Rupert Everett), the handsome but dumb would-be king from "Shrek 2," performing a low-rent version of a fairy tale that resembles the first movie's plot. But the performance goes terrible with the crowd booing Charming, but cheering for Charming's nemesis, Shrek (Mike Myers).

Distraught, he leaves and concocts a way to get revenge on Shrek.

At the kingdom of Far, Far Away, Shrek and his bride, Fiona (Cameron Diaz), are taking over ruling the land, due to Fiona's father, King Harold (John Cleese), falling

ill. They are having difficulties adjusting to the duties, especially Shrek, who longs to return to his beloved swamp. On his death bed, Harold asks Shrek to take his place.

Shrek declines, and asks if there is anyone else. Harold mentions his nephew, Arthur (Justin Timberlake), and

dies. Shrek decides to find Arthur, and brings his faithful sidekicks, Donkey (Eddie Murphy), and Puss in Boots (Antonio Banderas).

Shrek has bad timing, though, as Prince Charming makes his stake for the throne, and he is accompanied by a host of fairy tale villains. This leaves Fiona and her band of fairy tale princesses to defend the kingdom before Shrek arrives.

What "Shrek the Third" lacks is freshness. The film is nothing more than an extension of the first two films and lacks its own identity.

It mainly relies on the returning characters for humor, as well. Even though there are new characters such as Artie and Merlin (Eric Idle), they lack the personality of characters like Donkey or Puss in Boots.

Despite flaws like these, the movie can be funny at times. The jokes aren't so focused on pop-culture anymore; instead, they're more character-focused.

Just like the other films, the voice acting is superb. As well as the actors mentioned, comedians like Cheri Oteri, Amy Poehler, and Maya Rudolph, and more serious ac-



Incoming visions...

A sneak peek at some of the summer's biggest movies

"Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer" - June 15
The superhero squad is forced to deal with the Silver Surfer, an intergalactic nemesis who is preparing the Earth for its destruction.

"Evan Almighty" - June 22
Evan Baxter was just an everyday U.S. Congressman... until God appeared to him and told him to build the Ark in preparation for the Second Flood.

"Live Free or Die Hard" - June 27
Is Bruce Willis too old to play an action hero? He'll answer that question once he kills the international terrorists who have taken the country—and his daughter—hostage.

"Transformers" - July 4
Celebrate America's independence by watching two armies of robots wage war against each other—and humanity.

"Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" - July 13
The Dark Lord has risen, and only Harry and his friends seem determined to stop him. But at what cost?

"The Simpsons Movie" - July 27
Homer + big screen = hilarious? We sure hope so.

"The Bourne Ultimatum" - August 3
Jason Bourne returns...for revenge.

tors like Ian McShane and John Krasinski pop in for some laughs. and the environments are stunning.

Visually speaking, the film is quite gorgeous. The level of detail on the characters "Shrek the Third" is still a decent time at the movies.

Wildcats ace their way through regional games

By Leah Kuzmicz

Coach Kristi Hasty definitely has a reason to be proud of her team.

The boys volleyball team won the regional championship, defeating Elk Grove on May 23. The last time the team has won the title was in 2003.

Starting off the game slowly, the team finally caught up starting the second match with senior Kevin Carrington having three blocks within minutes of the match. Senior Eric Sorgatz also contributed



Photo by Oscar Grajeda

Coach Kristi Hasty lead the boys varsity volleyball team to a first place finish at regionals, calling the team members solid players with optimistic attitudes.

"We have really perfected our game as a team, and working together,"

--Senior Nate Sullivan

with seven blocks within the second game alone, and senior Dave Rundell had 14 kills.

In addition, seniors Zack Dopper and Ryan Kuhlmann helped out with back-to-back blocks that gave the boys a 6-2 lead.

With a close but final score of 24-26, 25-15, 25-21 the Cats were victorious.

The boys played Wheaton Warrenville South on Friday for the semi-final sectional match, ranked third in state, and first in their sectional.

The boys had previously lost to WWS twice, but were extremely fired up. Although the Cats are ranked fourth in their sectional, they are not ranked in the state.

Results were not available due to press constraints.

Hasty believed that her team could go all the way.

"As a team we are very solid. There are not one or two people on this team that are superstars but everyone contributes to the win. The team is usually evenly divided," said Hasty.

Sorgatz said "our teamwork has really improved, and we aren't dropping the ball, although that still some-

times happens, but there are not many mistakes."

Senior Nate Sullivan tried to stay positive during the season even though it is not always so easy.

"We have really perfected our game as a team, and working together," said Sullivan.

According to Sullivan, the support that the school has shown for the team really helps out when they are playing their games, and to hear the crowd cheering for them boosts their confidence.

"It really is cool when you see all the fans there cheering us on at the game," said Sullivan.

Triner finishes seventh at state Track runner credits her victory to training, technique

By Cristina Sarnelli

After attending the Illinois High School Association State track competition for the past three years, senior Amber Triner returned again and placed 7th in state overall.

Triner competed in the 100 meter hurdle, the 300 meter hurdle, and long jump. In her past state competitions, she ran the 4 x 4 her freshman year, ran the 4 x 2 and 4 x 4 her sophomore year, and competed in the 300 meter hurdle her junior year.

In order to qualify for

46.87 seconds, also qualifying her for state, and finally, she qualified for long jump with a 17 feet 1.5-inch jump at sectionals.

At the state competition, Triner qualified for finals in the 100 meter hurdles which means that she had to run the hurdles in under 16.4 seconds according to the IHSA website. She placed 7th in the whole competition.

"It was really an awesome experience just knowing that I compete at such a high level. It was nice to know that I was among the best people

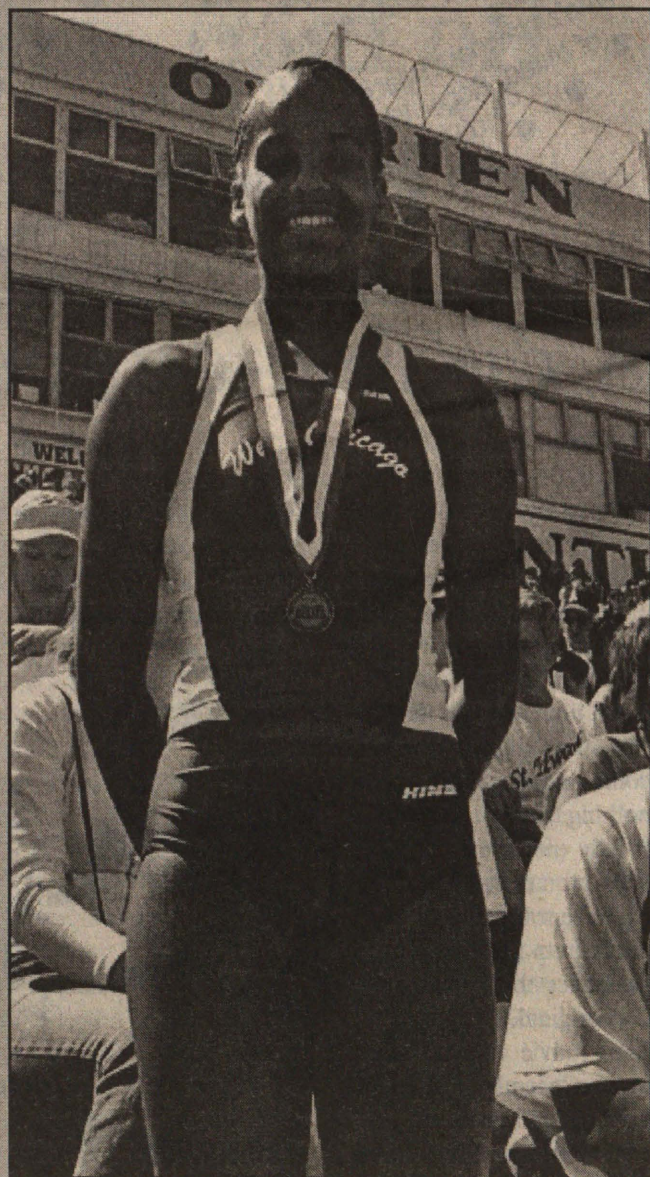


Photo courtesy of Amber Triner

Senior Amber Triner placed seventh in state in the 100 meter hurdles. She received a medal for her efforts.

state competition, Triner says you have to practice hard through the year and do your best at the DuPage Valley Conference.

"There's a ton of meets throughout the track season, and then there's DVC," Triner said.

On May 18 during sectionals, Triner ran the 100 meter hurdles in 14.96 seconds, qualifying her for the state competition. She ran the 300 meter hurdles in

there," she said.

Triner said that her success is due to how much effort she puts in at track practice.

"Throughout the year I have basically been practicing and working out a lot. I practice my technique and push myself as hard as I can even if I am tired," she said.

Triner will continue running at Southern Illinois University.



Photo by Oscar Grajeda

Top: Coach Kristi Hasty, seniors Pete Wierenga, Dave Rundell, Merrick Doll, Erik Sorgatz, Kevin Carrington, Jon Palka, and Ryan Kuhlmann. Bottom: Junior Andrew Opperman, sophomore Ryan Krage, seniors Zach Dopper, Nate Sullivan, Luis Pena, and Brendon Jones.

Talent fails to create regional success

Jim Mazzone

Pitcher

Age: 18

Height: 5'10

Years played: 13



What are some top accomplishments or awards you have won for baseball?

I threw a complete shutout in the championship against New Trier in Racine two summers ago. I also won player of the week the first week of the season.

What is the biggest mistake you have ever made on the field?

Over summer league last year, I threw the ball away on a pick off to third, and a run scored to tie the game.

Wildcat 2007 Roster

- #1 James Eckler- 3rd Base
- #2 Brian Simpson- 3rd Base
- #3 Shane Koehring- Pitcher
- #4 Eric Wyman- Pitcher
- #5 Chuck Krone- Outfield
- #6 Mike Sedjo- 2nd Base
- #7 Jimmy Mazzone- Pitcher
- #8 Barrett Serrato- Short Stop
- #9 Kevin Deutsch- Catcher
- #12 Matt Claude- Catcher
- #14 Ryan Taylor- 2nd Base
- #17 Matt Andracki- Pitcher
- #18 Jake Vanderlei- 1st Base
- #20 Trevor Bodie- Outfield
- #21 Dave Sampiller- 1st Base
- #24 Matt Youngwith- Pitcher
- #25 Jake Venchus- Outfield
- #34 Chris Sekema- Outfield
- #47 Aaron Kennedy- 3rd Base

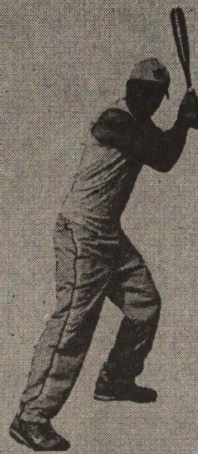
Ryan Taylor

2nd Base

Age: 18

Height: 5'11

Years played: 13

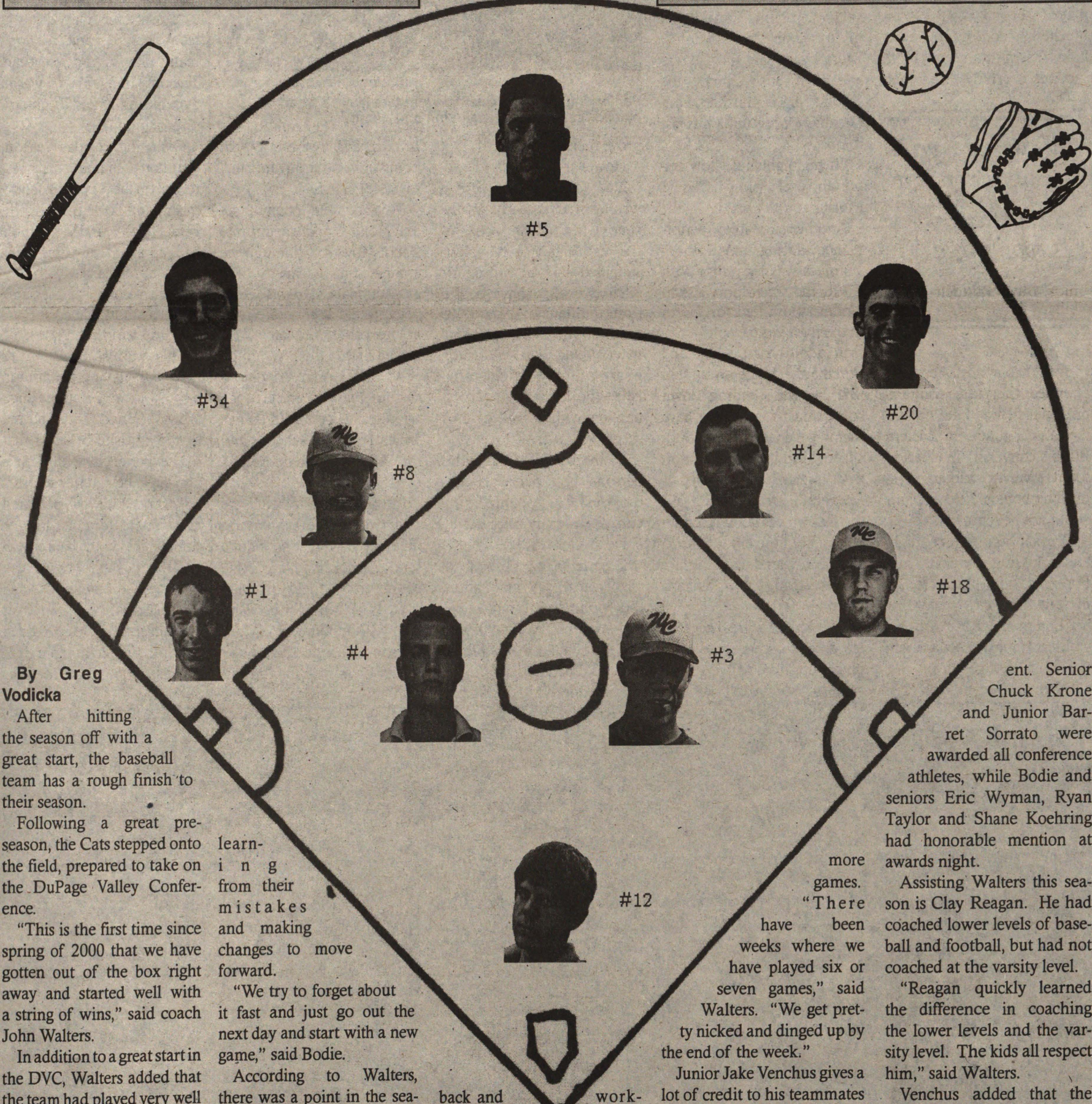


Who was your favorite coach?

I would have to say Walters because he tells you what is on his mind all of the time. If you do well he will tell you, and if you don't, he won't lie about it. That's what I like; a coach who will tell you things the way they are.

What was the best season you've ever had?

I would have to say this (season), because I am hitting .365.



By Greg Vodicka

After hitting the season off with a great start, the baseball team has a rough finish to their season.

Following a great pre-season, the Cats stepped onto the field, prepared to take on the DuPage Valley Conference.

"This is the first time since spring of 2000 that we have gotten out of the box right away and started well with a string of wins," said coach John Walters.

In addition to a great start in the DVC, Walters added that the team had played very well against Naperville North and Naperville Central, who are two very competitive baseball teams in the conference.

According to sophomore Trevor Bodie, the team handles their losses very well by

learning from their mistakes and making changes to move forward.

"We try to forget about it fast and just go out the next day and start with a new game," said Bodie.

According to Walters, there was a point in the season where the pitching was dominant for the team, and they had trouble scoring runs in bunches.

Lately, the Wildcats have not been throwing the ball well. The pitchers are going

back and forth working on mechanics.

"It takes the pressure off the pitchers when our hitting is good," said Bodie.

At one point in the season, the team is playing more and

ent. Senior Chuck Krone and Junior Barrett Serrato were awarded all conference athletes, while Bodie and seniors Eric Wyman, Ryan Taylor and Shane Koehring had honorable mention at awards night.

Assisting Walters this season is Clay Reagan. He had coached lower levels of baseball and football, but had not coached at the varsity level.

"Reagan quickly learned the difference in coaching the lower levels and the varsity level. The kids all respect him," said Walters.

Venchus added that the team has a lot of fun with Reagan but treat him with the same respect they would treat Walters.

After the season ending regional game, the team looks to next spring for success.

more games. "There have been weeks where we have played six or seven games," said Walters. "We get pretty nicked and dinged up by the end of the week."

Junior Jake Venchus gives a lot of credit to his teammates who have filled in saying, "When playing the amount of games we do, it makes all the difference when we have people to fill in for injuries."

According to Bodie, the team is packed with tal-

Track stars qualify for state

Seniors Jim Foreman and Ken Klein triumph in pole vault and high hurdles

By Dave Thomas

The season for the boys track team has come to a close, with only two students attending the state competition.

"We did okay, not quite as good as I hoped," said coach Paul McLeland regarding the team's performance at sectionals, held on May 18 at Wheaton North.

At sectionals, senior/field captain Jim Foreman placed first in the pole vault with a height of 15 feet, and senior/co-sprint captain Ken Klein placed second in the high hurdles. According to McLeland, Klein's time of 14.98 seconds is a little faster than

ing to reach 16 feet, and if he does, he would have broken the school record of 15-9, set by Tom McDonald in 1988.

Although only two team members attended state, other West Chicago competitors were close.

Junior/co-sprint captain David Musick placed third in the long jump with a length of 20-10.

Musick's jump was particularly close to the second place finisher; he was "less than 5 inches from making it," said McLeland.

"I was hoping to do better in my jump," said Musick. Musick also said that he was ahead of Josh Harks, the second place finisher from Glenbard West, until "his last jump."

"It highlights just how important every jump is," said Musick.

Another notable performance during the sectionals meet was by junior Josh Tikka and sophomore Aaron Hollins. Both tied for fourth in the high jump event.

In addition to Klein and Foreman, McLeland said that he was sending down some underclassmen to have them "get a feel for the atmosphere," and set their ambitions higher.

Overall, McLeland said the season was good. Despite only sending two students to state, McLeland liked the fact that the team beat Glenbard North.

"We've had a great season. It's great to see people stepping it up," said Musick. "It's great to see everybody im-

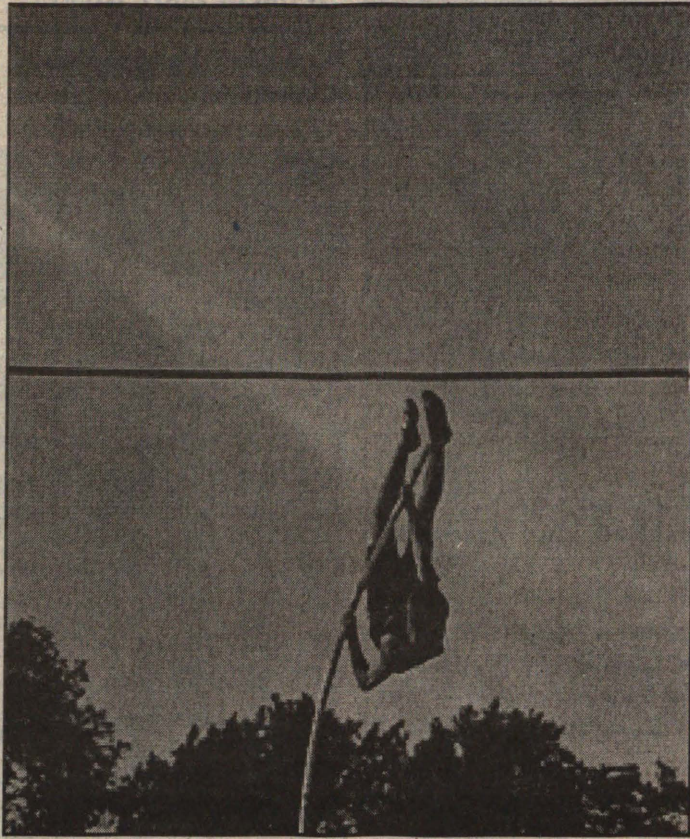


Photo courtesy of David Musick

Senior Jim Foreman qualified for state May 18 when he placed first at sectionals in the pole vault.

prove their times."

However, McLeland admitted that their season was hampered early in the year when Klein, one of the team's top runners, was sidelined due to an injury. Klein seems to have healed from the injury. At the DVC conference championship meet, held on Wheaton North on May 11, Klein finished the high hurdles competition with a time of 14.7 seconds.

Klein's time is not only his personal best, but it also ties the West Chicago varsity record for high hurdles set by Dave Walters in 1969.

Despite losing some of the varsity team to graduation, the sophomore team seems to be adept. While the varsity team placed seventh at the DVC conference meet, the sophomore team came

in fifth, and "were only two points away from fourth," said McLeland.

Two notable competitors are Hollins and sophomore Zach Mowen. Although he competed at the varsity level at sectionals, Hollins competed at the sophomore level at the conference meet. He placed first in the high jump.

As for Mowen, he placed first in the 200 meter dash with a time of 22.4 seconds, which broke the school's and the DVC's sophomore record.

Mowen and Hollins were also two of the runners on the relay team that broke two school records at the DVC county meet, held on May 4 at Wheaton North. With fellow sophomores Miles Nelson and Kyle Nichol, the team won in both the 400 and 1600 meter relay.

Freshman wins singles competition at DVC level

By Jacob Wucka

Practice and hard work paid off for freshman Mariela Kruthoff, who was the only player on the badminton team to place at singles competition at a DVC competition on April 28.

"I never thought I would do so well in my freshman year," said Kruthoff.

Kruthoff placed fourth and was surprised because she beat out students from eight other schools and it was her first year on the team.

"I've never played on a team before, and I don't really play in my free time. The only time I played was in gym during 7th and 8th grade," said Kruthoff.

Over the regular season, Kruthoff shared the best record on the team with fellow freshman Nicole Bridgeforth. Bridgeforth and Kruthoff had a record of three wins and four losses.

Their record was the same until Kruthoff placed at DVC and Bridgeforth did not.

This was also Bridgeforth's first year playing badminton on a team. Before high school, Bridgeforth played tennis and she believed that her experience with tennis may have helped her record.

"Tennis kind of prepared me. There are a lot of similarities with badminton and tennis, but there are also a lot of differences," said Bridgeforth.

Head coach Jessica Inch was unavailable for comment because she is at Marines boot camp in California.

"We've had a great season. It's great to see people stepping it up,"

—Junior David Musick

last year.

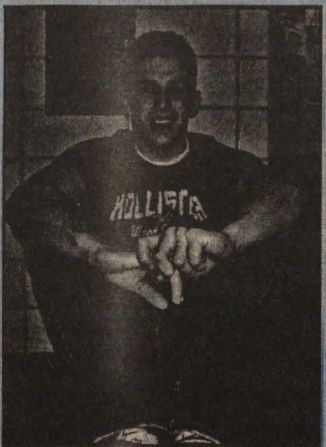
Both Klein and Foreman attended the state competition, which was held on Friday and Saturday at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. However, due to press time constraints, these results could not be reported.

"I'm shooting to jump high, and if I win it, I win it," said Foreman, who placed fourth in state last year. According to Foreman, there are six vaulters total who could win the competition.

Foreman said he was hop-

Summer as a student athlete means more than sitting on the couch; Athletes have more fulfilled vacations

School is almost out and spring sports seasons are coming to a close. Athletes



Greg Vodicka

are ready to enjoy a long and luxurious off season. Or are

they?

When you hear the word "summer" you may think of long warm afternoons consisting of chilling on the couch, watching cartoons and licking a cherry popsicle.

In reality, an athlete's summer is packed with off season training...

Whether it is team practices, camps, weight lifting, running work outs and more, athletes do not have the relaxing summer you would expect.

Is this added work too much for students to handle in the only time they have for themselves; summer vaca-

tion?

Student athletes prove all school year long that they can handle the heavy work load.

These busy students can juggle their school work and their season; some even add a part time job.

Most of these students want to contribute to their teams and also better themselves in a game that has become such a big part of their lives. Added work is simply a chance to achieve this common goal.

Summer camps, practices, and workouts are that chance to enhance the teams we have here at Community High

School.

Often I hear students complain about our sports teams having bad records and losing games.

While these students are sitting in their pajamas watching "The Price is Right" all day, athletes are out working hard for the teams they represent.

On top of early morning practices, two a days, and summer camps, many athletes need to balance a summer job in their schedule.

Trying to make sports schedules and job schedules work together is a complicated task.

After all that, I am willing to bet our athletes take their free time more seriously. After practice and work, the time left over is well spent with friends and family, while our couch potato is still sleeping and snacking saying "I've got all the time in the world."

Before we know it summer will fly by and fall sports season start to pick up. That list of things you planned to do over vacation is still there. Who do you think had the fulfilled summer they planned on: our coach potato friend, or the busy student athlete?