



Inside

News

'Tis the season for giving.

See how students are donating to the community on page 4.



Perspectives

Find out what we think about having to say "Happy holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas" on page 6.



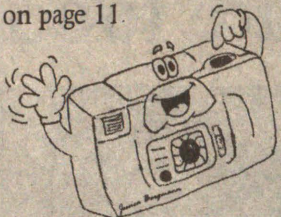
Center Spread

The season is not all cheer and joy. Read about the dark side of the holidays on pages 8-9.



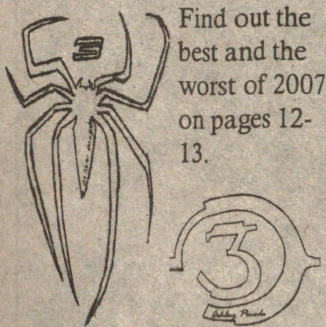
Features

See the top gifts on everyone's list this season on page 11.



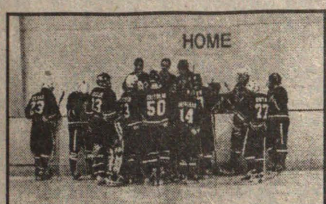
Entertainment

Find out the best and the worst of 2007 on pages 12-13.



Sports

Hockey team dominated against Elgin-Larkin-Streamwood. Read about the team's success on page 15.



Health Alert:

School pushes students towards healthier snacking



Junior Michelle Blackman gets a head start by snacking on a healthier alternative.

Photo by Jessica Bergmann

Get it while it lasts

By Greg Vodicka

From soda to juice, junk food to healthy snacks, the vending machines will be changing within the year.

The American Beverage Association (ABA) has a goal to replace school soda machines with an alternative, healthier substitute. They also want food vending machines to stock healthier snacks.

With childhood obesity being a main concern, all schools are making these changes and moving in a healthy direction, according to director of business services Daniel McCarthy.

"Other schools have completely eliminated pop and junk food," said nurse and Wellness Committee chair Beth Jones. "Some schools are ahead of us, but some are behind. We are in a good place."

Because of the school's contract with Coke, the administration is looking for substitute products Coke offers that still meet ABA requirements.

"We have the duty to make healthy products available," said McCarthy.

He said that Coke offers 18 different kinds of juices including certain V8 drinks along with Powerade Option and bottled water. He also said that the school is looking

into different foods to stock next year.

"All I know is that I am going to miss the TGI Friday's cheddar bacon chips," said junior Patrick Stremel.

Jones hopes to ease students into it this year before making all of the changes over the summer.

"These four years of students are going to have the hardest time adjusting, but students are much more aware of their health now than they were two generations ago," said Jones.

The elementary and middle schools have already been pushing healthier alternatives for their students according to Jones.

Freshman Robby Windisch, a Benjamin Middle School graduate, enjoys the different foods the high school offers this year rather than the foods offered at Benjamin.

"It's kind of nice to have better food this year," said Windisch. "It would be tough to go back to the way it was in

middle school."

McCarthy said the new drink machines are expected in February, while the rest are coming over summer.

"With all of the changes this year we decided to delay this one until the summer," said McCarthy. "The timing just wasn't right."

Profits are a concern to the school. However, activities

director Kim Wallner said the school is trying to follow ABA guidelines.

"We're going to keep offering alternative choices and continue to educate students on what is healthy," said Wallner. "But we will be carefully evaluating the changes over the next two years."

Junior AJ Romanelli, a regular consumer of Gardetto's, said that he is aware of the fat content in his snacks and sometimes wishes there was something healthier that tasted just as good.

"Students buy the junk food because it tastes good. I don't think they will buy the healthy stuff," said Romanelli.

Senior Kamrey Rohrdanz feels that the healthy drinks will sell just as well as the pop did.

"If students have the choice of pop or water, most would choose pop. If pop wasn't an option, they would still purchase the water," said Rohrdanz.

Jones agrees. "If you are going to spend a buck, you might as well spend it on something healthy."



Photo by Jessica Bergmann

Hired employees could be stocking granola bars instead of candy bars next year.



Photo by Kym McDaniel

The choir entertains at the Madrigal dinner. Participating from left are senior Rachel Jefferson, junior Jimmy Laiter, sophomore Rebekah Babis, junior Jimmy Aramburu, senior Kristen Frank, junior Lucas Valdez, and senior Natalie Ckuj.

Party like it is 1007

By Jacob Wucka

Commons was transformed into a medieval castle for the annual Madrigal dinner and tea hosted by the music department and music Booster Club recently.

"The Madrigal is put on by the A Capella Chamber Choir which is an auditioned choir. We also had three other 'cast' members, and then the ladies of the other choirs were the servers," said senior Kristen Frank.

The dinner was on Dec. 8, and the tea was on Dec. 9. Students and parents watched

as the choir performed a medieval act, sang, and played instruments.

"There was a great turnout. It was smaller than last year but it seemed to be quite a success. There were about 80 people at the dinner and 65 at the tea," said Frank.

From the food to the songs, everyone enjoyed the show.

"The best part was no doubt dressing up. It was so fun. This was my third year and I lived it up," said Frank. "It was such an honor to lead the choir for this awesome tradition."

Operation Snowball rolling in

50 participants expected to sign up for awareness retreat

By Kym McDaniel

Teachers and students are getting the ball rolling for Operation Snowball.

The annual retreat is Jan. 18-20, when participants travel to Camp Lorado Taft in Oregon, Ill. to play games, activities, and encourage peer mediation while getting to know others.

Senior Natalie Ckuj participated in Operation Snowball for two years and is a teen leader.

"Operation Snowball is a retreat at Camp Lorado Taft to participate in activities to think about choices," said Ckuj.

Ckuj said hopefully 50 participants will attend this year with seven team leaders and four directors. Directors are

more involved while leaders follow rules and lead discussions.

Operation Snowball has been at the school for seven years.

"The idea is that if strong leaders help others to make good decisions then that effect will snowball to other areas of the community," said Ckuj.

Ckuj said she looks forward to seeing the attendance number rise. Ckuj believes that the people who go will have fun if they have the right attitude.

"We have some awesome activities, crazy games and even some outdoor fun," said science teacher Jared Winquist who has been a Snowball adviser for two years.

"It gives all of us a chance as adults to interact with students in a different capacity."

Winquist also said it was a great opportunity for students to meet with other students outside of class.

"Operation Snowball is a youth and adult cooperative program focusing on prevention," said Winquist. "We believe that if youth are given accurate information, sound decision making skills and support, then students will make good decisions and will influence their friends and the effect with snowball from there."

To sign up, students can contact special education teacher Catharine Thielberg, math teacher Joy Tanimura or Winquist by Friday.

Parents prepare for college

By Jake Bradley

Parents worrying about paying for college tuition can get help at the "Don't Pay the College Ticket Price" program being held at the Carol Stream Public Library Jan. 17.

The program will start at 7 p.m. in the community room.

Experienced financial planners will help parents facing

college tuition payments.

Parents will learn about the college financial aid system, which includes scholarships, grants, student loans and tax saving opportunities, which were designed to help relieve the expensive burden.

"This beneficial system provides relief for all parents, not just low or moderate income families," said Julie Blackwell, assistant library

director of Carol Stream Public Library.

Joseph Orsolini, an experienced Certified Financial Planner from College Aid Planners in Glen Ellyn, will teach the program.

The program is free and parents can pre-register online at www.cslibrary.org or call the Adult Services Desk at 630-344-6123. Pre-registration is not necessary.

Skills USA hopes competition among advisory classes influences more students to donate food

By Joann Kaczmarczyk

Students wishing to make up a PE class or detention just missed their last chance to bribe teachers with food. The annual Skills USA food drive ended Thursday.

This year, Skills USA made the event a competition among advisories. Each advisory was encouraged to participate by donating food products, like canned soup and peanut butter.

"Prizes will be awarded to the top advisory of each period, so six advisories in all. The top advisory of those six will receive a pizza party," said Patti Kozlowski, club adviser.

The top advisories will be determined by a student to food item ratio. The number of items brought in will be divided by the number of students in the class, and the classes with the highest quotient are the winners.

Unlike the title suggests, the food drive is not only limited

to food. Paper products, personal items and money donations were also accepted.

"They can take the money to buy fresh produce that will last long. I've also seen people donate items such as soap, deodorant, personal items," said Kozlowski.

All donated items go to St. Mary's Food Pantry, located at 163 Garden Street in West Chicago.

"The items we give them at the end of December last through the tough months, January and February, when people don't donate as much...I'd like to get around 6,000 items," said Kozlowski.

Skills USA has been sponsoring this food drive for as long as Kozlowski can remember.

"We've been doing this for a long time...about 35 years, I think," said Kozlowski.

For those who still wish to help out, St. Mary's accepts donations all year long.

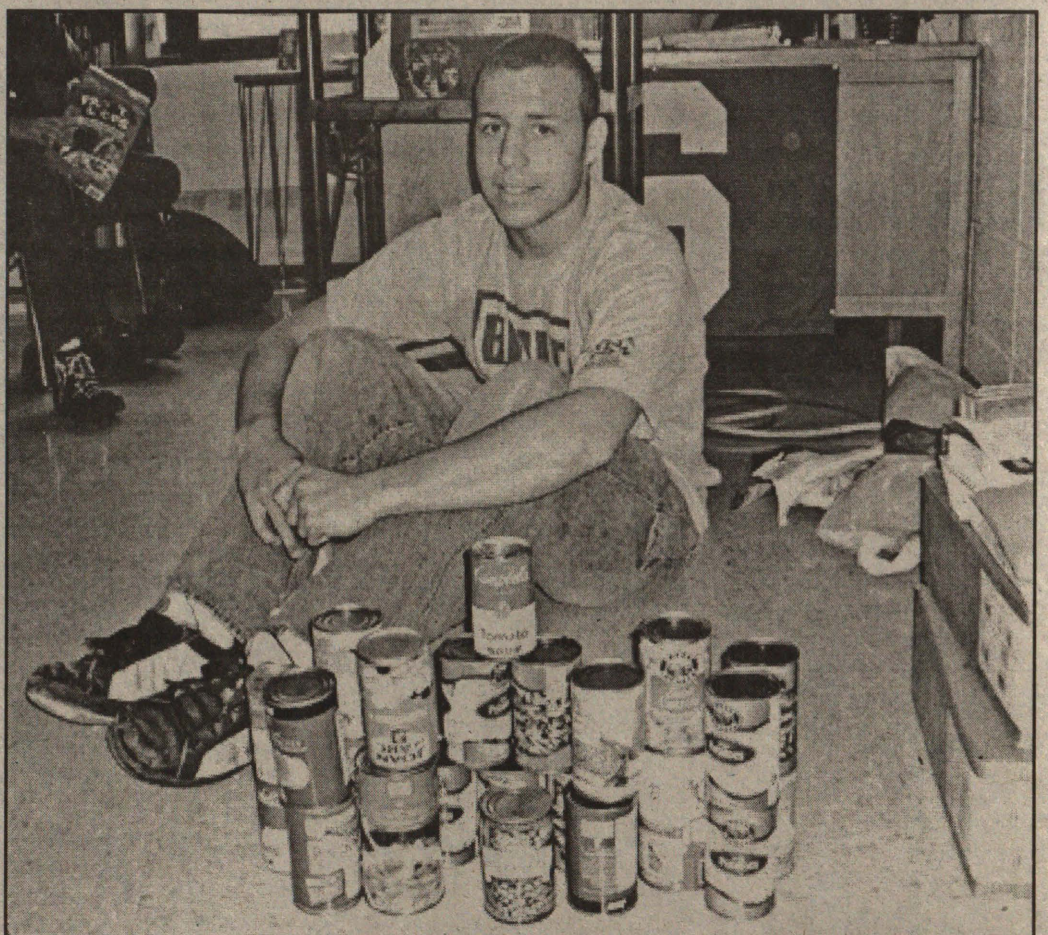


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Students could have brought in three non perishable food items resulting in a maximum of two PE or three detention make ups. Hoping to eliminate detentions, sophomore James Washington brings over 30 cans to English teacher Brad Larson's advisory.

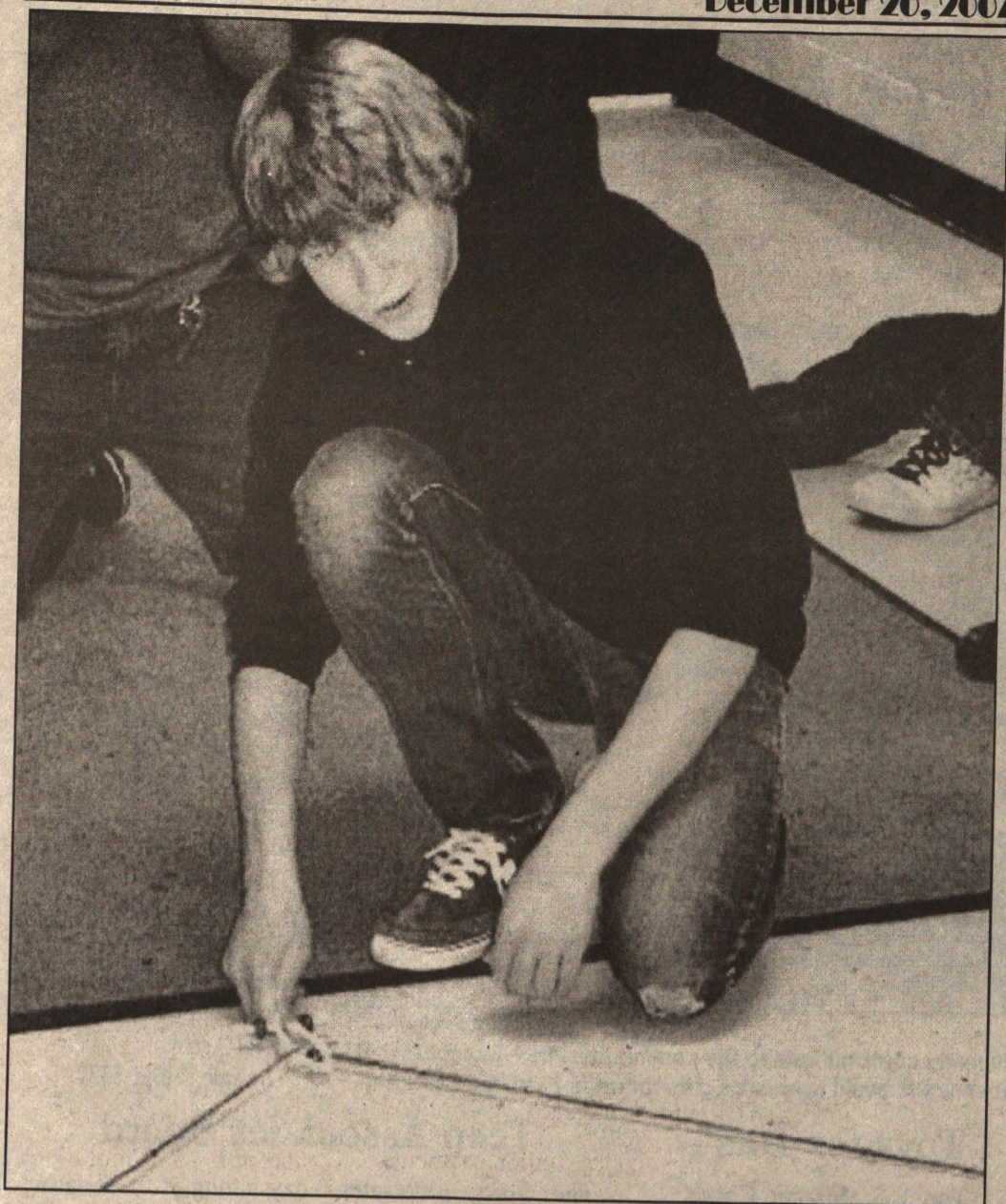


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Students had three hours to build rocket cars in the world studies class. Sophomore Alex Walz won the competition by launching his rocket car 103 feet down the hallway.

Rocketing away

By Jacob Wucka

Students in the world studies class launched rocket cars throughout the hallways to symbolize individuality.

"I thought it was cool that we got to do a hands-on experiment that involved the whole class," said sophomore Rae Struckmeyer.

The class began building the rockets after reading the book "October Sky," learning about the Renaissance, and the scientific method. Each lesson taught the students about how one person can make a difference in the world.

"The students all had the same materials to build with. From those materials, they came up with the design for their rocket car. You have to use your ingenuity, be creative, and think outside the box," said English teacher Tim Courtney.

Students had a variety of materials to use to build their cars, and they had to use balloon, rubber band, or a combination of the two objects to power their cars.

"They worked on it for one hour on Wednesday, when we gave them the 'junk.' Then they had two hours to build, test, revise, and get ready for the competition on Friday," said Courtney.

With limited time and research, the teams had to make sure that their car worked at the trial run.

"After testing out our car and seeing that it didn't run well, my partner and I realized that there were more options to use in order to build a better car," said Struckmeyer.

Even though Struckmeyer's car didn't work, there were many cars at the competition that dominated. Sophomore Alex Walz's car flew 103 feet down the hallway.

When the project was finished, the class realized how individuality was a factor in how far each car went.

"This project was unique because we had limited supplies to work with and everyone came up with their own creative views on how to build a rocket car," said Struckmeyer.

Bringing laughs home on DVD

By Jessica Bergmann

WeGo Thru the Tube may be available to watch on TVs everywhere.

According to adviser Dave Jennings, broadcast communication students are waiting for first semester to end in order to put their plan in action.

"The idea that we've had is to do a DVD of the WeGo Thru the Tube episodes, treating each semester as if it were a season," said Jennings.

These DVDs will be available in two formats: a CD-R with QuickTime files on it in order for students to upload it to their computer and iTunes library, or an actual DVD

that students would be able to watch on their TV.

CD-Rs are expected to be priced at around \$1 and DVDs around \$4.

"We're waiting for first semester to be finished so we know how feasible this actually is. Nothing is set in stone yet," Jennings said.

Each format will include all episodes aired at school this year, as well as outtakes and possible director commentaries depending on deadline time.

"It puts a lot of pressure on us, but we're hoping to raise enough money to help buy some new equipment for the class," said Jennings.



Photo courtesy of Gail Eckl Daniels

"Swim 4 Sakutopi" lets students swim while raising money for WeGo 2 Africa. From left sophomore Kelly Loftus, junior Mikki Winn, Geneva Community High School senior Kevin Plagge, freshmen Kelly Dunn and Shawn Staiton, and junior Lizzy Gola swim in the event.

Swimming for WeGo 2 Africa

By Jessica Bergmann

Students and swimmers dove into "Swim 4 Sakutopi" to raise money for a shipping container that will be sent to Angola.

Participants had to swim for three hours during the event on Dec. 2. Together, they solicited over \$500 from community members.

Participants were sponsored for every five minutes they swam without touching the bottom of the pool. Nine out of the 11 swimmers were able to swim all three hours.

Sophomore Kelly Loftus, organizer of the event, en-

joyed bringing the community leadership class and her favorite activity together to make the fundraiser.

"I wanted to combine two of my biggest passions; swimming and helping Africa. By doing this, I was able to get others in the school involved in the WeGo 2 Africa project," said Loftus.

Community leadership teacher Mary Ellen Daneels was pleased with the fundraiser.

"The Swim 4 Sakutopi" event is just one example of how the WeGo 2 Africa project has empowered students

at the high school to use their gifts and talents to better their world," said Daneels.

Swim team member Caitlyn Madsen enjoyed being able to swim for three hours in order to help a cause.

"I knew it would be challenging and I knew it would help significantly with the amount of time everyone swam," said Madsen.

However, Madsen was hoping for a better turnout and encourages more students to get involved in future events.

"It would have been nice if more high school swimmers had come," said Madsen.

Challenge gets color

By Kati Siembieda

After years of black and white pages, the 2007-08 yearbooks will be completely in color.

"We don't live in a black and white world anymore," said English teacher and Yearbook adviser Patricia Santella.

Santella also stated that the cost of color ink has come down drastically.

Santella has been lobbying the idea for years because

many area schools have an all color yearbook.

"I'm personally very excited," said senior Kara Wolfe. "It's something that we've wanted for years, and the editors gave a presentation to Covino and McCarthy and they okayed it."

For the yearbooks to be ordered the staff needs to sell 1500 copies. A \$5 price raise will be needed also in order to pay for these books leaving the total at \$40.

In the spirit of giving...

Donations to the community were made around the school

FBLA

FBLA has teamed up with Winfield Township to help brighten the holiday for selected children.

Children from underprivileged families send a wish list of toys or clothing to Winfield Township.

Depending on the children's situations, FBLA members purchase recommended items, and then the group wraps the gifts together.

Members deliver the gifts to their assigned family before Christmas.

"It's a really good feeling to make someone's holiday special," said organization president and junior Hannah Colliander.

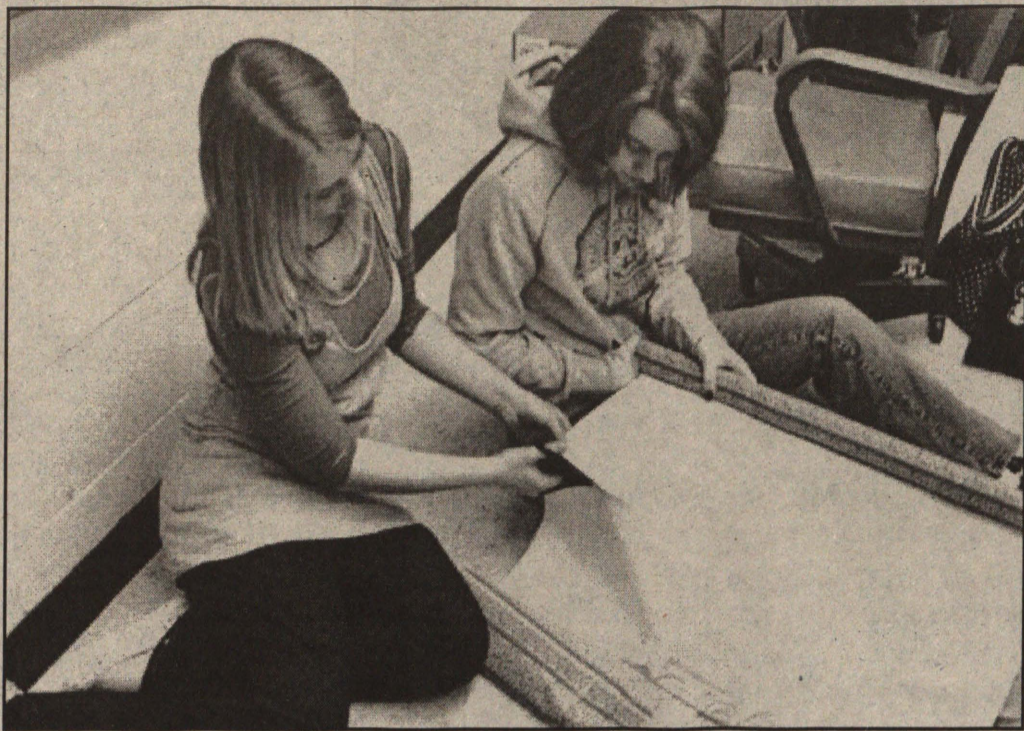


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Around the school, clubs made many contributions to the community. FBLA members and juniors Kristen Kotche and Rebecca Cisowski help wrap gifts for underprivileged children.

Welcome Center

The Welcome Center sold tamales to the staff in a fundraiser to provide for local families in need.

The money will be used to pay for buses for field trips, admission to field trips, and other needs for students and their families such as clothing and food. Last year, some proceeds were used to provide shirts, ties, and dresses for students graduating from West Chicago Middle School.

"Some families arrive here with nothing on their backs so we try to help them as much as we can," said Welcome Center director Miguel Arroyo.

The sale raised \$322.

Key Club

Key Club is collecting money to buy toys and donate them to the Humanitarian Service Project.

Along with profits received, Key Club will combine money from their group account to help buy the toys.

The Humanitarian Ser-

vice Project will drop off the presents to children across DuPage County on Christmas day.

"These are kids who probably would've never had Christmas presents without this donation," said counselor and Key Club adviser Ward Rau.

Toys for Tots

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve have set up a box for students and faculty to donate new, unwrapped toys.

The toys will be screened due to safety concerns.

Students can drop off toys for the drive in the counseling office until Thursday.

Teen Associates Board

The Teen Associates Board was selling candy canes in hopes to raise money to host a party for patients at Children's Memorial Hospital.

The sale lasted until Wednesday.

Money raised will fund a party around Valentine's

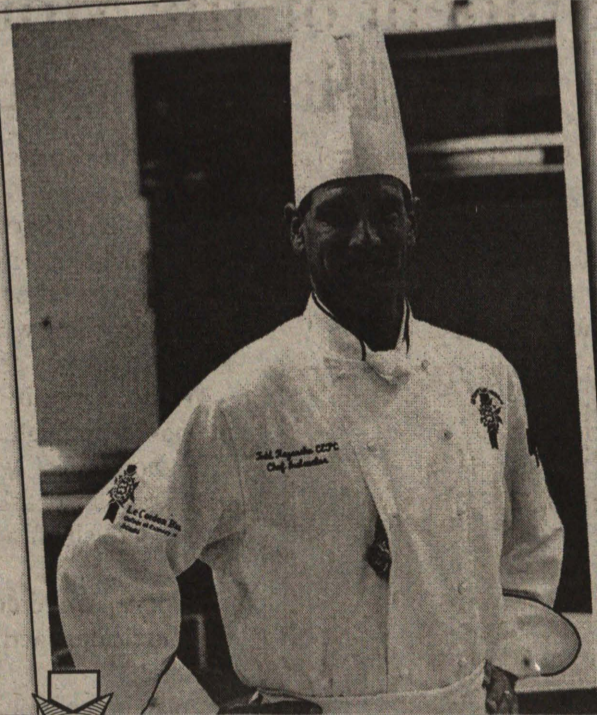
day, along with donating DVDs and toys for children to use between treatments.

"We see our role as providing them with a friendly face," said science teacher Hank Murphy.

The group hopes to raise \$250.

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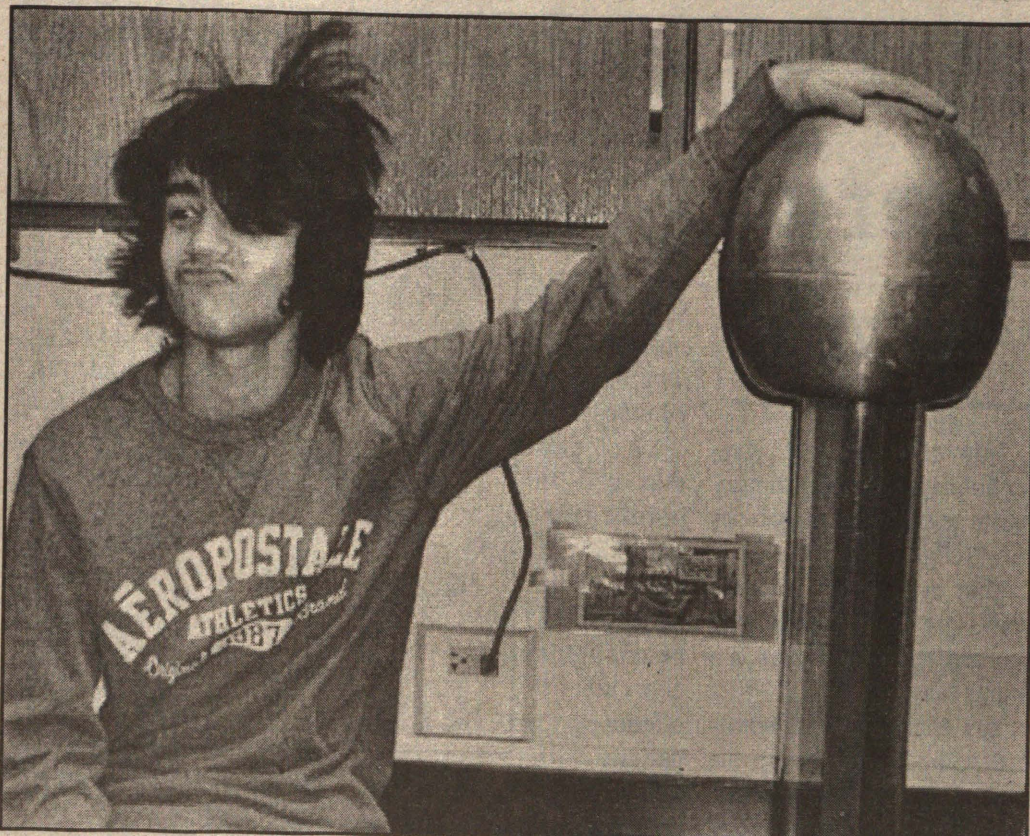


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Being a tester for the experiment allows freshman Nik Kmiecik to experience the minor shock of 20,000 electric volts, which lifts his hair and makes him a conductor of electricity.

Hair-raising experiment

Students experience flow of electricity in class

By Jacob Wucka

Students in science teacher Daniel Dock's physical science classes were shocked by an experiment that allowed students to experience a bad hair day.

Dock showed the students a Van DeGraff generator, which allows students to see how electrical charges are made.

As Dock demonstrated, a spark containing 20,000 volts of energy per second formed between his fingertips to the

machine when he placed his hand close to the machine.

After he let students touch the machine, Dock explained how the process worked.

"What you just experienced" started Dock before freshman Monica Terrazas jokingly asked "Pain?"

Dock laughed and then explained that the flow of electrons from his finger to the Van DeGraff generator created the sparks.

Freshman Nik Kmiesik also got to experience the flow of

electrons from the machine. He placed his hand on the top of the machine and the electrons lifted his hair, stirring laughs among the students.

"It was like getting hit by rubber bands but it didn't hurt that much," said Kmiesik.

After the demonstration, Dock explained that the 20,000 volts the students experienced was a safe amount of voltage. He warned the students not to put objects in electrical outlets because those charges could be fatal.

Small play plans to garner big audience

By Amanda Rathe

With four speaking roles, the winter play is small but hopes to get big publicity.

Lead roles went to freshman Jay Perez as Tom, senior Natalie Ckuj as Amanda, senior Liz Showalter as Laura, and sophomore Tom Harms as Jim.

Director Charles Berglund is responsible for making the show a success.

The Wingfield family consists of mother Amanda, and her two children Laura and Tom. Amanda wishes great

achievements for her daughter, but Laura's shyness hinders her life.

Laura's last chance for success is getting married, which prompts brother Tom to bring in a friend of his to meet her.

"I've always played loud, confident women before and Laura is terribly shy. It's definitely a gear shift for me," said Showalter.

Performances will be on Feb. 7, 8, and 9.

Tickets can be purchased in commons during the week of performances.

Chili fest underway

By Oscar Grajeda

After a successful cook-off last year, the second annual "Some Like It Hot" Chili Fest is preparing to bring back the heat with another round.

With 13 teams competing last year, the turnout for the event is expected to be bigger.

"Like last year's Chili Fest, there will be music and a karaoke contest as well as bean bag toss games," said Tony Brinkman, coordinator of the event.

Senior and football player Anthony Fontana believes that the team is strong enough to win again.

"We know that the chances of us winning are very high, so we're going to win again, no doubt in my mind," said Fontana.

The foods II class, which got third place last year, plans to join again.

"We try to coincide our chili competition with the school and I hope that plenty of our kitchens join in," said foods II teacher Cara Blevins.

Proceeds from the competition will go to the Booster Club to help support activities throughout the school.

"The CHS clubs, sports teams, and the school can come to the Booster Club and request funds to help purchase uniforms, sports equipment, scoreboards, and new speakers for the auditorium and other items," said Brinkman.

Students who are interested in participating should contact Brinkman at brink88@comcast.net.

Tournament cancelled due to mature rating

By Sara Fouts

Even with student interest, the administration has said 'game over' to the Halo III tournament.

Leader of the tournament, teacher Brian Turnbaugh says that the administration was hesitant to sign off on the Halo III tournament.

"There are several issues, one being that Halo III is an M-rated game," said Turnbaugh.

Principal Moses Cheng said that the school must look at the content of any video game before they can pass a tournament like the Halo III one.

"As a school we have responsibility to make sure it's appropriate," said Cheng. "I do not like the Halo III game to be used because of the rating, I

would consider other video games, but we'd still have to look at its rating."

Another issue was that the school does not have equipment to carry out the tournament which means students would have to volunteer to bring in game systems.

"If it were kids bringing [the systems] in, who would pay for damages," said Cheng.

The Halo III tournament will definitely not happen during first semester.

Turnbaugh is staying optimistic and says that if enough students can make a good argument about why the tournament should proceed, the tournament may happen.

Junior Jozef Pavnica said, "I don't know a single guy that wouldn't play Halo III, and they have a great opportunity to make some money with this tournament."

November Student of the Month awarded for humanitarian work

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 Jessica Bergmann

From supporting WeGo 2 Africa to getting involved in Habitat for Humanity, Chelsea Steck hopes to make a difference in the world, which was why she was chosen as November's Student of the Month.

What are your high school accomplishments?

I was accepted into NHS, ranked in the top 10 percent of the senior class, and I helped to raise the \$10,000 to build our WeGo 2 Africa school.

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

Ms. Daneels and Mr. Turnbaugh because they always had something interesting to say and really encouraged students to build strong character.

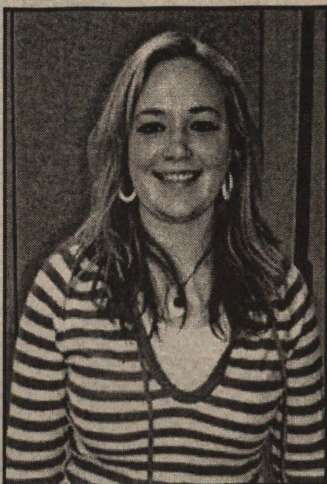


Photo by Jessica Bergmann

What clubs are you involved in?

I'm involved in dance production, NHS, the community leadership class, and Bible study. I'm also in a dance company.

What do you plan on majoring in?

International Service or International Relations depending on which school I go to, and I'll probably work with a Peace Corps prep program.

What is your favorite memory from high school?

It would be when my friends and I went sledding in a rowboat, fell off a cliff, and landed in a pond.

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

I plan on continuing dancing, playing guitar and volunteering for Habitat for Humanity.

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

I think I was chosen for Student of the Month because I work really hard, am positive, and care about world issues and hope to make a difference in the world.

Our View

We wish you a very Merry (Fill in the blank)

Merry Christmas! Or should we say, happy holidays?

In a world where political correctness looms over tradition, we are questioning our own holiday customs.

Five years ago no one questioned if saying "Merry Christmas" to a stranger was politically correct.

Now, the fear of offending someone of a different

religion rules out traditional customs.

Spreading the joy of a holiday that your religion celebrates should not offend someone who does not share your beliefs.

As Christians, like a majority of Americans, we celebrate by saying "Merry Christmas" when greeting people during the season.

Now we are told that "Happy holidays" is a more appropriate gesture, since it includes most religions.

That makes a lot of sense until you think about why you are wishing this person a happy season.

You choose to wish someone to be happy during the time of that specific holiday.

We hope that the gesture of

wishing someone a "Merry Christmas" would not be taken the wrong way, because if a Jew wished us "Happy Hanukkah," we would not be offended.

The fact that you are celebrating and sharing the joy of that holiday should be enough to overrule any offence to the gesture.

Saying "Merry Christmas" does not mean Christians are

trying to convert or push anyone to agree with Christianity.

When wishing someone a Merry Christmas, we are not preaching that the other person should become Christian and celebrate the birth of Christ. We are simply

wishing them joy on a joyous holiday.



Changing scenery for the front line

Like an abandoned house left to collapse on its own, Afghanistan has become a dilapidated country with a plan to rebuild coming four years too late.

In an announcement to the press, Secretary of Defense

Robert Gates said the U.S. Marine Corps plans to withdraw all of its forces from Iraq and transfer them to Afghanistan in order to tame the situation in the country.

When the war in Afghanistan started, following the

Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the United States set goals to eliminate Al Qaeda and the Taliban regime, along with closing terrorist camps within the country.

However, the war in Iraq began in 2003 and a majority of

American troops in Afghanistan were taken to search for nonexistent weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

With the general public's focus in Iraq, Afghanistan began to deteriorate. After the Taliban's fall, the first democratic government was formed.

With a shaky foundation for democracy everything came crashing down, as the Taliban became a powerful insurgency and other attacks against US troops starting in 2006.

A report from ABC News states that within the past two years Afghanistan has become deadlier for troops than Iraq, with the death rate in Afghanistan doubling troops posted in Iraq.

Also, the nation has become a major producer of opium. According to a report from CNN, opium production in Afghanistan has grown more than 40 percent from 2005.

United Nations officials estimated that Afghanistan produced 4,500 tons of opium, thus creating 450 tons of heroin, or 90 percent of world's

heroin supply.

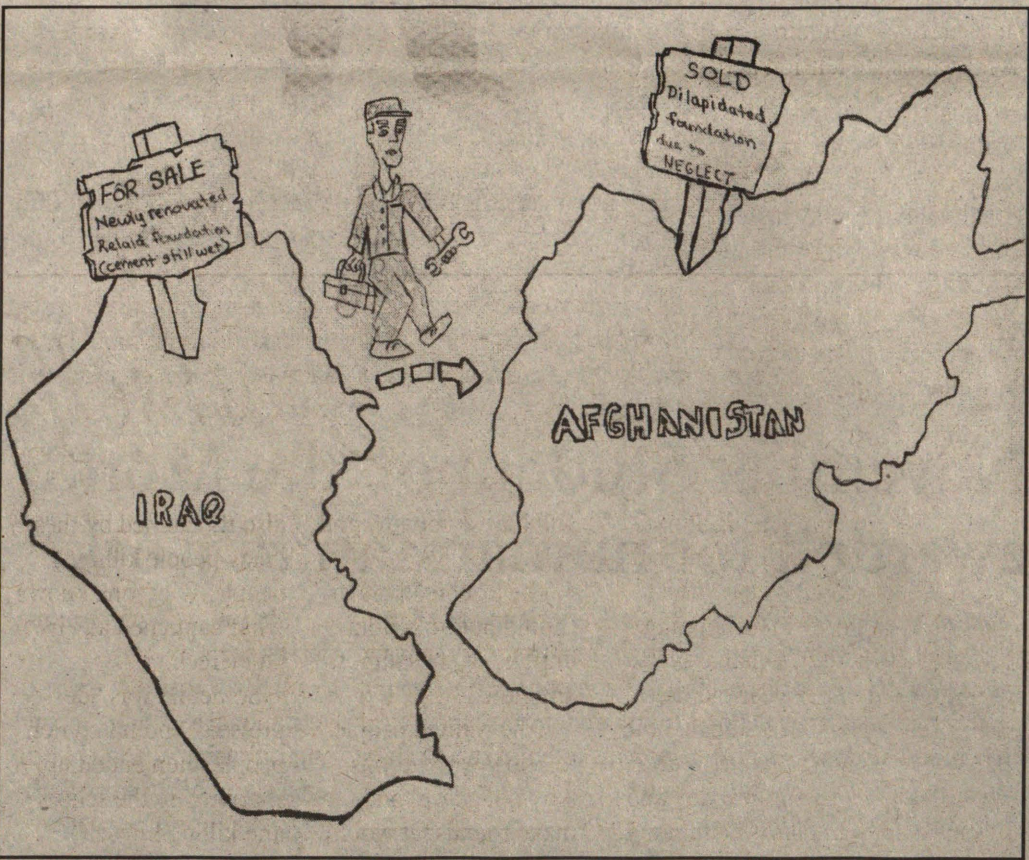
The U.S. Army has grown more concerned with stopping the sale of opium, which is creating conflict in southern parts of Afghanistan.

The Army needs to get its priorities straightened out. What is more important, reinforcing the foundation with concrete, or pulling weeds out of the ground?

If nothing is done fast, Afghanistan is surely to slip into a degenerated state with no chance of recovering. Since 2006, Afghanistan has moved from the 10th to the 8th place on the index of failed states in the world.

In 2005, the United Nations warned the United States that if the presence in Afghanistan was not increased, the situation would only get worse, and in the end they were right.

America is responsible for Afghanistan's problems. Instead of fixing the leaky pipes under Afghanistan's foundation, America bulldozed and rebuilt Iraq, leaving Afghanistan to implode.



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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although staff members may withhold a name upon request. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and may refuse to publish a letter. Letters to the editor may be e-mailed to Laura Kuehn at lkuehn@d94.org or delivered to room 319 before or after school.

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Students Speak

What do you want for Christmas this year?



Freshman
Leo Bartyzel

"A Ferrari because I'd pick up chicks with it."

Sophomore
Jake Neuman



"An iPhone because they are really cool."



Junior
Kelli Grimm

"My neighbor's dog, Maggie because nobody takes care of her and I love her."

Senior
Nick Secker



"A new car because my car isn't very good at being warm."

Students should study subjects, not teachers

Male teachers are not eye candy, they are human beings hired for a reason.

They are not hired based on their looks but on the quality of their teaching.

Female students need to realize that we come to school for a purpose: to receive an education, not flirt with the ones providing it to us.

Teachers are expected and encouraged to form bonds with their students, to care about them outside the classroom, and offer advice when students need it.

However, there are boundaries that should not be crossed when it comes to student-teacher relationships. Talking about how attractive a teacher is and flirting with him is inappropriate and considered crossing one of those boundaries.

Walking down the halls, I do not need to hear about how good a 30-year-old, possibly married, male is looking today. No offense, but we should be targeting our own age group. There is more to every teacher than what they look like, and that is what we should be seeing.

Look at it from this point of view. What if grades were based on the looks of the student? If the teacher didn't like the shape of your nose, or if your skin was too pale, you get bumped down a letter grade.

You would be targeted based on your looks the same way male teachers are being targeted. It is not right and it definitely is not fair.

What also is not fair is the tension and awkwardness it poses to teachers. I am sure it is embarrassing when they hear someone comment about them based on their looks. It is not an ego booster, but a barrier that is put up between their

relationship with all female students.

In the end, this is one subject where students should keep their opinions to themselves. It is time to act appropriately in school and treat teachers with the respect and dignity they deserve.



Jessica Bergmann

Keep your fame to yourself

People can be so selfish when it comes to fame.

Everyone in his or her life is said to have 15 minutes of fame. But what is the big deal?

People just parade around on YouTube thinking that the whole world will see it and remember them forever.

I just do not understand. People will see them, maybe laugh or just think "why the heck are they on the internet?" But what they really do is waste our time thinking they are funny when viewers end up forgetting about them in two weeks.

It does not bother me. I mean, I like to laugh just as much as the next person but some of the things that people do make me crazy!

I am talking about a certain incident that happened early this month at a shopping mall in Omaha, Neb.

A 19-year-old boy who left a suicide note saying that he "wanted to go out in style" and wanted to "be famous," did just that when he was on the 5 o'clock news.

He went to a mall in Omaha and opened fire at shoppers and employees, killing eight and injuring five.

He got the fame he was looking for.

People can say he was "depressed" or whatever, and I understand that people do not think things through when they feel bad, but there are other ways to handle it.

If someone is just so sad about how life is going, tell somebody about it. Maybe they

will have sympathy and help.

The troubled person should not hold it in until he or she cannot anymore.

If he wanted people to know who he was, why not go out and make friends? It would have been a lot easier, and smarter, when you think about it.

The way he achieved the fame that he wanted just makes me angry. Was it worth it? Was it worth having eight families mourning their losses this Christmas, instead of celebrating?

All the victims wanted to do was some holiday shopping but instead they got involved with someone's quest for fame.

This isn't the first time someone has gone to extreme measures to achieve fame.

College students are

also threatened by these crazy people killing people. Everyone knows what happened at Virginia Tech.

Someone was "depressed" and hated rich people, then ended up shooting up the school and killing himself.

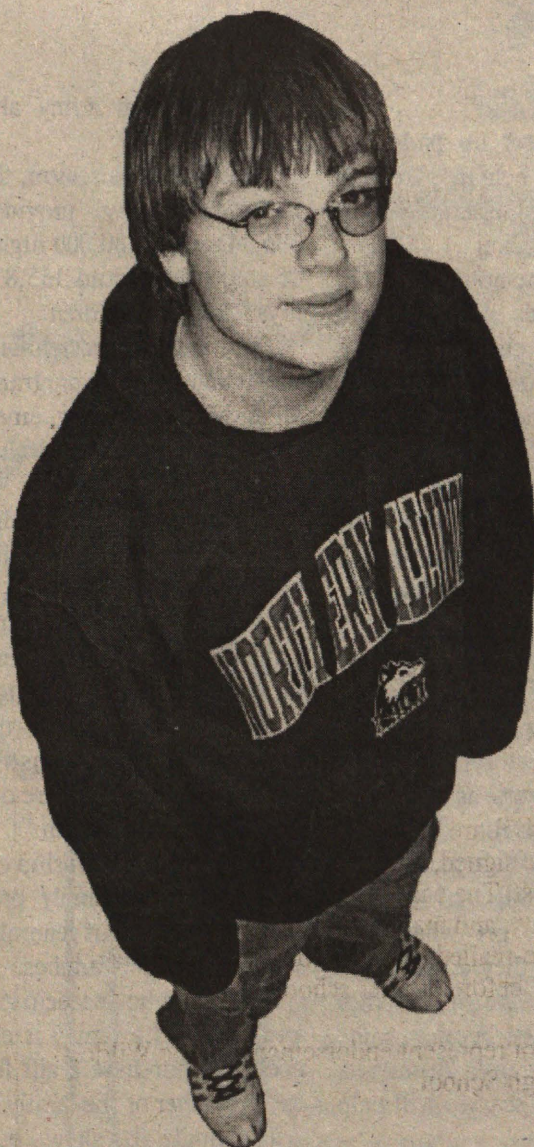
But before killing himself he took some time taking pictures of himself with a knife to his throat and a gun to his head.

Why did he do that? Because he knew that they would hit the Internet a few days after, and they did.

Some can say he was just a nutcase.

I say he wanted to be known. He wanted his 15 minutes of fame. And innocent people got hurt in his journey.

Strangely though, like the Omaha killer, I cannot even remember his name.



Jake Bradley

The Dark Side

What is your holiday tradition? Many people this winter can bare that Christmas trees and wrapping paper are ruining the environment. Take a stroll through the dark side to discover the destructive side



TOY STORE



By Jacob Wucka

When Santa makes his list and checks it twice, he will need to do more than find out who is naughty or nice. He will need to be aware of hidden hazards.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), more than 61 toys have been recalled since the start of 2007. These recalls have put a damper on the retail market, and created confusion among consumers.

"Awareness is key to make sure that consumers have no recalled

items in the toy box," said CPSC public affairs associate Nikki Flemming. The CPSC's objective is to look at the dangers that toys contain, and preventing deaths.

"We feel lead is a serious issue. The commission is aware that choking is still the leading cause of death," said Flemming. Flemming stated that the commission has found new concerns in toys that contain magnets.

"If magnets were swallowed, they can lock in the intestines and cause intestinal blockage which needs immediate surgery,"

said Flemming. She went on to state that the commission has been recalling toys all year, and that it is important that people look out for recalls before the holiday shopping season begins.

West Chicago resident Tina Vallette took action to make her house safe.

"I've tried to stop buying things made in China. I don't even buy dog bones from there," said Vallette.

According to Zogby International, 80 percent of respondents were hesi-

tant to buy Chinese-made products after China recalled more than 20 million defective toys.

Vallette said that America "farmed out" too much of their production to foreign countries, which makes it hard for the companies to monitor how their products are manufactured.

As the holiday shopping season winds down, consumers have become smarter when dealing with dangers in their toys.

"Recently we don't buy toys that contain small parts," said Vallette regarding choking hazards.



STOP 2

You are hungry and decide to stop and eat. Millions cannot eat because of poverty.

By Greg Vodicka

As we enjoy our holiday ham, gifts under the tree, and the roofs over our heads this holiday season, remember 37 million Americans are celebrating that they are below the poverty level.

According to U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 12.6 percent of the population, from the most current official poverty rate in 2005, lives below the poverty line.

From a closer look, povertyinchicago.com says 110,000 individuals were homeless in Chicago in 2005.

Also in Chicago, 150 people lost their lives last winter from starvation.

DuPage PADS is trying to combat poverty with a program to help the homeless.

According to PADS executive director Carol Simler, PADS' mission is to end and prevent homelessness in DuPage County. Community advocates along with 4,000 volunteers help fuel the project.

PADS Overnight Housing Program provides a sleeping space, dinner, breakfast, and a

bag lunch to its participants.

Permanent housing programs are offered along with supportive services.

According to volunteer Terri Roberts, there are about three sites open in DuPage County nightly.

PADS is held at Faith Community Church in West Chi-



cago on Thursday nights.

"PADS needs 75 volunteers a week to cook, purchase food, and make lunches in addition to the four shifts of volunteers to help out Thursday night," said Roberts.

Senior Natalie Ckuj volunteers from Mary Ellen Dannels' community leadership

class.

"I help set up pads and tables, then help prepare food and anything else the people need," said Ckuj.

During the holiday season, PADS takes donations for buying the clients gift cards to stores like Wal-Mart, McDonalds, and Jewel.

"With this many people, we don't know what everyone wants and needs," said West Chicago PADS coordinator Brian Hendrickson.

Thursday, PADS will distribute scarves to all of the clients as a Christmas gift.

"We try to collect clothes so people can get what they

need when they come," said Roberts. "Warm clothes are a priority, because some people walk over 20 miles a day. These scarves will help a lot."

In addition to scarves, Girl Scouts are volunteering and singing Christmas carols for the clients.

The Salvation Army also contributes.

Last Christmas season, the Salvation Army provided 386,341 meals, 80,000 nights of safe shelter, and 153,876 toys for needy children.

They also offered rehabilitation and recovery programs along with counseling, emergency help, and disaster relief services.

"The money I receive helps buy Christmas presents for kids," said Tony Palumbo, a Salvation Army worker stationed in front of Walgreens in West Chicago. "The top 10 people who collect the most money get a bonus for their own family, so we're out here doing what we can."

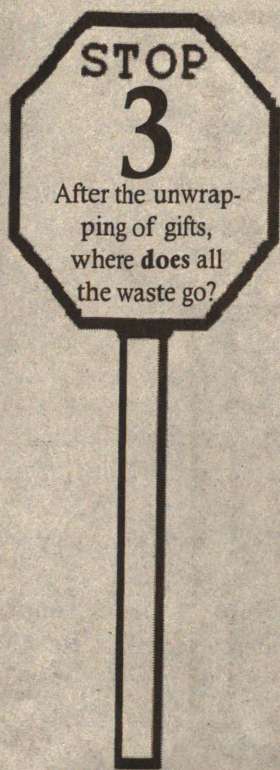
The Winfield Township offers an Adopt-a-family program each year that generally services over 100 families.

Anyone who participates and "adopts" a family is expected to purchase a gift for each member of the family.

The family also should buy a gift card to a local grocery store so that the family can purchase food for a holiday meal.

of the Holidays

ly afford food, let alone toys. Who knew
ent and the winter blues really exist?
of the holidays.



By Jessica Bergmann

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, the average American household increases its waste by more than 25 percent.

According to Use Less Stuff, the holiday season adds an additional one million tons a week to landfills across the country.

With the holidays right around the corner, it is important that students and their families reduce as much waste as possible.

Hallmark discovered that Christmas is the largest card-sending holiday in the United States.

Over 1.9 billion Christmas cards are sent every year, which is enough to fill a football field 10 stories high, which requires over 300,000 trees to be cut down.

Over 50 million Christmas trees are purchased in the United States, with 30 million going to a landfill.

Fresh trees are more environmentally safe than fake trees. Fresh trees can be recycled and used for a variety of other things, including mulch, which can be spread to prevent land erosion.

It is time to update the address book and eliminate those that may be out of touch in order to reduce mail volume. Also, opt to send them an e-greeting instead, which conserves time and trees. Students can also take advantage of the text messaging craze and send texts to those they do not see during the day.

To those they do see, a simple "Happy holidays" would

suffice.

It is estimated by recycleworks.org that half the paper America consumes is used to wrap and decorate store bought products.

Instead of wrapping every present this holiday, gift bags are a great way to give gifts, and the recipient can reuse the gift bag.

Newspaper comics are also an entertaining and original way to give gifts this season.

Not many people care about the actual appearance of gifts, but what is inside is what matters. So this holiday, cut back on the amount of ribbon used to make presents have a better appearance.



According to recycleworks.org, a bow could be tied around the entire world with the 38,000 miles of ribbon thrown out each year.

Or, instead of throwing the ribbon away, simply save it and reuse it for next year.

Holiday gasoline consumption also skyrockets as families travel to see relatives and loved ones.

If each family saved about one gallon of gas, greenhouse gas emissions causing global warming would be reduced by one million tons, according to a Use Less Stuff report from 1998.

So do the world a small favor this holiday and cut down on the amount of waste generated. It is an effective way to make a difference.

Art by Kym McDaniel

TAN SALON

By Kym McDaniel

While Christmas supposedly is the most wonderful time of the year, people with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) would have to disagree.

SAD is a seasonal condition, which, according to the Mayo Clinic, means symptoms may come during early fall and leave early spring.

Causes of SAD may include reduced serotonin, a neurotransmitter in the brain responsible for depression. Reduced sunlight may decrease serotonin in the brain.

"The specific cause is still unknown," said school nurse Beth Jones. "It is likely that age, genetics, and a person's natural chemical make-up plays a role."

Other causes may be tied to melatonin, a sleep-related hormone. Melatonin also is linked to depression. Long nights of winter increase the production of melatonin and the risk for depression.

Finally, the circadian rhythm is another possible cause for SAD. The circadian rhythm is a psychological process that regulates the body's internal clock, which

tells the body when to sleep or wake. Disruption of the internal clock causes depression. Reduced sunlight in fall and winter may disrupt the circadian rhythm.

"This disorder is cyclical and seasonal, which means symptoms come and go at about the same times every year," said Jones.

SAD is most common in young adulthood, and is most often diagnosed with women, although men may have more severe symptoms. Some other risk factors for SAD would include living in the north, where snow and cold weather

is more likely.

Many solutions exist for the disease. A main option for helping to decrease symptoms is light therapy, though it is not approved by the FDA.

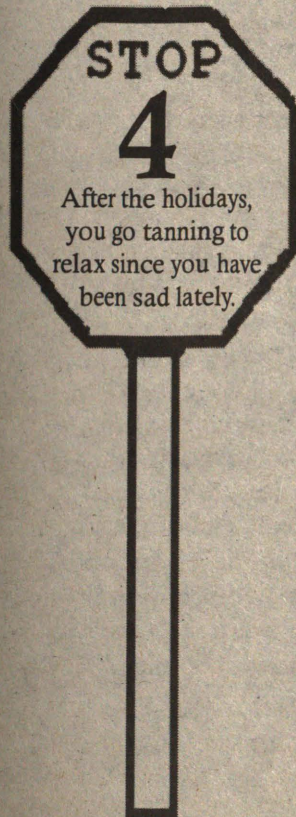
"Light therapy mimics outdoor light and causes a biochemical change in your brain that positively affects your mood, thus relieving symptoms. It is generally easy to use and has minimal side effects," said Jones.

According to mentalhealth.com, sitting under an artificial light for just 30 minutes may help. Psychotherapy is another option.

However, being broke

during the holiday season or feeling anxiety about shoveling the driveway are not diagnoses of SAD. The patient must have felt depression for over two years during the same season, or if depression has been followed by normal behavior.

"Some tips: stick with the treatment plan; get as much outdoor light as you can; exercise regularly; take care of yourself; learn stress management skills; socialize; and take a trip to a warm, sunny location, if possible, during the darkest part of winter," said Jones.



Trilingual students welcome the holidays in their native language



Photo by Joann Kaczmarczyk

Sim Kirup (right) and her cousin celebrate their Indian heritage by wearing their traditional Indian dresses.

Senior enjoys traditional food

By Joann Kaczmarczyk

"Just call me Sim," says senior Smiriti Kurup to anyone when they first meet her. "My real name is too hard to pronounce."

Kurup, like her name, is Indian.

"My family is originally from India. I was born there,

food," said Kurup.

Kurup also said her holidays are usually very bright and colorful.

While Kurup does not celebrate Christmas, she exchanges gifts with her sister and cousin.

Kurup also goes to her tem-

different sections of India, the southern and central regions.

Therefore, Kurup knows a bit of both Hindi and Malayalam.

"Knowing another language makes me feel connected to another world," said Kurup.

नूतन वर्ष की शुभकामना

too," said Kurup.

Kurup lived in India until she was 2 years old, when her family moved to Illinois.

Like many cultures, Kurup's holiday traditions focus primarily on food.

"A common tradition no matter what culture is lots of food. We cook and give away lots of food. We eat a lot of

ple every week.

"I have learned Hindi just by growing up around the language and being exposed to Bollywood movies," said Kurup. "Bollywood is Indian Hollywood."

Kurup knows two Indian languages and is also in French 4 at school.

Her parents come from two

Kurup speaks both of the languages well enough to communicate with her family, though she has never had official schooling to perfect her speaking.

Kurup visits her family in India every few years.

Kurup's most recent trip was after her sophomore year in 2006.

Polish is part of sophomore's identity

By Kym McDaniel

Sophomore Tom Kaczmarczyk eats a 12 course dinner on Christmas Eve, before which they break "optatek."

Break "optatek" is a kind of waffle common in Kaczmarczyk's family because Kaczmarczyk is 100 percent Polish.

Kaczmarczyk has spoken Polish since birth.

"I learned from my family and from teachers at Polish school," said Kaczmarczyk.

Kaczmarczyk attends Polish school, or Polska Szkola, located in Addison, Ill. on

the weekends.

Kaczmarczyk has gone to Polish school since first grade and will graduate during his junior year.

"Both my parents originated from Poland," said Kacz-

Wesołych świąt

marczyk. "Everyone in my family is from Poland."

Kaczmarczyk went to Poland when he was younger but he has not been back. However, his extended family travels to and from Poland

frequently.

Along with the 12 course meal on Christmas Eve (or "Wigilia" in Polish), Kaczmarczyk and his family cannot eat meat.

Kaczmarczyk and his family also go to a Polish church every Sunday.

"We pray a lot together," said Kaczmarczyk.

Kaczmarczyk said he enjoys speaking a different language because it is part of his identity.

"It is great to be fluent in another language," added Kaczmarczyk, who is also in Spanish 3 at the school.



Photo by Joann Kaczmarczyk

Matt (left) and Tom Kaczmarczyk break "optatek" on Christmas Eve.

Tradition gives senior a year of good fortune and a full wallet

By Kym McDaniel

Senior Eunice Galang will be sure to have money in her wallet on New Year's Eve.

According

to her

Filippino

tradition,

Galang

said to

have money

in a wallet means good luck for the rest of the year.

Galang speaks Tagalog in her home and with her

family.

"My parents speak it to me at home and I speak English

language was that she can talk to older generations and teach her future children the Tagalog language, passing the traditions on.

"We are Catholic, so we have the same holiday traditions as most other people," said Galang, who

was born in the Philippines and came to America with

her family when she was 3. Galang is also in Spanish 3.

maligayang pasko at manigong bagong taon

or Tagalog back," said Galang.

Galang said her favorite part about speaking a different



Photo courtesy of Eunice Galang

Filippino Eunice Galang (right) and family celebrate Christmas.

Each phrase within the story represents "Happy Holidays" in that student's native language. From the top, Indian, Polish and Filipino.

Five gifts of 2007 that are on every holiday list

By Mike Dalton

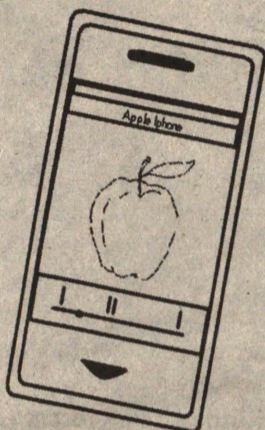
1. The iPhone is the top holiday gift this season.

Costing \$399, the 8 gb iPhone offers more features than anyone will know what to do with.

Not only is it a cell phone, but it serves as an iPod, can directly access iTunes, and has Internet connection.

While it was released this past June, Apple retailers are pushing it as their number one sell for the holidays.

It can be found at any AT&T retailer, Apple store, or ordered online through Apple's website.



2. It looks like it is going to be another iPod Christmas, because the iPhone is not the only product Apple is pushing this season.

The new iPod Touch was released in late September.

Costing \$299 for the 8 gb and \$399 for the 16 gb, it has all the bells and whistles of the old iPod, but also some of the new tricks of the iPhone.

No longer will there be the click wheel, it is all done by touch.

3. Gas gift cards are proving to be more useful this holiday season.

They will take anything they can get to avoid paying another \$35 to fill their tanks once a week.

Forget about the latest iPod or other piece of technology, a gas gift card will bring a smile to any driver's face Christmas morning.



4. When all other gift ideas fail, the giver can always resort to the timeless classic of clothes.

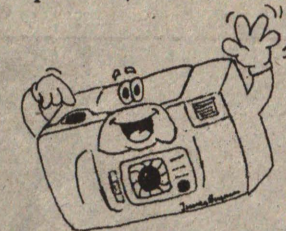
Famous brands such as Hollister Co., Hot Topic, and H&M have their winter clothes and scents out on the shelves and waiting to be bought.

Hollister Co. is pushing their newest of colognes and perfumes, SoCal. The smaller bottle costs \$34.50 and the bigger cost \$44.50.

H&M, a big name European fashion store, has a list of all their new sweaters ready to satisfy both guys and girls. Costing anywhere between \$20 to \$50, their clothes are a breath of fresh air, and a great gift for anyone interested in clothes.

5. Hanging out with friends is a common holiday hobby.

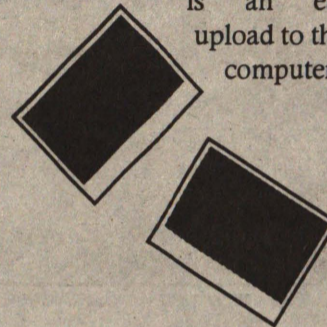
What is becoming more usual is to see the friends all taking a series of pictures,



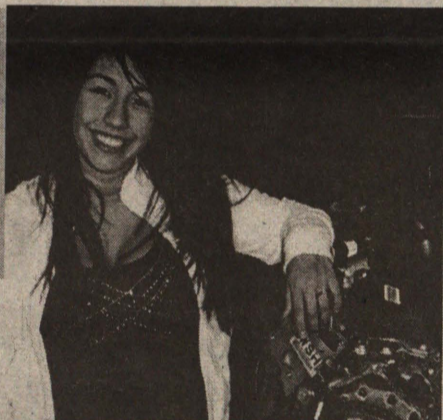
documenting everything they do.

Best Buy is selling the Canon PowerShot 7.1 mp digital camera for \$199 this season.

The Canon PowerShot allows editing of photos and is an easy upload to their computers.



A successful future doesn't necessarily mean working in a cubicle!



2003-05 Automotive Technology program
Today: Majoring in Automotive Technology and International Business at Southern Illinois University
Goal: To work in the international automotive market



2001-02 Construction Trades program
College major: Construction Management
Today: Pre-construction Engineer, Holden Construction (Atlanta, Phoenix, Costa Rica)



2005 Medical & Health Care Careers program
At TCD: Earned 25 hours of college credit
Earned 7 medical certifications
Today: Pre-med/Biology major
Loyola University at Chicago

Visit Technology Center of DuPage

Community Open House

January 23, 2008

7:00—8:30 p.m.



1996-98 Multimedia program
Today: Cinematographer
Owner: Visions of Light, Inc.

Do you have an "out of the box" interest?

Students who choose a TCD elective can explore a career, get hands-on experience, earn college credit at the same time, and find a future they can love.

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www.tcdupage.com

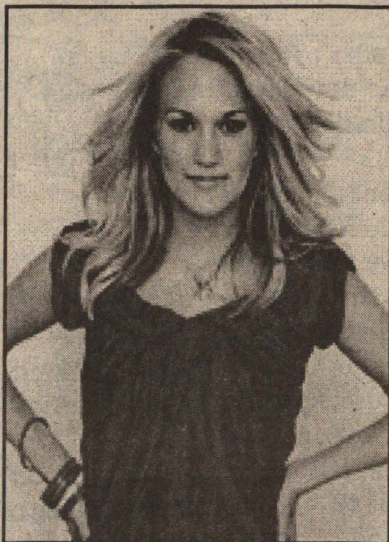
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301 S. Swift Rd.—Addison, IL

The career and technical education campus for DuPage high school juniors and seniors.

Female Artist Best Comeback

With an outstanding 23 awards, nominations and 15 of those Underwood is nominated for an additional four Grammys in 2008.



Underwood was named Sexiest Female Musician by Victoria's Secret and was also named one of the most influential people of 2007.

Her 2007-2008 tour has already kicked off.

Underwood previously won three out of her four Grammy Nominations and also had a clean sweep at the CMT Awards. Seems this American Idol winner did not turn out to be a one hit wonder.

Used with permission by Seventeen Magazine

Video Game

With a number of new video games out in 2007, the competition got tough. The best video game of 2007 goes to the madness that is "Halo 3."

The new weapons, vehicles, and features made the video game the top choice. One of the new favorite weapons is the Gravity Hammer. Similar to the Energy Sword but provides a quicker death if used correctly.

"Halo 3" is the final installment in the Halo trilogy. Dedicated fans waited in line for the midnight selling; the game made \$170 million in the first 27 hours. It was one of the most anticipated games of 2007 and it also left fans wanting more. Unfortunately all fans will be left with is what was known as "Halo 3" in 2008.

After nine years away from the stage and limelight, the biggest comeback of the year goes to the Spice Girls.

Their breakup in 1998 forced some of the girls to start solo careers with little success. The Spice Girls announced their reunion on June 8, which also includes a tour and a new CD.

"Spice Girls: Greatest Hits" includes many fan favorites such as, "Wannabe," and "Spice up your Life."



Used with permission by publicist Mike Owen

Hair and Fashion

From the cheerleaders, to the pomps, to the everyday trend, "The Puff," has been seen throughout the halls in 2007. This popular hairstyle is achieved best with many bobby pins and a lot of hairspray. The best fashion trend of this year was the casual dress that took over the school hallways. Girls can finally look nice in class without being over-the-top.



With the 2007 NFL season underway, it is evident that the New England Patriots are the best sports team of the year.

Being one of two undefeated teams in NFL history, the only other undefeated team was the 1972 Miami Dolphins, there really is no competition.

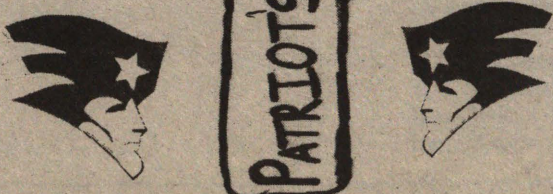
The Patriots have one of the most recognized quarterbacks of all time, Tom Brady.

Brady is set up to break Payton Manning's record of 49 touchdowns in a single season with an already impressive 45 touchdown season and three weeks left in the NFL regular season.

Not to mention that Brady has already previously won two Superbowls and could potentially win another.

Other key players on the Patriot roster consist of Randy Moss, Wes Walker, and Mike Vrabel.

If you think that the Patriots are a threat this year, things to come in the 2008 season could just be another mirror image.



Male Artist

The busy schedule of the former N'Sync member made Justin Timberlake top choice.

His continuous work in music and film is what set Timberlake apart.

With nine nominations and six awards won in 2007, Timberlake had an impressive year.

Out of the six awards won, two were Grammys.

Also featured in three movies, "Black Snake

Moan," "Southland Tales," and "Shrek 3," it seemed that Timberlake did not rest.

Timberlake was also featured with six other artists.

Timberlake had impressive numbers worldwide.

He had singles at number 1 on the U.S. charts, number 2 in the world wide charts, and number 3 in the Canadian and Australian charts.

Timberlake was also named the sexiest man by "People" and "Cosmopolitan" magazine.

He was also named the number 4 most influential person of 2007 by "Time" magazine.

Timberlake also managed to do all of this while going on an 11-month worldwide tour with guest artist Pink.

He was named the host for the 2008 PGA tour, and will bring "Sexy Back."

Movie

If there is one word to describe excellence it is lines, to the acting nothing could be terrible about the movie enjoyable.

"300" was the movie that everyone could not wait for and the movie that everyone is still talking about.

After much anticipation and the months of movie trailers, "300" made its way into theatres.

From the gore, to the



Used with permission by Warner Bros.

20

Female Artist

Winehouse has been awarded worst female artist of 2007. Her small fan base and short life in the lime light made me wonder if she was even ready. Winehouse was nominated for 10 awards but only walked away with two. With disappointing singles and live performances it is hard to tell if she will be back in 2008. Rehab might be the breakthrough that she needs to be a decent female artist.

They tried to make her go to rehab and she said yes, yes, yes. After two annoying, unflattering singles, singer Amy Winehouse hit rock bottom. Problems and jokes about her drug abuse reflected her live performances. When debuting on MTV in a one hour concert special, Winehouse was anything but flattering. Her flat voice and unenergetic performance seemed to have fans bored. Of course for those reasons

Worst Male Artist

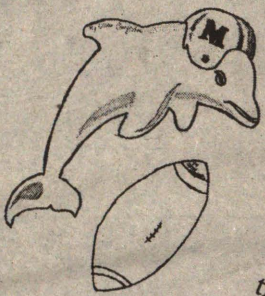
It took 50 Cent four singles before getting a somewhat decent song out in the public. With 50 losing the battle, he swore that he would no longer make albums. For those reasons it seems that he will no longer be in the limelight as a solo artist. But in all honesty it was time for 50 Cent to leave the music scene.

After staying out of the light for a year, Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson came back with hopes to take the music industry by storm. Only problem with that is Kanye West was planning to do the same. Unfortunately for 50 Cent, West wanted it more. After trying to release single after single, it seemed that 50 Cent ended up quitting.



Sports Team

What could be worse than having a potentially terrible school football team? Well, having a bad pro football team beats it all. With a disappointing record of 1-13 the Miami Dolphins at least got one win this year and that was against the Baltimore Ravens in overtime. The one win could even shown up to Dolphin fans had bags over their heads to hide the shame. With a decent draft pick the team has potential to be better in 2008.



Video Game

With hopes and hype to be like its fellow siblings, there really was not much to go off of. The song selection was what made the game so disappointing, not only that but it was nowhere near as addicting as the other "Guitar Heroes."

With video games like "Halo 3" and "Madden 2008" it would have to be pretty hard to compete. A good example of that was the disappointing release of "Guitar Hero: Encore Rocks the 80's."

07



Movie

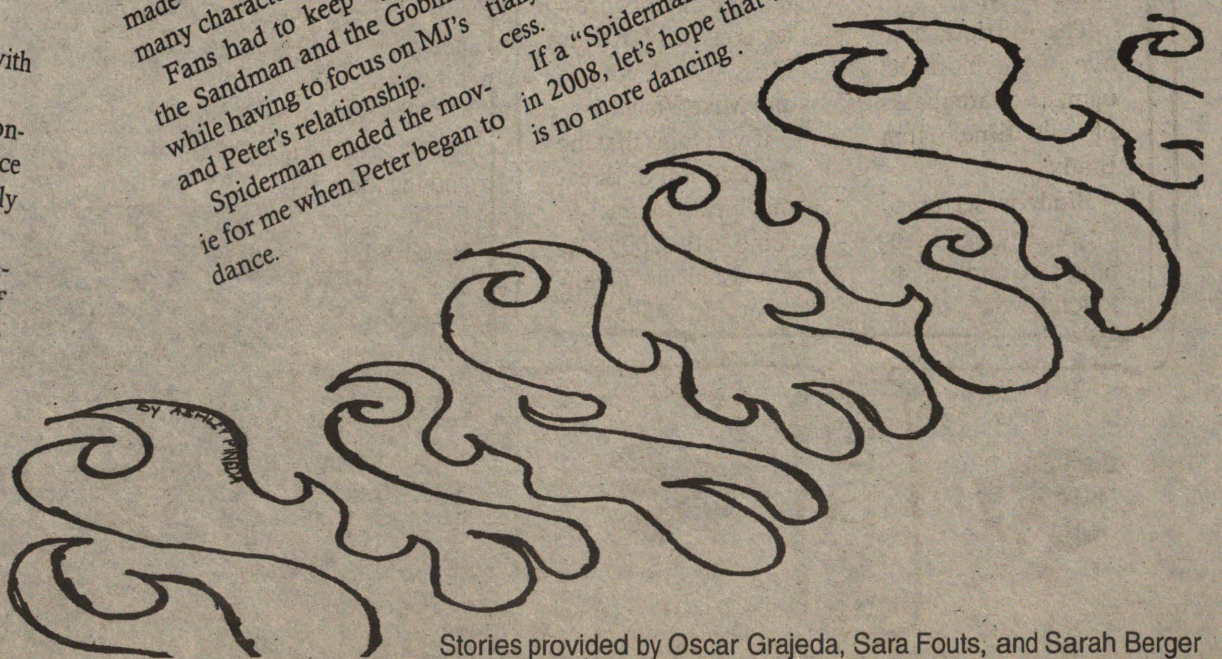
Being one of the biggest disappointments of 2007, "Spiderman 3" deserves to be the worst movie. Not because of the special effects, but the plot made fans wonder what was going on. The movie did start with a bang, but it slowly started to drag on. One of the biggest mistakes made was introducing too many characters. Fans had to keep up with the Sandman and the Goblin while having to focus on MJ's and Peter's relationship. Spiderman ended the movie for me when Peter began to dance. That just came as a big shock, to everyone in the auditorium for many reasons. Laughter and complaints were heard throughout the movie. With the huge anticipation and hope that the movie would be as good as the first two, the movie was nothing more than a dud. Sure the movie still provided special effects and cool fight scenes, but the plot ruined what could have potentially made the movie a success. If a "Spiderman 4" releases in 2008, let's hope that there is no more dancing.

Comeback

With a flabby stomach and bad dance moves, Britney Spears clearly earns the title of worst comeback for 2007. At the MTV Video Music Awards, Spears performed for the first time in two pregnancies. What was to be an anticipated performance quickly turned into a train wreck. Spears was obviously lip-syncing the words to her new single, and made no efforts with her dance moves. This was no boa constrictor performance that Spears is normally known for. Spear's year in general has been one of the worst ones yet. She lost her husband, her children, and her dignity when she shaved her head. Better luck to Spears next year, but for now she will be known as the worst comeback of 2007.

Hair and Fashion

Rocker chick gone wrong resulted in the two-toned hair trend. This style is a result of bleaching the top half of hair and dyeing the bottom half an unnatural color like black. Established by Avril Lavigne's music premiere in 2002, this hair style should have been put to rest the same year. Girls should go for a more natural look instead of this all-dyed-up style. The worst clothing trend by far this year was the baby doll top. These shirts made young, thin girls look pregnant and ridiculous. The shirts were sold everywhere from Target to mall stores like Pac Sun. Maybe for pregnant women these shirts would look somewhat normal, but this trend should have never left the sketch pad.



Top five movies to put one in the holiday spirit

By Mike Dalton

This list is based upon which movies most effectively portray the true meaning of Christmas in an entertaining fashion. This list is NOT based on popularity.

5.) "Miracle on 34th Street"- This holiday classic was originally made in 1947 and then re-made in 1994. Focusing on a little girl who does not believe in Santa Claus, the movie unfolds as a man by the name of Kris Kringle comes into her life.

Telling people that he is in fact Santa, he is taken to court. "Miracle" is sure to make a believer out of anyone.

4.) "Christmas Vacation"- Released in 1989, "Christmas Vacation" brings Chevy Chase back for another installment of the National

Lampoon series.

The film opens with Clark (Chase) driving the family to cut down the Griswald family Christmas tree. On the way to the tree farm, Clark and family are flying through the air into a snow bank after he angers a couple of rednecks on the highway.

The rest of the movie follows the same slap-stick jokes, including a squirrel hiding in the tree, a Santa Claus statue flying through the air on fire, and cousin Eddie taking Clark's boss hostage. This movie makes light of the rough times each family may face during the holiday season.

3.) "A Christmas Story" became an instant holiday favorite when it was released in 1983. "A Christmas Story" is



one of the most well-known holiday movies.

Centering on a little boy named Ralphie, "A Christmas Story" focuses on his family and the troubles they endure during the Christmas season. All Ralphie wants for Christmas is a Red Rider

BB gun, despite warnings from his parents, teacher, and even Santa Claus, he will do anything to get his hands on it. Dealing with the school bully, a whiney little brother, and a group of misfit friends, Ralphie is not sure if he will even survive long enough to get to Christmas.

2.) "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"- Originally a children's book by Dr. Seuss.

Jim Carrey threw on the big green suit in 2000, for a remake from 1966, when Ron Howard wanted to bring the well-known cartoon to life.

"Grinch" is the ultimate holiday movie, teaching the values of love and the true meaning of Christmas.

When the Grinch decides to "steal" Christmas, he dresses up like Santa Claus, and takes all the presents away from the Whos down in Whoville.

When a brave girl by the name of Cindy Loo Who befriends the Grinch, she teaches him that Christmas is not something that can be stolen.

1.) "A Christmas Carol"- Made into many different versions including: "Muppet's Christmas Carol," "Mickey's Christmas Carol," "A Flintstone's Christmas Carol," and the classic version with Alastair Sim.

Following the life of heartless Ebenezer Scrooge, "A Christmas Carol" shows how one man can truly change.

Teaching him that it is not too late for him to see the error of his ways and not die alone, the ghosts take him on different journeys to Christmases past, present, and future.

"A Christmas Carol" does not only teach a valuable lesson, but it best represents the spirit of Christmas.



Country star puts twist on holiday favorites

By Sarah Berger

Strumming along to a guitar and belting out holiday tunes never sounded so good. Taylor Swift makes simple, classic Christmas songs fresh and upbeat with her new CD, "Sounds of the Season: The Taylor Swift Collection."

At 17, Swift has already released a debut album and is burning up the country charts with hits like "Tear-drops on my Guitar" and "Our Song."

Now, Swift has released a whole new CD of hits, this time set to the tune of familiar Christmas songs.

The album includes the classic songs "Last Christmas," "Santa Baby," "Silent Night," and "White Christmas."

Swift puts a fresh, country twist on each of the songs, giving them a unique sound.

"Santa Baby" is the best classic Christmas song on the CD; it puts you in holiday spirit and sounds fun and fresh.

Swift wrote two new songs

on the CD; "Christmases When You Were Mine" and "Christmas Must Mean Something More."

"Christmases When You Were Mine" is a somber song about missing a loved one at Christmas. Leave it to Swift to make a sad, depressing holiday song actually sound

good. Taylor's voice, accompanied by an acoustic guitar, makes this song one of the strongest on the CD.

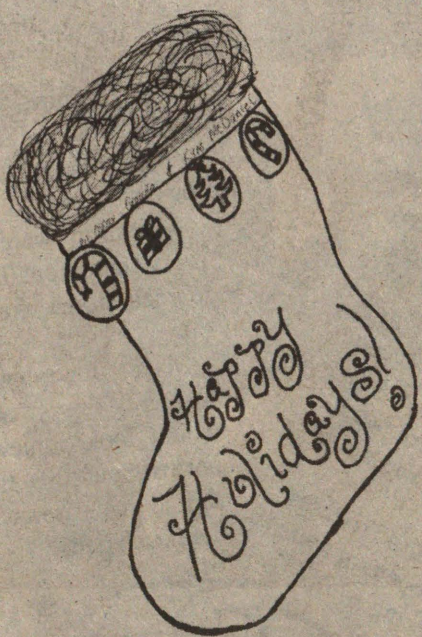
"Christmas Must Mean Something More" is the song to

play on Christmas morning while ripping open the presents in a hurried frenzy. The song is upbeat and fun, and puts a smile on one's face.

At 17, it's amazing that Swift penned these songs herself.

Even the country haters out there will learn to love Taylor Swift and the holiday spirit she sings in every note.

Ask for the "Sounds of the Season: The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection" for Christmas.



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Building upon victories



Photo by Sara Fouts

Wheaton West Wild beats Elgin-Larkin-Streamwood 12-2, Dec. 9. Junior Kyle Obright had 10 saves out of 12 shots on goal during the game.

By Sara Fouts

The Wheaton West hockey team has gone wild once again, taking home a major win Dec. 9.

With shots on goal in the first 15 seconds of the game,

the team proved they were out to win.

Wheaton West Wild beat Elgin-Larkin-Streamwood (ELS) with a final score of 12-2 to make their current record 6-2-3.

Wild scored the first goal early in the game, and by the end of the first period the score was 3-0. Good defense and teamwork kept ELS from scoring points throughout the game.

Junior goalie Kyle Obright became a brick wall, and prevented almost all shots on goal from going in the net.

"We are playing really solid lately, and we've stepped up our game. There's no one in the league that can take us," said Obright.

The team scored four more goals in the second period to put the score at 7-1.

Their confidence on the ice showed as several teammates put goals on the board.

Scorers from West Chicago included seniors Kevin Brown, Cameron Daboll, Matt Molitor, junior Shane Smith, and sophomore Ryan Crivolio.

The third period proved to be just as exciting for Wild fans when the team scored five more goals resulting in the final score 12-2.

"We really pulled together for our victory, but it would be great to see some more fans at our games to support our success," said senior goalie Ben Barclay. "Our team this year has the potential to win state as long as we keep playing the way we are playing now."

With practices on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and games on Sundays, the team's hard work and dedi-

cation are paying off in their games.

Head coach Kerry Stair said that the boys are playing great this year.

"If everyone has fun and does their best then I believe the team is ultimately successful. Each of the young men and young women that have come out for the team are special kids and it's been a real pleasure to coach them," said Stair.

Senior captain Ryan Roman agrees that the team has plenty potential to do well.

"We're really coming together as a team during the middle of the season. I think that we're top contenders for state this year," said Roman.

Earlier in December the team tied against the AWF Renegades, an undefeated team. Wheaton West agrees that a win would have been nice, but they will take a tie, too.

Senior AJ Crivolio summed up the team's ambition for the season.

"We're going all the way," said Crivolio.

Wild hockey is confident that this season will be one of their best.

The next home game at Center Ice of DuPage is Sunday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.

Dedication leads team to success at Hinsdale Central

By Jacob Wucka

With practice and motivation going into the Hinsdale Central Invite, the wrestling team came out strong on Friday and Saturday.

The team placed 16 out of 24 teams from area schools.

"We did good," said wrestling coach James Phillips. "We just got to keep plugging away, trying to improve."

Juniors Jonny Padilla and Andrew Cruz took 4th. Padilla won a match against a wrestler who was 8th in the state, and Cruz beat highly recognized wrestlers.

Out of the two days at the invite, seniors Austin Hall and James Padilla advanced to compete.

Phillips said that the wrestlers have been getting better at maneuvering around the ring. However a lack of experience led to losses for sopho-

more wrestlers.

Sophomore and varsity wrestler Jon White went into the tournament hoping to prove to other schools what the team has to offer.

"There were so many schools and we knew that we needed to overachieve to beat some really good wrestlers. At least five of us wrestled top 10 ranked wrestlers so it was very challenging," said White.

Without competition for two weeks, the wrestlers practiced extra to prepare for the invite.

"We did a lot. We had two weeks without competition so we had two weeks of practice. We knew what was at stake and we needed to do well to be noticed," said White.

Now that the invite is over, the team is practicing for upcoming matches against

Glenbard East, Elgin, and Larkin, treating the matches as practice.

"It's essentially practice for regionals," said Phillips.

Along with preparing for regionals, Phillips and the team are looking forward to sending some wrestlers to state.

"As long as we're peaking at the right time of the year, we should have a couple guys go to state," said Phillips.

Phillips praised individual wrestlers such as Cruz, James Padilla, junior Jamie Campos, Jonny Padilla, and White for being dedicated to the wrestling program and performing well in matches.

"A couple of our guys are here everyday working their butts off," said Phillips.

The extra practice is paying off for the wrestlers, especially for White, who treats every

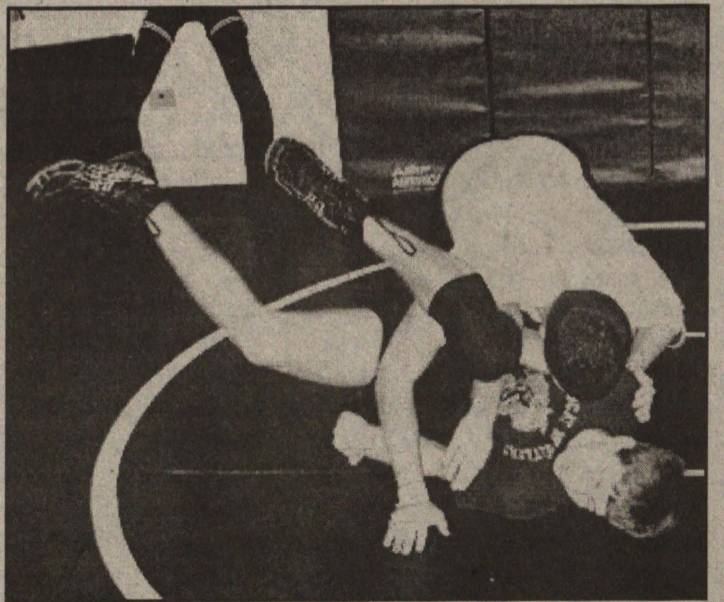


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Juniors Greg Berg and Calvin Holt practice for an upcoming tournament at Hinsdale Central.

match, win or loss, as a win.

"I'm taking every match as a win because I'm a sophomore and I'm already on varsity, and it's not that often a sophomore is on varsity," said White.

With the extra workouts, and long hours of practice, the wrestlers still find motivation in their expectations for upcoming matches. However, Cruz gets his motivation from Phillips.

"He's a motivational kind of guy; inspirational," said Cruz.

James Padilla finds motivation in knowing that he is doing the best he can, and knowing that he can perform better than more experienced wrestlers.

"(It helps) knowing that there are people that have been wrestling for a long time, and trying to beat them," said James.

Close games for girls basketball

By Ashley Pineda

Still struggling to get to the top, the girls basketball team is looking forward to their holiday tournament to build confidence and improve their 0-1 overall record.

The girls look to play teams such as Sandwich, Oak Park, Lemont, Driscoll, and Plainfield Central at the Oswego East's 2007 Holiday Classic tournament.

With a break from conference play, the team can experience some non-conference games that will not affect their conference record.

Although the team is struggling, head coach Kim Wallner believes the team will improve with these games.

"We are still trying out new things, as far as what has been working well during games, so we can stay competitive. By the holiday tournament and during the second round of conference we'll definitely be more competitive," said senior captain Kayla Radloff. "The tournament can possibly enable us to obtain more confidence," said junior Chrissie Rovtar.

After break, Rovtar hopes the team can show the DVC how they can truly play.

"Hopefully we will play more as a team, and be more competitive. We need to keep improving every game by having a strong defense, cut down on turnovers, and keep up with our rebounds," said Rovtar.

With Wheaton Warrenville South coming up on their conference schedule, Rovtar admitted it will be a tough game because of the team's athleticism and aggressive-

ness on the court.

"We have Wheaton North coming up, too, which should be an exciting game," said Rovtar. "Last year we beat them to win regionals."

Radloff helps lead the team during this rough time of the season.

"We've come a long way from our first week and we are more competitive in our games now," said Radloff. "I think we'll start giving teams a harder time coming up with conference games."

Rovtar said that sophomore Izzy Bruce has improved the most.

"She is our smartest player, she really knows how to read the court," said Rovtar.

Throughout the season the games have had close scores.

The girls suffered a tough defeat to Bartlett Dec. 1, with many turnovers resulting in a 53-33 loss.

Prior to Bartlett, they managed another close loss to Glenbard East Nov. 29, with a final score of 44-37.

"(Bartlett) was the closest game we played. Glenbard East was another close game. We cut it down by three and we had a lot of chances to come back," said Wallner.

An early loss for the team was against Lyons Township. They lost by 4 points with a score of 46-42.

In senior captain Megan Peterson's opinion, the Thanksgiving tournament was when the team played the best.

"We came close to winning in a lot of the games during the competition. I think we did a good job, and we are still improving," said Peterson.

Strong ethic makes better results in competition

By Jake Bradley

Despite losing their first two events, the Wildcats did not give up, placing 4th of eight teams at the Eagle Invite at Leyden Saturday.

In the 100-meter backstroke, the Wildcats placed 2nd and 3rd, with freshman Anthony Nolzco finishing with a time of 1:01. Senior Greg Pelke had a time of 1:02 in the same event.

Senior Matt Ziffra clocked 1:03 in the 100-meter fly and freshman Jeff Pierpoint came in with a time of 1:05 in the event.

"It was a great meet all around by the swimmers," said new head coach Nick Parry.

The team struggled in their first two meets losing to Dekalb and placing 9th out of 12 teams at the Wildcat Invite, but Parry is not discouraged.

"We are trying to get as much out of our swimmers as we can," said Parry.

Parry said he is seeing what

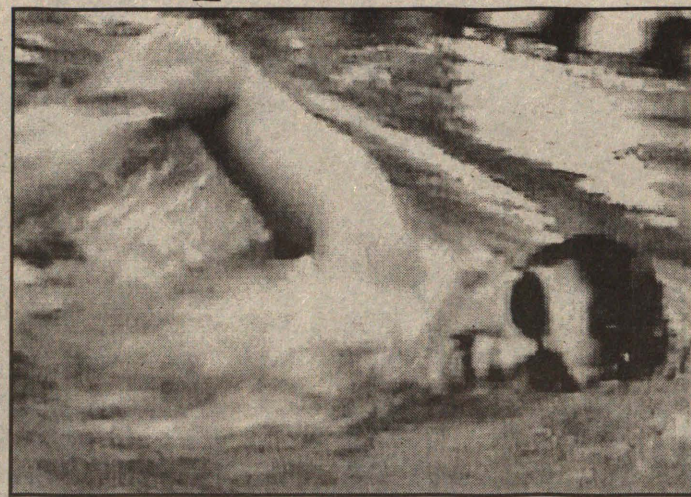


Photo by Greg Vodicka

Senior captain Matt Ziffra, along with the rest of the swimming team, practice both before and after school.

he is expecting out of his swimmers in the past three meets.

"We were very competitive swimming against former state champions at the Wildcat Invite," said Parry.

As for the junior varsity swimmers, the Wildcats have many beginners that need work.

"We have a lot of new swimmers this year, which is great," said Parry.

The Wildcats have 29

swimmers this year, 14 more than the previous year.

Parry thinks they have a good core of varsity swimmers, including senior team captains Ziffra, Pelke, and Brian Hummer.

From the beginning, the captains have shown a strong work ethic, said Parry.

"Even though the coach picked the captains, a lot of the swimmers would agree that they were great picks," said junior David Peace.

Ziffra gladly took the role and takes charge when Parry is not around.

"It is nice to be able to lead the team in a positive direction," said Ziffra.

Ziffra showed his work ethic performing well at the Eagle Invite, coming in 2nd in the 100-meter fly and 5th in the 50-meter free.

"I did better this event than the last considering I missed a week due to medical purposes," said Ziffra. "And coach seemed satisfied."

As captain, he hopes to lead a large group to sectionals and the seniors to state.

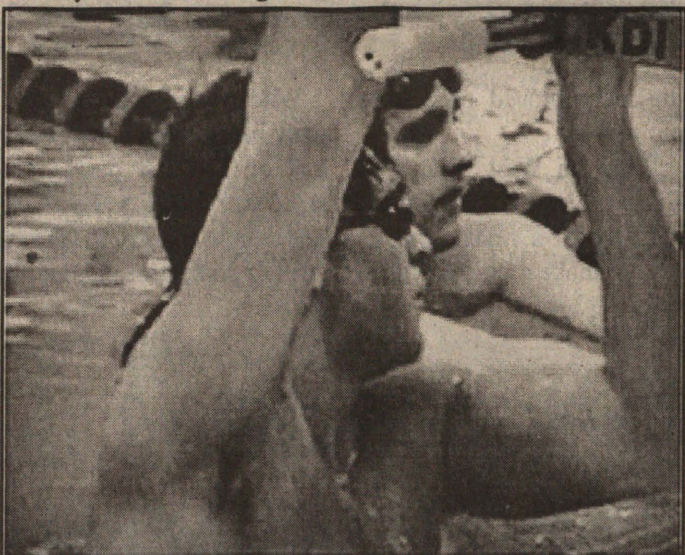
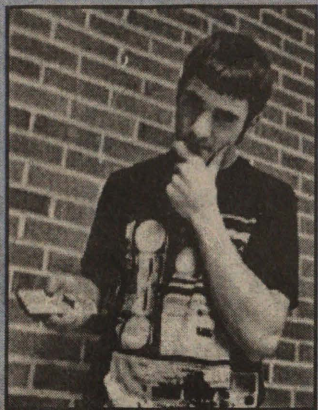


Photo by Greg Vodicka

Seniors Greg Pelke and Matt Ziffra take a rest from swimming laps as they listen to directions from coach Nick Parry.

NFL disappoints and leaves behind fans

The face of football may be changing as football fanatics watch their teams play on the NFL network on Thursday nights.



Trevor Bodie

Football fans may have noticed when their beloved Bears didn't play on Dec.

9. Instead the Bears played on Dec. 6 against the Washington Redskins which could have been viewed on your local cable channel.

However, for the rest of the nation who wanted to watch the game, they would have needed the NFL network.

The NFL network is a channel a select few have, and to get it, you must pay more money to your cable company every month.

This network is owned by the NFL and there has been a dispute between cable companies and the NFL on how much this package should cost.

Millions of dollars aren't

enough for the NFL, no, they need more. They are cleaning the pockets of fans to bring out the passion in them.

NFL spokesman Seth Palansky said in a Washington Post interview, "We see that as a way of trying to extort NFL fans because they are passionate."

Noticing how passionate fans are, the NFL created the network to take more money from a money driven society.

Many of our parents grew up watching boxing.

What happened to it? It is viewed on pay per view now.

This is what will eventually happen to football. If the NFL ends up having to be viewed on pay per view, not

only will the NFL gain money but also the cable companies.

People can't live without their favorite football team hitting and scoring every week.

So, the easy solution is put it on pay per view and gain as much money as the NFL can.

When the Dallas Cowboys beat the Green Bay Packers it was the biggest game in the NFC. Two of the best teams went head to head on Thursday night while millions of fans couldn't watch.

The New England Patriots could be defending a perfect season their last game and what's the solution? Make

the nation pay or they can't watch.

But watching some clips a day after on ESPN sounds just as good, right?

If you want to watch a football game you turn on your TV, flip to the channel and watch it.

However, we can't even do that without the NFL getting in the way.

This new system began this year and it needs to end this year as well. It needs to end because instead of helping the NFL, it's hurting them. The game is reaching far fewer households in America.

The NFL network's motto should be, "Can't see TV!"