



Inside

News

WeGo 2 Africa still needs \$2,000 to meet their goal.



Find out what you can do to help on page 2.

Perspectives



The West-boro Baptist Church wanted to protest the funerals of those who died at NIU. Find out our

view on page 6.

Center Spread



Do you text and drive? Talk on the phone while driving to school? Find out the dangers on page 8-9.

Features

High school sweethearts share their stories about how they met and fell in love. Read their stories on page 10.



Entertainment

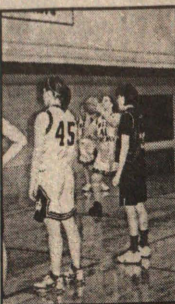


Check out who students wanted to win the Oscars and who actually

received the awards on page 12.

Sports

Freshmen girls basketball leads the season with a record of 20-2. See how they size up their competition on page 14.



School assures safety

NIU raises student concerns about security

By Jessica Bergmann and Megan Hernbroth

The shooting at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, where Steven Kazmierczak killed five people and himself, has students and parents wondering if they can ever be safe at school.

Assistant Principal Josh Chambers believes that the school is in no danger and proper security is installed.

"We currently have a crisis plan for a number of events that could occur during the school day. The plan is something we have constant access to and all schools in DuPage County have it," Chambers said.

The crisis plan, otherwise known as a basic lock down plan, has students huddle in a corner away from the doors and windows. The teachers are responsible for turning off the lights and locking the doors in order to stop intruders from entering the rooms.

"The purpose is to keep students safe and out of harm's way," Chambers said.

However, the crisis plan is not practiced or discussed with students.

"Typically, the drills for the crisis plan are much different than the actual event, if that happens," Chambers said. "The drills in the past are not the best use of time, typically lasting four to six hours."

Chambers also believes that the circumstances are too rare to practice the time consuming drill each year.

"We, as a school, can never give 100 percent safety. We are as safe as we were a month, even a year, ago without practicing the drills," Chambers said.

American history teacher Jaime Garcia believes that the school is taking good care of its students.

"I think the security is doing an adequate job for the size of the building, but not great. I feel safe and I hope the students feel safe as well," Garcia said.

However, many students said they do not feel safe and worry that the administration is doing nothing to satisfy their concerns.

"I don't feel safe. Anyone can just walk in and no one says or does anything," said senior Rachel Howe.

Senior Kristen Johansen agrees. "The security here is really bad. People get in whenever they want and can show any card to fake a student ID."

Johansen believes that in order to make the school safer, the security level needs improvement.

"I know people who have brought knives to school before. The security people are oblivious. It's like they don't even care," Johansen said.

However, social worker Connie Sosa believes that more focus should be put on listening to the needs of the kids, not tightening security.

"More security at the school wouldn't help. It is impossible to prevent shootings. How do you prevent someone from robbing a bank? It's the same idea, you just can't stop it," said Sosa.

Sosa believes that the issue is not the gunmen themselves,

but how they receive the weapon.

"The main problem is the fact that kids have such easy access to guns. They're like drugs; easy to find almost anywhere," Sosa said.

While the administration believes it is doing everything it can in order to keep its students safe, some parents believe it may not be enough.

Junior Marisa Carter's mother, Carol Carter, believes that the school is still not as safe as it should be.

"The security might be good but it may not be enough to keep intruders out of the school. I worry that anyone can come in with a gun and start shooting no matter what the administration does to try and stop it," Carter said.

Chambers assures that incidents such as NIU will not occur at the school.

"Situations like NIU are tragedies. However, when you look at the grand scheme of things, the rates of these incidents are very low," Chambers said.

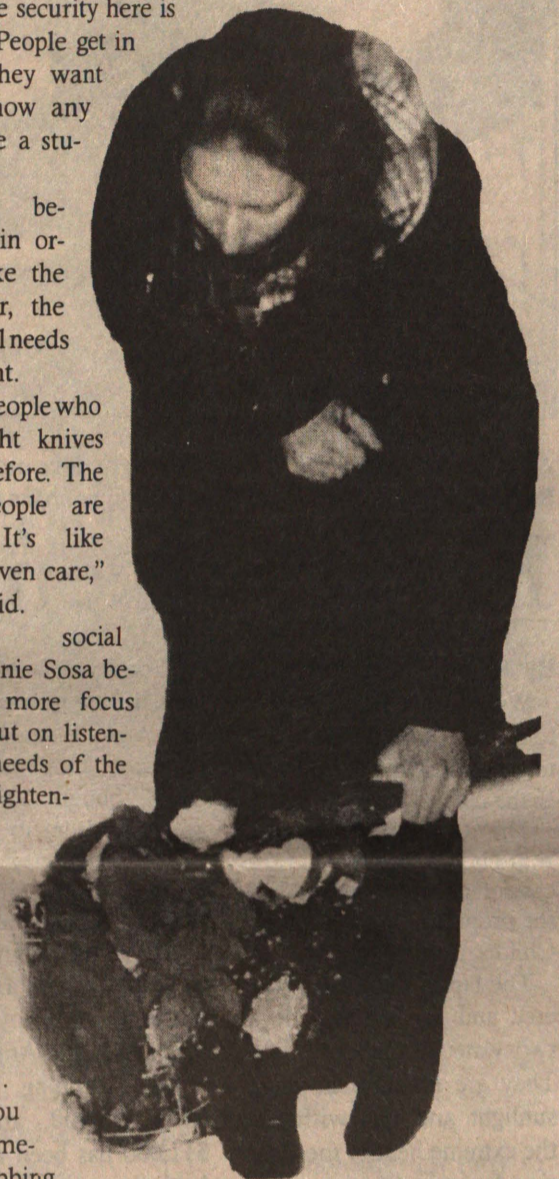


Photo by Jacob Wucka

A mourner (above right) grieves the loss of a loved one who died at the NIU shooting which took place Feb. 14. Above is a memorial outside of the Carl Sandburg Lecture Hall at the NIU campus, where students showed their respect to those who died.

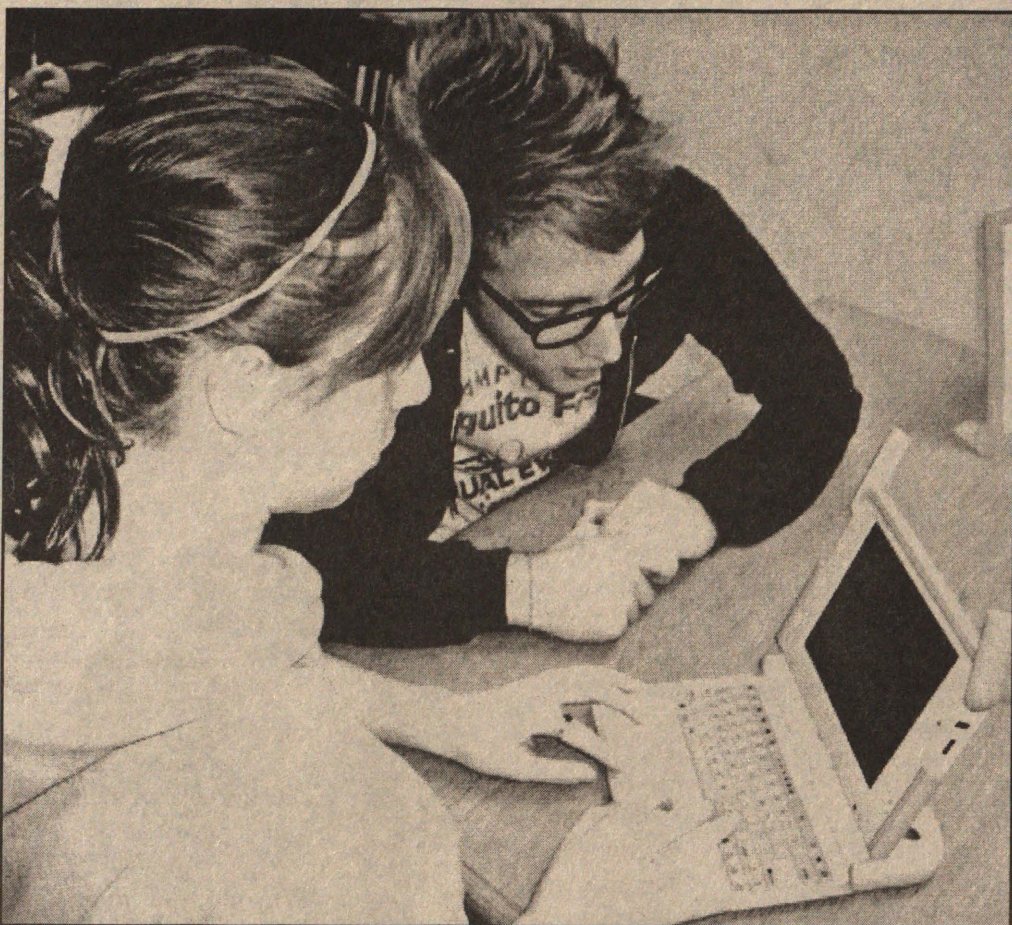


Photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Daneels

Advisories competed in a change drive to raise money to send laptops to Angola, Africa. Sophomores Kelly Loftus and Sam Venchus make sure the computers work properly.

Laptops sent to Africa

By Joann Kaczmarczyk

WeGo 2 Africa sent laptops to Angola, Africa thanks to advisories that participated in the change drive.

The Community Leadership class organized the successful event, working with the program One Laptop Per Child.

The laptops are solar-powered and run on as little as two watts of battery power. They are readable in bright sunlight and can withstand the extreme heat of the Nigerian desert in Africa.

Altogether, advisories raised \$800 through change drives. Social studies teacher Barbara Laimins' freshman advisory class raised the most money, with over \$200.

"My students realize the importance of having a computer to have access to information which will help citizenship and provide the Angolan students the skills to succeed in their education," said Laimins.

The money raised was enough to buy and send two laptops to Angola, and the program, One Laptop Per Child, bought another two and sent them to an underprivileged country.

Other money raised by the WeGo 2 Africa program this year has been going towards shipping a container filled with goods like toys, clothes, and supplies to Angola.

The shipping container costs \$13,000, and so far \$11,000 has been raised collectively.

"Student involvement has been good," said community leadership adviser Mary Ellen Daneels. "I think the goal is a little loftier, a little more money. I think students are doing what they can."

Fundraisers this year have included literacy posters, rag dolls, and a collection of many items through the advisory classes.

Students designed and bought T-shirts in fall, 2007,

and they will be sold again in spring with new color combinations.

The advisory and broadcasting classes, along with Student Council are doing community presentations.

Ladies Auxiliary donated \$1,500, and other organizations that wish to help have since contacted Daneels.

Daneels started the WeGo 2 Africa program in 2005, with the help of Lynn Cole, executive director of RISE.

"We are so grateful for the laptop donation from Community High School. Our hope is...to see two or three computers in each RISE school. These computers are made for the conditions of Angola's rural schools and could wonderfully broaden the world of students and allow them to learn and be empowered," said Cole.

Daneels believes that the additional \$2,000 will be raised before the school year ends.

Prowling to become Mr. Wildcat

By Megan Hernbroth

Ten senior boys will be vying for the title of Mr. Wildcat on March 7.

The annual beauty-pageant based Mr. Wildcat competition consists of the formal wear, or tuxedo, competition; the talent competition; and the question and answer competition.

Competing are Matt Carnot, Mike Dalton, James Eckler, Oscar Grajeda, Tucker Hauptman, Neil Luka, Todd Stilin, Nathaniel Stray-

ve, Richard Tovar, and Paul Warkins.

Carnot is excited to play his guitar and overcome his personal fears.

"I am playing a little bit of a bunch of songs that I hope people know. I've been doing it for quite a few years and I've always wanted to play for the school. I hope to overcome my shyness and build up my confidence," said Carnot.

Hauptman is also hoping to prove the school that he can do more than many believe.

"I've never been known as a person who signed up for stuff, I'm mostly known for sports. I'd like to go and get my name out there," said Hauptman.

Cheerleaders will host the event which is from 7 to 9 p.m.

Tickets will be on sale March 5, 6, and 7 during all lunch hours and at the door for \$5.

"Come out and see an entertaining show," said coordinator Kim Wallner.

Parking lot access not only for seniors

By Sara Fouts

Seniors will have to learn to budget their time because right now there are no plans to change the student drop off location in the senior parking lot in front of entrance A.

Because the student drop off has been overflowing with parents dropping off their children this year, seniors claim that they cannot make it to their parking spots on time.

Many seniors feel that the location of the student drop off should be moved or better regulated so they can park and get to and school on time.

Senior Natalie Pacelli brought the issue to Assistant Principal Josh Chambers.

"There were a lot of people complaining, and it just gets so congested that we can't get to our parking. The most annoying part is that parents sit there and wait for their kids to get out of the car. I'm surprised there hasn't been an accident because of how congested it gets," said Pacelli.

Chambers said that this is the first time the issue has come up, and the school would be more than willing

to look into the situation. However, a solution will not be put into effect anytime soon.

Many of the possible solutions involve raising the prices of parking even more.

"Personnel and gates would be expensive and raise the price of parking by a lot," said Chambers.

If the student drop off is moved to the old bus lane, the walk to an accessible entrance is elongated, and students would lose parking spots.

The administration is taking random samplings of how crowded the senior parking lot becomes to gain an idea of how big an issue the drop off location may become.

The administration is also asking the police department to patrol senior parking in the mornings to make sure it does not become too busy.

Chambers says this is a fairly predictable but manageable situation, and that seniors should come to school earlier to eliminate the problem.

"It's just like an adult going to work. They have to budget their time," said Chambers. "This is a good lesson for seniors to learn."

Pom captain honored as January Student of the Month

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

By Joann Kaczmarczyk

Senior Sarah Pierpoint's dedication to school and activities, such as dance, have earned her the title of January Student of the Month.

What are your high school accomplishments?

I've maintained a 4.0 GPA, became captain of Poms, and participated in several activities/clubs.

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

Probably Profe Junkroski because she always made Spanish exciting—class was always entertaining.

What clubs are you involved in?

Dance Production, Poms, Pep Club, NHS, Key Club (junior year).

What do you intend on majoring in?

I plan on majoring in Elementary Education and

minoring in Spanish and Dance.

What is your favorite memory from high school?

Performing at the Friday night football games. The atmosphere was great and it was fun to be part of the excitement.

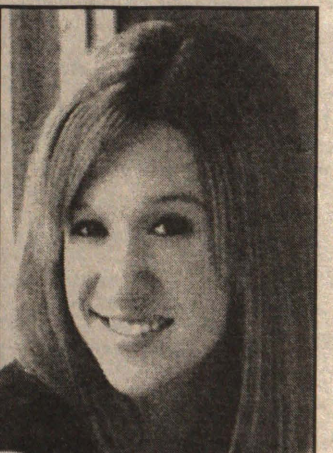


Photo courtesy of Sarah Pierpoint

Do you plan to do any extracurricular activities in college?

I definitely plan on continuing with dance.

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

I think I was chosen because I've been able to balance my academic career with activities that keep me an active member of the school.

December Student of the Month honored for school involvement

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 Sara Fouts

Senior Matt Ziffra's diverse activities and dedication have earned him December Student of the Month.

What are your high school accomplishments?

Being well rounded has become a big accomplishment, along with getting into my preferred colleges. Being on the varsity swim team all four years was also a big accomplishment.

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

My favorite teachers are Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Kozlowski, and Mrs. Govertsen because they have been very supportive and encouraging all four years. They also significantly helped to shape me into who I am.

What clubs are you involved in?

I am a member of the varsity swim team, and was named team captain this year. I am also on the West Chicago Sharks swimming team, lifeguard at the Carol Stream Park District pool, and teach swim lessons at both the Carol Stream and Community

What do you plan on majoring in?

Civil engineering at University of Iowa, Purdue University, or University of Wisconsin-Madison.

What is your favorite memory from high school?

When Principal John Highland parachuted onto the football field during the homecoming game my freshman year.

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

I will probably swim. I would also like to train for a triathlon, study abroad, and join engineering clubs.

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

I believe I was chosen because of my involvement in high school and the community. I have grown into a hardworking, warm, and intelligent individual because of my extracurricular activities, my mentors, and my family. I also think that I am an exceptional leader, in and out of the pool.

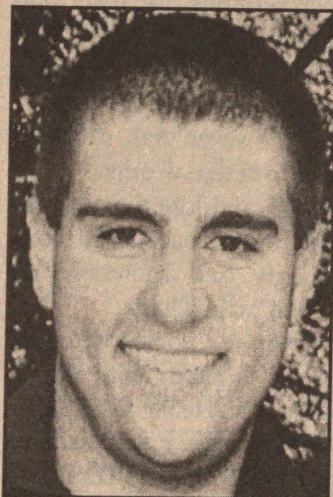


Photo courtesy of Matt Ziffra

high school pools. I have also participated in Relay for Life, served in the Carol Stream Fireman's Picnic, and volunteer at a retirement community.

Small but emotional winter play leaves mark on audience

Dramatic performances entertained crowd and cast alike

By Megan Hernbroth

Even with a main cast of only four students, "The Glass Menagerie" easily stole the spotlight.

"Every student that has read the play in English class would be surprised with our take on it," said director C.A. Berglund. "We put our stamp on it."

The main cast consisted of seniors Natalie Ckuj, Jay Perez, Liz Showalter, and sophomore Tom Harms.

Perez made his debut as the lead Tom, who is the son of Amanda and brother of Laura. He leaves his crippled sister and pestering mother in pursuit of a writing career. Although somewhat melodramatic, Perez easily captured the spirit of any typical mother-son relationship that is represented by Tom and Amanda.

"This has been an amazing experience for me," said Perez. "It has really brought me out of my shell. I hope the audience sees that, especially those that knew me before."

Four ensemble members acted as stagehands and on-stage props. The ensemble members were freshmen

Emma Roberts, Nadia Pelitier, Greg Lyne, and senior Suzie Nowicki.

"This is my first high school play and it was a great experience for me," said Pelitier. "It was totally different

'Every student that has read the play in English class would be surprised with our take on it.'

-- C.A. Berglund

and kind of cool. I met tons of new people and made lots of friends."

"The Glass Menagerie" contrasted highly with the fall play "Pirate's Rest" because of the intense emotion and seriousness. A few sarcastic and witty jokes were added for comic relief, but the family feud scenes and intense monologues were unavoidable and overdramatic. The point of the play, about self-

sacrifice, is easily reached by the actors.

"This play is a good way to get the emotion across," said Ckuj. "It's a very rewarding experience."

Out of place sound effects, such as a game show buzzer as a doorbell, balanced out the moody lighting and static blue backdrop. Candles were used as the only light for a little under half the play, giving the mood a burst of romance. When Laura and her suitor kiss, the candles are the ideal lighting. But when Laura finds out her suitor is engaged to another woman, she can't help but look at the flickering candles with anger at their lost romance.

At the conclusion of the play, Tom walks over and slowly blows the candles out one by one to model his diminishing relationship with his sister after giving a stirring monologue about what has become of his life without a true family.

Though it was not a light-hearted play, it left a mark on the audience's conscience about family values and the importance of a good family relationship.

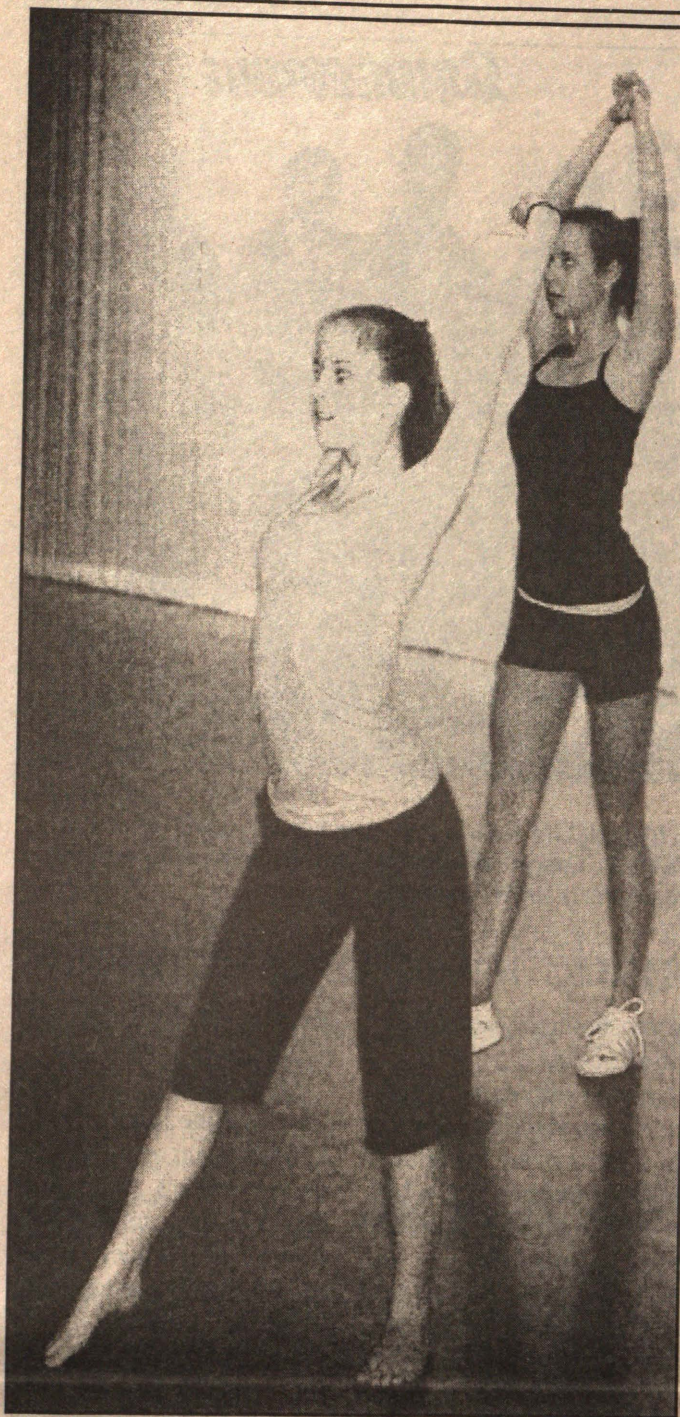


Photo by Kym McDaniel

For the sophomore dance, Natalie Pearson (front) and Kelsey King dance to "Please Don't Stop the Music" by Rihanna.

Dancers light up stage; audience 'hit' with music

By Sara Fouts

From ballet to hip hop, Dance Production's "Hit Me with Music" show lit up the stage on Jan. 24 and 26.

One highlight of the show included the hip hop senior dance with choreography by seniors Lauren Desik, Robyn Nickelson, and Sarah Pierpoint. With cutting edge choreography and an upbeat tempo, the dance was a huge success.

Junior Rachel Molinaro and sophomore Anna Duran performed a duet entitled "The Perfect Shoes" that was centered on two ballerinas fighting over one pair of ballet shoes. The ending was funny for the audience as sophomore Allyssa Brinkman took the pair of shoes before the two ballerinas could notice.

The "West Chicago Cell Block Tango" was a crowd favorite with choreography by juniors Carissa Gouskos and Molinaro. The dance had some bold moves to go with a bold song called, "Cell Block Tango" from the musical "Chicago."

Pierpoint said that it was nice to try something new. "It was fun to get into character, and it was also fun to do a different kind of style than we typically do for Dance Production," said Pierpoint, who has been in Dance Production for four years.

With about 30 dancers and 24 different dances, Dance Production's wide variety of performances proved to impress audiences.

"The girls worked really hard this year and I was pleased with their performance," said dance director Helen Zmrhal. "We had a really close knit group this year, especially the seniors. We will miss them next year."

Dance Production is a group of girl dancers from all grade levels who audition to become part of a dance performance in January each year.

"Dance Production is a great experience to have with all the other girls. The show is full of energy and has a variety of dancers," said senior Angela Shurba.

Veteran dominates speech competition

By Mike Dalton

Performing in front of large groups and memorizing entire monologues is a normal day for the speech team and their third place finisher sophomore Bill Heinze.

The speech team wrapped up their season on Feb. 2 at the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Palatine regional competition.

Heinze competed in the original oratory category, memorizing a 6 minute speech on the growing conflict in the Middle East.

Also in the regional competition, sophomore Carrie Liszka placed fifth in prose reading.

Prose reading involves performing a short story or portion of a novel cut to fit the 8 minute time limit.

Liszka portrayed all the characters, as well as the narrator. She did not move on to the IHSA sectional competition on Feb. 9 like her teammate Heinze, who placed 10th in oratory.

"It was a real fun experience to be able to participate in sectionals," said Heinze. "I was happy that I was able

to represent our school and show what we can do."

Unfortunately, only the top three performers advance to the state competition, so Heinze did not advance.

"Nonetheless, he had a terrific season," said head coach Jason Kling.

As a warm up for the state competitions, the team puts on an event in the LRC called "Verbally Yours." The performance was scheduled for Jan. 31, however was cancelled due to severe weather.

"We did lose the opportunity to give back to the community and showcase our team," said Kling.

Despite some setbacks, Kling is happy with the results of the team this year; especially since it was made up of mostly rookies compared to last year's team.

"I was very nervous to see what our team would look like in size and talent," said Kling. "Other teams have been more talented and experienced, but the camaraderie and work ethic of this team is higher than any I've coached in my six years as a speech coach."



Photo courtesy of Donald Zabelin

Business teacher Donald Zabelin's (right) Life Smarts team, (from left) junior Rebecca Cisowski, seniors Paul Warkins, Kara Wolfe, Doug Sills, and Ian Letts, visits the Chicago Auto Show to help Bridgestone-Firestone with their new website.

Life Smarts made into test dummies

By Trevor Bodie

Members of the Life Smarts team were made into test dummies for Bridgestone-Firestone's new website at the Chicago Auto Show on Feb. 6.

Business teacher Donald Zabelin accompanied seniors Kara Wolfe, Ian Letts, Doug Sills, Paul Warkins, and junior Rebecca Cisowski, on media day at the annual event.

"I thought it would be a

good business experience," said Zabelin.

Along with browsing the new cars, students were part of a focus group for Bridgestone-Firestone.

The group was instructed by representatives along with four other college students to test the website and give details on what they liked and did not like.

"When Firestone market-

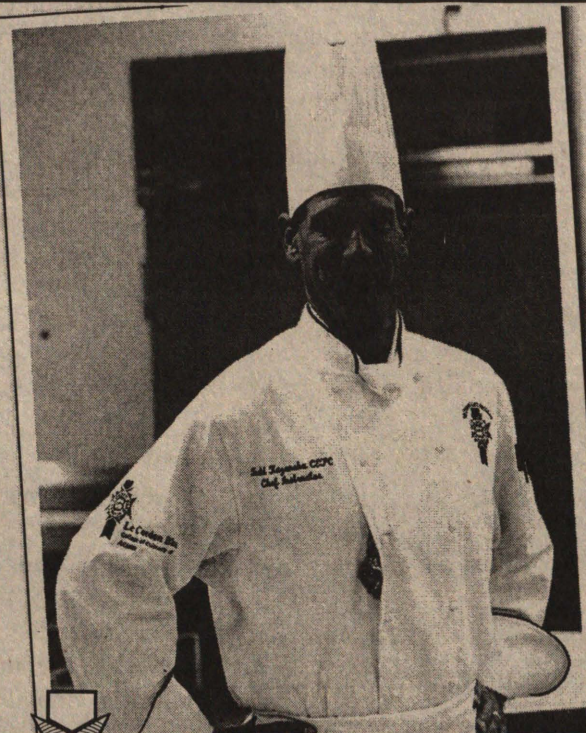
ed us we were able to learn

professional marketing techniques," said Letts. After working, the students had the rest of the day to freely roam and check out the new models, such as high priced luxury cars like Rolls Royce and Bentley, which came out with cars exceeding \$350,000.

"It was a great to have the students experience marketing taking place in a major fashion," said Zabelin.

As a Chef...

my passion is my career!



- Offering LeCordon Bleu programs in Culinary Arts and Pâtisserie & Baking
- Financial aid available for those who qualify
- Scholarship opportunities
- Career placement assistance and internships



The Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago
Le Cordon Bleu Program

Call now for a brochure!

TOLL FREE **1.888.335.9222**

361 West Chestnut, Chicago IL 60610 • www.CHIC.edu/HS

Basketball tournament returns; \$400 prize awarded to top team

By Megan Hernbroth

The second annual West Chicago Wildcat Classic 3-on-3 basketball tournament will take place on March 8 with a top prize of \$400.

"This is an opportunity for a fun experience for everyone who signs up," said physical education teacher and coordinator Butch Hansen.

Different divisions based on gender and ages have the ability to compete. Each team gets a T-shirt on game day at the registration table. The winning team of the open division receives the grand prize of \$400. All other division champions will receive a trophy.

It is free to join but the team can be sponsored by the school or any organization.

"Last year we had about 200 people participate, so this year we're hoping for even

more," said Hansen.

Businesses or an organization can sponsor teams for \$100, \$200, or \$300.

The sponsor money is used to benefit Community High School District 94 Education Foundation, which sponsors organizations such as WeGo 2 Africa.

"Whatever we make this year will be enough. We don't have a set goal," said Hansen.

The games are played at the high school all day starting at 9 a.m. The tournament starts with the youngest teams to the oldest.

The youngest offered are 5th and 6th grade levels. Grades five through eight should finish around 11 a.m. Women's, men's, open, and senior divisions begin after noon.

There is also a new wheel-

chair division that plays after all other teams are finished.

Each team is guaranteed two games, both of which are played to 15 points or 15 minutes, whichever comes first. The games will start every 20 minutes.

Every team is required to fill out a liability waiver that can be found on the school's website. The slots are filled on a first come, first served basis.

The deadline is Wednesday for any student that plays on the high school basketball team. The deadline for all other teams is Friday.

Next year, this tournament may not be limited to only basketball.

"We're contemplating having a soccer event in the future," said Hansen. "We think it could be really successful."

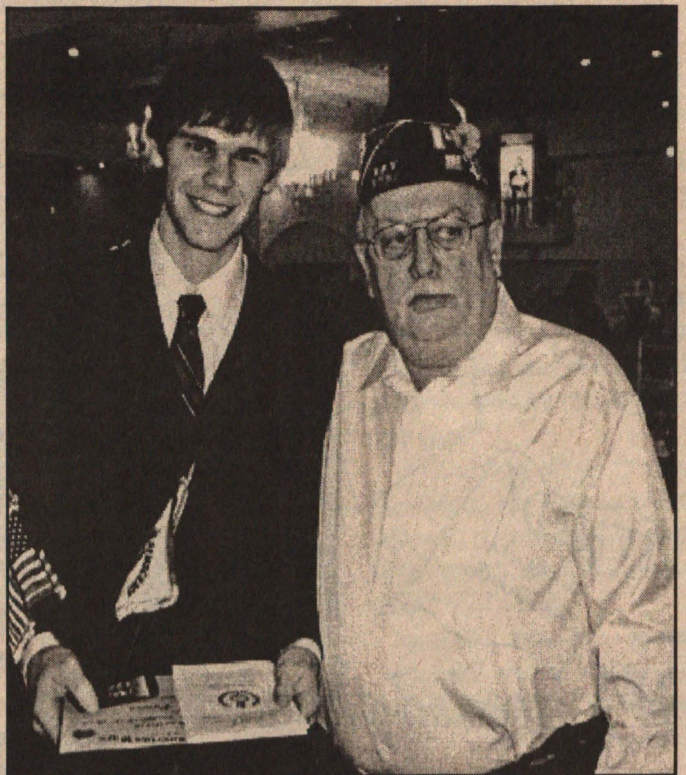


Photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Daneels

Junior Jozef Pavnica (left) came in first place at the Voice of Democracy competition. An unknown member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars congratulates him.

Voice of Democracy entries break record

By Jessica Bergmann

Junior Jozef Pavnica won the first place prize of \$2,000 in the Voice of Democracy competition, which was created to promote patriotism in the community.

"I didn't realize my speech was that good. I don't really know what the judges saw in it, but it must have been something promising," Pavnica said.

Pavnica wrote about how students should reach out to veterans and take care of them.

"The veterans of our country deserve to be recognized and taken care of. The competition is a wonderful op-

portunity to win cash but, more importantly, to honor those who have fought for the country," said Pavnica.

Over \$8,000 was awarded to students who entered the competition.

"Students have to write and record a three to five minute essay on a selected theme," said teacher liaison Mary Ellen Daneels.

This year's theme was "My Role in Honoring America's Veterans," where students had to discuss what they do to honor those who have served their country.

Forty-two students entered the competition in hopes of winning first place.

Saving the world one cup at a time

Club Green sold hot chocolate to help global warming prevention

By Sarah Berger

Club Green is making their mark in the world by changing it.

At the beginning of the year, Club Green started to enforce a recycling program in commons by putting out more recycle bins. Now, the club is tackling a much bigger issue: global warming.

Through the hot chocolate sales in February, the club raised money towards global warming prevention and research.

"The hot chocolate cup was

\$1, and then you could have refilled your cup for only 50 cents," explained Club Green adviser Brianne Ferreiro.

Reusing and recycling the paper hot chocolate cups is just another effort of Club Green to promote a healthier planet.

"It's going towards a great cause, and global warming is seriously hurting our earth," said freshman Joe Wais. "Club Green has opened my eyes to global warming and other problems."

Club Green is showing the

school and community that teenagers can make a difference.

"We've been trying to raise money to put towards motion lights to save energy for the school," said sophomore Jessica Demas about some of Club Green's other plans.

Being involved with Club Green will not only look good on college resumes, but it can pay off in the long run. Both Wais and Demas have said that Club Green has given them a sense of well-being.

As more people become concerned with the earth's well-being, co-adviser Suzanne Burchaki encourages more students to come to the club meetings.



Photo by Sarah Berger

Students bought hot chocolate from Club Green every Wednesday in February at entrance A. All the proceeds will be going towards global warming research and prevention.

Dodgeball tournament anticipates big turn out

By Jacob Wucka

Since the Valentine's dance was cancelled due to a snow day, Student Council is anticipating a big turn out at the dodgeball tournament on Thursday.

"(We want to) give them (the students) something to do as winter sports come to an end and spring sports begin," said adviser and social studies teacher Chris Lukas.

An estimated 15-20 teams are participating, which Lukas hopes represents each grade level.

Each team of eight was required to pay \$40 and come up with a team name. Team Pizza Now, sponsored by the business of the same name, hopes to claim the winning title.

The team, comprised of sophomores Michael

Boegelein, Jesse Frasco, Jordan Harrison, Nick Hawco, Corey Hing, Nathan Olson, Dan Singer, and Alex Tirabasso, is excited for the tournament and has a simple strategy to win.

"(We'll win) by getting the ball faster than the other teams. We have speed on our team. Me," said Singer.

However, hoping to eliminate Pizza Now is team Warhawks, made up of juniors.

Team member Brian Skrzypczak is ready for the tournament, and knows his team is in it to win it.

"We have good strategies. We're going to stay back, catch the balls, and get them out fast," said Skrzypczak.

Money raised from the event goes toward the senior scholarship at the end of the school year.

Our View



We needed the new rules for our school

Students are going crazy with all the new policies implemented earlier this year.

All students can hear are other students complaining, "This is so pointless" and "It's so dumb that we can get detentions."

But let's think about it.

All of these new policies might annoy some students, but many overlook the benefits.

For example, in previous years students who missed a week or two a quarter could get the same grade as a student that showed up and participated regularly.

With the new attendance policy, the school allows students to be absent at their own risk.

If they miss seven days of school in one quarter, they will receive an FA grade, if they miss 14, they'll get dropped.

And if a student needs a few more days than allowed because you have an illness, it's not the end of the world. They can get a note and the attendance office will accept it. Big deal.

Along with the attendance policy, the new tardy policy is also handing out penalties for not showing up on time.

Some teachers will give a little leeway, but why do students complain?

The point of this new policy is to make sure students spend their time in class so they don't miss any important information.

If you are with a teacher, and you think you are going to be late, just ask them to give you a pass. Most would be glad to give it to you. Again, what's the big deal?

And now the newest policy, which fills the halls with calming music, is getting harassed before students can even get used to it.

These people just need to relax.

The deans and teachers just want what's best for us, so let's just buckle down and get it done without complaining so much.

Let them grieve in peace

Funerals are a somber time for family and friends to reflect on the life of a loved one. Under no circumstances should anyone be allowed to disrupt the service by spreading a message of hate.

On Feb. 14, Steve Kazmierczak killed five people before fatally shooting himself at Northern Illinois University (NIU). The tragedy struck a chord with the nation as the grieving process began.

However, the Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) posted a press release on their website saying "Thank God for NIU carnage, thank God for the shooter, thank God for six dead, God sent the shooter, WBC warned you in Aug. 2000, WBC will picket your funerals."

Members of the WBC are firm believers that America is doomed and is being punished by God due to the country's tolerance of homosexuality.

They also believe that homosexuality should be a capital crime, punishable by the death penalty.

This hate group, as classified by the Southern Poverty Law Center, first gained notoriety in 1998 following the murder of Matthew Sheppard, a homophobic hate crime.

At his funeral, WBC leader Fred Phelps shouted at Sheppard's mother that Matthew was in hell and that she was going there because she "raised her son for the devil." Along with the shouting, the WBC waved signs saying "God hates fags" and "God hates America."

The WBC protests anything that aligns with the

so-called "homosexual agenda," and more recently has gained fame by protesting the funerals of soldiers from the war in Iraq because of their service to "a country that has put God behind them."

So what is their main reason to protest the memorials, vigils, and funerals of those killed at NIU?

According to the press release, the WBC protested at NIU in 2000 after a professor who had undergone a gender reassignment surgery talked to students at the university.

The press release states that God would not tolerate the university's perversions,

and in turn would retaliate upon Illinois and NIU.

In the eyes of the WBC, the shooting was God's retaliation and it is their duty to honor God by protesting at the funerals and vigils.

Under the 1st Amendment, people have the right to protest. However there needs to be stricter restrictions on people who plan to protest at these emotional times.

Indiana, South Dakota, and Michigan passed laws making it a felony to protest within 500 feet of funerals, punishable by possible jail time and fees up to \$10,000.

This should become a federal law. Funerals are a private time for grieving, and these disruptive people should not be tolerated.

The WBC's attendance at these funerals is cruel to the families and friends of those involved in the NIU shooting. These families just lost their loved ones; let them grieve in peace.



Wildcat Chronicle
326 Joliet Street
West Chicago, IL 60185
(630) 876-6360



Editor in Chief:
News Editor:
Assistant News Editor:
Perspectives Editor:
Features Editor:
Entertainment Editor:
Centerspread Editor:
Sports Editor:
Business Manager:
Reporters:

Jessica Bergmann
Jessica Bergmann
Jacob Wucka
Jake Bradley
Kym McDaniel
Mike Dalton
Kym McDaniel
Greg Vodicka
Jacob Wucka
Sarah Berger, Jessica Bergmann,
Trevor Bodie, Jake Bradley,
Mike Dalton, Sara Fouts,
Megan Hembroth, Joann Kaczmarczyk,
Kym McDaniel, Greg Vodicka,
Jacob Wucka
Amanda Rathe
Mike Dalton, Kym McDaniel
Jacob Wucka
Laura Kuehn



Contributing Writer:
Artists:
Adviser:

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.

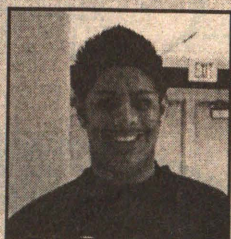
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although staff members may withhold a name upon request. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and may refuse to publish a letter. Letters to the editor may be e-mailed to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

ADVERTISEMENTS do not represent endorsements of the Wildcat Chronicle or Community High School.

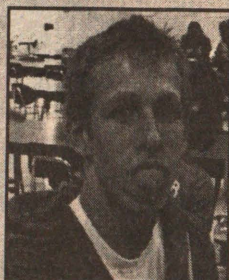
How do you feel about the music in the hallway?



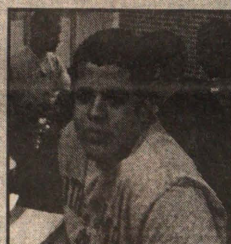
Freshman
Ariel Meadows
"It's a good idea but it is not my type of music."



Sophomore
Deven Lopez
"It's lame because a lot of people don't like the music."



Junior
Stuart Sankovich
"I feel they should play different genres every day."



Senior
Mauricio Perez
"I feel it's great and relaxing."

Why need a day off?

Breaking up is hard, and Hime & Company would agree.

The company gives employees a day off of work if they feel heartache from a recent break up.

Hime & Company, based in Japan, reinforces the idea that two lives, public and private, mix. These two entities become unprofessional and ridiculous to blend.

If anything, going to work and school should distract new singles from hardships in their personal love lives.

Singles should look at their lives as an opportunity to experience and love being independent and have the chance to be untied from relationships. Having the chance to stay home from work encourages the fact that new singles are allowed to mope and groan for an extended amount of time after the relationship is over.

Of course, the situation of an eight year engagement breaking off and a one month relationship ending is different. However, I still do not feel it is the company's responsibility to give more time off, regardless of the circumstance. The choice to call off work or school is a personal choice that should not be determined by the company.

Although the heartache leave is ridiculous, it's also prejudice. Hime & Company only gives this opportunity to females, not males. Are males not allowed to grieve? Thanks Hime & Company, for reinforcing a stereotype already present in society.

The CEO stated that "not everyone needs a maternity leave, but with heartache, everyone needs time off."

Who wouldn't want a maternity leave after giving birth to another human being? And, since

when is breaking up more important than having a child?

I'm so glad that companies like Hime offer such flexible schedules for employees. Maybe someday they'll offer days like St. Patrick's Day off so their Irish employees can start going to parties earlier.



Kym McDaniel



Jessica Bergmann

Didn't vote? Don't complain

Most Americans realize how fortunate they are to have basic rights such as freedom of speech, press and religion. However, many Americans do not take part in the one freedom that should be valued over all: The right to vote.

In the 2004 presidential election, a mere 118 million voters turned out to decide who would be their next president: George W. Bush or John Kerry. Out of the 285 million people who populated the United States at the time, 60 percent of them did not vote.

It is time that Americans take voting more seriously, especially for the upcoming 2008 presidential election.

The election will be historic no matter which

way you look at it. The ballot will yield either the name of African-American candidate Barack Obama or female candidate Hillary Clinton, both the first of their kind to be on the ballot.

For record-breaking history, I cannot understand why people do not participate in the great freedom of voting.

Voting has become easier over the past years, with advances like early voting if you are not able to make the election. Therefore, there are really no excuses why people cannot vote except for the ones they make up themselves.

If people who did not vote do not like the president, then they have no right to complain because they did

not take part in choosing. It is not right to complain about something you decide not to take part in.

In order to enforce change, it is important to get out there and do something about it.

Many people are still in the mindset that their votes do not matter because so many others are voting around them. Wrong.

Take, for instance, the primary elections that took place this month. Although the Republican candidate John McCain won the Super Tuesday vote by a landslide, the Democratic winner was not as clear.

Both Obama and Clinton stole votes from a virtually equal amount of states, making a clear winner unrecognizable

until the rest of the states held their primaries.

These primaries in states such as Louisiana, Washington, Nebraska and Maine were as important as any other because they helped bring the winning candidate one step closer to claiming victory. If Americans had not turned out to vote, we would be stuck at a standstill.

With an election this exciting and the future elections to come, it is important that Americans take advantage of the right to choose their next leader.

This is why teenagers should register to vote as soon as they turn 18. We are the most unrepresented voter group, but we have a power to enforce change.

Deadly Distractions

'TTYL'... in the hospital

Driving distractions among teens result in disaster

By Greg Vodicka

You know the situation: You are in a hurry to drive somewhere, but you are stuck behind someone chatting on a cell phone going under the speed limit.

The good news is, if you are following a driver under 18, this situation should no longer happen. The bad news is, the situation could become more dangerous as teens decide to text message instead.

As of Jan. 1, teen phone use on the roads is prohibited except in the case of an emergency to contact a law enforcement agency, health care provider or emergency services agency.

This includes dialing, talking, texting, and e-mailing. Violators risk punishments from fines to license suspensions.

According to the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association, in the United States, approximately 4.3 million people in 1990 subscribed to cell phone companies. By May 2007 over 236 million people had cell phones. That is a lot of people potentially using cell phones while driving.

Drivers ed. instructor

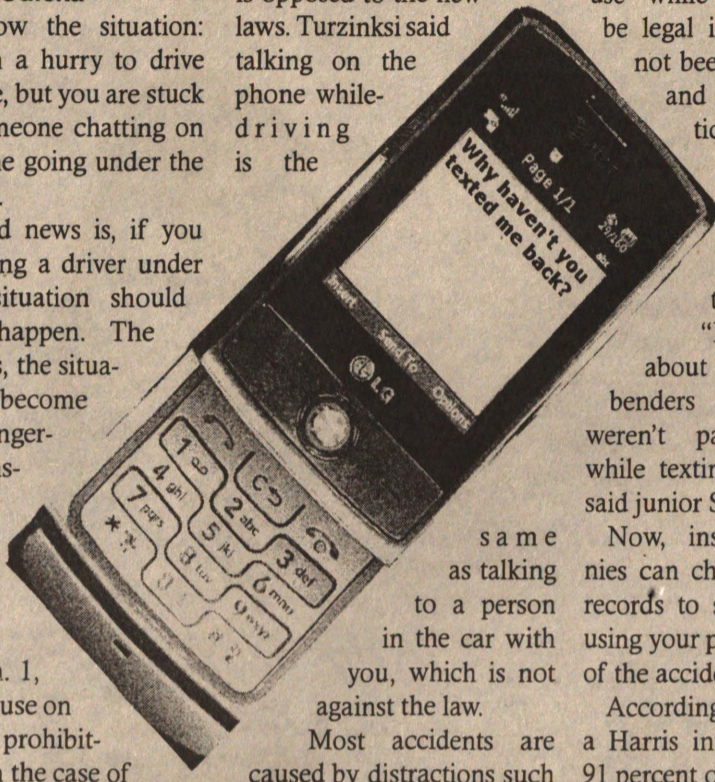
David Sayner feels the phone use laws will be much like the seat belt laws.

"Everyone is aware of the safety risks, but still not everyone will obey," said Sayner. "I have a couple of kids who will be driving soon, and as a parent, my number one concern is safety."

Most students who admit to using their phones while driving say it is one of the only times in their busy schedules they can talk. Many students are also unaware of the new law and consequences.

Junior Katrina Turzinski

is opposed to the new laws. Turzinski said talking on the phone while driving is the



same as talking to a person in the car with you, which is not against the law.

Most accidents are caused by distractions such as noises, eating, and talking. In a 2006 study from Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety and Students Against Destructive Decisions, teens said phone use is their number one distraction.

"I got in an accident last year because of my phone," admitted senior Henry Polz. "I heard it ring, and when I reached down to see who it was the person in front of me slammed on their brakes. I rear ended them, denting my bumper and messing up my radiator."

Junior Patrick Stremel feels his multitasking ability allows him to use his phone while driving with ease.

"I know I can drive safe. I don't think girls can though," said Stremel.

Other male students agree with Stremel saying women should not be allowed to use their phone while driving, while males should.

Sayner said that, statistically, young male drivers are

most accident prone, and young drivers, as a whole, have the greatest risk. However, he feels the laws should apply to people of all ages. In comparison, junior Alex Eterno feels phone

use while driving should be legal if the driver has not been in an accident and has not had any tickets. With or without tickets, drivers are getting into accidents due to cell phones.

"I always hear about little fender benders because kids weren't paying attention while texting their friends," said junior Sara Lim.

Now, insurance companies can check your phone records to see if you were using your phone at the time of the accident.

According to Reuters, in a Harris interactive survey, 91 percent of Americans believe sending text messages while driving is as dangerous

I got in an accident last year because of my phone'

—Henry Polz

as driving after having a couple of drinks, but 57 percent admit to doing it.

"The problem I have with the new laws is that it encourages people to text and drive, which is more dangerous, than to talk on the phone and drive," said junior Taylor Turner. "A police officer can see you talking on the phone much easier than they can see you texting."

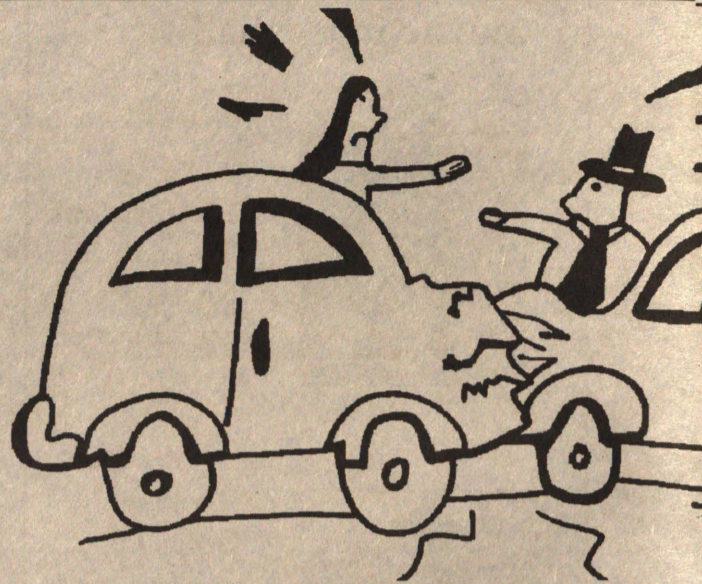
Some students feel comfortable texting while driving, no matter how dangerous it may be.

Junior Lizzie Gola said she has gotten to the point where she knows the keys on the phone well enough to text and drive.

"I know how many times I need to thumb each number to get the letter I want. I don't even need to look down anymore," said Gola.

Stremel admitted to occasionally texting while driving saying, "I usually start a text at a red light when my car is stopped. However, I tend to end up finishing it after the light has turned green."

Alternative ways to communicate while driving are becoming available. Hands-free devices, such as Blue Tooth, are becoming a popular and useful tool.



Alcohol: Use it at

By Jessica Bergmann

Most drunk drivers do not consciously make the decision to drink and drive. After a few drinks, decision-making skills are impaired, and people believe they are still sober enough to drive.

When a teenager makes the decision to drink and drive, the consequences are lethal.

Illinois was ranked fifth in the country for the number of alcohol-related fatalities in 2005, according to the National Highway

Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The NHTSA also said that in Illinois, one of every five teens behind the wheel in a fatal crash was drunk. With almost 100 alcohol related teen fatalities in Illinois in 2005, death is no longer the only punishment for teens that choose to drink and drive.

Illinois decided to attack drunk driving and

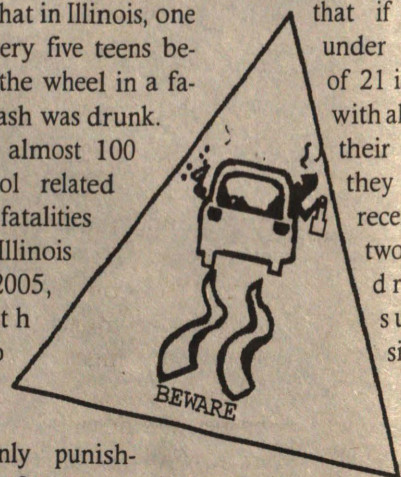
created the "Use or Lose It" program

1995, which guarantees that if

under the age of 21 is caught with alcohol in their system, they will receive two driving suspension points.

driving under the influence (DUI) charge.

The wallet is almost certainly impacted



s for Illinois Drivers

Road rage

By Kym McDaniel

Road rage is nothing new: In 1817 somebody wrote they had "carriage rage" and gave the carriage driver beside them a "box on the ear."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, road rage is defined as an assault with a vehicle while on a roadway.

Speeding, excessive lane changes, improper passing and tailgating are classified as aggressive driving, or road rage.

In 2004, more than 67 percent of the male and female teenage population said they tailgated another driver to encourage them to speed up while 60 percent said that if another driver "flipped them off" they

gauge

would return the gesture.

Road rage has contributed to over 12,000 people killed in 2006 according

to roadragers.com for speeding.

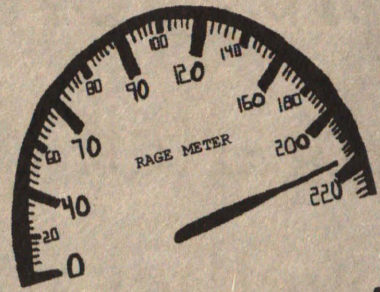
Factors like the summer heat and the feelings of being disrespected

by another driver may contribute to some reasons for road rage.

Meanwhile, road rage is not uncommon within the high school.

"I have road rage when people don't put on their turning signals," said senior Claudia Santana. "Or, when people are driving next to

accelerates



each other at 30 mph on (Route) 59."

Although Santana has a clean record, other seniors are not so lucky. Senior Jason Kovanda has received three tickets in the past year for speeding.

"I can't stand people who text and drive," said Kovanda.

Kovanda said during road construction when cars are merging, he "tails the other car so they can't get in, and then I flip them off."

Senior Kara Wolfe agreed with Kovanda.

"The people who try to skip ahead in road construction are scum," said Wolfe.

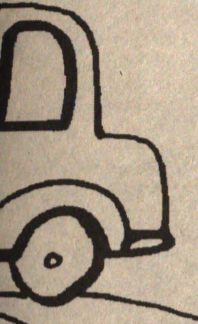
Kovanda had to go to court for his tickets. "One of my tickets was for driv-

ing 65 mph in a 35 mph zone," added Kovanda.

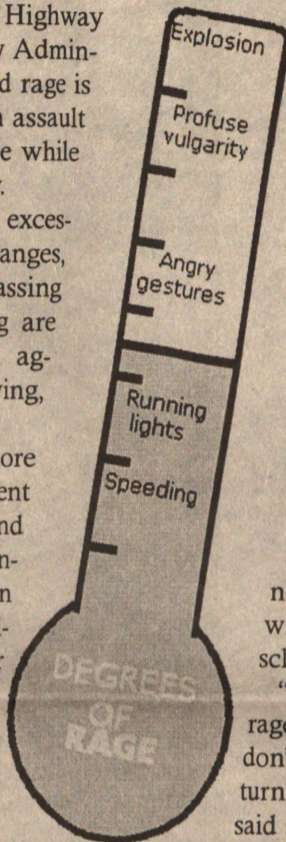
According to Road and Travel online, when a driver is cut off, tailgated, or is shown obscene gestures, more than 50 percent of the victims retaliate with gestures and angry actions of their own.

In 1980, when traffic on roadways began to become more frequent, drivers within the United States were frustrated by increasing congestion.

This new found frustration started the wave of road rage, according to drdriving.org. This wave included fighting and even shooting drivers on a regular basis. Over 1,200 deaths have been reported from road rage in the United States.



Between texting and driving, DUI's and road rage, is safety in the back-seat?



New curfew laws protect teens

By Joann Kaczmarczyk

Students usually look forward to their 17th birthdays, when they can finally drive curfew-free, but now they must wait another year.

Secretary of State Jesse White's Legislation to Improve Teen Driver's Laws includes a new curfew for teen drivers.

Starting Jan. 1, teens under the age of 18 have to be off the roads by 10 p.m. Sunday to Thursday, and 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and cannot be back on roads until 6 a.m.

"If you're caught out past curfew, it's like you don't have a license," said police liaison officer Joe Gaztambide. "Your license is only valid until curfew. If (police) catch you out past curfew, they will ticket you and take your license, and you won't get it back until you show up at court."

Teens traveling to and from work or school functions are exempt from the curfew.

The nighttime driving re-

striction used to be 11 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends, and only applied to those 16 years of age and younger. According to theIllinois

Secretary of State web-

site, the new laws were put in place due to a recent study by the Center for Injury Research and Policy at John Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The study showed that 16- and 17-year-old drivers are three times more likely to be involved in fatal crashes from 10 p.m. to midnight than dur-

ing the day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Dan Johnson, the division head of driver's ed., thinks the laws make a lot of sense.

"It's a dangerous time to be driving around for anybody. There are a lot of late-night accidents and fatalities. The new laws are to reduce the number of teenage or inexperienced driver accidents and to alleviate potential fatalities," said Johnson.

Students disagree and dis-

almost a year until January, when the new laws were put into place.

"It's stupid. My parents don't care because I didn't have a curfew before," said Radloff.

Other students echo Radloff, and many others rebel against the law by breaking curfew on a regular basis.

"I most likely won't follow it. But I will if I ever get caught," said senior Smiriti Kurup.

"I've broken curfew before but I have never gotten caught by the police. I mean, as long as you're not speeding or swerving, you can't really get caught," said junior Ethan Bureau.

Johnson believes that teens will follow the laws, but only if parents will encourage and enforce them regularly.

"The state is trying to hold parents more accountable. It's the parents' responsibility to make sure their kids are accountable at 10 p.m.," said Johnson.

and lose it

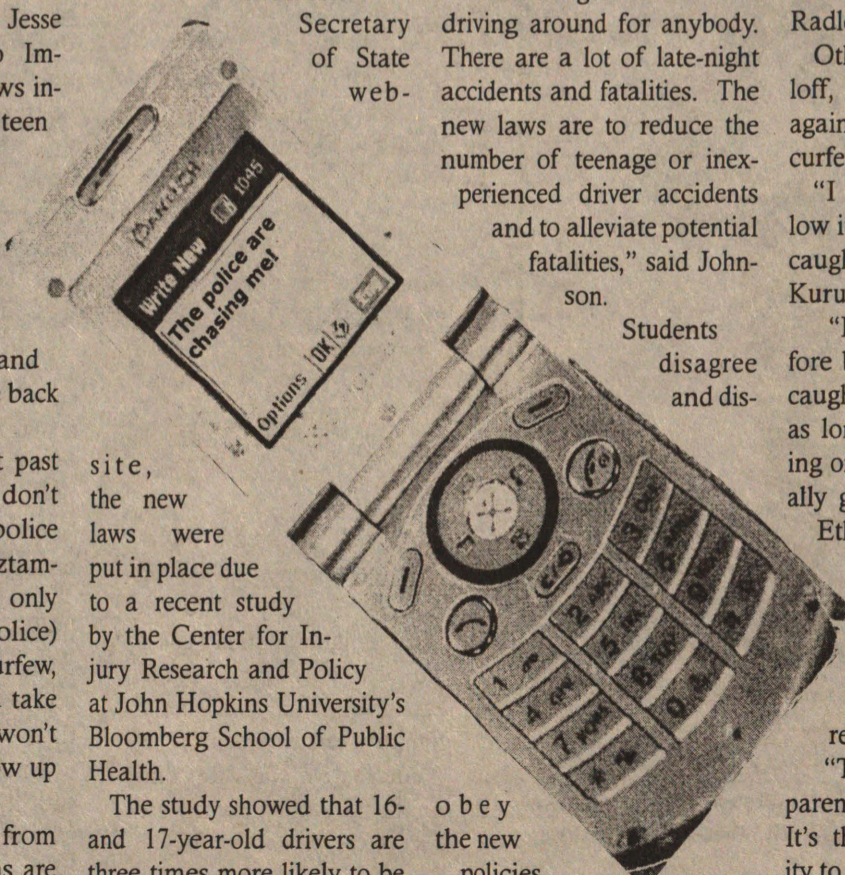
The state estimates that the minimum cost of a DUI is somewhere around \$14,000.

The bulk of these costs come from lawyer fees and court costs, fines, and the possible mandatory alcohol evaluation and treatment costs.

Charges may consist of 50 hours of community service and higher insurance costs.

The person's driving record may also be affected.

Whether conscious or not, drunk drivers affect themselves and others.



obey the new policies.

Senior Kayla Radloff had been curfew free for

High School Sweethearts

Kindergarten classmates stay together for 27 years

Couple teaches their children morals and commitment

By Jacob Wucka

For almost 27 years, Randy and Dawn Rathe have been married; although they have dated since their sophomore year of high school, and have known each other since kindergarten.

"(We became interested in each other) in Mrs. Bryant's literature 2 class, sophomore year. We gave each other a lot of looks. I used to pretend to look at the clock. He was really, really cute," said Dawn.

Randy and Dawn went on their first date in their sophomore year at Funway, but Randy broke up with Dawn after pressure from his friends.

"We started dating in fall of 1975 but he broke up with me because his friends told him to, but he saw the error of his ways and we got back

together and count our real first date as March 1, 1976," said Dawn.

Randy and Dawn knew they were going to get married and talked about it frequently over the course of their relationship.

"Around our one year anniversary, Randy said 'If we can make it a year, we'll make it forever. So I guess we did have a feeling,'" said Dawn.

After graduating from Community High School in 1976, the couple stuck together and in 1980, Randy proposed to Dawn.

"On our fourth anniversary Randy gave me my engagement ring. A year later we got married. It was a little over five years from the first date until marriage," said Dawn.

Randy and Dawn got married on June 6, 1981. In 1989,

they had their first child, and 2007 graduate Brad, and in 1991 had their second child, and sophomore Amanda.

They have instilled morals on commitment and relationships onto Brad and Amanda by telling them to live by their example.

"The kids see us fight and then work it out. Even when it's not a bed of roses, you stick it out. It's important to stick to your commitments even through the hard times," said Dawn.

Amanda finds their romance as a family occurrence. Amanda's grandparents started dating when they were in middle school.

"It is enchanting that two people could stay together that long. It really makes me believe in soul mates," said Amanda.



Photo provided by Dawn Rathe

Dawn and Randy Rathe believe that when a relationship is not a bed of roses, sticking to commitments through the hard times is important.



Photo provided by Donna Siefert

Donna and Ernie Siefert were classmates in the same kindergarten class, although they did not find out until many years later.

Love gets sweeter with time

First date for the Sieferts was at the Cascade Drive-In in West Chicago

By Kym McDaniel

Kindergarten holds many new activities for children, coloring and story time for example, and, of course, finding your soul mate.

Maybe not for every child who attends kindergarten, but certainly for high school sweethearts Ernie and Donna Siefert.

Ernie and Donna met in the same kindergarten class, although they didn't find out until many years later.

Their daughter, senior Kellyn Siefert, believes her parents as high school sweethearts are "cute."

"They go for walks every night," said Siefert. "They're really funny. I love my parents."

Ernie and Donna have been together for 28 years, and graduated from Community High School.

"Being high school sweethearts just gets sweeter with time," said Donna.

The Sieferts, who have never broken up, both went to college locally.

"God has blessed us in our marriage and by His grace we'll love on," said Donna.

Donna and Ernie went to their senior prom, but Donna said that she knew that Ernie was for her on the last day of class her junior year.

"Our English class teacher Mrs. Fairbanks was reading a novel. She was seated at her desk, reading away, rather oblivious to the classroom antics," said Donna. "We fashioned very aerodynamic paper airplanes and began launching them about the classroom airspace. One that I threw hit Mrs. Fairbanks right on the noggin."

Donna said that Ernie "took the rap" for her and Donna figured, "hey, this is the guy for me."

Ernie and Donna both have fond memories of high school.

"My favorite memories are riding my motorcycle to school and wearing my Easy Rider helmet," said Ernie. "And, getting to Mrs. Fairbank's class just after the bell rang and sitting behind the girl who flung the airplanes."

Donna was also a reporter for The Bridge, the school newspaper before The Chronicle.

The couple's first date was at the Cascade Drive-In in May 1976.

"I think the movie was 'Blazing Saddles,'" said Donna. "Everyone was at the Cascade that night."

Ernie proposed on Donna's birthday, Aug. 5 1977, after dinner at one of the couple's favorite restaurants in Greentown, Chicago.

Ernie had the engagement ring hidden in the glove compartment of his car.

"He proposed while we were sitting and talking in the car in the parking lot," said Donna.

The Sieferts have two sons, Toby (25), Jamon (20) and one daughter, Kellyn (17).

Costa Ricans skate into culture

By Mike Dalton

Six months of preparations and planning ended on Feb. 7, as the Costa Rica exchange program wrapped up.

Six boys and three girls came from Costa Rica on Jan. 17, and stayed for three weeks.

Junior Lia Smith was one of the Spanish students to host a Costa Rican, thinking "it would be a cool experience."

Those Spanish students who agreed to host are guaranteed a spot for the exchange trip to Costa Rica in June.

Before coming to Illinois, the exchange students and their two teachers, Ronald Robles and Andrea Morales, stopped in Orlando, Fla. to visit Disney World for three days.

Smith's student, Adrian Castro, enjoyed being somewhere that had four seasons.

"The best thing was when we went ice skating with International Club," said Castro. "It was fun because Costa Rica is very hot, so ice skating was brand new to us."

Disney World and ice skating weren't the only activities for the new students. They also went to an indoor water park, bowling, movies, and tubing.

Even with the variety of activities, their favorite one was

"hanging out and trying to teach us dance," said Smith.

Castro and Smith both agreed that they were a good

the luck of the draw."

Castro was sad to leave, but excited to be back home with his friends and family.

things in America I didn't like . . . the cold and waking up early," said Herrera.

Dean admitted that the

that the Costa Ricans have it easier, since they get to host in the middle of summer.

Although Dean will not be traveling to Costa Rica with the school exchange program, he said that he still plans on visiting the country and area.

"I am going down to visit my cousin who lives a short distance from everyone that has come up here. I'm so excited," said Dean.

Spanish teacher Susan Junkroski was in charge of the exchange and is happy that everything went smoothly.

"I have never worked with a nicer bunch of students," said Junkroski. "They really seemed to enjoy the stay, especially with the wacko weather that we had for them! I hope they take home wonderful stories about their experience in the frozen north."

Nine students hosted Costa Rican brothers and sisters, including Smith and Dean: junior Marisa Carter hosted Oscar Fernandez; junior Hanna Colliander, Pridian Mora; junior Kristen Koche, Sherelyn Nunez; junior Caitlin MacDonald, Stephanie Soto; junior Adriana Noceda, Anderson Lopez; junior Jozef Pavnica, Jose Armando Esquivel; and freshman Jason Rehbock, Steven Arias.



Photo courtesy of Caitlin MacDonald

Costa Rican Jose Armanda Esquivel (left), and his host, junior Jozef Pavnica enjoy playing their guitars together for entertainment at an exchange program get together.

match because they both love playing sports, even though Castro beat Smith in all of them.

Smith said that she was indifferent when it came to hosting a boy or a girl, so getting Castro "was pretty much

"I like the American chicas (girls) better than Costa Ricans," said Castro.

Junior Ethan Dean's exchange brother, Carlos Herrera, loved almost everything in America.

"There were only two

exchange program had its share of problems. Because the program takes place in the middle of the year, the students must juggle homework, projects, and their exchange student.

Dean and Smith agreed

Senior Photo Ambassadors Wanted

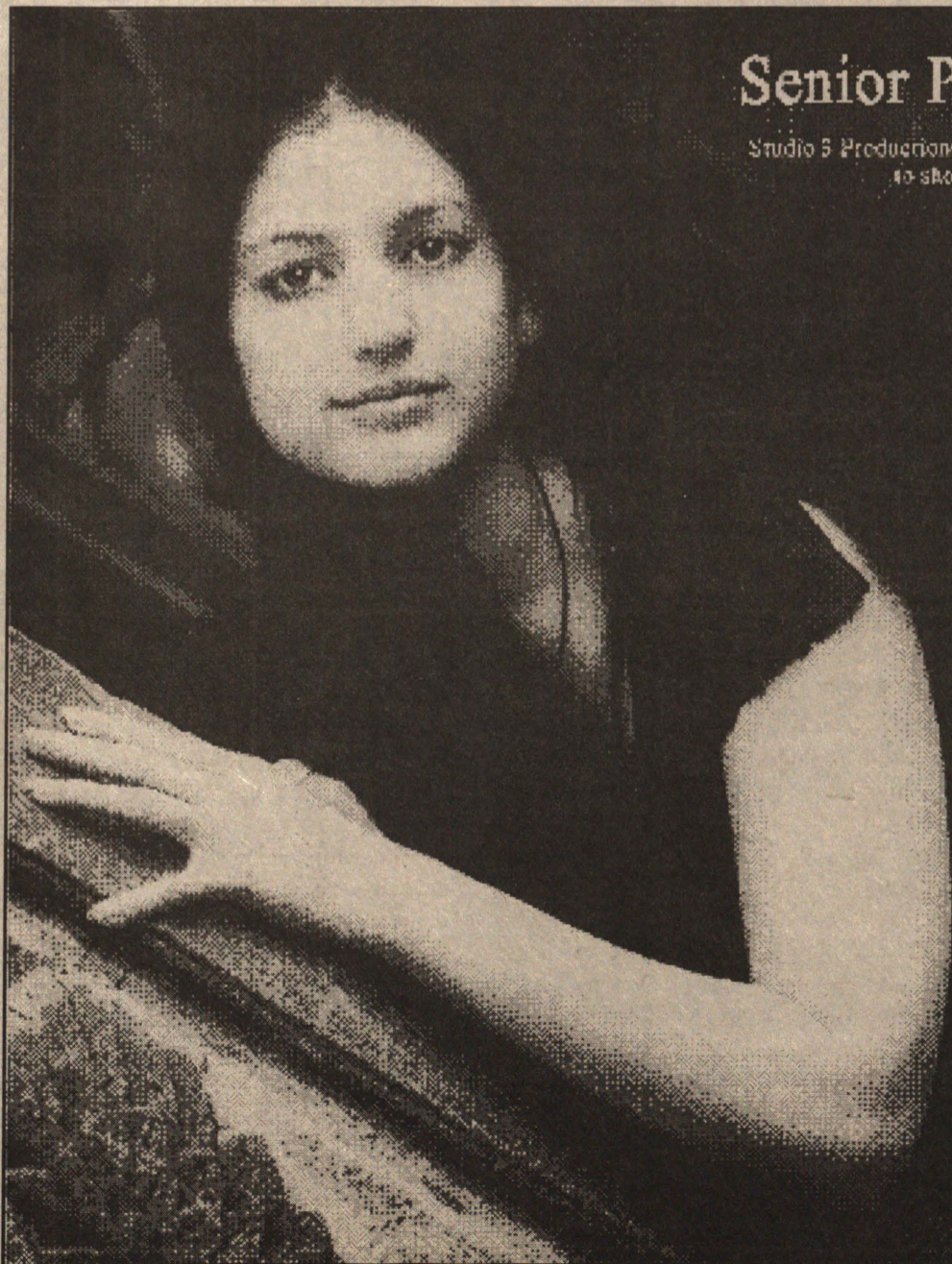
Studio 3 Productions, a photographic studio located in St. Charles, is looking for students to show beautiful senior portfolios and related products to their classmates.

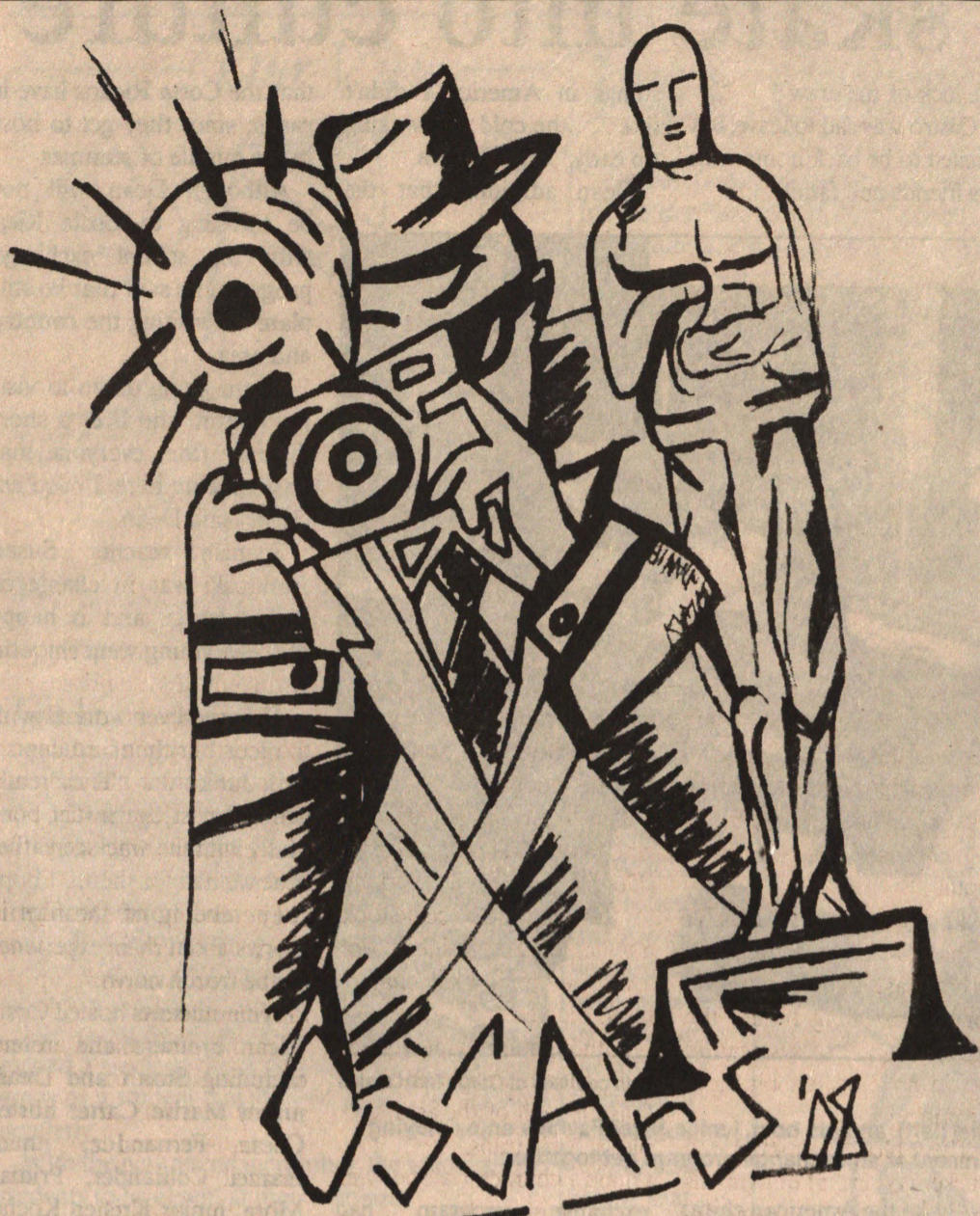
- Free Photo Session
- Free Senior Album
- Personalized Business Cards
- Earn Additional Credit or Cash
- Bonus Prizes

Studio 3, with their new state-of-the-art photo studio, has won in the past year such accomplishments as:
 2007 Illinois Photographer of the Year (APPA)
 2006 Best Photo of the Year (CPA)
 Kodak Gallery Award of Excellence
 Fuji Masterpieces Award of Excellence
 and many local, state, national and international awards.

CALL NOW
 to schedule an interview while openings last

(630) 377-9700





Unpredictable finish to Academy Awards

By Greg Vodicka

Los Angeles, California was the place to be Sunday night, with celebrities dressed for the occasion of the 80th Academy Awards. However, it was not the favorite telecast to watch.

According to Neilson Media Research, the ratings for the Awards were a whopping 14 percent lower than the least-watched ceremony ever.

The big story: "No Country For Old Men." It won four Oscars more than any other film, including best movie, director and adapted screenplay.

This surprised students with winners they had not predicted.

In a recent survey, students chose the film "Juno"

to win most categories, but it was only recognized for Best Screenplay.

Out of the 25 students surveyed, none chose the actual winners in the category for Best Actor and Best Actress.

The students don't match up to the 6,000 Academy members who nominate the films each year.

Students chose: "Juno" for Best Picture, Johnny Depp in "Sweeney Todd: Demon Barber of Fleet Street" for Best Actor; Tom Wilkinson in "Michael Clayton" for Best Supporting Actor; Ellen Page in "Juno" for Best Actress; Ruby Dee in "American Gangster" for Best Supporting Actress; "Juno" for Best Screenplay, and "The Golden Compass" for Visual Effects.

Tinsel Town lives only through past

Hollywood lost in its own glamour



By Mike Dalton

Hollywood is no longer the town it once was.

Tinsel Town is a memory drowned in the garbage that now spews out of the movie industry.

Lately, it seems like I don't even need to see the end of a movie to guess what happens.

The same basic and generic theme is used consistently in every film.

Viewers meet the main character and learn about the problem they face, then when things start to look up, a new problem occurs in the last thirty minutes of the movie, but all is fixed in the final scene.

I know I am not the only

one to have paid \$7 for a movie ticket, and then left the theater feeling as if I could have written a more compelling script.

What happened to the variety in films?

Maybe it's because movies have been around for so long and Hollywood has simply run out of ideas.

The first film with a storyline was in 1903, called "The Great Train Robbery."

I'll be the first to admit that I love a cheesy comedy made for cheap laughs, but at the same time I wish there was more.

Movies like "Casablanca," "Crash," "Psycho," "The Elephant Man," "The Godfather," "Rocky," and "Schindler's List" stand out in history as true classics.

They had the originality to be considered a true film.

Each of them were unlike anything made before and kept viewers in their seats until the very end.

It is particular filmmakers who are left keeping the vari-

ety in the industry alive.

People like Martin Scorsese, Judd Apatow, and Tim Burton are all icons in my book.

I'm sick of seeing movies like "Scary Movie" and "Meet the Spartans" make money when they are a joke in the film world.

I'm pleased to see that this year for the Oscar nominations, there weren't big blockbuster hits like "Lord of the Rings" in 2004.

The award for best picture went to "No Country For Old Men" this year, a film about a hunter coming across dead bodies, \$2 million, and a stash of heroin near the Rio Grande.

It sounds like an entertaining movie, it must be if it won best picture, but where's the creativity?

It mirrors the winner of last year "The Departed."

Whether it's a lack of ideas that's keeping the industry down, or just a quest for the biggest box office weekend, the industry is plummeting.

And the Oscar goes to...really?

Best Picture	No Country For Old Men
Best Actor	Daniel Day-Lewis There Will Be Blood
Best Actress	Marion Cotillard La Vie En Rose
Supporting Actor	Javier Bardem There Will Be Blood
Supporting Actress	Tilda Swinton Michael Clayton
Best Screenplay	Juno
Visual Effects	The Golden Compass

Sixth time the charm, with 'Dynasty' game

By Jake Bradley

One of the most successful video game series in Japan came overseas on Feb. 19 with Koei's newest installment of Dynasty Warriors, "Dynasty Warriors 6."

Based off of the book "The Three Kingdoms," "Dynasty Warriors 6" lets you play as the legends of the Three Kingdoms Era.

After the fall of the House of Han, individuals rose against the corrupt government and fought each other for rule in the imperial court.

Years later, three forces remained in the land: Wei, Wu, and Shu.

It is like your ordinary story mode, but the player receives a variety of options. With 50 different characters to choose from, all of them have their own story and own ending.

The players fight to their death for their army in six different stages.

Koei promised their fans

enhanced graphics, no "fog" (so there is no limitation from seeing into the distance), and a whole new weapon system featuring more weapons.

They followed through with their promises, first by enhancing the graphics during cut scenes, and making sure the weapons kill many in one blow.

The game struggled in previous years when the fog would obstruct the player from seeing an oncoming force. The game improved with having no fog at all.

Along with a new weapon system, they added a new Re-bue system where a player can perform an infinite amount of attacks to sky rocket their combo.

For some great action, new character layouts, and an in-depth storyline, "Dynasty Warriors" 6 receives:



'Vantage Point' fires hits

By Jessica Bergmann

"Vantage Point" takes viewers on a roller coaster of action, adventure, and of course, a shooting rampage.

Centered around a global conference to end terrorism, United States President Ashton (William Hurt) is giving a speech on a podium in Spain.

Seconds after he arrives, he is shot down by what appears to be an assassin. If it weren't for the revealing trailer, the attempted assassination would have been a bit more surprising.

The plot continues to thicken as several individuals are pinpointed for being involved with the assassination, whether being a bystander or a suspected killer.

Over and over, the movie rewinds and unravels a new

character and their point of view on what happened during the shooting.

Although the idea is somewhat original and compelling, watching the same event occur countless amounts of times is a bore.

The main character, Secret Service Thomas Barnes (Dennis Quaid) is working for the first time since he took a bullet for the president over a year before, is a key character to the film.

Although annoyingly paranoid after his experience, he falls for each of the assassin's ploys and traps. Yet, it is Quaid's character alone who keeps the plot rolling.

Another major viewpoint is seen through the eyes of the assassins, who unveil each aspect of their plan to kill the president.

Cleverly thought out, it reveals each decoy that was masterly set up in order to fool the Secret Service and ultimately kill the president.

The middle of the film is the most thrilling and important, but only if the audience can get past the initial bore of seeing the same scene five times.

The ending of the film is short of satisfying the wow factor, but does wrap up the film completely.

In the end, there are no more questions to be asked, simply answers that shock the audience and leave them amazed.

For an overall climatic storyline and interesting plot, "Vantage Point" receives:



Apple 'Air' sets new standards for laptops

By Amanda Rathe

Technology is constantly advancing and at the same time, decreasing in size. The new MacBook Air laptop from Apple is no exception.

The 0.16-0.76 inch wide laptop is a slight 3 pounds and made up of sturdy anodized aluminum.

Apple is hyping the small computer, demonstrating its size by taking it out of an envelope on their commercials.

This advertising leaves many Apple fans wanting to make the purchase.

"I think it's cool, everything is thinner. It's sweet that they made a computer that thin," said junior Cole Paler.

Users can complete work, play games, and much more on the 13.3 inch, glossy screen with the use of a full sized keyboard and large track pad.

As soon as the computer is opened, an automatic backlight comes on, making navigation possible.

It has a headphone jack and an 80 gigabyte hard drive.

Users are able to take pictures with the computer's built-in iSight camera, and can talk to friends and loved ones through the iChat software.

Many parts of previous Apple computers are also some features exclusive to the Air have been condensed to a

more portable size than any previous model.

But, the small size of the computer has some potential buyers skeptical of its practicality.

"It seems like it is very convenient due to its slim structure, although I really question the quality of the computer and its features because it's so small," said senior Matt Carnot. "It doesn't seem like it would be able to handle as much."

A con to the MacBook Air is that many reviews have shown that it is much slower than other laptop models from Apple.

Some compromises were made in order to make the laptop as small as it is, including weak connection options. There is only one USB port for users to connect to.

The laptop will last for five hours with the power in its extremely thin battery, although it cannot be replaced by the user if it wears out.

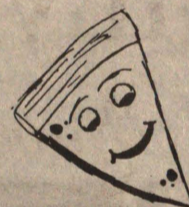
The transfer of files from another Mac is done wirelessly without any firewire.

The MacBook Air makes watching movies a portable experience with films downloaded from iTunes, or uploaded straight to the computer.

It costs \$1,799 and up, depending on added features and programs.

Hungry now?

Pizza Now



Rt 59 and Arbor
West Chicago
630-876-0210

1010 S. Barrington
Streamwood
630-372-2445

Price Rollback!!!!

The price of cheese has come down enabling us to bring back the

\$5.00 Large Pizza!!!

Your choice of Pepperoni, Sausage or Plain Cheese

Our dough is made fresh daily, we use 100% mozzarella cheese, and all quality ingredients!



For a limited time, show your school ID and receive a FREE 8 piece order of Bread Sticks with the purchase of one or more pizzas

Freshmen play like the big girls

Working together as a team and reaching goals results in a record to be proud of

By Sarah Berger

The girls freshman basketball team tore up the competition this season with a record of 20-2.

Their secret to success? Hard work, perseverance, and being close as a team, on and off the court.

"The girls have played basketball with each other for a long time and work together really well. They help each other out when one of them is having an off-day," said coach Whitney Rusin.

The girls have said that they are glad they are able to hang out after the final buzzer rings.

"I love the team so much, they seriously have become my second family. I remember at one game when we just came together and played like a team. That game was great," said freshman Kaitlyn Anders.

Some big wins for the team include the Wheaton Warrenville South game which re-

sulted in a score of 45-25 and the Glenbard North game which was 32-28.

The girls won the Geneva game by 1 point, with a final score of 39-38, and domi-

I have a lot of high hopes for the girls. They can achieve a lot as varsity players as long as they keep working in the off-season.'

— Coach Whitney Rusin

nated West Aurora, beating them 54-18.

At the Naperville Central game the players tore up the competition, winning 56-27. They also crushed West Au-

rora, 54-18.

Rusin thinks very highly of her players, but knows that they need to keep up their hard work in order to be successful as upperclassmen.

"I have high hopes for the girls. They can achieve a lot as varsity players as long as they keep working in the off-season. They have bright futures, and they are going to do well," said Rusin.

The girls are already showing the early signs of a strong varsity team. Rusin says they know how to set goals and then improve them until they get better.

"My goals for the season were to become a better player both offensively and defensively, and I think that I did my best to accomplish both of those goals," said Anders.

According to Rusin, the team spirit is another advantage the girls have.

"Being freshmen and this being their first year playing high school basketball, the girls aren't burned out and have a different kind of energy and motivation than some of the upperclassmen teams. The girls were very successful this season, I am so proud of them," said Rusin.



Photo by Jessica Bergmann

Freshman Mary Kate Connolly dominates the court against Wheaton Warrenville South Feb. 7.



Photo by Jessica Bergmann

Sophomore Chad Discoll charges the lane in a game against Naperville North Feb. 20.

Team's consistency reflects overall record

By Mike Dalton

A close defeat wrapped up the boys varsity basketball season with a regional game on Monday against Geneva, losing 73-41.

They ended their season with a final record of 1-26. With 26 turnovers, the team had a rough finish.

Senior Jon Reyes was one of the only highlights of the game, scoring 12 points.

Geneva took advantage of the team's mistakes early in the game, as well as in the third quarter.

The game Monday was not how they wanted it to end.

The team spent the season with consistency, and they hope to give it a better shot next year.

With a team of 14, head coach Kevin Gimre is look-

ing for underclassmen to step up for next season.

The team's top scorers were junior Clark Hudmon and sophomore Chad Driscoll.

"We'll have more experience next year," said Hudmon. "And Michael Dilla will pave our road to glory."

"We need to be more consistent in our effort," said Gimre. "The team shows great effort and intensity for one quarter, but can't seem to do it for all four quarters."

Despite problems on the court, the team still managed to have a positive outlook.

"We've had some struggles, but I think we can still compete," said junior Nick Henke after a loss against Naperville North.

The team's best game was their 76-62 win against An-

tioc in the Glenbard West tournament over Christmas break.

"It was really cool for us to win one," said senior Dane Gunderson. "It was a fun game."

The team did not win any conference games. Their last home game was Feb. 20 against Naperville North.

As traditions goes, the last home game is considered "senior night" so Gimre started all of his seniors for most of the first quarter.

"It was my first time starting all season so it was fun to have my name called by the announcer," said Gunderson.

The game ended with a loss of 73-41, but was a fun, final home game for the seniors to end a rocky season.

Track teams works to overcome hurdles in hopes of a strong finish

Girls track and field

By Sarah Berger

With the majority of the team made up of underclassmen, the girls track and field team has plenty of fresh faces competing this season.

At the Maine South meet on Feb. 19, sophomore Annette Eichenberger placed first in the 1600M run, high jump, and 880 yard relay. Senior Kristen Johansen placed first in shotput.

Junior varsity's freshmen Karlie Becker, Christine Kim, Meghan Nichol, and sophomore Becca Howe placed first in the 4x400 relay.

Varsity placed second and junior varsity placed third overall in a meet against Rosary and Bartlett on Feb. 5.

Sophomores Emily Tennant, and Tanya Starkey, and seniors Adi Huerta and Kara Triner, placed first in the 4x800 relay. Starkey came in first in the 1600M run, senior Brittany Smith placed first in the long jump, and senior Sara Fouts placed first in the pole vault. Also, junior Evelyn Galvan took first in shot put.

On the junior varsity team freshman Bree Ringe, senior Ivonne Reza, sophomore Emily Hahn, and senior Maria Ortiz placed first in the 4x800 relay. Freshman Karlie Becker placed second in the

55M dash; freshman Meghan Nichol placed first in the 400M dash, and Ortiz placed first in the 1600M run.

"I think the team has a good chance of qualifying a relay team for state," said senior Rachel Howe.

Coach George Petmezas still has hope for the team.

"We have a strong group of freshmen, more than the previous years. We also have a strong group of seniors. Hopefully some records will be broken this year," Petmezas said.

Boys track and field

Late buses and injuries have put a damper on the boys track and field season, but not enough to crush their spirits.

"We don't have any stars this year, but we do have a bunch of guys that have been working hard in the off-season. Also, we have 10 seniors, which is an advantage. Seniors just have the passion since it's their last year," said coach Paul McLeland.

The boys beat Elgin but lost to West Aurora at a home meet on Feb. 19.

Some highlights of the meet include junior Eder Gonzalez placing first in both varsity hurdle races and senior Jason Kovanda placing first in the pole vault.

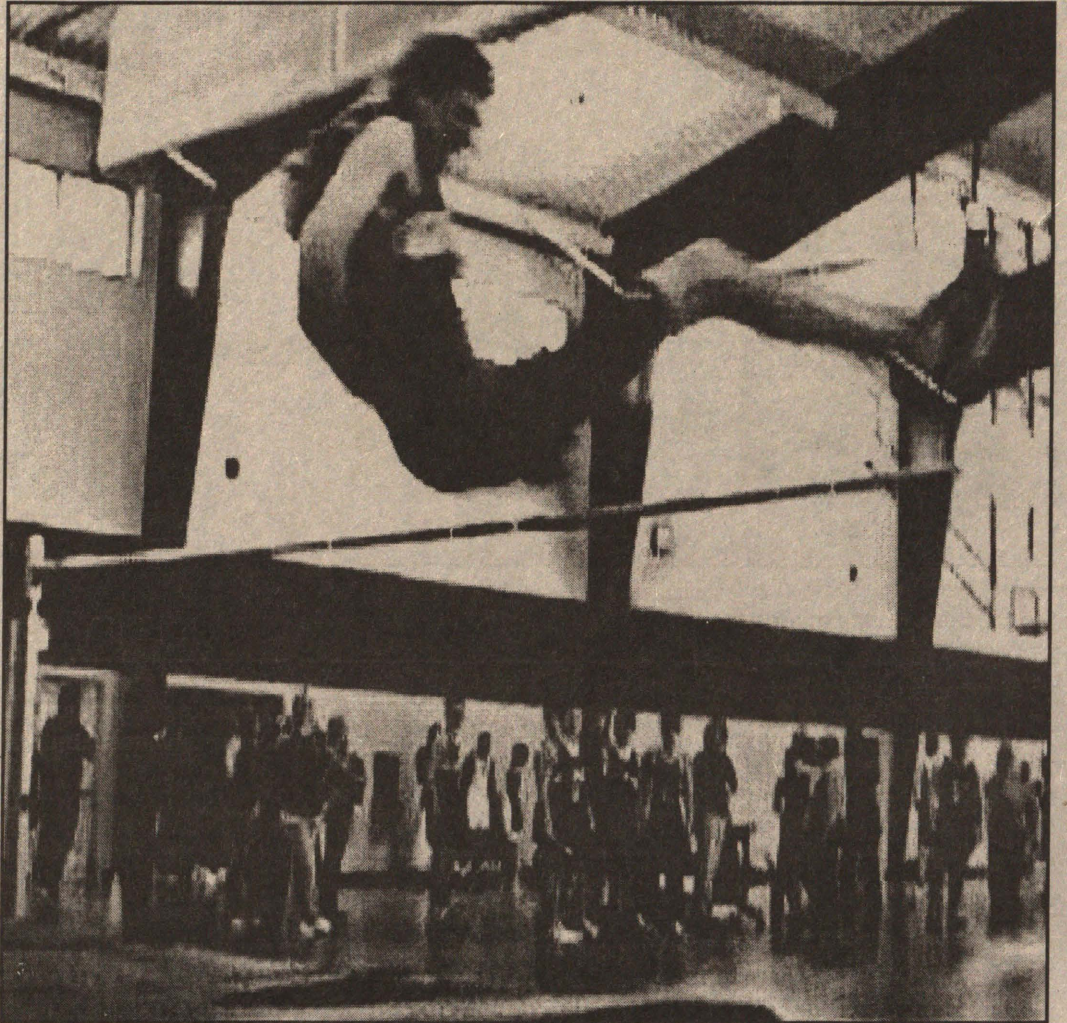


Photo by Greg Vodicka

Senior Jason Kovanda is one of the most promising high jumpers, along with pole vault and 4x100M race, this season.

On the junior varsity team, freshmen Alex Duran, Alex Perez, Nik Kmieciak, and sophomore Sergio Cale placed first in the 4 lap relay.

The boys had a rough time at the Maine South meet on Feb. 23.

Buses were half an hour late picking up the boys, resulting in no time to stretch and warm-up.

Field events struggled, but junior Kyle Nichol managed to place second in the open 400M race.

"I felt bad for the team, it really was the bus company's fault. We had no time to warm-up," said team captain senior Josh Tikka.

Although the team has suffered from some problems along the way, the boys still

have an upbeat attitude.

"I think we have a pretty hard-working team, we have a really good relay team," Tikka said.

The boys next meet is the Glenbard North Invite on Friday.

"It's honestly too early to tell what the season will bring, but hopefully it's good," said McLeland.

Captain advances despite team's up and down season

By Joann Kaczmarcyk

Senior Kayla Radloff lost at sectional finals of a 3 point shooting contest.

Radloff advanced to sectionals on Feb. 14 with a total of 12 of 25 baskets. At the semifinals at Lake Park High School on Feb. 19, Radloff made 6 of 15 baskets, and then one less at finals.

Radloff was captain of girls varsity basketball, which ended their season with the game Feb. 12 against Glenbard East.

Improving was their goal this season, and they met it, but their record was not what they had hoped for.

Coach Kim Wallner was optimistic, but she also worried. Only one, senior Kayla Radloff, was an experienced

varsity member. The others were either moved up to the varsity level or new to the sport altogether.

"The capability, the potential, is there," said Wallner, but the experience was not. The team finished the season 2-25, and 1-10 in conference.

Wallner said the season was up and down.

"The [team] started out knowing they would struggle."

The team improved in rebounding, both defensive and offensive.

"We didn't give up as many offensive rebounds," Wallner said.

"The [team] improved a lot from the beginning of the season. We always had a very strong second half

which made us finish the game hard and not give up," said Radloff.

"I appreciate the seniors, and the four years they have given to the program. They have been dedicated and worked hard," said Wallner.

Wallner refers to Rachel Jefferson, Megan Peterson, and Radloff as the three four-year athletes. Peterson and Jefferson were co-captains.

The competition was tough, as the DVC is not an easy conference, but Radloff believes the team tried hard.

"We competed better with teams at the end of the season, and made them work harder. The lack of experience and not handling pressure too well from others made it hard for us."

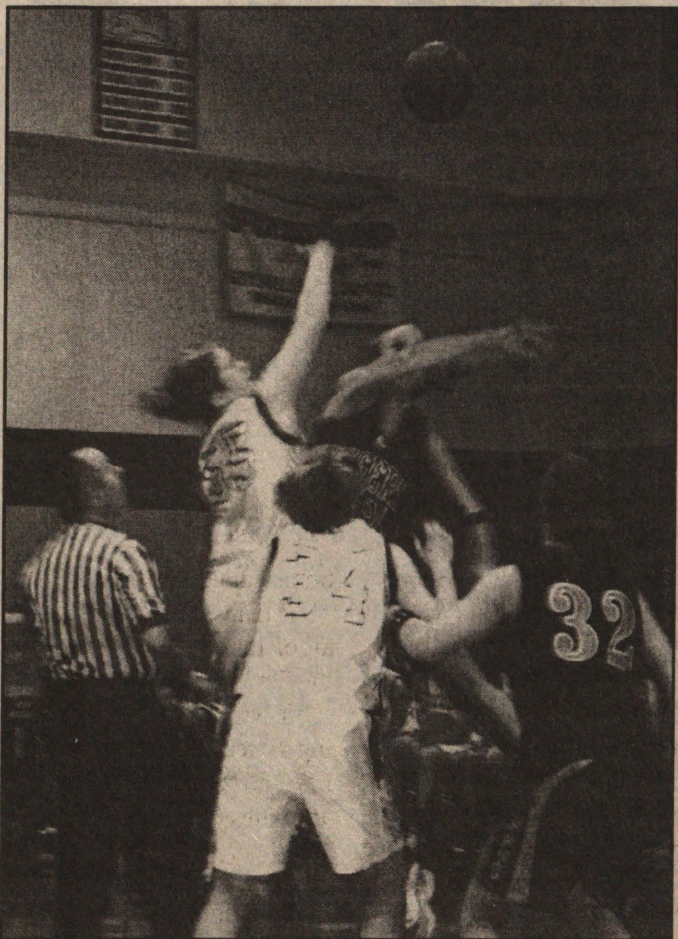


Photo by Jessica Bergmann

From each tip-off, varsity girls struggled to accomplish team goals, but succeeded in improving the number of rebounds.

Wild dominates Blackhawk Cup adding to strong season

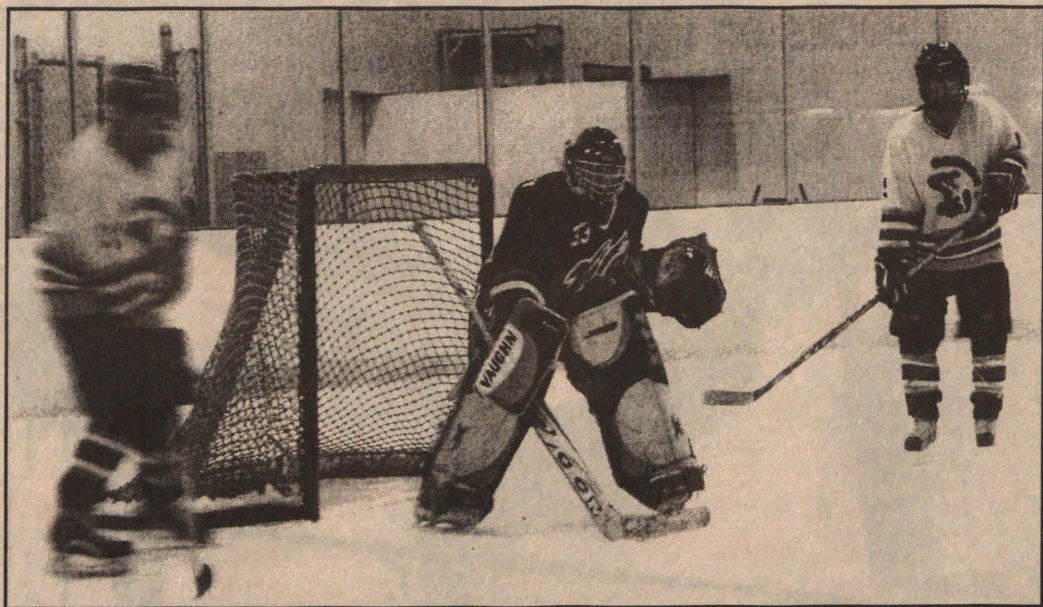


Photo by Sara Fouts

Senior Ben Barclay guards the goal in a game against Lincolnway Central Feb. 22. Barclay had over 20 saves throughout the game.

By Sara Fouts

Wheaton West Wild Hockey has gained victories for their first two games in the State Blackhawk Cup Tournament and will play in the quarter finals game against Geneva on Saturday, March 8 at 10 a.m. in Bensenville.

The second game for the tournament was on Feb. 22 against Lincolnway Central Knights. Wild dominated the game with a final score of 5-1 and secured their spot in the quarter finals of the Blackhawk Cup.

Feb. 17 was the first game of the tournament against the CCM tigers.

Wild had a victory of 5-4 in overtime and earned a spot in the next round of the Blackhawk Cup.

The game was intense, but Wild was able to score the game winning goal with 5:44 left in overtime.

Even though an earlier hockey game against the Co-

bras resulted in a loss, the Wheaton West Wild seniors lit up the ice for one of their last games for the regular hockey season.

Feb. 10 was senior night for Wheaton West, and nine seniors were honored before the game started.

Seniors from West Chicago are Ben Barclay, Kevin Brown, Cameron Daboll, Matt Molitor, Ryan Roman, and Kevin Troy.

"I'm sad that this is my last year playing with all these guys. I've played with them for four years," said Molitor.

During the game, the first two periods were very close. By the end of the first period the score was 3-2 Wheaton West. By the end of the second period the score was 3-3.

In the second period the Cobras had a penalty shot on Wheaton West, but goalie Barclay was able to keep them from scoring. All together Barclay had about 20 saves.

The Cobras pulled ahead 5-4 and the game ended with a score of 7-4 Cobras.

Even though that game was a disappointing loss, the team still has good memories from the season to reflect on.

"My best memory from this year was when we tied the number one ranked team in the final seconds of the game," said Barclay.

Some seniors say their hockey careers will end with Wheaton West, but others say they will continue to play in college.

"I'll probably play at Indiana, but I will miss the guys on the team," said Daboll.

Head coach Kerry Stair says the seniors were great teammates to have on the team this year.

"These seniors are a fantastic group and we will miss them next year," said Stair. "We wish them luck as they move forward to college and life."

Stone leaves to coach Mundelein football

By Greg Vodicka

After 11 years at West Chicago, athletic director and former head football coach Bob Stone will move on to Mundelein High School.

According to the West Chicago Press, Stone was unanimously selected for the head football coaching job by a seven person interview team because of his experience, success, and character.

He will also be a physical education teacher at Mundelein.

Stone hopes to call Mundelein his home for at least six years before retiring.

With the bar set high, Stone's main goal is to increase the size of the football program.

"Right now they are at about 50 guys on the varsity team, and they have more students than West Chicago has," said Stone.

Consistency is also a goal for the program.

"They have been up and down in the past six years, making it to the playoffs about twice," said Stone.

However, Stone said that he will miss West Chicago, especially the kids and the coaches he has worked with over the years.

"With any job, the people are the most important thing," said Stone. "I was lucky enough to work with some outstanding people here."

He also said he will miss West Chicago's diversity.

"From kids that come from families with lots of money, to blue collar families, and from kids from the Latino community to Caucasian kids, West Chicago has it all," said a grinning Stone. "I will always admire they way this school gets along in their own way, without many groups or cliques."

As far as the football team goes, he admitted he wishes they were more successful with wins, but as a program, he really felt they made some progress in the number of varsity athletes that came out each year. In the 11 years coaching here, the number of varsity football players went from 27 to over 80.

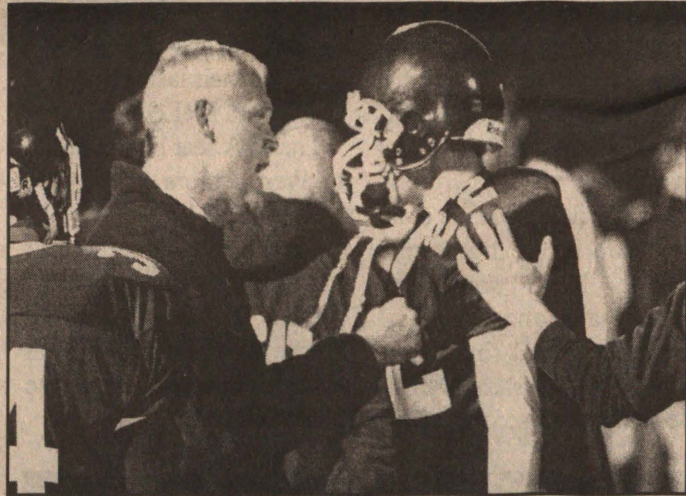
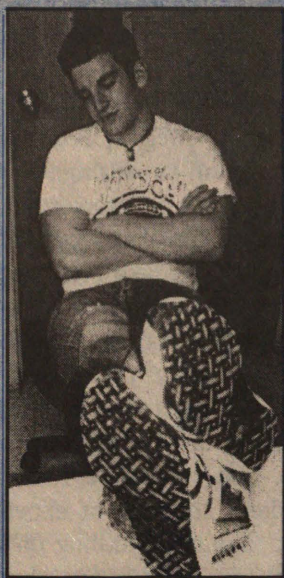


Photo courtesy of Photography by Feltes

Coach Bob Stone instructs one of his players during a game in 2005, his second to last season coaching the Wildcats.

Concern with steroids leads to testing in high schools

As steroids become a raging concern in the world of sports, Illinois high schools respond.



Greg Vodicka

The Illinois High School Athletic Association (IHSA) plans to begin random performance enhancing substance testing next school year for sports such as football, baseball, basketball, soccer, hockey, and track and field.

The plan is to randomly test student-athletes who are participating in the IHSA state playoffs.

I have no problem with the testing at all. I hope most Wildcat athletes agree with me when I say, any athlete who does not have anything to hide would not have a problem getting tested.

Some people argue that it is an invasion of privacy.

To me, it is a small price to pay to make sure we have fair

competition so everyone is on the same playing field.

People also neglect the fact that steroid users can cause injuries to themselves and to their opponents.

Many athletes under pressure to perform turn to performance enhancing drugs without knowing the consequences.

With random testing, athletes face the threat of being suspended from their sport. Hopefully, the choice is an obvious one; it's just not worth it. But some students do not see it that way, and the IHSA is out to find out who those athletes are.

However, there is one part of the plan that needs to be looked at.

The IHSA hopes to test most teams before the playoff bracket. This way, anyone who is using steroids will be suspended, and will not be able to affect the outcome of the playoffs.

The tests are too costly to test each and every team. They decided to target the teams that were successful.

This plan seems reasonable, until you think about all the teams that did not make the playoffs, while teams with steroid users did.

For example, Team A, who uses steroids beats Team B, where no one uses steroids, to make it into the playoffs. Team B is done for good. Their season is over.

Team A gets tested now that

they are in the playoff bracket, and a few of the guys get suspended for a game or two, depending on what the test finds. Team A still has a shot.

This case applies to all of the teams that do not make it into the playoffs. Whether they were users or not, teams who are knocked out of the series get the back end of the deal.

In other words, to have random testing in high school, it has to be random for it to be fair.

I can imagine there will be much more debate over this conflict when playoffs come closer. Athletes better start thinking about the consequences.