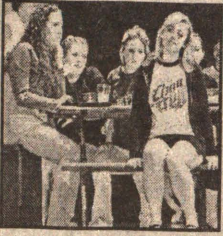




Inside

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'Grease' is sure to have students singing and dancing.



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Center Spread



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MTV's premiere of 'The Paper' is an unrealistic portrayal of a

real newspaper staff. See the difference between our staff and theirs on page 16.

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Girls track is having one of their most successful seasons. Read about their record breaking triumphs on page 18.



Way to go!

LifeSmarts captures second place in nationals

By Mike Dalton

The LifeSmarts team competed on April 12-15, taking home second place in the national competition.

The team consists of seniors Paul Warkins (captain), Joann Kaczmarczyk, Ian Letts, Doug Sills, and Kara Wolfe.

At the competition, they were tested on their knowledge of financial management, technology, the environment, health and safety, and consumer rights.

On the first day of nationals, the team defeated New York and Wisconsin. However, they lost to Arizona, which moved them to the consolation bracket.

On day two, they were successful and beat Delaware, Oklahoma, Missouri and Massachusetts, earning them a spot in the semi-finals.

"It felt really amazing to rally four consecutive wins after our first loss to make it back to the championship matches," said Sills. "Because it was a double elimination tournament, we really felt the pressure and needed to win all of our remaining matches to stay alive."

During the semi-final match, they defeated Virginia with a score of 200-190.

"It was really close, and we won by just 10 points (one question)," said Warkins. "To



Photo courtesy of Joann Kaczmarczyk

After breaking a sweat in competition, the LifeSmarts team triumphs over their second place victory in Minneapolis. Pictured (from left) is coach Don Zabelin and seniors Ian Letts, Paul Warkins, Kara Wolfe, Joann Kaczmarczyk and Doug Sills.

win, we had to get three questions in a row and it was honestly the most intense match of LifeSmarts any of us have ever been in."

In the final match, they took on Arizona again, ultimately losing and claiming second in the competition of 29 states.

"The last round was very

cool. The final match was being broadcasted online and many people in our school were able to watch us live," said coach Don Zabelin.

Wolfe feels that the match was tough, but feels they lost to a deserving team.

Zabelin is very proud of what the five seniors accom-

plished and hopes they are too.

"I'll be looking for some underclassmen to build for the future. There usually are many talented underclassmen taking business law and investments, which is where most of this year's players started," said Zabelin.

Rise and shine late on Mondays

By Jessica Bergmann

Students can stay out late on Sundays and sleep in on Mondays next year because the Board of Education voted in favor of making every Monday a late start day.

The board was hesitant on voting the plan into place because of concern for the students. However, the plan passed with a 4-3 vote and will be put into action for the 2008-2009 school year.

Principal Moses Cheng suggested his ideas to the Board of Education at the April 22 meeting, saying that increasing the number of late starts would benefit staff and stu-

dents.

"This late start proposal is absolutely essential for us to move forward as a school," said Cheng. Cheng hopes that the time used from the late start days will be used effectively to improve curriculum, allow more teacher collaboration, and help aid students who are struggling with grades.

However, teachers are divided on whether the new plan will be useful.

President of the Teachers' Association Brad Larson later said, "I think that teachers have more questions than anything at this point because not a lot of information has been

shared with them. But I think they will firm up on their opinions once Cheng discusses what the plan really entails."

Cheng assured his plan would be beneficial.

"My plan goes hand-in-hand with the intervention program put in place by the government," Cheng said.

The intervention program, Response to Intervention (RTI), was put in place by the federal government to identify and address students' needs. The program calls for frequent monitoring of student progress.

Cheng argued that these new demands from the gov-

ernment require more staff meeting time, which is the purpose of his proposal.

However, not all board members were sold on the idea.

School board president Tony Reyes raised the question "how do we measure the impact of going from 8 to 29?" while other board members were unsure of what they were even voting for, which was expressed by board member Tammie Murphy.

Cheng addressed the concerns, stating "I would like to tell you we are going to see immediate results next year but that would be naive."

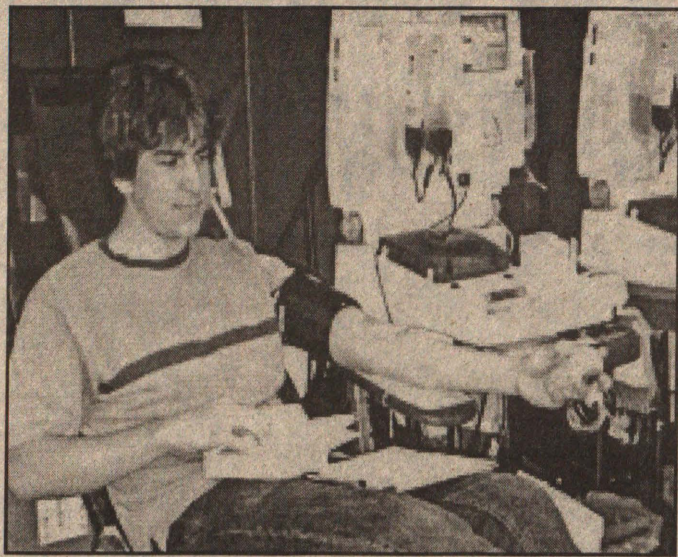


Photo by Joann Kaczmarczyk

At the Key Club's spring blood drive, 123 units were donated. Junior John McCormack participates in the drive.

Key Club draws out 123 units

By Trevor Bodie

Life Source Blood Center came on April 14 to collect blood from students, gathering 123 units of blood.

"Last November we had 154 units donated which tied our school's record," said Key Club adviser and counselor Ward Rau.

On average, West Chicago turns out about 140 units. Life

Source will allocate the blood to blood banks and hospitals in the Chicagoland area.

"A healthy person's body will replenish their system with enough blood in a reasonably short time with no ill effects, but a person who is ill or injured, or receiving cancer treatments need blood and has no other option," said Rau.



Photo by Joann Kaczmarczyk

After donating blood, seniors Andy Kanter and Nate Strayve build a tower with sandwich crackers from Life Source.

Pool parking to be partially reimbursed

By Joann Kaczmarczyk

The pool entrance will be closed for the rest of the year, but students with pool parking are not being left out in the cold.

Students paid \$100 for pool parking, and they are being reimbursed.

"We will refund \$40 or 50. I think we're leaning towards \$50," said dean Pete Martino. "It's not the whole cost, but it's better than nothing."

Not all students are happy. Senior Caitlin Fredricks said she is not just disappointed, but angry.

"I believe \$50 to \$60 is a fair refund for parking. We walk past four entrances to go through entrance H. That is ridiculous," said Fredricks.

The pool entrance was closed with all the other entrances except A and H after

the threat in March.

Along with limiting open entrances, students must stay in commons until 7:30 a.m. If they enter through the pool entrance, their whereabouts cannot be monitored.

In response to this, some students, including Fredricks, suggested opening the pool entrance after 7:30 a.m. but according to Martino, that is not possible at this point.

Senior Kelsey Gossen is also disappointed.

"You pay extra money for the pool lot because it is close to the entrance, but when the entrance is closed, it becomes a long walk and is no longer worth the same amount of money," said Gossen. "I just don't see why they can't open the pool entrance even after 7:30."

"Security is concentrated

in other areas right now. It's just not possible to open the entrance E," said Martino. For those with pool lot parking: "There's a list in my office. I need your name, your parents name, and your ID, so I know who to make the check out to."

Students feel the administration is not doing a good job getting the news out.

"I didn't even know there was a refund list but I will definitely sign it. I pay for my own parking, not my parents, and that reimbursed money could be put to good use," said Fredricks.

Students should expect their money to be refunded sometime in May.

"We want everyone... to be refunded, so we have to give them time to sign the list," said Martino.

Curtain falls on Mr. Wildcat

By Sara Fouts

Mr. Wildcat will not shine in the spotlight this year.

The show was originally scheduled for March 7, but after the threat of violence the show was postponed, then ultimately cancelled.

"It was cancelled because we could not find a date where all participants, judges, tech crew, MC's, cheerleaders and facilities were available at the same time," said athletics and activities director Kim Wallner. "We tried two different dates to

reschedule and both times we could not coordinate all facets of the show," said Wallner.

Wallner does feel sorry for the cheerleaders because this event is one of their major fundraisers. Not only have the cheerleaders been affected, but competitor Paul Warkins says that he is disappointed about the cancelled show.

"I'm mad. I learned a whole dance with a basketball from 'High School Musical,' and now I don't even

get to perform it in front of my peers," said Warkins.

Wallner wants the student body to know that it was not easy for the school to cancel the event.

"It was not from a lack of effort on the school's part to attempt to reschedule this very worthwhile event. We apologize to the participants and audience for not being able to put on the contest. We look forward to next year and to continue the competition," said Wallner.

School may tighten security with additional cameras

By Alexis Hosticka

Up to 48 additional security cameras may be added to the school for safety and security purposes.

These cameras could hold a month's worth of information and would be accessible from selected school computers and patrol cars.

"Many studies say that security cameras have been proven to deter vandalism," said Assistant Principal Josh Chambers at the April 8 Board of Education meeting.

Although security cameras don't stop fights, they help identify people who started the fight and those involved.

The school currently has 16 cameras, but Chambers feels that adding more will improve school security. If 48 were added, it could cost up to \$160,000. Each camera

costs from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

"Security cameras are a deterrent to vandalism and graffiti. They're a forensic device that help us to figure out who did what," said Chambers.

The cameras would be placed at strategic locations throughout the building where there are currently no cameras in the area. The school has had several companies give quotes and suggestions on where the cameras should be placed. Chambers said the threat of violence in March did impact this decision.

"The recent threat highlighted the potential for additional cameras," said Chambers.

At the earliest, the cameras would begin being installed in late summer or early fall.

"We need the board's ap-

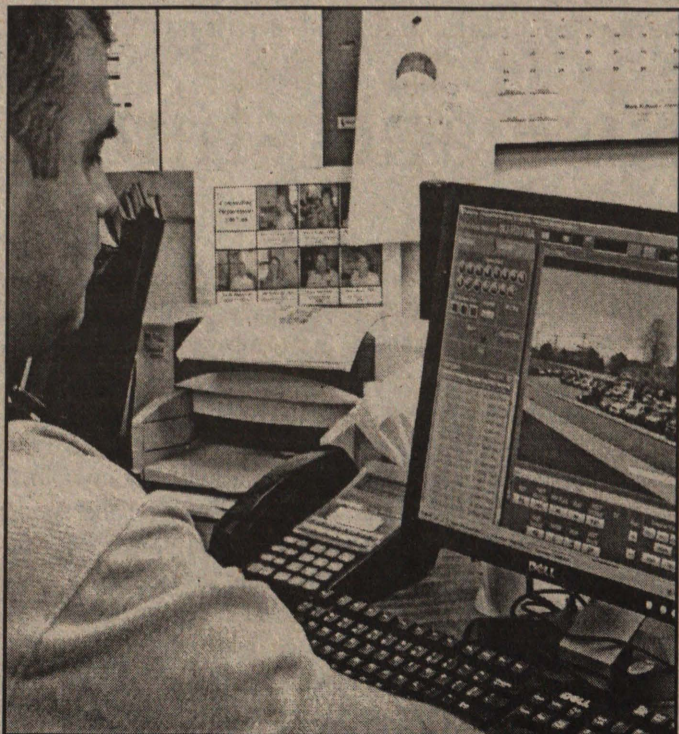


Photo by Alexis Hosticka

The Board of Education is deciding whether or not to add 48 cameras to the school to help identify those involved in fights. Officer Joe Gaztambide monitors activity in a student parking lot from the current cameras.

proval before we can start," Chambers said.

Chambers thinks that adding metal detectors is not necessary.

When the lockers were searched after the threat, two pads of passes, a pack of cigarettes, and five lighters were found.

"The need for metal detectors is not here," Chambers said. "We have good kids."

Some of the security measures that have been taken are to close entrance E and limit access to the building before and after school.

Clarification

School officials would like to clarify that there was a threat of violence March 6, but not a specific gun threat.



Photos courtesy of Margaret Haas

Wego 2 Africa earns \$400 from pie throwing at the spring sports assembly. From left, officer Joe Gaztambide, LRC clerk Edie Freund, and English teacher Jason Kling participate.

In your face for \$400

By Sara Fouts

Embarrassing teachers by smearing a whipped cream pie in their faces helped to raise over \$400 for the sister school in Angola.

Coordinator Margaret Haas said that the Pie in the Eye fundraiser is one of the best ways to get students involved with the WeGo 2 Africa project.

In the weeks before and after spring break, students had the opportunity to buy raffle

tickets for \$1 to get a chance to throw a whipped cream pie into the face of their favorite teacher at the spring sports assembly April 15.

The profits from this raffle will go towards backpacks for the school's sister school in Angola. Haas hopes to send 800 backpacks.

Receivers of the pies included officer Joe Gaztambide; and staff Jason Kling, Edie Freund, Joy Tanimura, and Kevin Cleary.

Participating pie throwers included freshman Justin Rigler; sophomores Anthony Brinkman and Juan Perez; junior Caitlin Shiga; and LRC director Eric Bodwell.

"It was a great experience that was once in a lifetime," said Shiga. "It was good to release my feelings towards the junior research paper in one pie."

Haas said that the end goal is to raise \$4,000 for the school in Angola.

Trip does not disrupt plays

By Jacob Wucka

With a trip to France cutting into rehearsal time, the french plays went on.

"I think they went well," said French teacher Lindsey Evans. "The students put in a lot of work and their hard work paid off."

French 1 through 4 classes performed at the annual event on April 10, where students showcase their knowledge of French through various skits.

Each class spent two weeks writing and editing their skits, and then spent three weeks rehearsing.

tumes, and then we just practiced as a group onstage with Madame Sammons giving us constructive criticism," said Ogorzalek.

Senior Oz Bahadarakhann was honored as best actor for French 2.

"I think I won because I came prepared for the plays and my other group members helped me out with the funny acting," said Bahadarakhann.

Bahadarakhann and his group performed a skit spoofing the reality television show "Beauty and the Geek."

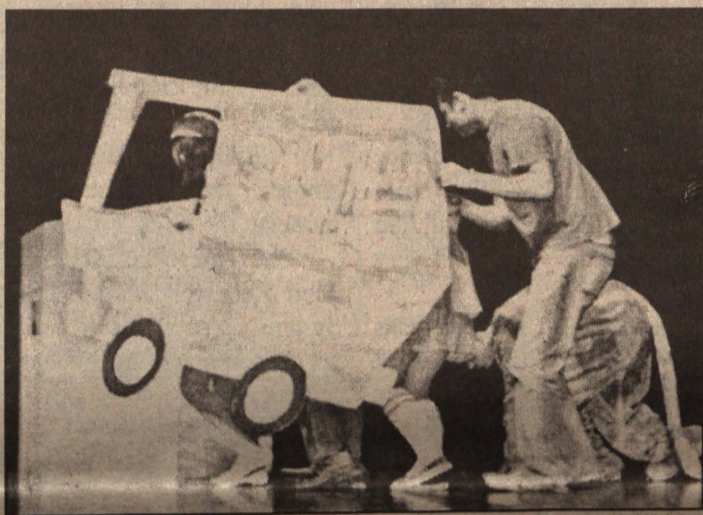


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Students in the French classes perform skits at the annual French plays. French 4 students portray an episode of Scooby Doo in France.

The rehearsals paid off for sophomore Megan Ogorzalek who was named best actress for French 2.

"Our group (sophomore Kim Busch and junior Rachael Molinaro) wrote a good script and I got to play the weird, crazy characters," said Ogorzalek.

French teacher Karin Sammons recommended the idea of a dating show to the group. It was their idea to make Ogorzalek play multiple characters.

"I had to memorize my lines, which wasn't that hard, then I brought in my cos-

"I wore the dorkiest outfit for my play, and I had to get into a geek character too which made it very convincing," said Bahadarakhann.

Evans believes that each class did a great job, and topped last year.

"This year, the plays were more creative. The students really made an effort to be original," said Evans.

Besides Ogorzalek and Bahadarakhann winning for acting were freshmen Greg Lyne, Nathalie Lopez; senior Justin LeDuc, and juniors Donna Quiroz and Virginia Mason.

Looking for teams

By Rebecca Uy

Dedicated community volunteers' plans for Relay for Life are running smoothly for the May 30-31 event which runs from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Currently there are 32 registered teams including a team of English teacher Mary Hafertepe, social studies teacher Barbara Laimins, and PE teacher Amy Gibson.

"West Chicago Community High School Teachers are trying to raise \$2,000," Gibson said.

Gibson is participating

because three people in her family died from cancer.

"It's a really cool experience to participate in Relay for Life. Just to see everyone coming together is really neat," said Gibson.

Also registered teams are Student Council, JV Cheer, NHS, Vballers, and Poms.

There's still time to sign up for either a team or just as a volunteer. Cancer survivors are also wanted. Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean up. Contact Mike Lair at Michael.lair@cancer.org.

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Vows exchanged between seniors

By Mindy Schweitzer

Students tied the knot on April 10 at the Family Consumer Science's mock wedding.

Seniors Brittany Soto and Andrew Cruz were the happy couple beginning their "Dream of a Lifetime."

"It was awesome. I would love to do it again. It really does seem real," Soto said.

The evening is the department's chance to showcase all of the classes. The classes that participated were foods, child development, and clothing.

Contemporary life classes planned the event including the D.J.s, decorations, and invitations. Foods classes made the cake and cookies.

Family/consumer science teacher Patricia Clifford said, "I think (the students) all had a great time. We bond very tightly."

Clifford also said she asks the students what they want to do and then chooses the roles based on reliability, attendance, and dependability.

Soto was eager to participate in the wedding.

"I thought it would be a fun experience," Soto said. "I learned that getting married is a very serious and special

time in someone's life."

Clifford said this experience teaches kids to make sure they've found the right person before getting married.

Even preschoolers from the child development classes participated by singing a song before the start of the fashion show.

About 40 students from all of the clothing classes participated in the fashion show as part of their final exam, giving them the chance to show off their creations.

"I think they surprise themselves sometimes," said family/consumer science teacher, Patti Kozlowski. "If you saw some of (the clothes), you'd go 'wow.'"

In addition to making the clothes, the students also modeled them.

A representative from John Robert Powers School System came in as a guest speaker to teach the students how to model.

According to Clifford, the evening didn't cost the department anything because everything is donated, reused, or made by the students. The money earned from the event goes into a scholarship for a member of Skills USA.

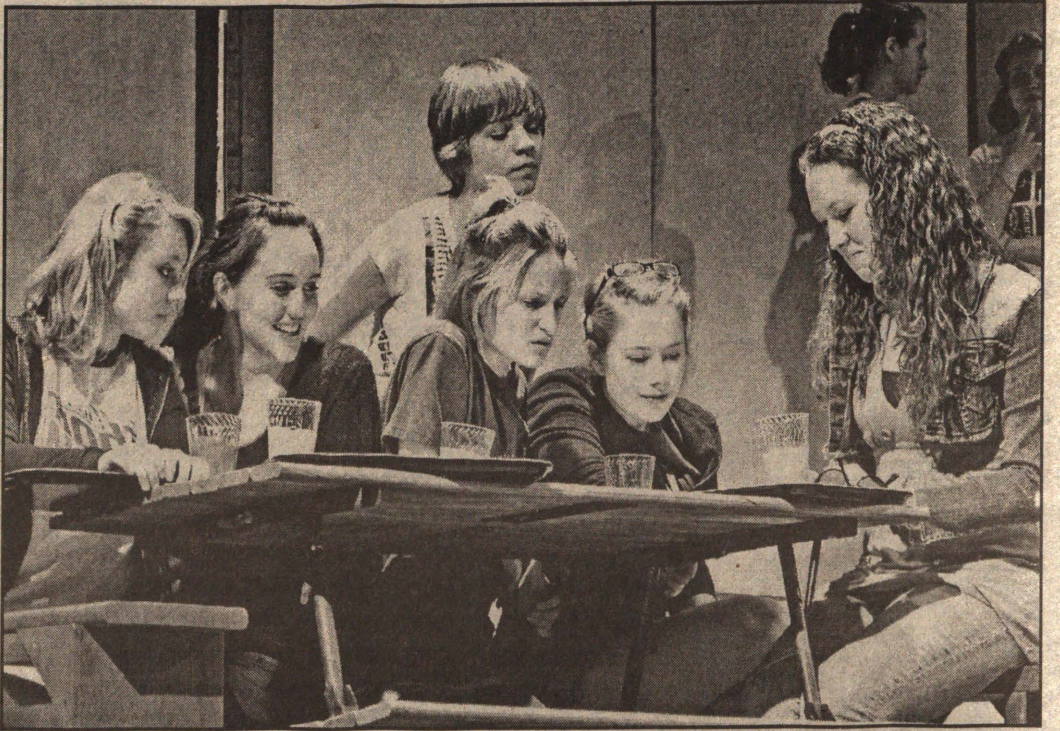


Photo by Jessica Bergmann

"Grease" will run on May 15-17, which was preceded by weeks of rehearsal. From left, senior Suzy Nowicki, junior Megan Green, Kirsten Frank, freshman Emma Roberts, senior Mary Showalter, and sophomore Chelsea Ross search for diamond in Marty's macaroni.

'Grease' plans to rock

By Jessica Bergmann

The spring musical "Grease" will be rocking its way to the auditorium on May 15-17.

Director Mary Hafertepe hopes that a better known musical with more songs and dances will produce a larger student audience.

"'Grease' is a play that many people like. We wanted to do a show that had a lot of dancing in it since we didn't have a lot in last year's production," said Hafertepe.

With a cast of over 40 members, Hafertepe believes that more students will be drawn to seeing their friends perform. However, a large cast is not always a positive thing.

"It's hard for the cast to stay focused sometimes. The choreographer has it hard because in the big dance numbers she has to work with all 40 students at once. When everyone comes together, though, it looks really good," Hafertepe said.

The musical "Grease" is centered on the summer romance between Danny Zuko

and Sandy Dumbroski. They end up attending Rydell High together, where Danny struggles to maintain his bad boy image while rekindling his romance with goody two shoes Sandy.

As the musical progresses, both characters shed their images: Danny becomes a jock while Sandy becomes a rebel.

Playing the lead role of Danny Zuko, junior Dave Hiltner believes he and Danny are not very similar.

"Playing Danny is a bit of a stretch, but his character is so over exaggerated that it wasn't too difficult to get into it," Hiltner said.

Hiltner also believes that he and Danny are different in the way they perform.

"Danny is definitely a better singer and dancer than I am, but I try to make do," Hiltner said.

Hafertepe knew that there would be some challenges with getting into character for some cast members.

"The characters being portrayed are rather immature, so the amusing part is seeing

students try and act that out," Hafertepe said.

Although Hafertepe expected struggles, she is impressed by the effort Hiltner and sophomore Chelsea Ross, who plays Sandy, are putting into their performances.

"Both students are working very hard and giving it all they've got," Hafertepe said.

Other lead characters include Kenickie, played by senior Kurt Shilka and Rizzo, played by senior Kristen Frank.

The show will be at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets will cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

Hafertepe wants to caution that the play may not be appropriate for a younger age level due to "a few adult issues and some mild obscenity."

However, she hopes students will still come out to see the production and handle the material maturely.

"If you want to see your friends having fun and taking some risks, then you should definitely spend the \$3," Hafertepe said.

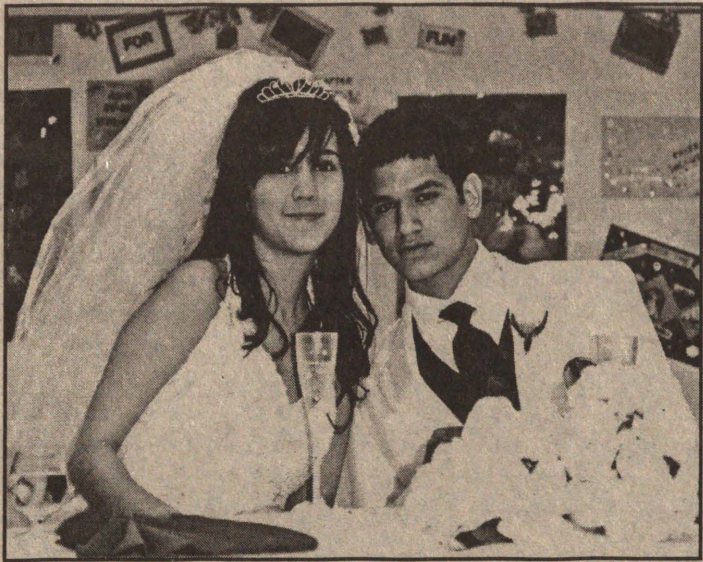


Photo by Jessica Bergmann

Seniors Brittany Soto and Andrew Cruz got married at the Family Consumer Science's mock wedding.

Student picked to study abroad in Germany

Sophomore chosen among 300 students nationwide to attend exchange program

By Jacob Wucka

Sophomore Mary Murphy will be saying auf wiedersehen to the United States as she leaves West Chicago to study abroad in Germany next year.

"I'm excited but I didn't think I'd be chosen because when I went to the interview the other people seemed like really good candidates," said Murphy.

Around 250 to 300 students

from around the United States were chosen to participate in the program, which is funded by the German government. Murphy is the sixteenth student from West Chicago to be chosen for this program.

In order to be chosen, Murphy had to fill out a resume, comprised of many essays. After her resume was chosen, Murphy was interviewed by the people in charge of the exchange.

In July, Murphy, a German 2 student, will fly to Washington D.C., and then to Germany where she will attend a language camp to enhance her German language skills.

"I will be attending a German gymnasium which is the equivalent of an American high school," said Murphy.

German teacher Terry Strohm has confidence in Murphy and believes that besides having a great time, she

will do well in school.

"She has all the knowledge to do well next year," said Strohm. "It'll be tough not only academically but personally. I have the utmost faith that she'll do wonderfully."

However since the 2008-09 school year will be Strohm's last year of teaching at West Chicago, Murphy is saddened that she will return to a new German teacher.

"It's going to be different because I like her. She's one of my favorite teachers," said Murphy.

Still, Strohm says that she will keep lines of communication with Murphy open while she is in Germany and when she returns.

"When she comes back, I'm sure we'll stay in touch. I'll miss her, but I'll buy her a cup of coffee when she gets back," said Strohm.



Photo courtesy of Karin Sammons

Students participating in the French exchange visit the Eiffel Tower, where they attempt to create a human pyramid.

U.S.-French relations improve with trip

By Kym McDaniel

French students did not have to watch "La Vie en Rose" to experience French life, instead they traveled to France.

French exchange students left for France on March 27 and returned home on April 7. The 22 students from French 2, 3 and 4 spent seven days in Grenoble and three in Paris.

Accompanying the students were French teachers Lindsey Evans, Karin Sammons and ESL teacher Erin Johnson.

Evans, who has lived in and traveled to France before said the best part of the trip was seeing France through the eyes of the students.

"It gave me a fresh perspective on a country that has become very familiar to me," said Evans.

In Grenoble, the students stayed with host families and attended classes at the high school in town. The students also went to movies, ate "real French food," went shopping and explored the area around Grenoble.

In Paris, the students saw the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre and Notre Dame.

"We also took a four hour bike tour in the rain that was

a fun way to see a lot of the city," said Evans.

Junior Virginia Mason agreed that the bike tour was fun.

Along with the tour, Mason said she loved staying with her host and getting to see her friends she had made the previous year.

"All the sites were cool to see because of the history and being able to stand on the ground where so many famous events have happened," said Mason.

Mason and her twin sister stayed with Lyla Toualbi, who lived in an apartment right outside of Grenoble.

"It was my first time out of the country which made the trip that much more special," said Mason.

Mason said she was able to understand her family for the most part.

"My host talked too fast when she was with her friends," said Mason. "Although I couldn't understand every word my host family said, I learned how to follow what I did know."

Next year, a group of French students will be coming from Grenoble to stay in West Chicago.

"We can't wait to show them as a great a time as they showed us," said Evans.

Blog keeps students on track with LRC events

By Alexis Hosticka

Fresh information on LRC happenings will be available on the new LRC blog where students can also post and comment on book reviews.

Although book reviews were previously available on the LRC website, there is now a search engine to find specific reviews. All students can submit book reviews to post, but a librarian has to approve them first.

LRC director Eric Bodwell is in charge of the blog and wants the blog to be successful.

"I hope to reach students and teachers more effectively," Bodwell said.

Bodwell will place contests, fun website links, new featured books, and other information on the blog in hopes to make the LRC website a place for something other than research and school-work.

"I want to make the LRC website interactive," Bodwell said.

Students can e-mail Bodwell at ebodwell@d94.org to give positive and negative feedback.

The blog's slogan, "Because You Can Always Fit More," goes with its name, "CRAM." According to Bodwell, it fits students well because they are always

cramming for tests, to get homework done, or fit activities into their days.

Students can visit the website at <http://www.wegolrc.blogspot.com>.

At the blog, students interested in the CHS Breakfast Book Club (BBC) can find information on librarian Donna Leahy's page. The BBC page includes times of the meetings, the featured book, and entries from Leahy. Students going to the LRC website will see that the website has been changed in order to attract more students.

"The whole website was revised to improve it and give it a new look," said Bodwell.

Senior wins Democracy in Action

By Hannah Strayve

Senior Chelsea Steck received first place in the Democracy in Action competition.

The Union League Club of Chicago presented Steck with the award as well as a \$1,750 prize on Feb. 15 at the annual George Washington Day celebration.

Students are chosen for their dedication in the participation and leadership in demonstrating citizenship, and dedication to democratic principles.

"Not many people have the opportunity to be recognized for their achievements, so it was nice to earn such a prestigious award," said Steck.

The club awarded three other Illinois high school seniors. Evanna Avramov of

Hindsdale South, Marguerite Mueller of Maine West, and Andrew J. Clinton of LaMoille High School were bestowed with second, third, and honorable mention awards respectively.

Students must be nominated by a teacher to be recognized for the award.

Government and community leadership teacher Mary Ellen Daneels and Spanish teacher Sarah Bellis nominated her for the award.

"I've known Chelsea since she was a sophomore in my community leadership class. She is a leader in community even though she is a high school student. She is consistently a role model," said Daneels.

Steck helped organize fundraisers in community lead-

ership class for the WeGo 2 Africa program.

She also volunteers with refugees at World Relief in Wheaton and serves the homeless at the People's Resource Center, which is also in Wheaton.

"It was great to get recognized for the work I do to make the community a better place," said Steck.

Next year, Steck plans to attend Beloit College in Wisconsin and major in international relations with a minor in peace studies. After college, she hopes to join the Peace Corps.

"I want to continue to be an active citizen in college as well as after. I think everyone has something to offer to the work and everyone needs to do their part," said Steck.

Skills USA heads to nationals following first place finish

By Trevor Bodie

The Skills USA members will head to nationals this summer after their first place finish in Springfield.

First place finishers were senior Ivonne Reza for commercial sewing, junior Sara Kimball for photography, and sophomore Alyson Taddeucci for interior design. They will attend nationals June 23-28 in Kansas City, Mo.

"It was a good experience to make new friends and compete with other people's designs," said Taddeucci. "The competition was a great way to put my design abilities to use."

Senior Rachel Howe and junior Tara Breinig took second and third places for

'They are already top in state for qualifying. Now they will select who is the best in the state.'

— Patti Kozlowski

commercial sewing.

Participants compete in different areas including photography, preschool

teaching assistant, commercial sewing, machine drafting board, food and beverage, Skills USA corporation and interior design.

"They actually perform a skill at the contest, in commercial sewing they are given a project they will have to sew, do an oral presentation and create and original design," said adviser Patti Kozlowski

In order for the students to compete they had to pass a qualifying test.

"They are already top in state for qualifying. Now they will select who is the best in the state," said Kozlowski.

Class project puts students in giving spirit

By Eileen Damsch and Jacob Wucka

Whoever said hard work doesn't pay off has never met the world studies class.

Through their efforts, the community and Wego 2 Africa have benefitted.

"In world studies, we realize that people in history make such a difference. The students had to do a project of their choice to help people in the community," said history teacher Barbara Laimins.

Sophomores Alyssa Baermann and Stephanie Kuecker created the advisory competition of collecting supplies for the DuPage Animal Shelter.

"We felt sorry for the animals that are stuck in those shelters so we decided to try and help them to make the animals' stay as pleasant as possible with items the shelter cannot afford," said Kuecker.

According to Laimins, four advisories actively participated in the competition, while other advisories donated some.

"They didn't think anyone would do it," said Laimins.

Physical education teacher Byron Delcid's sophomore advisory won the competition. Items donated were dog

shampoo, food, and chew toys.

Likewise, another group consisting of sophomores Colin Hale, Jose Pacindo,

and Scott Wheeland helped for a bike shop in Winfield, Hale was offered to volunteer at a local church.

There, he came up with the idea for fixing bikes for home-

Research Center, and the church's basement.

Hale and Pacindo were more experienced at repairing the bikes than Wheeland.

which have been donated to homeless shelters, while the other 26 are planned to be sent to Africa in the shipping container.

However, community service projects didn't require students to spend lots of money or time either.

A group made up of sophomores Mike Bryant, Brad Cole, Jon Smagacz, and Raelene Struckmeyer did a simple but effective project by donating clothes to St. Vincent DePaul thrift store.

Altogether the group donated 12 large garbage bags filled with clothes.

"It was a thing we could do that seemed simple," said Bryant. "I felt good that I was able to help people."

Sophomores Kelly Bertling and Christina Pool came up with a project benefiting Wego 2 Africa.

"We wanted to help Wego 2 Africa, so we brainstormed and thought of the thing everyone hates to do: serving detentions," said Bertling.

Students who don't want to serve detentions could bring in supplies, such as a pack of pencils or three notebooks, and in turn receive detention or P.E. make ups.

The details have yet to be finalized.

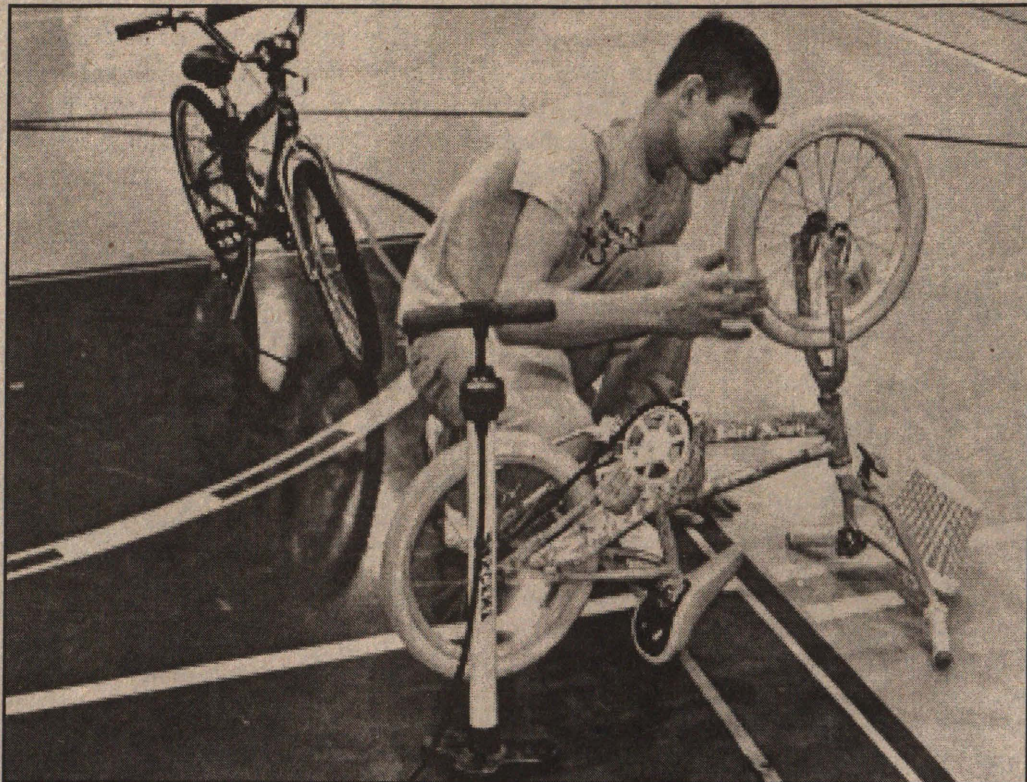


Photo courtesy of Colin Hale

Students in the world studies class create service projects benefitting the community and Wego 2 Africa. Sophomore Scott Wheeland and his group fix bikes for homeless shelters and the school in Angola.

and Scott Wheeland helped both the community and Wego 2 Africa by salvaging and repairing bikes.

For years Hale has "garbage picked" bikes and fixed them himself.

After getting a job working

less shelters that affiliate with the church.

"I felt like I was doing something good and it's obviously going to get people back on their feet," said Hale.

The group collected bikes from Pads, the People's

"I've been working with bikes all my life, but I've never seen Scott with bikes. It started with Scott just filling up the tires, but he caught on fast on his own," said Hale.

So far, the group has repaired 250 bikes; 224 of

April Student of the Month reflects on receiving awards

Senior honored for feats in physics and math

By Jacob Wucka

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.

Academic achievements in physics and math have helped to earn Matt Youngwith the title of April Student of the Month.

What are your high school accomplishments?

I've been on the honor roll all four years. I was named an Illinois State Scholar last year; I was a three sport athlete freshman and sophomore year.

I was named AAPT Physics Student of the Year last year, and I received awards for Outstanding Effort in Mathematics.

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

My favorite teacher would have to be Mrs. Kilgallen. I

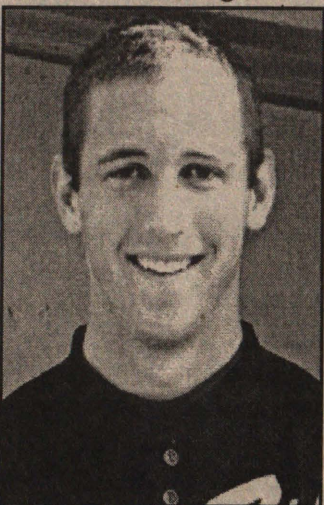


Photo by Trevor Bodie

got a lot of help from teachers with letters of recommendations and things like that, including Mrs. K. I always looked forward to going to her class. She always made math fun.

What clubs are you involved in?

I am a member of National Honor Society and Skills USA.

What is your favorite high

school memory?

My favorite memory is being on the freshman B basketball team. There wasn't any pressure to win, we just went out on the court and had fun.

What do you plan on majoring in?

I am going to major in mechanical engineering at Northern Illinois University (NIU).

Do you plan to do extra curricular activities in college?

I plan on playing baseball in college and I have been accepted into NIU's Leaders and Scholars program, where I am going to be on a committee that focuses on fixing campus issues and leading volunteer opportunities.

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

I think I was chosen because I am a dedicated student who is pretty involved in the school.

'Wego's Next Top Model' stumbles from catwalk

By Jaclyn Coughlan

Negative feedback from students stopped the segment "WeGo's Next Top Model" from premiering on Wego Through the Tube.

"As the commercial played during the advisories, some of the creators reported having heard really negative comments and I think it bothered them to the point of their not wanting to push forward with it," said English teacher Dave

"I think it is kind of stupid and it might cause fights and drama. Also it won't be as funny or entertaining as 'Wego Idol'"

-- Senior Amanda Terry

Jennings.

Students have a lot to say about "WeGo's Next Top Model."

"WeGo's Next Top Model' would be a waste of film

because everyone would just make fun of it and not take it seriously," said sophomore Danielle Van De Klippe.

Senior Amanda Terry agrees and believes that if the segment went through, only bad things would follow with it.

"I think it is kind of stupid and it might cause fights and drama. Also it won't be as funny or entertaining as 'Wego Idol'," Terry said.

Some students have ideas on how to improve this segment if it were still to premiere on Wego Through the Tube.

"I think if they made it more like 'Wego Idol', it would be more entertaining," said sophomore Kelsey Skogsberg.

Not all feedback from students was bad.

"I think 'WeGo's Next Top Model' is a chance to show your courage and have a good time," said sophomore Alyssa Baermann.

Sophomore Molly Monroe agrees with Baermann, "It's a chance to show off your modeling skills."

Slamming poetry

By Jacob Wucka

To help get students interested in poetry, English teachers enlisted the help of a slam poet.

"I think people make assumptions about what poetry is and the students had an attitude that they didn't like poetry," said English teacher Blair Brown.

On March 27, slam poet George Miller showcased the unique form of poetry, which incorporates more sounds, gestures, and interaction with

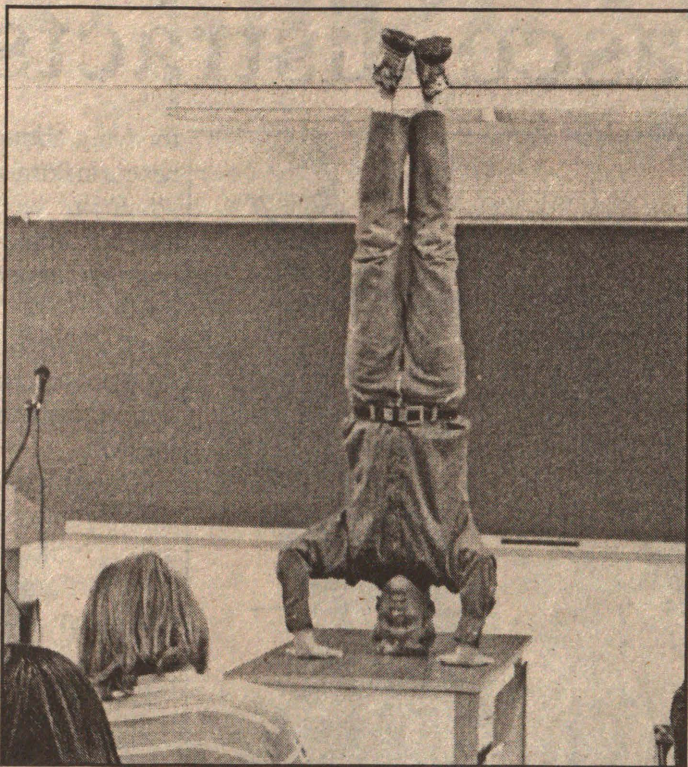


Photo courtesy of Blair Brown

Poet George Miller introduces students to slam poetry, which incorporates more sounds, gestures, and interactions than regular poetry.

"I think people make assumptions about what poetry is and the students had an attitude that they didn't like poetry'

-- Blair Brown

the audience.

According to Brown, the students were surprised by the poet.

"He changed the students perceptions of poetry," said Brown. "The students got to

connect with what he was addressing."

Since Miller's performance, Brown has noticed more excitement with her students when dealing with poetry.

"Some students weren't interested in writing poetry, but after the slam poet, some were interested in writing and even some students were in-

terested in performing slam poetry," said Brown.

Sophomore Kati Siembieda believes the poet shed new light on a boring topic.

"I did think poetry was lame, I certainly won't be writing it anytime soon, but I would appreciate poetry more if I heard it like how he said it," said Siembieda.

Student of the Month known for positivity

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 Jake Bradley

For helping out in the LRC and her passionate attitude towards doing what she loves, Maria Perez was named March Student of the Month

What are your high school accomplishments?

I was honored when my coach, Robert Maxson, asked me to run a 1600 for the medley relay at state.

What clubs are you involved in?

Currently I am not in any clubs because I cannot find the time for them.

What do you intend on majoring in?

There is a tie between therapeutic massage and graphic arts. I found out I was good at massaging during track and I have always had a passion for things in the art field.

What is your favorite

memory from high school?

Watching and cheering for my teammates as they broke the high school track record that hadn't been broken in over 30 years.

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

I'm planning on doing track in college and anything else I find interesting.



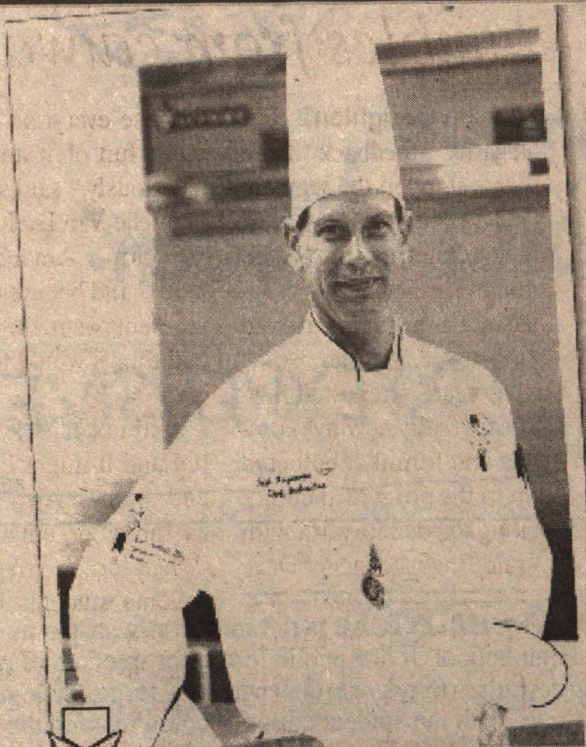
Photo by Jake Bradley

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

I have been helping out the librarians for four years and I have become very close to them. I try my best to help others out and I am a productive person.

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Our View

Democratic fiasco distracts voters

As the presidential primaries draw to a close, the heat is still on for the Democratic Party to select a presidential candidate.

While they sling accusations back and forth, senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are splitting the Democratic Party instead of unifying it.

With only a few states with delegates left, there seems to be no clear winner for the Democrats and they may have to go to the convention to decide.

In Pennsylvania last week, Clinton edged Obama by 10 percent and won 81 delegates.

Now with all of the fuss between Obama and Clinton, Democratic voters around the country are splitting into their own factions.

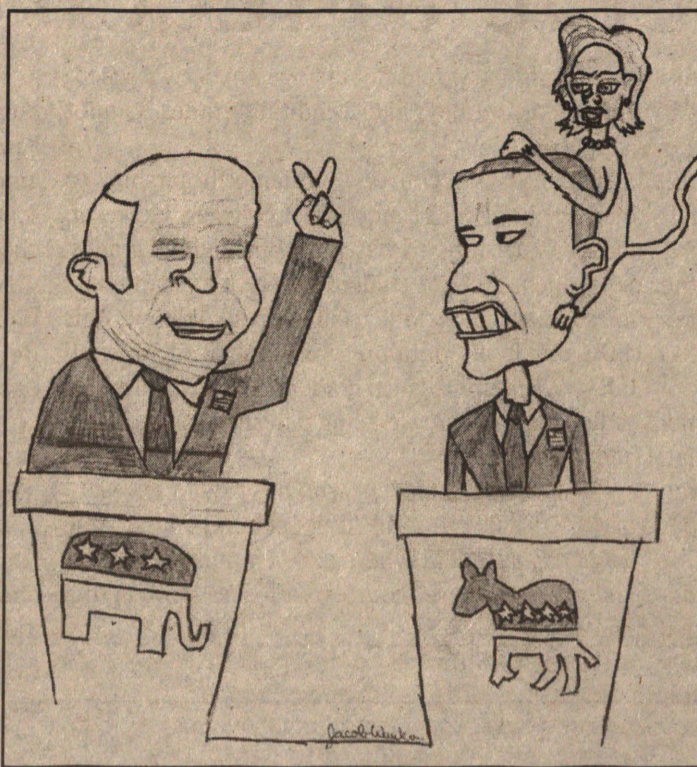
Since both Democrats have

different views, their supporters are turning against their own party.

Clinton fans seem to be bashing Obama for the smallest of reasons, while Obama supporters are pointing out Clinton's past.

Obama has been in trouble with his remarks about the

"bitter voters" of Pennsylvania, and remarks by his pastor,



Reverend Jeremiah Wright.

Clinton has been in trouble

for lying about her trip in Bosnia when she said she was "under constant sniper fire."

All of this finger pointing can distract voters on the fence.

Meanwhile on the Republican side, Senator John McCain is teaming up with his old competitors and bringing the entire Republican Party together.

This November, states might turn more red

than blue. While Obama and Clinton bicker, McCain is giving speeches about his plans as president to supporters, like his proposal of a summer long gas tax suspension, and his ideas for tax cuts.

As Obama and Clinton fight over gun control and photo ops at taverns in Pennsylvania, further splitting the party, McCain is getting his ideas out in different parts of the country.

The spotlight may be on the Democrats now, but when November arrives, McCain will be ready and set since he has had five months more than the Democrats to campaign.

If the Democrats want a victory in November, a clear candidate needs to emerge now, and all the pettiness needs to stop, because McCain is sitting back and waiting for the Democrats to self-destruct.

Five finger discount robs students as lunch prices soar

Money: one of the main concerns with high school students. Food: the other main concern. Often these two things go hand in hand, causing a real problem.

Everyday, hot lunches are available but as they become less affordable, it begs the question, why?

Have the foods dramatically improved from hot lunches to five star restaurant entrees?

No. The foods are exactly the same as they have been for a long time. Not to offend anyone, but let's just say the food is not your average home-cooked meal.

Many students however, do purchase these foods every day. Others steal it.

Stealing isn't a result of students not being able to af-

ford lunch. It comes from the mentality that the food is overpriced for its quality, and they shouldn't have to pay for it.

It doesn't stop there. Once students have had a taste for stealing, it becomes second nature.

As more students resolve to steal lunch instead of paying for it, less money is made during lunch hours.

To cover this loss of money, the lunch prices increase. And when the lunch prices increase more students choose to steal.

We cause the increases ourselves.

Anyone who has stolen food should bite their tongues before they complain.

It is not the school trying to rip us off. It is simply compen-

sation for losses.

The students who don't steal are the ones who lose.

Plenty of students pay full price for lunch everyday without complaint. Other students bring lunch to school.

These students suffer the day that they forget their lunches, they have to pay for all those students who steal.

Is stealing lunch worth it?

According to dean Pete Martino, if a student is caught stealing, the consequence can range from Saturday school to suspension, with a fine.

Increased prices and fines seem like a great way to spend your lunch hour.

But, for a quick steal, the consequence will bite everyone, not only the thief, in the backside.



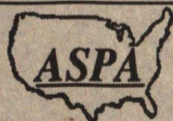
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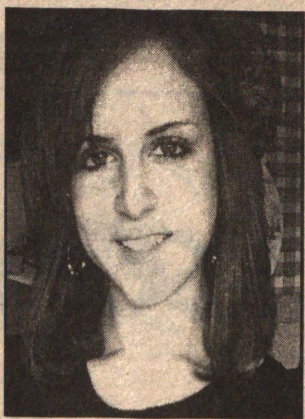


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THE WILDCAT CHRONICLE is the student newspaper at Community High School. It is a public forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views. The chronicle publishes eight times a year, with the student editorial board making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

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

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Kym McDaniel

Students taking challenges deserve to receive rewards

While academic equality is the reason for the school's lack of weighted grades, the school's disregard for the amount of work AP students dedicate to these classes shows nothing but disrespect.

Let's face it: AP students deal with more homework, tests, analytical reading and discussion than any other students in the building. Therefore, why shouldn't grades be weighted to show this hard work and time consuming course?

I don't understand why curriculum changes or adding new courses like advisory are so easily inserted into students' lives and yet something completely

The school's mission to promote academic equality ends at the entryway to the classroom of an AP class.

beneficial that would not change anybody's schedule or cost money, like weighting grades, cannot happen.

Arizona State University offers scholarships to their applicants, like most other colleges. However, these scholarships are based off of weighted grades. So, while a 4.0 GPA student may be a top candidate for scholarships at other colleges, at Arizona, this 4.0 GPA looks unimpressive compared to a 6.0 GPA. While unweighted grades may seem harmless, seniors everywhere are being punished for being AP and 4.0 students.

Furthermore, a student who has taken the easiest of classes and gotten all A's is suddenly in the same league as a student who has taken nothing but AP and advanced level courses with A's. How is that fair?

It's not.

The school cannot deny the fact that they are a public high school. By encompassing this title, they agree that there are many different levels of academia among the students. I enjoy this diversity within the school, however, I feel that students who do take challenges are being punished.

Arguably, top academic schools in the area like Benet Academy do not have weighted grades. Yet, Benet Academy, a private school and regionally recognized for its above average ACT and SAT scores, is obviously easily recognized by college admissions. A public high school does not have this influence.

As the May 1 deadline for college decisions quickly approaches, seniors everywhere are scrambling to finish scholarships and decide last minute college choices. A weighted grade system would not only aid seniors in these decisions, but be a way to reward students who take academic risks.

Money cannot compensate

Families affected by the mass shootings at Virginia Tech agreed to an \$11 million settlement on April 10.

This money will pay for survivors' medical bills, pay for those who lost their loved ones, and allow the college to avoid any future lawsuits concerning who was to blame for the event.

It's understandable why the state is responsible for paying for survivors' medical bills. It would be unfair to hold those injured responsible for paying their bills when they were innocently gunned down.

However, what I cannot wrap my head around is the state thinking it is acceptable to give families who lost their loved ones \$11 million and pretend like everything is okay.

These families lost

their sons, daughters and siblings. The pain and suffering they endured cannot be cured simply by a check.

Although I give credit to the state for attempting to ease the life of those affected by the shooting, I cannot agree with the tactics.

I believe the main reason that they're dishing out \$11 million to the 21 families is for their own personal safety net in order to prevent the families from suing them.

An article written by The Associated Press states that "by accepting the proposal, family members gave up the right to sue the state government, the school, the local governments serving Virginia Tech and the community services board that provides mental-health services in the area."

However, the shooter, Seung-Hui Cho, was ruled a danger to himself in a court commitment hearing in 2005. He was ordered to receive mental health care, but he never received it.

In part, the fault is on Cho's family for not forcing their disturbed son to seek help, but I understand the difficulty in admitting your child into mental treatment is not an easy task.

However, there is some blame on the mental health service centers and the state for not hunting this guy down and giving him the treatment he needed.

Although some may argue that it would be difficult for the state to follow up with every case, it should still be their responsibility for not forcing this shooter

into treatment.

The state should keep track of its most extreme cases, such as Cho, and follow up with them.

I believe that all states should keep track of their most severe cases because, in instances like these, they need to follow up with those persons to ensure another massacre like Virginia Tech does not happen.

This should be a lesson for the states to keep a closer eye on those who need mental treatment.

I think that the state of Virginia needs to accept the full responsibility for its faults instead of shying away from lawsuits. The \$11 million is not a sufficient, purposeful way of offering sympathy to the families who lost more than money can compensate for.

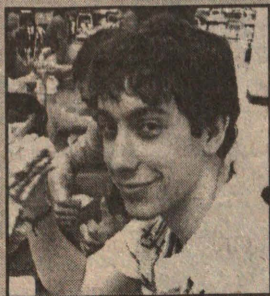


Jessica Bergmann

Students Speak

Compiled by Jessica Bergmann

Do you feel like the food at school is overpriced?



Senior
Justin LeDuc

"Yes. The prices go up every year but it's okay because I won't be here next year."



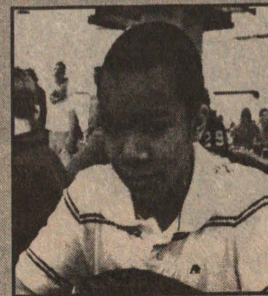
Junior
Bill Heinze

"Yes, because my chicken patty has gone up 25 cents since freshman year."



Sophomore
Quin Gable

"Everything that's healthy is so expensive. You're pretty much obligated to bring something from home."



Freshman
Kevin Lee

"Yes, high school prices are more expensive but the food is better."

Tattoos transform from oddity to art

By Mike Dalton

Art is no longer only seen on canvas and in living rooms; it's now all over the human body.

Tattoos are rapidly becoming more popular, and are not a strange sight to see. They

are now considered an art form, more permanent than paint.

Tatu Tattoo in Chicago is only one of hundreds of tattoo parlors in the Chicago-land area.

Jake, an artist for Tatu Tattoo said he loves his job because there is always something new.

Admitting that he never thought being a tattoo artist would become his career, Jake just said, "I needed a job."

For the past eight years he has been inking all types of people in all types of places.

The most common tattoo that Jake gives on a daily basis "would be lettering, everyone wants differ

spot on the body that most people like to have inked.

"They want them all over now, there is no one common spot," said Jake, who has so many tattoos he does not even know how many, are on his body.

Some people who want tattoos, actually back down Jake said.

Senior Amy Bytof, a hopeful for a tattoo, admits she is very worried about getting it.

"I have a feeling once I hear the needle, I will just start crying," said Bytof. "I'll try to suck it up! It's going to take a few people to hold me down."

Bytof claims she has wanted a tattoo for awhile now. She figures, she is 18, why not?

"It's just now that I can, I'm going to," said

Waugh has had her tattoo since she was 15. "I decided to get it in remembrance of my sister Katie, her name is under the tattoo," said Waugh.

On her lower back, is a pink and purple butterfly with tribal designs on both sides of the wings.

Waugh admitted that she could not get all of her tattoo done in one session. The first time was the outline

of the butterfly, the second session was the color, and the third was color for the tribal.

"The part that hurt the most was the outline," said Waugh. Both Waugh and Bytof agree that if they were to get more than one tattoo, it would have to be something with special meaning to their lives.

"Right now, I only want one. However, if something happens to me in my life that is important, you never know," said Bytof.

Waugh understands the permanence of a tattoo, and wants others to also. "Tatoos are forever, you don't

want to regret your decision," Waugh said.

Celebrities know this truth all too well. Actress and model Angelina Jolie has 13 tattoos, but has admitted to removing and covering three.

Jolie follows the lettering trend that Jake has described.

With words in Latin such as "Quod me nutrit me destruit" (what nourishes me destroys me) in gothic lettering, Jolie fits in with the thousands of teens getting tattoos today.

Bytof. Bytof would like to have a star "like Drew Heidens, I love hers," either on her foot or on the side of her body under the armpit.

Whatever Bytof chooses to get, she wants to make sure it's meaningful and she won't regret it when she is 40.

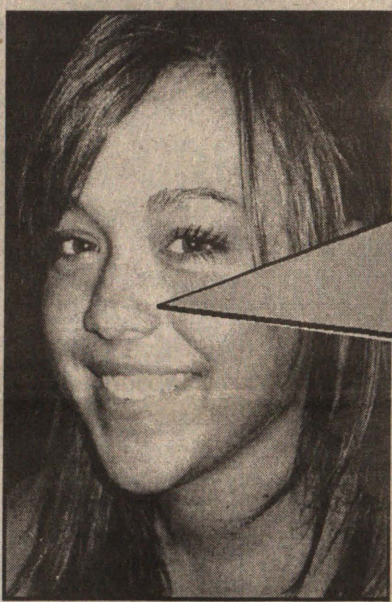
Fellow senior Ashley

Chris, a tattoo and piercing professional in Downers Grove

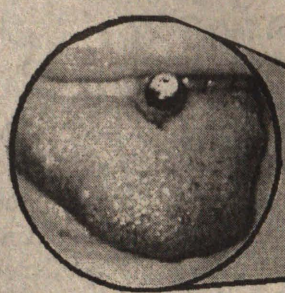


Self mutilate the new trend

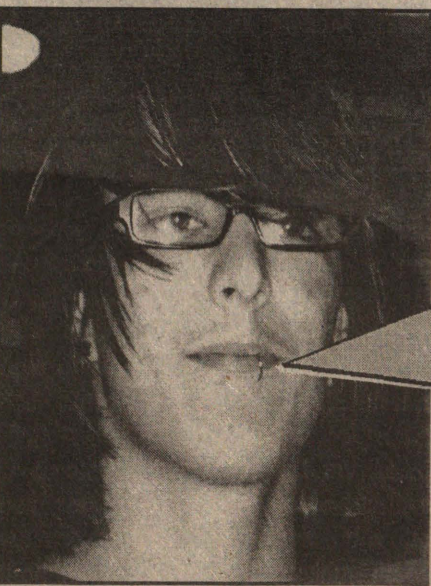
In 2006, 51 percent of college students had piercings which is a 10 percent increase from 2005. Can you look past pain, permanence and potential infection for a new tattoo?



Junior Molly Cody



Senior Jenni



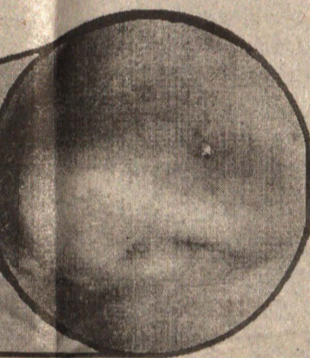
Senior Sean DeFelice

mark on teens

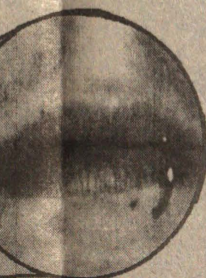


ation:
end

while 22 percent had tattoos.
infection to get a piercing or



ni Aramburu



Infections seep into skin

By Greg Vodicka

As tattoos and piercings become a significantly popular way of self-expression, the dangerous risks of the procedures are pushed aside.

According to WebMD Medical News, Dr. David Rosen, of the University of Michigan, spring break is a time when many people make the decision to get a tattoo or body piercing. Unfortunately, they are not using common sense when choosing the shop they get it done at.

"There are some wonderful shop operators who do a terrific job, and ones who don't," said Rosen.

Nurse Beth Jones advises that if you choose to get a tattoo, go to some place reputable.

"Make sure they are using clean utensils, such as needles," said Jones.

Senior Randi Richie chose a shop based on friends who had recently gotten tattoos there.

"I knew it was safe because I saw the guy take the needle he was going to use out of the package," said Richie.

A tattoo artist should provide you with detailed instructions about how to care for the tattoo, such as cleaning the tattoo with soap and water, applying moisturizer regularly and avoiding sun exposure for at least the first few weeks, according to Jeanie Davis of WebMD Medical News.

Brad Olson, a tattoo artist from Insane Ink in Addison, said there is a proper protocol of things they must inform their cli-

ents after giving them a tattoo.

"We get in a lot of trouble if we make any mistakes concerning hygiene and care for the tattoo, so we are extra careful," said Olson.

Experiencing similar care, Richie said she was comfortable leaving the tattoo parlor.

"They told me everything I needed to know about taking care of my tattoo, leaving me confident I could handle it," said Richie.

Although diseases like HIV and hepatitis B are more likely to be transmitted through sexual activity, the viruses can be transmitted by nonsterile tattooing and piercing practices according to mayoclinic.com. In addition, hepatitis C, tetanus, and tuberculosis are risks from tattoos.

Some people find out they are allergic to certain dyes too late. Tattoo dyes, particularly red dye, can cause allergic skin reactions, resulting in an itchy rash. This may occur even years after you get the tattoo.

According to Rosen, infections are one of the most common negative effects of body art. Junior Chris Jackson, who recently received a tattoo, said he was not worried about any kind of infection.

"People get tattoos every day without them getting infected. Why would mine

be any different?" said Jackson.

Also, people often discover they are allergic to metals such as nickel and brass, causing allergic reactions to the jewelry when getting body piercings.

According to Jones, infections in the ear and nose clear up fairly quick, but the mouth and lips become much more serious.

"The mouth is the dirtiest part of the body, and germs can get in openings easily," said Jones.

Jones also said the biggest concern is belly button piercings.

"The procedure punctures through the abdominal wall. This causes a risk of peritonitis, which is why it concerns me the most," said Jones.

Jones also said that you can get extremely sick from peritonitis, and it is not something to be taken lightly.

"My belly button piercing got infected when I had it done about two years ago. It took forever to get rid of it," said junior Chelsey Wilbur.

Wilbur chose a ring that her piercer said would work fine. The ring cut into her piercing, causing it to become infected.

"I thought it was going to be easy with no consequences, but it turned into something I probably could have prevented," said Wilbur.

Procedures like piercing the tongue often leads to chipping or cracking teeth, and damage to gums.

If you take steps to protect yourself, what seems like a cool idea now is less likely to turn into a source of regret later.



Piercing through teen culture

By Joann Kaczmarczyk

People have been willingly putting holes in their body to decorate themselves since ancient times.

Egyptians were among the first people to wear earrings, according to Lucy P. Roberts, author of "The History of Body Piercings." Any wealthy Egyptian had ear piercings to show off their wealth and beauty.

Pharaohs wore navel rings to signify power. Anyone else that tried to pierce their navel could be executed.

The Native Americans of Central and South America, mainly the Aztecs and Mayas, practiced tongue piercing for religious purposes. A septum pierced with a boar tusk made them appear more intimidating.

Meanwhile, guys getting pierced in one ear comes from the Renaissance. Sailors pierced one ear to improve their sight, and they also had a practical purpose. Should the sailor die at sea, his body would wash up on shore, and whoever found him was expected to give him a proper burial and keep the gold earring as payment.

Nowadays, everywhere you look girls and guys alike are expressing themselves through body piercings.

Senior Sean DeFelice has his lip pierced, and he has a gauge in his left ear.

A gauge is a rod that stretches the size of your pierced hole.

"It hurts at first. When I got it done, I took it from a standard to a four. It bled a lot. I did it while I was walking through Target," said DeFelice.

But piercing is more common among females.

Senior Krista Kraus decided to get a conch, or inner ear piercing recently.

"I was walking around in a foreign country where the piercing age was lower than in the U.S. It

was spur of the moment," said Kraus.

Despite the sudden decision, Kraus looked into the credibility of the parlor.

"Matt (the piercing artist) was covered in tattoos and piercings. He wore gloves and all the instruments had been autoclaved and cleaned in alcohol," Kraus said.

Kraus paid \$70 to pierce her inner ear, but some people don't want to dish out the big bucks, even if it ensures safety.

"I pierced my Monroe (area above lip) in the fitting room where I work. I'd wanted to do it myself for a long time," said senior Sam Siefert.

Siefert's parents did not ap-

prove of any piercings other than her original ear piercings.

"[My parents] did not pre-approve, because I happened to be away from them. They were mad about the cost, but not the actual piercing," said Kraus.

Siefert took her piercing out to avoid infection, but would not have been much safer going to respectable stores like Claire's and Icing.

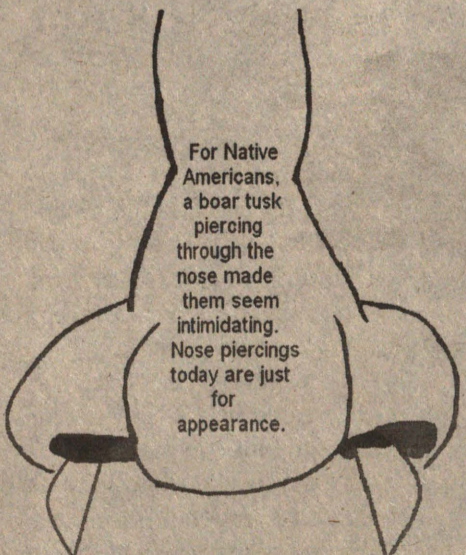
Mal has been working at Claire's for a couple of months, where she pierces others, and also has gotten pierced.

Mal is not required to take a class or be certified to be allowed to pierce. Instead, her manager supervised as she practiced piercing the ears of dummies.

"We have to pierce a certain amount of dummies before we are allowed to pierce customers," said Mal.

Whether done by hand or at a store, for fashion or fun, piercings aren't going away anytime soon.

"Some people just look good, even better, with a piercing or two. It's just an interesting way to express yourself," said Siefert.





What is love?



Homosexuality meant losing friends

By Sarah Berger

**The name has been changed to protect the privacy of the person involved.*

A typical teenager's biggest concerns are over what to wear the next day to school or weekend plans. Others, on the other hand, have to deal with bigger worries, such as their sexuality.

Adam*, a sophomore, had always known he was different. It wasn't anything anybody else could notice, but Adam just knew.

He didn't see a problem with being gay; the real challenge would be convincing other people of that. The first people Adam had to tell were his parents.

"The hardest thing I ever did was come out to my parents. My family is really Christian conservative, and when I told them I was gay, I could feel this awkwardness between us, and I still can," said Adam, who came out last year.

Although Adam's parents had a hard time accepting the

fact that he was gay, they still love him.

"Just because I'm not the

After his parents knew about Adam's "secret," he waited a couple months be-

business to begin with," said Adam. One of Adam's concerns was if he would feel

plained Adam.

Adam just wanted to tell everybody and get it over with, and then braced himself for the outcome.

"My best friends accept me, but of course I've lost some friends, too. I understand being gay is something that a lot of people are against, so I lost a couple friends because of that," said Adam.

Adam also said that some of his friends just "reacted weird to it and we just don't hang out or talk anymore."

Although losing a few friends was difficult for Adam, he now realizes that the ones that have stuck with him through everything are the ones he can truly trust. Coming out was difficult for him, but now that it's out in the open, Adam feels a huge sense of relief.

"At first, my best friend kept calling me brave for coming out. I'm starting to understand that by doing this, I am going to be perceived differently by everyone," Adam said.

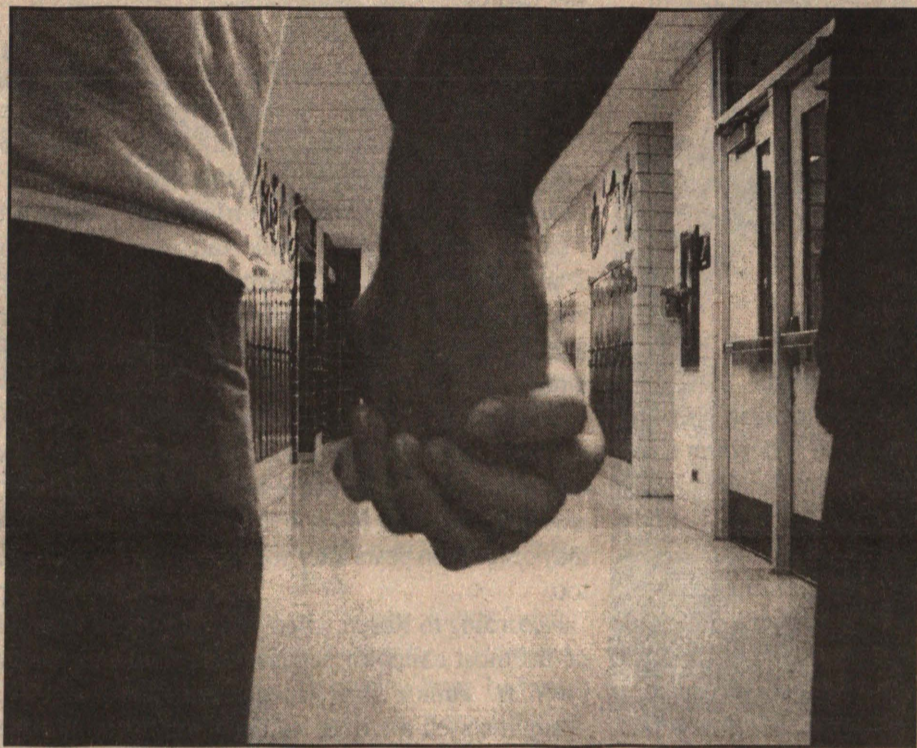


Photo by Kym McDaniel

quarterback on the football team who's dating a cheerleader, that doesn't make me less of a person and it doesn't reflect my parents' characters whatsoever," said Adam.

fore coming out to his peers. "I chose to come out because I was sick of people always guessing if I was gay or straight. I don't get why everyone tried to make it their

safe at the school.

"I don't think that many people are comfortable with me being who I am, and I was worried that I would get harassed or beaten up," ex-

Closeting secrets:

I know everyone is not going to accept me and I know that I have to agree to disagree and be cool with it'

--"Steve"

By Jacob Wucka

**The name has been changed to protect the privacy of the person involved.*

For teenagers, creating their personal niche in the social classes of these hallways is a daunting task.

However, for sophomore Steve*, coming out was his way of acknowledging his self-discovery.

"(I've known) since puberty. It took me a while to accept it but I always kind of knew," said Steve.

Steve felt pressured to come out following his freshman year in high school.

Steve began to realize that people had started dating,

and to fit in, he would either have to come out or continue to closet his homosexuality.

"It's a big burden to carry; hiding your life," said Steve. "You have to fit the male perception. I used to be scared. I thought that I had a high pitched voice so I would try deepening my voice, and I thought I had girly handwriting so I would write messy on purpose. It drains you after awhile. It's harder being gay before you come out to people."

Within the first months of his sophomore year, Steve started coming out to family. The first person he told was his mom because he knew

she was comfortable with homosexuality.

"I felt comfortable around her, but I hated telling my dad because it's awkward and you feel like you're letting him down," said Steve.

At first, Steve's dad was confused when Steve came out to him.

"My dad asked me 'how do I know if I have never been with a guy?' You can still be sexually attracted to someone even if you haven't been with them," said Steve.

However, Steve received criticism about coming out from a counselor that he saw for unrelated reasons.

"She was really religious

and said that I could change and that's the cool thing about God," said Steve.

Steve told the counselor that he agreed, although he did not.

The counselor then told Steve to look into the eyes of the Lord and that He would lead him out of homosexuality.

Still, his family accepted Steve, and after telling his parents and his brother, Steve began coming out to his friends.

"Everyone was cool with it. I only told people I was comfortable with. It was easier than it seems," said Steve. "Close friends treat me

the same. People are supportive and are like 'it must have taken a lot of guts to come out.'"

After telling close friends, Steve told ex-girlfriends that he had from middle school.

"One of them laughed and didn't believe me at first, but after awhile she believed me," said Steve.

Since admitting that he was gay, Steve's life has been altered.

Still, he has learned to adapt to the changes that came with coming out.

"I know everyone is not going to accept me and I know that I have to agree to disagree and be cool with it."

THE INSIDE OUT

Human anatomy students visit a cadaver lab

By Kym McDaniel

The scent of formaldehyde filled every crevice of the room where the cadavers lay peeled open upon on the

Four cadavers were available for the students to study, a unique opportunity that science teacher Hank Murphy fought for during his four

year and only last year and this year were the labs available at COD.

Human anatomy students, juniors and seniors, were

in his five-hour human anatomy class. "(Cadavers are) an important part of anatomy."

Three of the four cadavers were on their backs while one was on its stomach. The cause of death and age of each cadaver was labeled at the bottom of the metal table.

Surprisingly, the eyeballs and teeth were still intact along with the skin, which had been cut perfectly so it could be peeled back to show the internal structures.

The cause of death for the prone cadaver involved clogged vessels from cholesterol in his arteries. The students were able to feel the arteries and veins in the cadaver's leg, and compare the texture of each. The vein, a thin-walled vessel, was smooth with no bumps inside. The artery, which was clogged with cholesterol, was thick and bumpy.

Murphy explained back in the classroom that if the artery was clogged in the leg, then the arteries around the heart must have been even worse, compressing the heart and eventually leading to the man's death.

"There were little holes and ridges where you could feel that was where the cholesterol clogged the arteries,"

added senior Heather Busch.

Another cadaver was a female and died of cachexia at 102 years old. Cachexia, an anorexic-like disease was very apparent within the cadaver. The abdominal muscles were barely there, basically nonexistent, attributed to the cachexia.

Along with another cadaver who had pancreatic cancer, Murphy hypothesized when discussing the cachexic cadaver that she might have had pancreatic cancer also, as pancreatic cancer also contributes to lack of appetite.

Dr. Peter Porter, the COD lab director said the bodies were purchased from a cadaver bank two years ago and will be returned to the families in the summer for burial or cremation.

Since the bodies were being returned to the families, names and other personal information were hidden.

Because the bodies had been in the lab for two years, they were more dried out than Murphy would have liked.

Human anatomy students also get to dissect cats and cow hearts within the course. The course can count for a science credit at COD, a reason that Murphy was able to get the students into the lab.

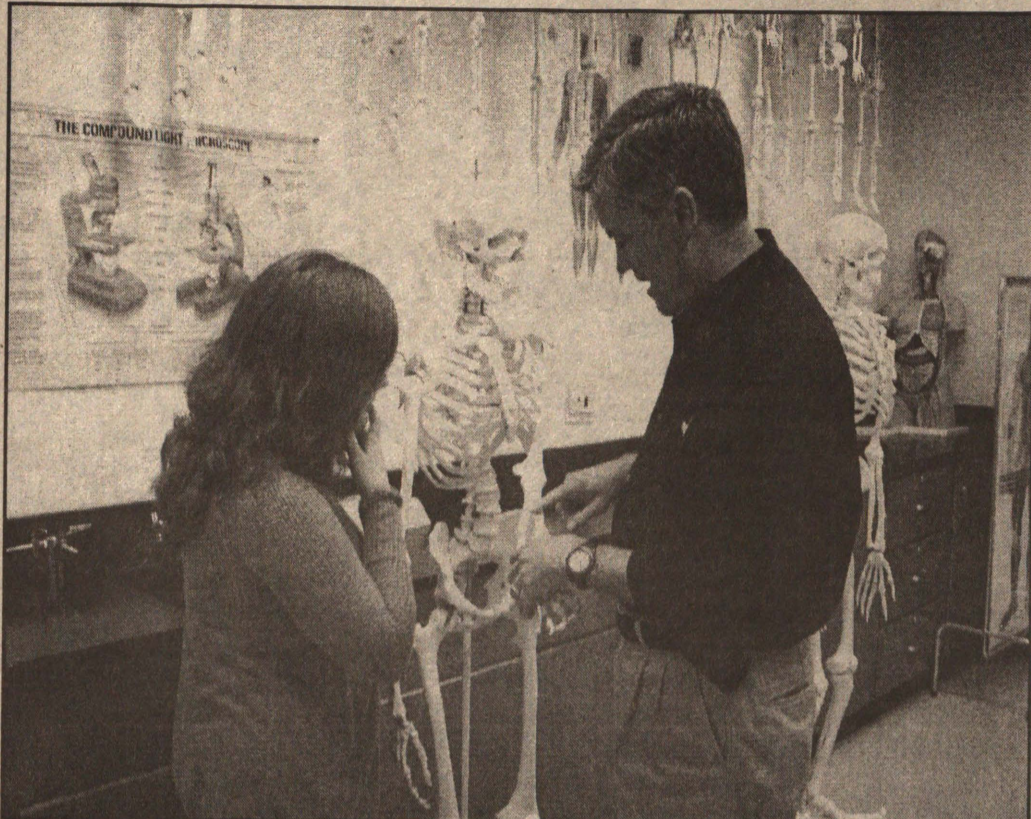


Photo by Kym McDaniel

Human anatomy teacher Hank Murphy and junior Sally Brown saw a skeleton in its flesh and blood upon visiting the COD cadaver lab in early April. Back in the classroom, Murphy and Brown discuss the composition of the human bone.

metal tables.

This scene was not unfamiliar to human anatomy students who were able to visit College of DuPage's (COD) cadaver lab April 11.

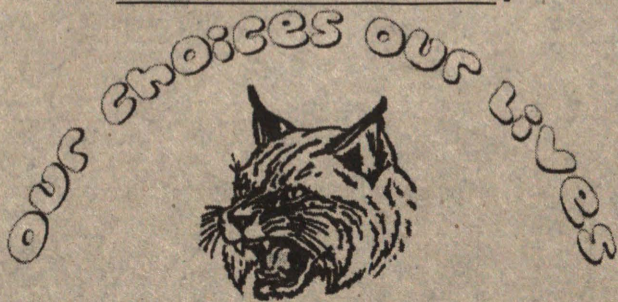
years of teaching human anatomy. Murphy was unable to visit a human cadaver lab his first year of teaching, but won a raffle for his students to see a cadaver his second

able to touch the cadavers with gloves on and view organs and systems they had learned about in class.

"It's a unique way to learn about the body," said Murphy

A few reminders from "Our Choices, Our Lives"

The majority of students at CHS don't drink alcohol, and the majority of students prefer parties without alcohol.



Instead of drinking alcohol you can drink the following:

- Water
- Pop
- Sports drink
- Energy drink
- Juice



ABC Family struck gold with new show 'Greek'

By Sara Fouts and Joann Kaczmarczyk

Viewers across the nation can now experience the true Greek Life with the hit show "Greek."

The second season premiered March 24 on the ABC Family Network at 7 p.m.

In the show, a group of college students are heavily involved in the Greek life on the fictional campus of Cypress-Rhodes University in Ohio.

"'Greek' is one of my favorite shows," said senior Amy Bytof. "If someone wants to hang out with me on Monday at 7, I will not do any-

thing besides sit in front of the TV and watch it. I won't even answer the phone or talk to anyone."

The show's demographic focuses on high school and college students in their late teens and early 20s. Bytof's brother, 22-year-old Brad ('04), is in a fraternity and also watches the show.

"He says that it is 95 percent true, and the rest is TV," says Bytof.

Brad is not the lone col-

lege viewer. Northern Illinois University student and sorority member Carri Wostrazky ('05) watches the show, along with her sisters.

"It's really interesting because it's another teen show, but I can relate to it because I'm in Greek life," said Wostrazky.

it's just life drama—everyone experiences it, not just sorority members," said Eckdahl.

"Some of the things they get in trouble for do actually happen, like the drinking, and nationals come to talk with us to fix the situation," said Wostrazky.

For seniors who plan to join a sorority or fraternity in college, Wostrazky warns not to believe everything on the show.

"People should know that it really is not all parties and craziness, but that it really requires dedication," said Wostrazky. "Grades are actually very important. You need to be enrolled as a full-time student and have a decent GPA to be an active member."

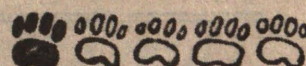
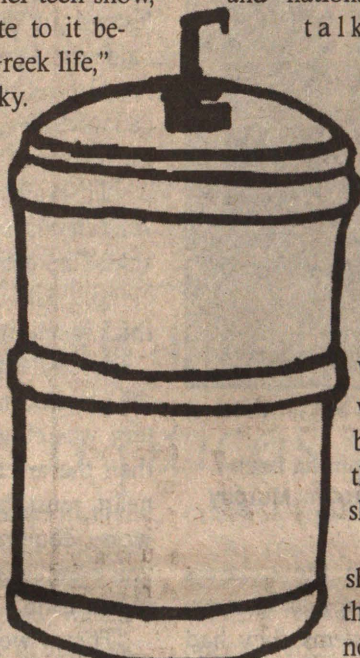
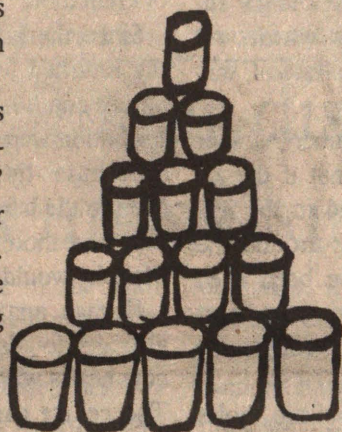
Overall, "Greek" is a fun show, and proves to have some accuracy when it comes to portraying college life, with realistic plot lines and some scripted dialogue.

However, Wostrazky disagrees with how much of the show is real.

"There is a decent amount that is realistic, but obviously a lot is over exaggerated. The characters in the show can definitely relate to people in real life," said Wostrazky.

Sophomore sorority member at University of Illinois, Katie Eckdahl ('06), agrees.

"The show categorizes it as sorority drama and stereotypes it as such, but in reality



Bravo needs to step up and make it seem real

By Kym McDaniel

Reality shows have always been considered a little out of reality.

However, "Step It Up and Dance" gives reality a whole new outrageous and fake meaning.

The show airs on Bravo on Thursdays at 9 p.m., and doing homework would be better than watching the nonsense.

Twelve dancers premiered in the show's opening, ranging from a go-go dancer to a graduate from the prestigious The Julliard School in New York. Sure, the go-go dancer might be expected on a reality show such as "Step It Up and Dance," but what is a graduate of the most impressive dance school in the country doing on a low-class reality show? He is obviously just wasting his time.

During the first show, the 12 dancers were introduced and quickly told they were going to a club that night. At the club, they realized that instead of dancing for fun, they were in the middle of their first challenge. The judges were introduced, none of which were very notable (where is Mia Michaels?) and then separated the 12 into two groups.

Already, the show is boring. "Cody" the Julliard dancer, is put into the number two group, the group that will compete later in the show to stay for next week. Group one is safe from elimination this week. Are the judges serious? Cody most assuredly has more technique than "Miguel" a flamboy-

ant graduate of University of California who has choreographed on MTV's "Rob and Big." Another ridiculous reality show which does not encompass any dancing, this makes Miguel's credentials a little shady.

Furthermore, Miguel's free-style, what the judges based their group selection off of looked like he was a chicken flopping around with his head cut off. Miguel's mullet haircut looked better than his dancing.

Although the show displayed little promise throughout the first half, there was still some hope left as the dance off premiered. Dancers like Cody and "Jessica," a graduate from the Academy of Dance in California and a member of the Civic Ballet, definitely had some talent. However, Jessica ran off crying in the middle of the horrendous Spice Girl's song the group had been choreographed with.

Why is a member of the Civic Ballet of California running off crying in the middle of a Spice Girl's song? Clearly it was all for TV.

The worst part of the show came when at the end of both group's performances, the judges awarded Janelle, a hip hop dancer from California the amnesty of not getting eliminated next week because she performed the best.

A hip-hop dancer/ex-cheerleader wins for the day.

The contestants should re-evaluate their "passion."

Stop obsessive fans from stalking celebs



By Mike Dalton

Oh my God! There's Britney Spears! Let's chase her and take lots of pictures."

I just can't comprehend why celebrities' lives are so fascinating.

I don't care if Britney

Spears walks into a gas station restroom without shoes on. I don't care if Cameron Diaz and Justin Timberlake broke up. I don't care if Lindsay Lohan is taking drugs and ruining her life.

What makes these people so different from everybody else? Yes, they have fame and a large income, but that does not matter. Just because they are used to being in the limelight, does not mean the paparazzi and shows like "The Soup" and "TMZ" have to follow their every move.

It is a sad day when the lat-

est celebrity break up is one of the top news stories, over the recent troubles in Iraq.

On April 8, CNN.com had half the "latest news" stories about celebrities or reality TV shows.

The number one story for the day was about an actress shooting a sex scene in her latest movie.

The number two story was about the hospitalization of singer Toni Braxton.

Under those two riveting reports came the more serious news, a story about a threat to end a cease-fire in Baghdad.

It is ridiculous to think that a sex scene in a movie or a singer's trip to the hospital should count as important news to get people through

their day.

For whatever reason, celebrities' lives are so much more interesting to the world.

The basic rule of thumb seems to be, if a person enters the Hollywood limelight then whatever they do in their day-to-day activities instantly becomes the best news story on the planet.

On April 6-7, it was reported that Johnny Depp would be filming in Aurora at the Paramount Theatre. Hundreds lined up outside his trailer just to catch a glimpse of the Hollywood star.

A Winfield resident claimed to have stayed outside Depp's trailer past one in the morning so she could take a picture of him.

I understand the desire to

meet famous people because they do amazing work in films, much like Depp. However, staying late into the night just to see one of them is a bit extreme.

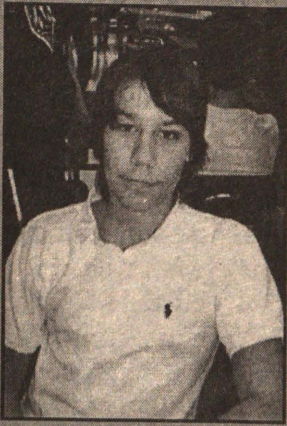
If I had the chance to sit down with a celebrity whom I admire, I would. But I do not want to stand around in the cold for hours on end to see a face.

The way the media has turned these people's lives into a 24/7 TV screen just says something about our culture.

They have different jobs. They have ridiculous amounts of money. Those are the only things separating celebrities from the rest of the population.

Just let them be.

What music would you like to hear in the halls?



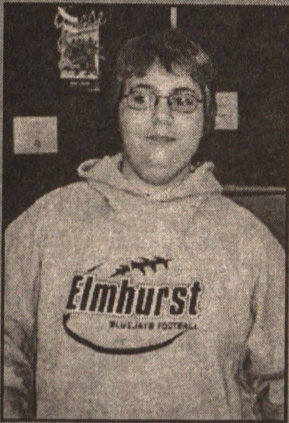
Freshman Brendan O'Malley

"I would really like to hear Bob Marley, but the music they play now is good too."



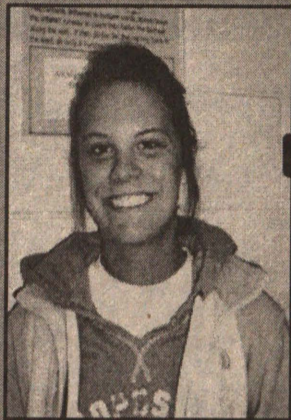
Sophomore Connie Tan

"I'd like to hear some hardcore rap, like TuPac, all the time."



Junior Jimmy Aramburu

"I want to hear some rock so I could just jam out in the hallways, possibly some blues, too."



Senior Amy Bytof

"I like oldies music, but some Rascal Flatts would be nice."

Compiled by Joann Kaczmarczyk

'Prom Night' should have stayed home with some Ben and Jerry's

By Jessica Bergmann

With a far from terrifying storyline, "Prom Night" is sure to be a disappointment for those looking for a thrill.

Donna (Brittany Snow) is victimized by former male teacher turned stalker psycho killer, who goes on a murderous rampage to try and be with her.

After seeing her family murdered before her eyes, Donna is forced to live with the memories forever, even though the former teacher turned killer is locked up for good. Or so she thinks.

As the end of senior year approaches, Donna is hopeful that she will be able to overcome her past, graduate, and go to college and live happily ever after with boyfriend Bobby.

However, Donna can never fully be happy because she suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, which causes her to have bad dreams and hallucinations and makes her jump at every small surprise.

The writers manipulated Donna's character flaw and used it for cheap thrills and scares, although at times it was still just enough to make you jump.

The audience never knows whether Donna is just having a bad dream or if the event

is really occurring. Although these dreams were annoying at times, they offered a new way of questioning what was coming next and made the storyline somewhat unpredictable.

As prom night begins, Donna and Bobby, along with two other couples, rent a limo and drive to what they think is going to be the best night of their lives. Little do they know that Donna's stalker has escaped from jail and will do anything to be with her. Detectives are notified and go to secure Donna's house and the hotel that prom is taking place in.

Donna's stalker checks into the hotel on the same floor that the group is staying on. He gains access to their room by killing a maid and waits patiently for Donna.

Although the concept of the stalker was a good idea, the character was not fully developed enough to appear intimidating or threatening. In order to have a successful horror flick, the killer needs to be the best part and this guy fails to deliver.

The movie begins to get long and repetitive as we see three of Donna's friends being savagely stabbed in their hotel room by the stalker as he continues to wait for her.

Finally, the detectives real-

ize the killer is in the hotel and pull the fire alarm to evacuate the building. Donna, being an idiot, decides she needs to go to the hotel room to grab her scarf. There, the killer is waiting for her.

These lapses in judgment for Donna are irritating. She does all the wrong things which put her in all the wrong situations.

In the end, the audience can't help but laugh at her for being so stupid. A real horror movie would not have audiences laughing humorously at the victim.

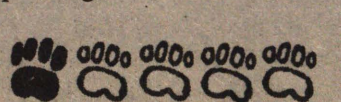
Donna manages to escape and so does the killer and, ironically, they both end up at her house at the end of the night.

The end of the movie approaches the ridiculous factor and has audiences saying, "Are you serious!?"

The film has a rather abrupt, predictable ending which is disappointing to see in what is considered a horror flick.

The film delivers some heart racing moments, but it's not enough to be talked about afterwards.

In the end, "Prom Night" turns out to be a rather disappointing horror flick.



Move over Rowling, Meyer is taking over

By Kym McDaniel

Readers will be up beyond twilight reading Stephanie Meyer's novel trilogy.

Meyer's books, "Twilight," "New Moon" and "Eclipse" have made Meyer an up and coming J.K. Rowling.

Meyer's success can be greatly linked to her quirky characters and unique style of writing.

After graduation from Brigham Young University, Meyer published "Twilight"

in 2005 with "New Moon" and "Eclipse" following quickly after. The books focus on Bella Swan, an average teen who moves from sunny Arizona to Forks,

Washington to live with her dad.

Convinced that living in Forks will be as miserable as the terrible rainy weather there, Bella predicts her junior and senior years in Forks to be boring and predictable.

However, everything in Bella's life is called into question upon meeting Edward Cullen.

Edward and his adopted brothers and sisters live with the wealthy Carlisle and wife Esme.

From there, the books escalate as Bella risks her life to spend time with Edward.

While the entire town of Forks knows that the Cullens are beautiful and wealthy, they are the most suspicious and mysterious family in the small town.

Unbeknownst to the rest of the human world, Edward and the rest of his family are less normal than meets the eye.

Similarly, the trials and tribulations that Edward and Bella undergo as a couple are not so normal either.

Unlike other authors whose talent and ideas dwindle for sequels, "Eclipse," the most recent of the trilogy, is even more compelling than the first two.

While both "Twilight" and "New Moon" deal with Bella's consequences of dating

Edward, "Eclipse" goes into more detail regarding the Cullen's history.

Each Cullen family member has his or her own unique story that slowly becomes unraveled throughout the three books.

The slowest plot between the three was definitely "New Moon," as Edward is absent throughout most of the novel.

Meyer's concentration on character development and

detail not only furthers the plot, but fascinates and forces fans to continue reading.

"My focus is the characters, that's the part of the story that is most important to me. I feel



the best way to write believable characters is to really believe in them yourself," said Meyer on her website. "Hear the conversations that your characters would have when they're not doing anything exciting; let them talk in your head, get to know them."

Unfortunately, there are some drawbacks to the book. Although a romantic and thrilling plot, the technicalities of the story becomes questionable at certain points.

It would be likely that after a few readings, a pencil would be useful to correct mistakes and awkward sentences rather than just enjoying the plot.

Because the plot is enthralling the first read through, it's easier to ignore the inadequate sentences and and vocabulary.

"Breaking Dawn," the anticipated fourth book comes out on Aug 2, to reader's delight.

The countdown to the book's release begins on May 31 when the first chapter will be printed in paperback copies of "Eclipse."

"Breaking Dawn" is expected to triumph the "Eclipse," release which sold 150,000 copies the first day. Meyer's trilogy has sold over 5.5 million copies worldwide.



High school paper, or daytime soap opera?

MTV's 'The Paper' embarrasses its cast, annoys viewers

By Mike Dalton

Fake drama should stay on daytime soap operas, and leave cable TV alone.

MTV's new reality show "The Paper," which airs Monday nights at 9 p.m., could not be any more stupid and over dramatic.

Filmed at Cypress Bay High School in Weston, Fla., the newspaper, The Circuit, apparently runs the school.

A wide range of people who obviously have nothing better to do with their lives than star in a reality show about a high school newspaper populate the show.

The newly named editor in chief, Amanda, is the most pompous and cocky of the whole bunch.

While everyone is out celebrating the completion of their latest issue, Amanda stays at home working on essays and thinking up stupid sayings like "procrastination is a foe I have not yet met."

If there is one character on reality television to most likely be punched in the face, it would be her.

Fighting against Amanda's power trips is business manager, Adam.

Adam seems like he doesn't

belong on this particular show, he looks like he would fit in better on a Broadway stage production because he is a drama queen.

Between freaking out over someone forgetting to pay for an ad or storming out of the room because he can't take it anymore, Adam has a few issues that should be addressed.

After the first episode when the new positions were posted, the former sports editor Alex became second in command.

As soon as Amanda was named editor, everyone on staff began telling Alex that they would give him their stories and not listen to what she said.

Uh oh, seems like there's already too much drama to handle for this show.

Those who actually write for a newspaper such as the Chronicle should just laugh at the ridiculousness of "The Paper" and change the channel.

Another former contender for the editor job is Giana. While she claimed to want the job, she was too distracted kissing her loud-mouthed idiot boyfriend, Trevor.

One of the two cannot be seen on screen without the other. It's really sickening to watch them suck face every second while they're supposed to be working on such a prestigious newspaper.

Not only does "The Paper" have too much fake drama, but many of the events that take place on the show are completely unrealistic and



do not match up with what a real newspaper does during deadline week.

Deadline is the last few days before the newspaper gets sent to the printer so it is ready to be distributed throughout the school.

On the show, they claim to have a staff of 50 kids, but how come the same seven are only seen on camera?

If deadline is as important

to them as they say it is, then why do they have all the time in the world to sit around and complain to the camera about who is being the biggest jerk for the day?

MTV really needs to step it up and maybe not try to think so outside the box next time. A high school newspaper? Come on.

"The Paper" ranks right up there with "That's Amore," meaning that a group of elderly people at a retirement home would probably be more interesting and realistic than the garbage these shows are spewing out.

The Chronicle is nothing like this show, and from one newspaper to another, The Circuit is an embarrassment and a joke.

Sure the Chronicle has drama, but at least it's real. No one ever runs out of the room crying like a 5-year-old girl who didn't get the right Barbie for Christmas, cough Adam.

People like Amanda and Adam, should stop focusing on how stressful their jobs are at their school newspaper and should really seek help

from local therapists. Or, at the very least they should sit down with their parents and discuss why they are so annoying.

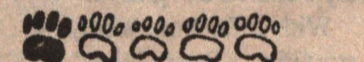
It seems completely unrealistic that a large school like Cypress Bay would be so focused with the paper.

The way the show is portrayed, the school seems to worship the ground these editors and reporters walk on.

While it does fulfill its promise of drama, "The Paper" just can't deliver. Watching Amanda and her other editors is like watching a lion eat a smaller animal on the Discovery Channel: It's so disgusting, but you just can't look away.

MTV needs to take a break from finding the most interesting reality show, because honestly it just isn't working for them. The station should try to create a show that doesn't make the viewers want to reach through their TV's and strangle the stars.

Looking away from the fakeness of all those involved, "The Paper" is good for only one thing: a good laugh at how stupid it is.



Vote for Maddy Dall

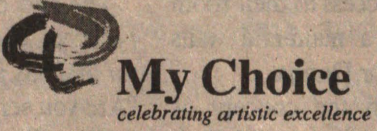
DuPage Credit Union is proud to host the My Choice Art Exhibit featuring artwork from 19 local high school students.

Help West Chicago Community High School and your school's student artist, Maddy Dall, win prizes! Stop by the DuPage Credit Union My Choice Art Exhibit and cast a ballot for your favorite work of art.

For more information and gallery hours visit dupagecu.com/mychoice.

Stop by and cast your vote!

- When** ■ April 30th - May 9th
- Where** ■ College of DuPage
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Catching the conference title

By Greg Vodicka

April showers did not put a damper on the softball team. After a wet start to the season, the girls have overcome the weather, pushing themselves into first in conference.

The girls beat the DVC's first place team, Naperville Central, 2-1, after nine innings. This victory pushed the team into a tie for first place.

After another victory April 23 against Glenbard East, the team clinched their first place slot.

With numerous rainouts, every program has missed games, according to head coach Jim Shout.

"We still practice every single day, but the girls start to wonder why they are practicing with the absence of games," said Shout.

Shout also said it was hard to make progress and improve with only a game a week.

The girls shut out Naperville North April 18, with the help of freshman Mary Connolly's 11 strike-outs. Senior Linnea Detrick and junior Chrissie Rovtar were threats to Naperville's pitchers, both batting two for three. The final score of the game was 3-0.

The team agrees that Connolly's pitching is great as she pitched a no-hitter against West Aurora April 14. The

solid defense complements any pitching successes.

"Without the help of our defense, our pitchers would be nothing. They know they can trust the girls behind them," said junior Jamie Dash.

Even in a tough situation in a game, Connolly remains confident, saying the team feeds well off of certain plays and maintains composure

during these stressful times.

According to Rovtar, the girls' best game was against Wheaton Academy, April 12. With Connolly and Rovtar each hitting home runs, and Detrick hitting two homers, the game was an easy victory of 17-0, ending in the fifth inning.

As the team is performing well on the offensive side of the game, sophomore Alyson

Taddeucci predicts plenty more home runs and big hits based on this year's batting power.

As for the DVC, the team's record is 2-1.

"It's a dog fight in the conference. There is no one dominant team," said Shout. "If we take care of business, I'm sure we can compete with everyone."

Senior Megan Scott be-

lieves the team has the talent and the ability to beat each team in the DVC; it is just a matter of believing it.

"Many teams don't expect much from us and we're ready to change that," said Rovtar.

Agreeing, sophomore Kaitly Olson feels the team is better than half the teams in the DVC.

Goals for the season include winning 20 games and, more importantly, winning conference.

"It is no different from any other year. We still want the conference title," said Shout.

Other goals the girls have made for themselves involve team work ethic.

"One of our team goals is to try our hardest at everything we do, and play every game like the score is still 0-0," said Scott.

Scott gives credit for the team's successes to their close friendships on and off the field.

"We have great chemistry, and out of the four years I've been on varsity this is by far the closest team," said Scott. "I believe it helps us gel on the field."

Agreeing, Rovtar said the team definitely molds together.

"I also think with time we'll play together even better," said Rovtar.



Photo by Greg Vodicka

Sophomore Izzy Bruce warms up with the rest of the varsity team before a home game at Pioneer Park.

Rain and injuries make team's acceleration difficult

By Jake Bradley

With injuries, weather, and tough competition, the Wildcats track and field team has been struggling to place in their meets.

In their latest meet at Glenbard South, the Wildcats finished fifth out of seven teams.

In the field events, senior captain Josh Tikka placed first in the high jump recording at 5'10."

On the track, junior Kyle Nichol placed first in the 400-meter with a time of 52.4 seconds and senior Ryan Scheck placed third in his 800-meter.

"I've had a solid season so far," said Nichol. "Even though the team is struggling, we really need to pull together and focus on DVC."

Injuries have taken a big

toll on the results of their meets, according to coach Paul McLeland.

On a team of only 54 members, injuries to big time players can hurt.

Even with five or six players out, it's hard competing against teams with 100-150 members.

"Senior Neil Luka pulled his hamstring during the prelims which is really unfortunate," said McLeland. "A bright side is that we had the people to fill in the positions."

Boys track struggled inside this season also, coming in last place in DVC.

"(We) just have to fight out of the basement," said McLeland. "The weather is getting better now, so that should result in better practices."

With only two meets left, then DVC, the track team is preparing themselves the best they can, and Tikka has been helping them make the step.

"It's his second year and he's so passionate," said McLeland. "He makes sure to get the guys keyed up."

McLeland looks towards sophomore Matt Kubik and freshman Gunner Sterne as future leaders.

"(Kubik) is number two overall pole vaulter," said McLeland. "He is only a foot under varsity."

Sterne is number one overall in the 3200-meter.

Even though the team has struggled, there have been some upsides.

Over 30 personal bests have been broken and it has improved confidence.

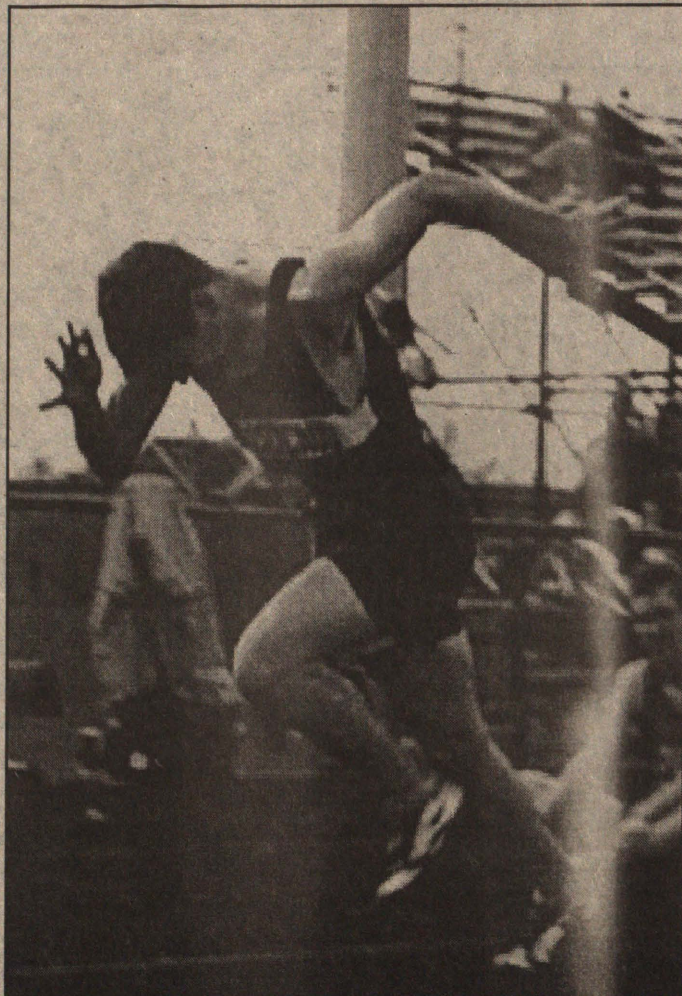


Photo by Jake Bradley

Senior Douglas Selby takes off the starting block at a meet at Glenbard North April 22.

Back to basics to further team's success

By Jacob Wucka

With a season in deadlock, the girls soccer team is striving towards success in the DVC.

"(We want to) make the players believe that the coaches and that the program cares about them, and to believe in themselves," said head coach Cesar Gomez.

Varsity has maintained an close season with a record of 5-6 as of press time. According to Gomez, the team needs to learn some concepts before the team becomes more successful.

"We have not played a bad game yet, but we're missing the key component to score," said Gomez.

Conflicts with scoring contributed to two of the team's losses, in which the team went without scoring a single point.

Still, the team has improved in some areas, such as possessing.

"We're really good at possessing. It's not simple. This isn't just a kick and run

game," said senior and team captain Jessica Jones.

Senior and team captain Ivana Boers has also noticed improvement when it comes to working together and communicating during games.

"(The hardest part has been) trying to get us to work

We now have control of the ball and we will finish strong this season.'

-- Head coach Cesar Gomez

as a family. We possess more this year and we definitely communicate a lot better, and it's not like everyone is for themselves," said Boers.

The JV team has also grown this season, and has maintained a 2-5-2 season as of press time.

"(This season) is being

taken more seriously, and the team improves day by day on ball skills, possession, and defending," said sophomore Jackie Salgado. "(We) give 100 percent during practice so that we can give 200 percent during games."

Sophomore Rosa Duran agrees, believing that the team is improving, and with hard work the team will achieve success.

"You can see great improvement from past seasons and that's the most important thing," said Duran. "(We will ensure a successful season with) teamwork, communication, and hard work. We play with pride and confidence, and I'm sure this will lead the team far."

The freshman team has been consistent with a record of 1-6 as of press time. For most players, this season has been a learning experience.

"We've practiced and we've learned how to control the ball more," said freshman Alondra Casimiro.

With bad weather disrupt-

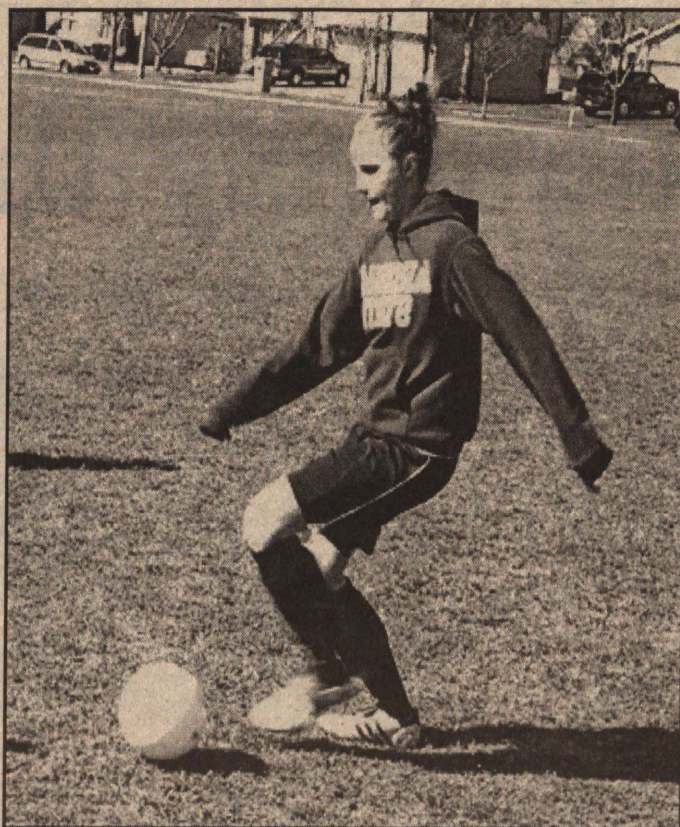


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Senior Kayla Radloff works on foot work at a recent practice at the middle school.

ing the start of their season, the freshman team hopes to end this year with more wins and "good memories," according to Casimiro.

Before the good memories and winding down can start, the teams still have to complete their seasons. Jones has her expectations for how the season will end.

"We want to try for some DVC wins and just play our best as a team," said Jones.

Gomez has big expecta-

tions and knows that the amount of practice time and the gain of skills will lead them to success.

"We expect to give some people a hard time," said Gomez of competing schools. "We now have control of the ball and we will finish strong this season."

Varsity has a tournament at Bartlett on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, followed by a game at Glenbard North on Tuesday.

Breaking records one step at a time

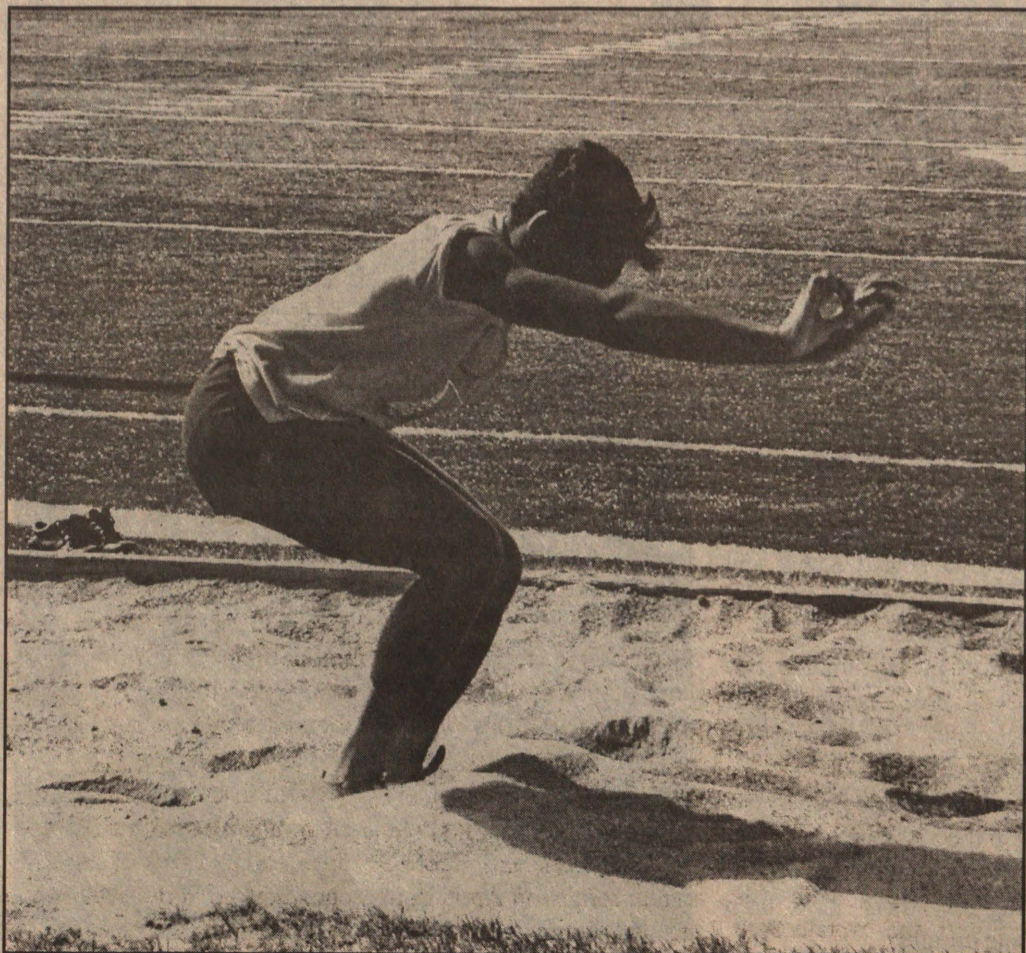


Photo by Alexis Hosticka

Senior Rachel Jefferson lands a long jump at a practice prior to a meet against at Naperville Central with Glenbard North April 22.

By Alexis Hosticka

Since 1977, the girls 4 x 400 meter relay record has remained unbroken.

But on April 14 at the Glenbard South Invitational four girls took first place and set a new record.

Freshman Karlie Becker, sophomore Annette Eichenberger, junior Brittany Smith, and senior Kara Triner set the time at 4:10.6, beating the previous record of 4:11.1.

Also in first place at the meet were sophomore Becca Howe in the long jump, freshman Meghan Nichol in the 200-meter run, senior Rachel Jefferson in the triple jump, and Eichenberger in the mile.

"The team is really doing great," said varsity head coach George Petmezas. "Eichenberger is really helping the team."

Eichenberger's 5:18.49 record-breaking mile took 13th place at the March 29 indoor state championship track meet, breaking the previous record of 5:19.6 set in 1995. She also tied the freshman-sophomore high jump record at 5'0" and broke the 800-meter run, setting the new time at 2:26.00 over the previous time of 2:26.95.

Varsity captains are Triner

and seniors Sara Fouts and Adi Huerta.

"I know the girls' personal goals are to improve their times," said Petmezas.

Petmezas thinks improving personal times is good, but team improvement is important.

"As a team, we need to continue to break records and have people make it to state," said Petmezas.

He thinks the team is doing better than last year because numbers have increased and times are improving.

"We have a lot of new freshmen including Karlie Becker," said Petmezas.

But the team has competition from other area schools. Wheaton North, Wheaton Warrenville South, and all the Naperville schools offer a challenge.

"It's hard because their numbers are about double ours," said Petmezas.

He also said we have a lot less players than Naperville.

"The girls are dedicated and in each meet they work hard. They just need to remember to take every practice as a training opportunity," said assistant coach Barb Brennan. "We're doing very well this year, even though we are a young group."

Developing confidence

By Mike Dalton

With rainy skies and wet dirt, the boys varsity baseball team was struggling to get a feel for the season.

Bad weather had caused the team to cancel six games, leaving them without much of a chance to compete.

With a warm sun starting to shine, the team has a record of 4-8. Although, when the team does get a chance to play, they have a good outlook on the way the season is shaping up.

In the game against Wheaton Warrenville South on April 21, the team came from behind to win 6-5.

In an effort to get more fans to the games, hot dogs were given to anyone showing a student ID.

"It really helped energize the team for our fourth home win," said Andracki.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, seniors Josh Yednock, Barrett Serrato, and James Eckler stepped up to the plate to help win the game.

Bringing in more wins, and stopping Wheaton Warrenville South's three-game winning streak, the boys are ready to play.

Junior Ethan Burau thinks the record isn't what they originally hoped for, but they

are finally starting to come together and should be putting a lot of wins together soon.

Both Burau and senior Dave Sampiller feel that the pitching is the strongest part of the team right now.

"Our pitching staff is the strong point that I can rely on," said Sampiller.

He also feels that the hitting is doing really well and will really help the team to win games.

While Burau agrees, he admits that he has some work to do in hitting.

"Like quite a few people, my hitting has a lot of room for improvement," said Burau.

Senior Matt Andracki hopes that the team will step up their hitting.

"In the first two conference games, we only scored two runs total against Naperville North," said Andracki.

Sampiller disagrees with Burau and Andracki, when it comes to discussing the team's biggest weakness.

Burau feels the team needs to work on their offensive support.

"We've left a lot of runners on base, but we're working hard on changing that right away," said Burau.

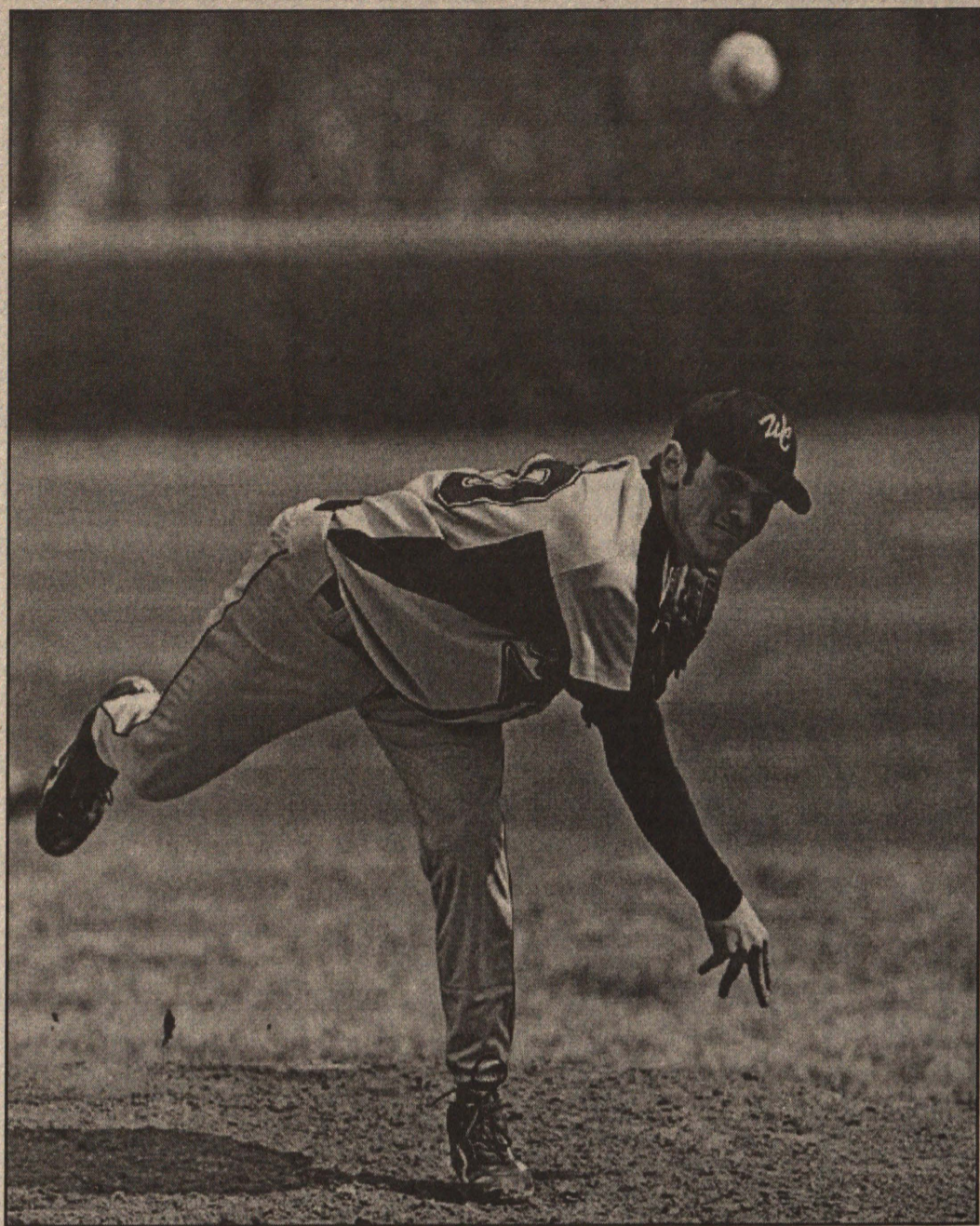


Photo courtesy of Challenge

Junior Trevor Bodie slings a pitch to senior catcher Dave Sampiller in a recent home game.

Sampiller said that "the outfielders are the downside of our team because of their throws. I would have more confidence in my outfielders if they start throwing the ball more accurately and with more confidence."

On an individual level,

many of the boys are accomplishing their goals they set for themselves at the beginning of the season.

Sampiller wanted to hit at least two homeruns this season, and he has already met his goal.

Burau wanted to make sure

he was performing well on defense, and as of now he said that he feels sound.

Just like the weather has begun to change, so is the team's energy and playing.

They will play an away game on Thursday against Glenbard North.

Captains lead team in coach's absence

By Joann Kaczmarczyk

After many weeks of long tryouts and grueling conditioning, the boys varsity tennis season has finally begun, but it seems to be washed out.

Unfortunately, most of the scheduled games have been cancelled due to rain.

On top of that, longtime coach Sione Moeaki is currently unavailable to train the boys for personal reasons, but P.E. teacher Clay Reagan is filling in until Moeaki's return.

"With Moe being gone, the captains have to step up and take more responsibility as leaders," said captain, junior Jozef Pavnica.

Pavnica, along with fellow junior and captain Jose "Chico" Padilla are doubles partners and the only players

that have consistently won any matches.

The team lost to Wheaton North, St. Francis, and Naperville North on April 22, 23, and 24, respectively.

"Naperville North is our biggest competition. They have a really good game this year," said Pavnica.

Pavnica and Padilla won their match against Streamwood on April 21 with scores of 6-2 and 6-1. Sophomore Ron Obden also won his match that day. The team score was a loss of 5-2.

The two captains won a home match against Glenbard North on April 17 with scores of 6-1 and 7-6 as a tiebreaker, and reported similar results on April 15 in the away game against Glenbard East, with 6-2 and 7-6. On April 14, the whole team

lost to Oswego.

The quad, or four school tournament against Lisle, Montini and Dundee, on April 12 was rained out.

The first game of the year was against York was rescheduled for April 9 due to rain. The team lost 8-1.

"Our goal for the season is to improve from where we were last year and win more of our non-conference matches. We need to improve our net games, going to the nets, and our serving," said Moeaki. "We are focused more on mechanics and techniques."

Pavnica believes the team is improving and chalks up the losses to a lack of experience that he hopes will fade quickly.

He looks forward to Moeaki's return on May 12.

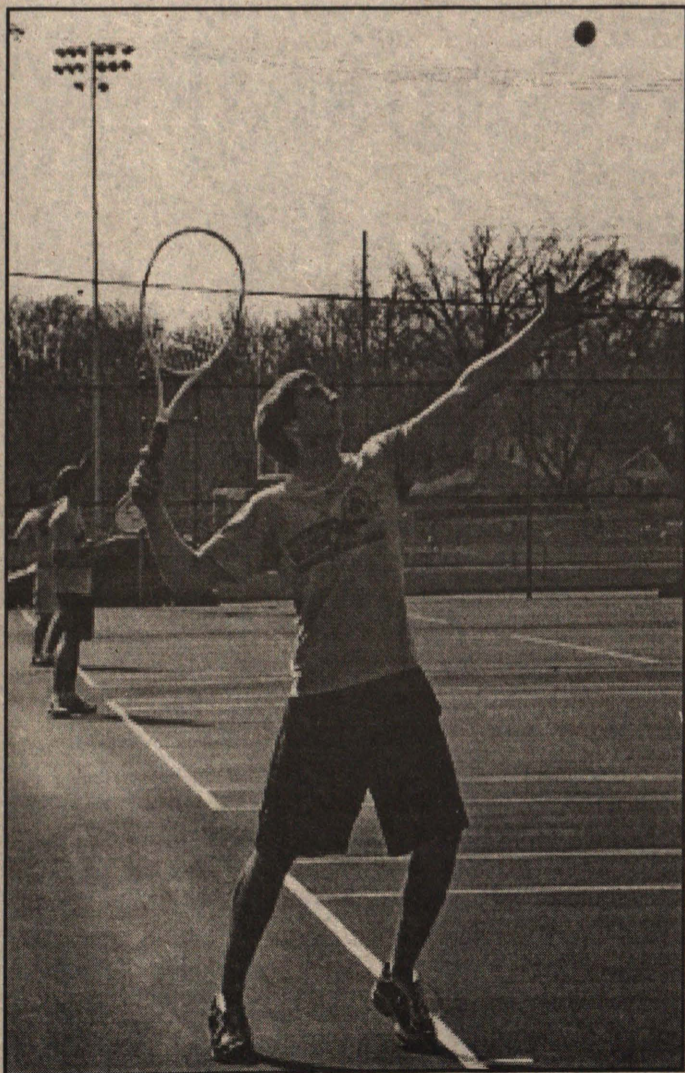


Photo by Joann Kaczmarczyk

Junior Jason Foreman serves to an opponent from Glenbard North during an early season match on April 17.

Successful start leads to tournament victories

By Sara Fouts

Boys lacrosse proved they are a force to be reckoned with when they placed fourth in the annual Sticks and Stones tournament on April 19 and 20.

On April 19, the team won three games and was seeded second going into the second day, but on April 20 the team lost two games.

There were three brackets

in the tournament, and the team finished fourth in the top bracket.

The team also came out strong at their home game on April 17 against Northside Prep.

Even though Northside scored the first goal of the night, the team was not about to give up.

For the first three points the game was tied, but then

Northside started to fall behind as the Wildcats racked up the points.

During the second half of the game, the boys really started to come together and play as a team.

Offense also did a tremendous job passing and shooting during the second half of the game. They even had an opportunity to shoot at an open net.

Head coach Dave Pater says that one of the biggest challenges for the boys this season will be to play as one unit.

"We need to come together as a team and just come out and show it on the field," said Pater.

The final score of the game was 18-11, and the boys celebrated their home winning streak.

"We're undefeated at home, and the team is really starting to come together," said senior James Shallcross.

Top scorers from the game included Shallcross and seniors Jim Weier and Ryan Roman. Shallcross scored eight goals, which were almost all assisted by Roman.

"We have a pretty good team this year," said senior Ben Barclay. "There are a



Photo by Sara Fouts

Northside Prep came out strong at the beginning of the game, April 17. The Wildcats answered back with exceptional passing and shooting with the help of senior Chris Plane (above).

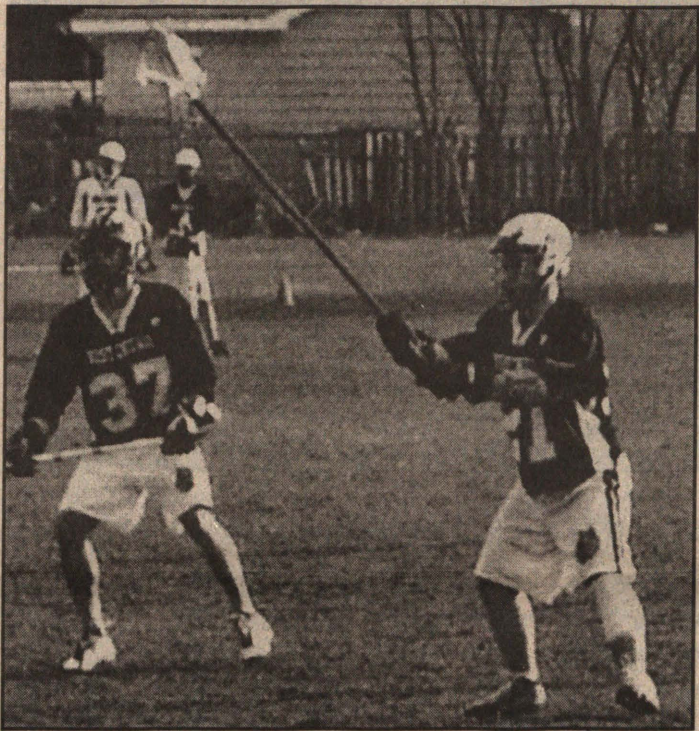


Photo by Sara Fouts

Junior Stewart Sankovitch and senior Aaron Cracraft defend their goal in a game against Northside Prep.

lot of seniors who have been playing together for four years now."

Pater said that the boys are having a great season so far with an overall record is 5-4.

"We have great senior leadership," said Pater. "It's nice because we don't have to show them the ropes because they know everything already."

Shallcross says with such a strong start to the season, the

team looks prepared for anything.

"We've had a good start this year. We're 3-2 in conference right now, which is one of our best starts yet," said Shallcross.

Pater says that a definite goal for the boys is to do well in playoffs.

"We hope we will go far and go deep," said Pater. "We are trying to make West Chicago a legitimate threat."

The consequences of mistakes on and off the playing field

Unfortunately, an emerging trend for teens is taking many pictures of



Sara Fouts

themselves and friends at parties, parties that often involve drinking.

The aftermath of the

party includes posting these pictures on websites like facebook.com or myspace.com.

This trend has affected everyone, including students involved in sports.

Outside of the playing field, it seems like athletes don't care about the consequences of drinking at parties where cameras capture every embarrassing moment, but they should.

When athletes take part in these festivities, they really don't think about their coach or principal taking a gander at these photos that are available to the general public.

Students involved in sports should not be drinking in the first place.

If athletes are truly dedicated to their team and sport, they would not pollute their bodies with alcohol.

Competitors need to start considering their sport first and their social life second.

A person dedicated to a sport should know that his body is his greatest asset and should be kept in great physical condition.

Going to parties and drinking alcohol every weekend does not keep a body in shape.

If a coach finds pictures of an athlete drinking, what should that coach do?

The coach has the opportunity to look at the website and to suspend that athlete from the team.

If a teammate is not even

responsible enough to take care of her body during her season, what can that person contribute to the team?

Many athletes may say that if a coach brings up the pictures that it's an invasion of privacy.

However, it's not an invasion of privacy because students posted those pictures themselves on a public website.

The athlete simply was not thinking of the repercussions of his actions.

Maybe this isn't a big deal to high school athletes, but when seniors start applying to colleges it does have an impact.

If a college were to find the photos of an athlete drinking on a website, what does that

show them about the athlete?

It shows them that the athlete is not serious about the sport and cannot be held accountable as a dedicated athlete.

Just because athletes decide to look cool and post a picture of them drinking, they may not get accepted into the college that they want.

Students involved in sports should start thinking more about what could happen when they decide to go to parties and drink.

Athletes might always have the pictures that make them cool, but they might also say goodbye to their sport for not taking responsibility.