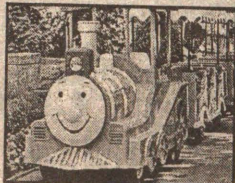




Inside

News

Worried that you'll be sitting at home all summer? Read what you can do in DuPage County on page 4.



Perspectives

Are late starts every week really going to be helping students? Or will all the time lost hurt them? Read our view on page 6.



Center Spread

Have you traveled to Japan? How about won the lottery? Read about the students who have on pages 8-9.



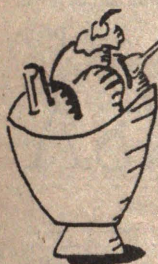
Features

Ever wondered what it's like to go to a private school? See the differences between public and private on page 10.



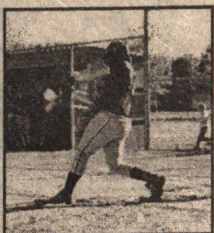
Entertainment

See our opinions as we put the top three ice cream places in the area to the test. Read our reviews on page 13.



Sports

Girls softball won first in conference and claimed the title of regional champs. Read about their success on page 14.



Over \$13,000 raised

WeGo 2 Africa sends supplies to Angola, Africa

By Jessica Bergmann and Joann Kaczmarczyk

WeGo 2 Africa has had a successful year, raising over \$13,000 to send a shipping container filled with supplies to Angola, Africa.

Social studies teachers and WeGo 2 Africa advisers Margaret Haas and Mary Ellen Daneels are looking to finish the year's project on a strong note.

"This is our third year with WeGo 2 Africa, and we want to make it the best one yet," said Haas.

And there is no doubt that this year has been a success. The WeGo 2 Africa project has raised over \$13,000 to buy and pack supplies into an 8' by 8' by 20' shipping container that will be sent to Angola.

Some students were concerned with the size of the shipping container.

"Everyone thought it was going to be a lot bigger than it actually is, but we're still helping a great cause and that's all that matters," said junior Katie Bell.

Daneels believes that the container is plenty big for its purpose.

"I think 8' by 8' by 20' is



Photo by Alexis Hosticka

Junior Sarah Smolucha donates to WeGo 2 Africa by volunteering her time to paint the inside of the shipping container being sent to Angola, Africa. Once the container's supplies are unloaded, it will be used as a classroom.

pretty big. A lot more people would have to volunteer and twice as much money and supplies would have to be donated for it to be bigger," Daneels said.

Students also need to realize that the \$13,000 did not buy

just the container alone. The shipping costs for the container could cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$6,000, plus the cost of paint to decorate and other fees.

Money was raised through selling WeGo 2 Africa 3 shirts,

which helped to raise over \$300 alone.

Ban-AIDS was introduced this year by creators and juniors Caitlin Shiga and Lia Smith.

See Africa page 3

Resignations anticipated

By Jacob Wucka

Students might see two main positions at the school vacated for the 2008-09 school year.

Head football and baseball coach John Walters was expected to announce his departure at a meeting on Wednesday with the baseball and football teams.

Questions about Walters' position with the school arose when an anticipated posting appeared on the school website looking for a potential head coach for football, baseball, and a gym teacher.

Walters refused to comment before the teams' meetings.

However, sophomore Mike Bryant believes that Walters

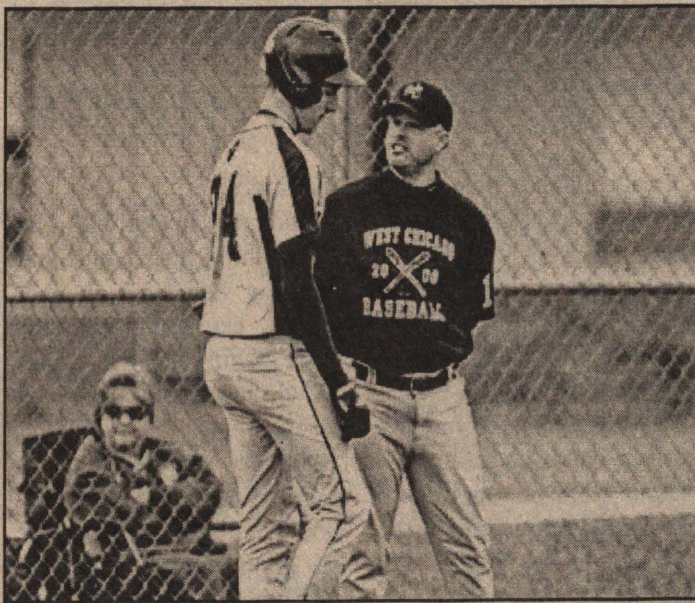


Photo courtesy of Challenge

Head baseball coach John Walters was expected to announce his resignation on Wednesday.

has done great things for the football team.

"I think he has done many great things for this team... I hope that the people from the other school will recognize the influence he has," said Bryant.

Another anticipated posting is for an Assistant Principal - Administrative Services position. The position is currently held by Josh Chambers.

"I'm waiting for the other district to take action. At this point, it is not definite or a sure thing," said Chambers.

Neither Chambers nor Walters have officially turned in a letter of resignation as of press time.

School tries weekly progress report trial

By Alexis Hosticka

Students have different opinions about their parents being able to view their grades every Friday, which can now happen with a new weekly updating process.

Principal Moses Cheng's plan is to have GradeQuick programmed to update Edline whenever grades are inserted.

"The grades from GradeQuick will be taken out and put into Edline whenever new grades are put into GradeQuick," said Cheng.

The school is running a trial linking the two programs until the end of this school year to see how it works and find any possible problems. The goal is to update Edline each Friday with grades from every teacher.

"Testing will last three weeks, and if there are no

glitches the plan will go in place for next year," said Cheng.

He hopes that by updating Edline more frequently it will help students keep up with their grades, and catch errors quickly.

"I like the new plan," said freshman Chrissy Jonas. "It lets you see how you're doing every week and what you can improve on."

Administrators also have to check athlete's grades on a weekly basis to make sure they still have eligibility for sports.

"I hope this will make it easier for those people," said Cheng.

Cheng thinks that by updating this program it will help everyone involved in the school. Parents and students can view updated grades, and it makes it easier for the

school to deal with federally mandated programs.

But some students think differently about Cheng's plan.

"I think it's not fair because it doesn't give us a chance to raise our grades before our parents see," said sophomore Jackie Antis.

Freshman Stefanie Turzinski agreed with Antis. "I'm not too happy about the new plan," Turzinski said. "I know some parents will freak out if they see grades that aren't too good, not realizing their child can raise the grade."

Since some teachers rarely update Edline, this program should make it easier as now they only have to update one program, GradeQuick.

"Teachers really shouldn't have any extra work," Cheng said. "This change should help out everybody."



Photo by Jacob Wucka

Larger class size are forcing the end of French plays. At this year's plays, senior Maria Romero acts as Fred from "Scooby Doo" as she unmasks senior Yessenia Sanchez.

Au revoir to French plays

By Jessica Bergmann

Growing French language classes forced the cancellation of the French plays for the '08-'09 school year.

World languages division head Janelle Stefancic stressed that inappropriate content played only a minor role in the decision to cancel the activity.

"There were some questionable activities on stage and we received e-mails from parents and students about some inappropriate costumes," said Stefancic.

However, Stefancic said that these factors were not taken into great consideration when the decision was made to cancel the French plays.

"The reason French plays are being cancelled is the same reason as why there are no Spanish plays; there are simply too many students and not enough time," said Stefancic.

A large French division caused the plays to run overtime this year, and a few French 1 commercials were cut out of the production entirely.

"Our French plays this year involved more skits than time allowed, so at the last minute, upper level French

students were selected to perform while French 1 students presented their plays in class the following day," Stefancic said. "After the plays this year, we feel that students would equally benefit from this type of assignment and performance in a classroom environment."

French teacher Lindsey Evans was disappointed by the decision to cancel the plays, but understands the reasoning behind it.

"I think that our school is making an effort to up the level of academic rigor in all of our classes and the plays take up a large amount of class time, time that could be spent learning new material and covering new academic ground," Evans said. "I love doing projects that require lots of creativity and personal and artistic expression, so although students might not be expressing their creativity through the plays, they will have lots of other opportunities to express their talents in French class."

Evans will not release details on what is to come because everything is still being planned, but she has "lots of cool technology-based projects in mind."

Fed Challenge team comes close to heading to state

By Trevor Bodie

The Fed Challenge team journeyed to the Federal Reserve in Chicago to set out for a victory in their national competition on April 28.

The team came close to going to the state finals after beating all other competition, except one.

Competing were seniors Rachel Nash, Mike Wall and Jonathon Williams, and junior Ryan Crawford. Social studies teacher Candace Fikis is their adviser.

Players take part in a 15 minute speech where they show off how well they know the economy.

"Students pretend that they are the Reserve or the FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee), and give a report on the present state on the economy," said Fikis.

The speech includes topics such as inflation and the housing markets. Speeches must also make recommendations on the monetary policy and

whether or not the Federal Reserve should increase the interest rate.

Players on the winning team may be awarded scholarships for their success.

In order to obtain a spot on the team candidates must have an A in economics, and be asked to join.

"Since the judges are actual economists from the Reserve, you've got to know your stuff, which makes it so difficult," said Fikis.

School urges good hygiene to prevent MRSA

By Jacob Wucka

For the second time this year, students are using extra soap and water when washing their hands to prevent the spread of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

A student was diagnosed with MRSA on May 6. Following the diagnosis, the janitorial staff cleaned classrooms used by that student, and other areas including commons, and some hallways.

Another student was diagnosed with MRSA in November.

"First of all, we have to have officials confirm that it is MRSA. We can't just go off speculation," said Principal Moses Cheng. "Once we received confirmation from a medical staff, we followed up by using the guidelines of the DuPage County Health Department."

According to school nurse Beth Jones, MRSA is a staph infection that is resistant to

antibiotics.

Students can contract it by not washing their hands and touching their faces or other people, exercising bad hygiene habits, sharing drinks and clothes, and not properly covering cuts.

"MRSA is resistant to more commonly used medicine. Even with an antibiotic the germ doesn't respond," said Jones.

According to WebMD, MRSA first appears as a boil that is swollen, red, pus-

filled, and painful. Over time, MRSA can cause pneumonia, and urinary or blood infections.

However Jones says that students don't have to worry because there are simple ways to prevent themselves from contracting MRSA.

"Soap and water is just as effective as any antibiotics," said Jones.

Jones also promises that the school is doing everything to make sure that the students are not susceptible to getting

MRSA.

"We're going to do what we need to do to stay safe," said Jones.

Since the first case in November, some students wondered why the problem was not stopped the first time.

"The bacteria is continually around. In any public places it is hard to absolutely get rid of any MRSA because it's everywhere. It's hard to predict when MRSA will manifest into a kid before they need treatment," said Cheng.

Students make television debut

By Sara Fouts

Government students did more than legislative simulations, they had the opportunity to voice their opinion on real government issues.

Students asked questions about the upcoming presidential election in an online news forum during the "News Hour" for Public Broadcasting Station (PBS).

"PBS contacted me to participate," said government teacher Mary Ellen Daneels.

Journalist Judy Woodruff hosted the on-line forum that aired on April 25, and seniors Krista Kraus, Kristian Mendoza, Ryan Russell, and Megan Scott were able to ask their questions.

The seniors worked on the questions for their government class with Daneels.

Each student wrote a question for the forum, and then PBS chose people to ask their questions during the news forum.

"I thought that it was cool that they asked high school students for the questions. We are the next voting generation," said Kraus.

During the news forum, Kraus inquired how one becomes a superdelegate.

Other students asked questions related to the delegate selection process, the qualifications of candidates, and campaign finance.

Scott asked, "How come the Democratic Party is getting so much publicity because of race and gender, when those qualities do not determine if someone will be a good president?"

In response to Scott's question, panelist Tad Levine said, "It's wonderful to hear a young person say that...these are not factors."

Levine was a senior strategist and adviser to the Democratic presidential campaigns of Vice President Al Gore in 2000 and Sen. John Kerry in 2004. Throughout the news forum, the seniors were able to gain a better understanding of how the government works.

"It felt pretty cool and the comments that [the panel] had after my question were really nice," said Scott about her experience.

Student of the Month plans to continue golf

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

By Sara Fouts

A strong academic history and athletic achievements in golf and track have helped Ryan Scheck earn the title of June Student of the Month.

What are your high school

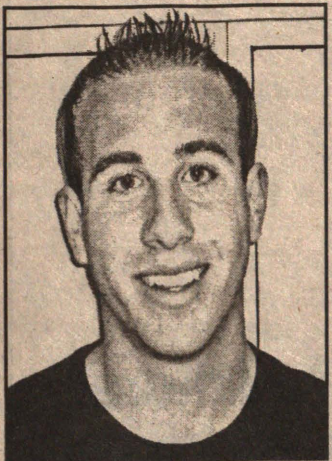


Photo by Sara Fouts

accomplishments?

I've had a 4.0 GPA all four years. I've also been an all conference athlete for golf, golf captain, and track cap-

tain. The National Honor Society is another one of my high school accomplishments.

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

Mr. Maguire, my freshman world geography teacher, because it was always a fun class.

What clubs are you involved in?

Aviation Club and National Honor Society.

What do you intend on majoring in?

Professional Flight Technology at Purdue University to become a pilot.

What is your favorite memory from high school?

Getting all conference golf in the fall.

Do you plan to do any extracurricular activities in college?

I might play golf for the Purdue golf team, or intramural sports. I also plan on joining the Purdue Flying Club.

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

Because I participate in a lot of sports and have kept a solid GPA.

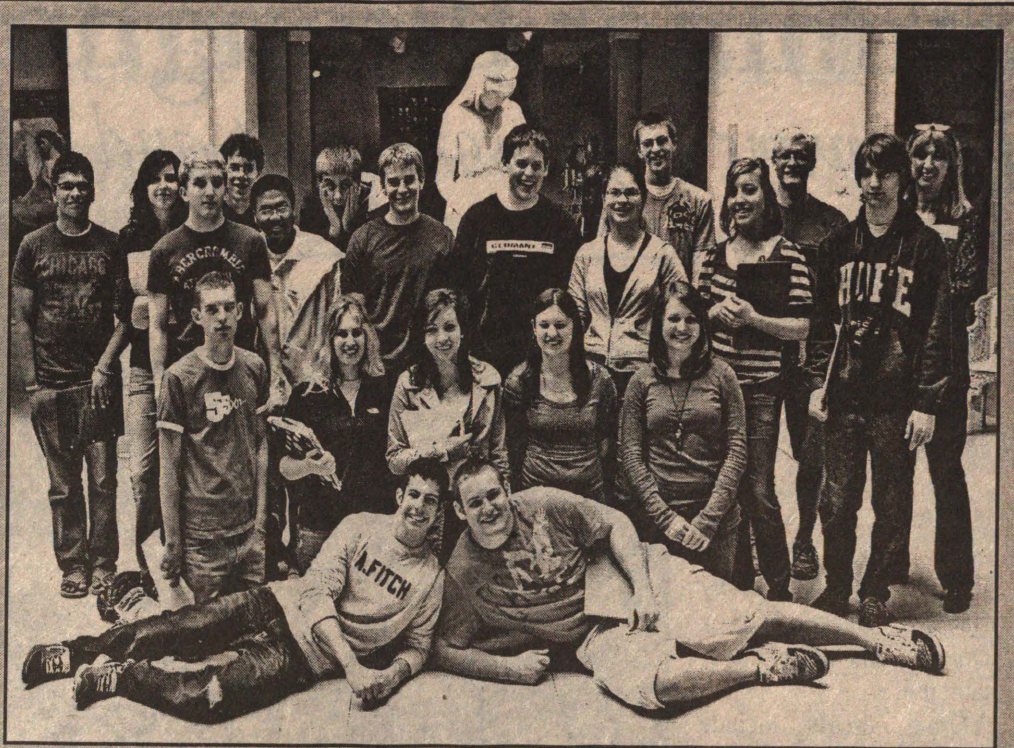


Photo courtesy of Terry Strohm

Field trip to Chicago highlights art project

German 4 students visit the Art Institute in Chicago to see art and architecture by German artists as a part of their culture unit. From bottom left, Doug Sills, Jim Miner. Middle left Ted Quedan, Anna Treudt, Vanessa Kashtanieua, Megan Carnes, Alex Mills. Top left Nick Secker, Heather Tricoll, Brian Hummer, Brendan Dierda, Vinchet Chanta, Ethan Krauspe, Steven Szul, Kevin Troy, Krista Kraus, Ben Barclay, Kara Wolfe, David Musick, Josh Becker, and teacher Terry Strohm. Back at school, the students recreate art by their favorite artists or create original works. Treudt's art was voted most original, followed by Kashtanieua, and Szul's works in second and third place.

Africa: Student projects raise money for program

Continued from page 1

Although the shirts were not as popular as the WeGo 2 Africa shirts, they still helped to raise over \$100 for AIDS education in Angola.

Daneels said she would like to continue the Ban-AIDS project next year, since both Shiga and Smith will be in the community leadership class again.

Other money raised came from various clubs throughout the school, such as International Club, which donated \$700 from a bowl-a-

thon.

Key Club also donated \$2,000, and the girls swim team raised \$800 from their "Swim 4 Sakutopi" swim-a-thon in December.

This year, advisories also played a major part in donating to the cause.

Advisories were asked to make supplies, such as blankets, rag dolls and alphabet letters to send in the shipping container.

Along with supplies, advisories also raised over \$1,000 in change drives over the course of the year.

Besides school clubs, organizations from the community donated as well.

The Carol Stream Rotary Club presented a \$2,000 check to the WeGo 2 Africa program at the April 22 board meeting.

Other organizations included the Educational Foundation with \$3,500, the West Chicago Rotary Club with \$200, and the Ladies Auxiliary with \$1,500.

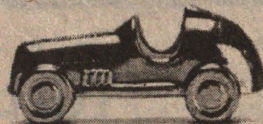
Donations will be taken until Friday and can be brought to room 206 in the LRC.

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Summer throughout DuPage...

Fun ways to get some rest and relaxation over the break

Railroad Days

After being renamed Heritage Days last year, Railroad Days is back, and is returning to West Chicago for the annual celebration on July 10-13.

The four day festival includes a carnival with rides, games, music by southern rock band Molly Hatchet, singer Mickey Dolenz, and other entertainment.

Other events include music by local bands, an art show in the park, a fireworks show, and a mud volleyball tournament.

There will also be a parade on the last day, which proceeds through Washington Street in West Chicago.

Compiled by Jacob Wucka



Photo courtesy of West Chicago Chamber of Commerce
The annual Railroad Days celebration is returning this year with a carnival, parade, and music by Molly Hatchet, and Mickey Dolenz.

DuPage Fair

For five days, all of DuPage County will come together at the annual county fair in Wheaton.

From July 23-27, people can come to the fair for \$10 and enjoy carnival rides, food, free entertainment and shows, a petting zoo, and a display of farm animals.

Musical acts include country band Little Big Town, Christian music singer Steven Curtis Chapman, Christian band Jars of Clay, and Corbin Bleu of "High School Musical." Other scheduled events are a laser show spectacular choreographed to Pink Floyd, and a demolition derby.

Turtle Splash

West Chicago Park District has recreated the Family Aquatic Center, and has made it into the kid-friendly Turtle Splash.

Besides having a new name, Turtle Splash will include new concession

stands, a new children's area where the spa used to be, and a new slide that goes above the waterfall.

Season passes will cost \$60 for residents, and \$75 for non-residents, and \$8 for daily admission.

Skate Park

The West Chicago Skate Park is getting redone. The asphalt ground has been replaced with concrete, and a shade structure, water fountain, benches, and a streetscape atmosphere will be added to the park.

Cascade Drive-In

Nothing says summer quite like watching a movie while under the stars.

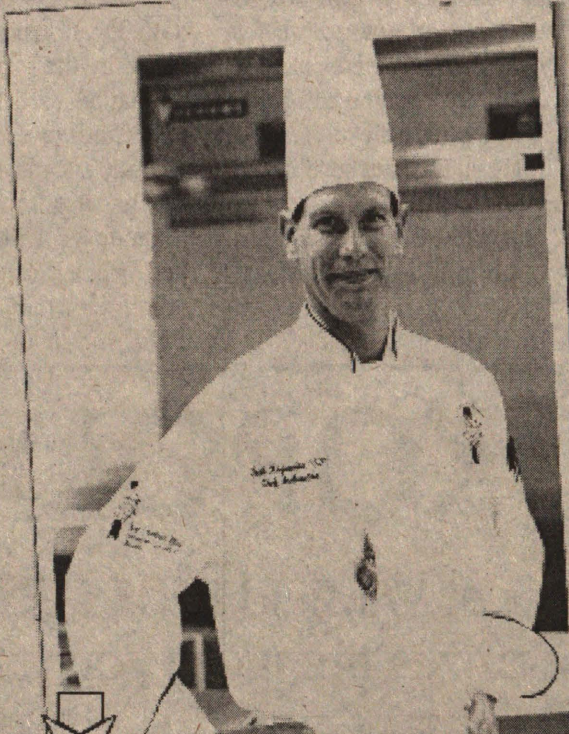
Cascade Drive-In, at the intersection of Prince Crossing and North Avenue in West Chicago, has opened.

The box office opens at 7 p.m., and tickets cost \$8.50 for adults and \$4.50 for children.

"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" and "Iron Man" are playing through Thursday.

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Photo by Laura Kuehn

The Chronicle wins the Golden Eagle for the second time in a row, along with a blue ribbon and many honorable mentions. From top left, junior Greg Vodicka, senior Joann Kaczmarczyk, junior Jake Bradley, senior Sara Fouts, junior Trevor Bodie, sophomore Jacob Wucka, freshman Megan Hernbroth. From bottom left freshman Sarah Berger, junior Jessica Bergmann, and seniors Mike Dalton and Kym McDaniel.

Golden Eagle lands

By Sara Fouts

The Wildcat Chronicle has taken home the gold, again.

The Northern Illinois School Press Association (NISPA) awarded the Chronicle the gold certificate and the Golden Eagle trophy.

"Once you get the gold certificate, then you are entered into the competition for the Golden Eagle trophy and best in show," said journalism adviser Laura Kuehn. "This is the second year in a row we have received best in show."

NISPA also awarded individual awards to staff members. Assistant news editor and sophomore Jacob Wucka received an honorable mention for editorial cartoons.

"I didn't think that I would get recognized for my car-

toons, because they seem like something that wouldn't be that important. But I love drawing the editorial cartoons and I try to make them fun. It's cool to get recognized for doing something that I enjoy doing," said Wucka.

Sports editor and junior Greg Vodicka received an honorable mention for news writing. Reporter and senior Oscar Grajeda received an honorable mention for review writing. Editor in chief and junior Jessica Bergmann received the blue ribbon for photography and an honorable mention for column writing.

"I was really proud of our staff for making an excellent paper like last year, and we really deserved this award,"

said Bergmann.

The Chronicle also received the first place award from the American Scholastic Press Association.

Overall, the paper scored 945 points out of 1,000 possible points.

The staff also received the gold medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for last year's papers.

In order to receive a gold medal, the papers must score at least 925 points.

The Chronicle scored 956 points out of 1,000 possible points.

Bergmann said, "Last year's staff set really high standards for this year's paper. I hope that we can continue in their footsteps and make the paper even better."

Students take first place in regional stock market game

By Jake Bradley

Risking it all helped three students from West Chicago place first in their region in the spring Stock Market Game.

Junior Rogelio Del Muro, and seniors Max George and Maribel Ramirez competed against 601 teams in their region, finishing first and receiving the Annual Cabrera Statewide Award.

Along with the award, the team and adviser Don Zabelin will take a trip to New York City to visit the New York Stock Exchange and other notable financial

sites.

The Stock Market Game is a 15-week competition where teams have a simulated \$100,000 to invest in stocks and mutual funds. Success in the game is based on how the actual stock market performs. The team had a 47 percent return making their total portfolio value of \$147,134.

Their return was more than 44 percent better than the performance of the S & P 500 during the same time period. On top of coming in first in their

region, the team finished second out of 2,616 teams throughout the state.

"The experience was valuable for all students who participated," said Zabelin. "The students learned why a company's stock might be doing well in the market."

Zabelin also said they learned about risk management and how to manage a stock portfolio. The Stock Market Game is an investment simulation that all students enrolled in Consumer Education participate in.

Freshmen with pride

By Mike Dalton

Along with Monday late starts for the 2008-2009 school year, the incoming freshmen will have another change in tradition.

For the first day of school, all sophomores, juniors, and seniors leave at 10:30 a.m., while the freshmen stay for a full day to experience a new program called "WeGo in with Pride."

Principal Moses Cheng said the day was designed "because we want these kids to be as successful as possible in the high school."

Starting the day off, the freshmen will be seated alphabetically in the auditorium to receive their class schedules. A special segment of "WeGo Thru the Tube" will air for the students as well. Afterwards, they will go to the fieldhouse in three groups of 150 to meet all the coaches and deans.

"The deans will do a skit of some sort for them," said English teacher Richard Kost, one of the teachers re-

sponsible for "WeGo in with Pride."

Freshmen will also receive a free lunch in commons. Following lunch, they will hear from a motivational speaker Eddie Slowikowski, a five-time NCAA All American in track, a gold medal winner in international competition, and a 1992 Olympic contender. He will speak to the students about how to make the most out of high school. With the new program, Cheng hopes to encourage the students to become more connected to the school.

"The first day of freshman year should be a good time," said Kost. "WeGo in with Pride' will make sure all freshmen leave that day with a smile on their faces."

Senior Guillermo Blanco is glad the school is doing something to make the freshmen feel welcome and help de-stress them.

"I wish we would have had something like this back when I was a freshman," said Blanco.

Student of the Month inspired by Snowball

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

By Jake Bradley

For her participation in extracurriculars, Lisa Trygar is May's Student of the Month.

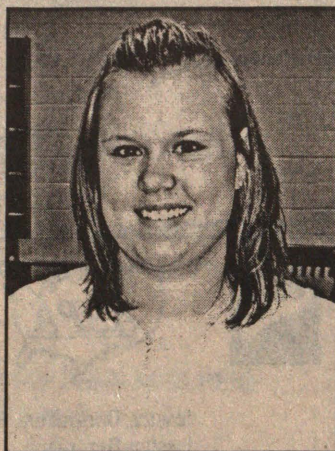


Photo by Jake Bradley

What are your high school accomplishments?

Honor Roll, National Honor Society (NHS), Academic Merit Award, and Snowball student director.

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

Cat Thielberg because she has helped me a lot and also introduced me to Snowball. Not only has she helped me but she helps students out everyday and also believes in

them.

What clubs are you involved in?

WeGo Buddies

What do you intend on majoring in?

I am going to major in special education and be a specialist in deaf and hard of hearing as well as learning and behavior.

What is your favorite memory from high school?

I have two. One is Field Day and the other is Snowball.

Do you plan to do any extracurricular activities in college?

Yes, I want to be a part of a club like WeGo Buddies and humanitarian service projects. I also want to be a part of their NHS program.

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

I think I was chosen for Student of the Month because of my character and my actions. I can't solve everyone's problems but I find myself trying to.

Clarification

In the April issue, the Chronicle incorrectly reported the March Student of the Month's name was Maria Perez, when her last name is Ortiz. We regret the error.

Our View

Late starts help students

Stay out late Sunday and sleep late Monday. Every Monday.

After Principal Moses Cheng's new late start Monday proposal last month, this teenage dream is coming true.

At the Board of Education meeting on May 20, the board decided to stick with the plan after fielding questions and concerns from parents and staff.

Other changes, such as switching buses, altering lunch periods, and handling zero hour are still being worked out.

Cheng designed the plan hoping to help out the student body, after seeing its success at Addison Trail and Willowbrook high schools.

According to Stanley Coren, author of "Sleep Thieves," eight hours is not enough when it comes to kids and sleep. Most school-aged kids need about 10 hours or more of sleep per night.

Therefore, under this new plan, a student can go to bed around 10 p.m. and still get enough sleep to feel refreshed.

Coren also says that sleep deprivation leads to a temporary loss in IQ levels, reasoning, and memory.

So how are late start Mondays not a good idea?

Many parents and teachers have their reasons.

Cutting into teaching time, with class periods going from 48 minutes to 31 minutes, doesn't appeal to all teachers. Some teachers have to reschedule their lesson plans and drop units of study since they won't have enough time to cover material.

But some teachers like this plan. The extra time in the morning would give the departments more time to meet to set up their curricula.

But for students, who wouldn't agree that this will be a great plan?

Z Longer weekend, sleep in late, and a four and a half day long school week is almost too good to be true.

Z This would give students extra hours of sleep, sleep that can help students be more focused and understand the content being taught. And teachers would see more energized kids in the morning and fewer heads down on the desks.

Z With late start Mondays, everyone should be a winner.



Pain continuing at pump

Politicians come up with gimmicky plan instead of focusing on solution to gas crisis

After many debates on the current energy policy, a Democrat and a Republican finally concocted an idea to ease consumers' pain at the pump however the plan has no merit.

Republican presidential candidate John McCain and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton want to create a "gas tax holiday," which would suspend the 18 cent tax that the government has on every gallon of gas.

This "holiday" would start on Memorial Day and end on Labor Day, leaving Americans with a summer of tax-free gas, which is expected to reach \$5.

Clinton and McCain agree that the tax will take off extra pressure that the working middle class is experiencing.

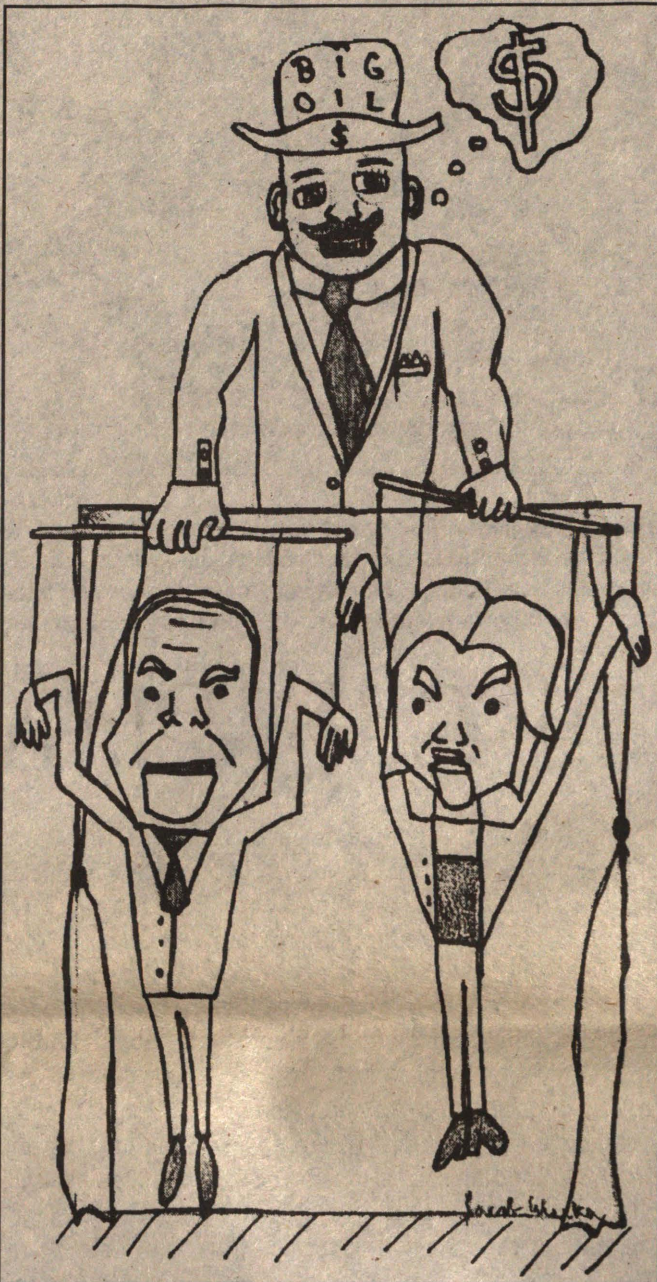
However, only \$3 will be saved per fill up, and an estimated \$30 will be saved for the entire summer. Is it worth it?

Filling up a tank is painful for wallets everywhere, but to create a "gas tax holiday" would be unrealistic.

First off, with the gas tax removed, people would take advantage of the cheaper gas prices thus furthering the demand for oil, and raising the price.

Secondly, oil companies would use the "holiday" to their advantage. With the tax deferred, what's to stop oil companies from raising their prices?

Both candidates hope that the plan will motivate oil companies to increase production. Why should the companies care?



In 2006 and 2007, ExxonMobil made landmark revenues. Last year alone, the company brought in a record \$404.5 billion. They care solely about their profits and have no problem raising their prices.

Also, the "holiday" would strip the federal government of funds that are desperately needed. The tax goes to building and maintaining roads.

According to the New York Times, if the "holiday" goes into effect, an estimated 300,000 workers would lose their jobs and \$9 billion in revenue would be lost.

This \$9 billion is desperately needed, especially as our nation's streets start eroding, like when a crowded bridge crumbled in Minneapolis, killing 13 people in 2007.

However Clinton believes the lost revenues can be repaid by taxing the oil companies, which is not

motivation for those companies to keep drilling.

Seriously, this "holiday" is a joke, and at least one presidential candidate has realized that.

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama has said that McCain and Clinton are making a "gimmick" to reach out to voters.

McCain and Clinton are using the high gas prices as propaganda to boost their campaigns and make Americans believe that both of them care. If these candidates actually cared, they would have pushed for the creation of more alternative fuels, and not come up with absurd plans that would only deepen our crisis while we are already in the midst of one.

Wildcat Chronicle
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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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Jessica Bergmann

Alternative energy used to charge bras, not cities

the creation of a solar powered bra in Japan.

As mentioned on yahoo.com, the bra features solar panels that could produce enough energy to charge a cell phone battery or an iPod. It is also designed to be able to hold beverages in order to reduce the amount of aluminum and plastic being thrown away in the garbage.

Although I view this as an extremely small advance in technology and a small step towards environmental friendliness, I can't help but wonder if the world's scientists and inventors could be using their time more wisely in order to combat global warming and

The recent rise of interest in energy conservation has sparked some unusual and purposeless objects, such as

the creation of a solar powered bra in Japan.

As mentioned on yahoo.com, the bra features solar panels that could produce enough energy to charge a cell phone battery or an iPod. It is also designed to be able to hold beverages in order to reduce the amount of aluminum and plastic being thrown away in the garbage.

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make more eco-friendly products.

In reality, what woman is really going to need a bra that can hold her beverages and charge her electronics?

The bra doesn't even generate energy unless it is exposed to the sun, which means that women would need to walk around shirtless in order to have any energy collected.

No woman, especially in conservative Japan, is going to walk around without wearing a shirt so that she can conserve a small amount of energy.

If society is so concerned about the Earth and going green, then we should be figuring out a way to make hybrids and solar panels cost efficient in order to reduce the amount of energy consumption and emission of greenhouse gases.

It's the big products, like cars, which are going to make a huge impact in the battle against global

warming.

However, it is important to keep in mind that even the smallest conservation of energy can add up.

One invention called Inflight Power is a gadget which harvests electricity through wasted energy that exits the armrest of an airplane seat.

This energy is collected and then used as electricity to charge an iPod.

Gadgets like these make a small, but powerful difference to the way that energy is conserved.

And, let's be honest, it is a gadget that people will actually use because it is relevant and useful to their lives.

If society wants to say that it is truly progressing towards becoming green, then the inventors should begin inventing products that Americans will actually use.

Too nice is too much

While employees should be hired to do their jobs based on abilities, not personality, a disturbing trend is popping up in companies that shows the opposite is true.

My Internet was recently down and I decided to call technical support to get it back up. As soon as I was in contact with an official, he apologized for five or six sentences for the inconvenience.

Unless this official had come over to my house to beat my computer with a baseball bat and caused the problem, I don't really want to hear his apologies. The job was to fix my computer- not give me sympathy.

There has to be a happy medium between being overly

nice and obnoxious, and being mean and inconsiderate.

Encouraging this trend are companies like Cold Stone Creamery which hire employees based on whether they are ecstatic and cheery 100 percent of the time while they are working.

Cold Stone holds auditions to see if potential employees are not embarrassed to sing in public. If they pass, they are hired.

Also, applicants who do not display an excess amount of cheeriness will get declined. These shy applicants may be hard-working individuals, yet will not get hired just because they are not obnoxiously happy.

I don't really want to have an extended conversation with the employee when I get my ice

cream. I think it's kind of awkward. I just want to get my ice cream and leave. Plus, sometimes this outgoing trait is glaringly fake, which makes it even more obnoxious.

As a former employee of Cold Stone Creamery, I know what it is like to be criticized for not being as outgoing as I should be on the job.

However, serving ice cream should not equal extreme sociability, just like being a customer service representative for computers should not equal apologizing for every problem that happens with a computer.

When walking through a Carson Pirie Scott once in the mall with a friend, a cosmetician was standing near her booth, passing

out perfume samples to customers. When my friend and I said no, the woman continued to inquire about my friend's necklace.

Okay, this was fine, but what continued was unprofessional.

The necklace happened to be a very close reminder of a tragedy to my friend's family.

Yet still, the woman did not let up about asking about the details. I can't blame the person for asking questions about the unique piece of jewelry, but the woman was asking close, personal details about the tragedy that not even I knew about my friend.

There is a line that shouldn't be crossed, and employees need to step back to the other side of that line.

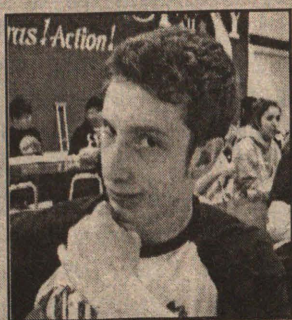


Kym McDaniel

Students Speak

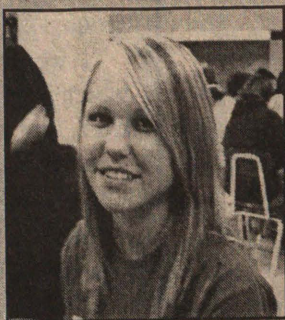
Compiled by Jacob Wucka

What is your solution to the current gas crisis?



Senior
Francis Beifuss

"Everyone should just walk everywhere."



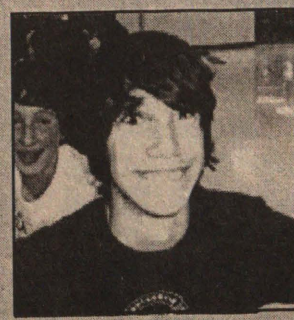
Junior
Emily Breikereitz

"Buy gas effective cars like the Prius. It gets like 40 mpg."



Sophomore
Jessica Demas

"I coast a lot when I drive."



Freshman
Dillon Krotz

"Instead of driving cars we should drive segways and save money."

Have you ever...

So everybody knows the popular game, Would You Rather? But did you know that so many students really have experienced some of the most impossible, gross, and amazing activities?

...swam with wild animals?

By Eileen Damsch

Swimming with dolphins is a rare opportunity for most but sophomore Raelene Struckmeyer was lucky enough to have the experience.

"I was on a cruise with my mom and some family friends in Cancun," said Struckmeyer.

Struckmeyer's nerves started to get the best of her when she saw the size of the dolphins.

"At first I wasn't nervous, but when you get into the water you realize how big they are," she admitted.

The softness of the dolphin's skin took Struckmeyer by surprise.

"They felt almost like velvet," said Struckmeyer.

Before Struckmeyer and her group got to swim,

there were a few precautions they had to take.

"Everyone had to wear life jackets and follow the dolphin trainer's commands."

She and her group were able to do more than just swim with the dolphins though.

"We got to swim and dance with them and we got to tell them to do tricks," Struckmeyer said.

The tricks the trained dolphins performed amazed all the people who were able to swim with the dolphins.

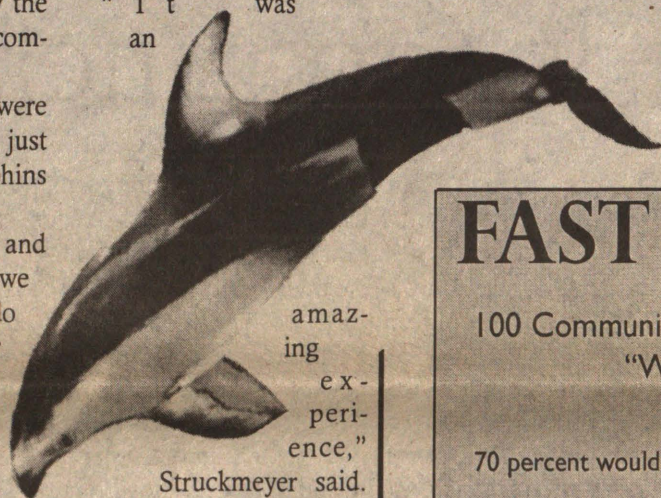
"They did flips and clapped," she said.

Everyone in her group, including Struckmeyer, received a kiss on the cheek.

Struckmeyer was glad

she had the opportunity to do something that many people have not tried.

"It was an



amazing experience,"

Struckmeyer said.

"They were so friendly and cute."

Struckmeyer claimed it is an experience she will never forget and says she would definitely do it again if she was given the chance.



Start

FAST FACTS:

100 Community High School students were surveyed in a "Would You Rather" questionnaire.

70 percent would rather lick somebody's infected toe than drink dirty toilet water.

39 percent would run across hungry alligators while 61 percent would run under an angry elephant.

...traveled around the world?

By Joann Kaczmarczyk

Senior Colin Bachelor went to Tokyo in the summer of 2002 because he liked video games.

"I was like, obsessed, with video games, and I thought it would be cool to visit Japan, because they produce so many of them," said Bachelor.

Bachelor's parents were slightly concerned but quick to agree, because he would be with a safe group.

"I went with my 4-H group, which is like a community service club. Our group has 15 people in it, and we decided to go just for fun," said Bachelor.

The flight was 17 hours long, but Bachelor was unable to sleep.

"I tried to sleep, but I was so excited that I couldn't, so I gave up after a while. I had bought a video game at the airport, a little handheld blackjack game, and I played that instead," said Bach-

elor.

When he arrived, his host family was waiting to pick him up.

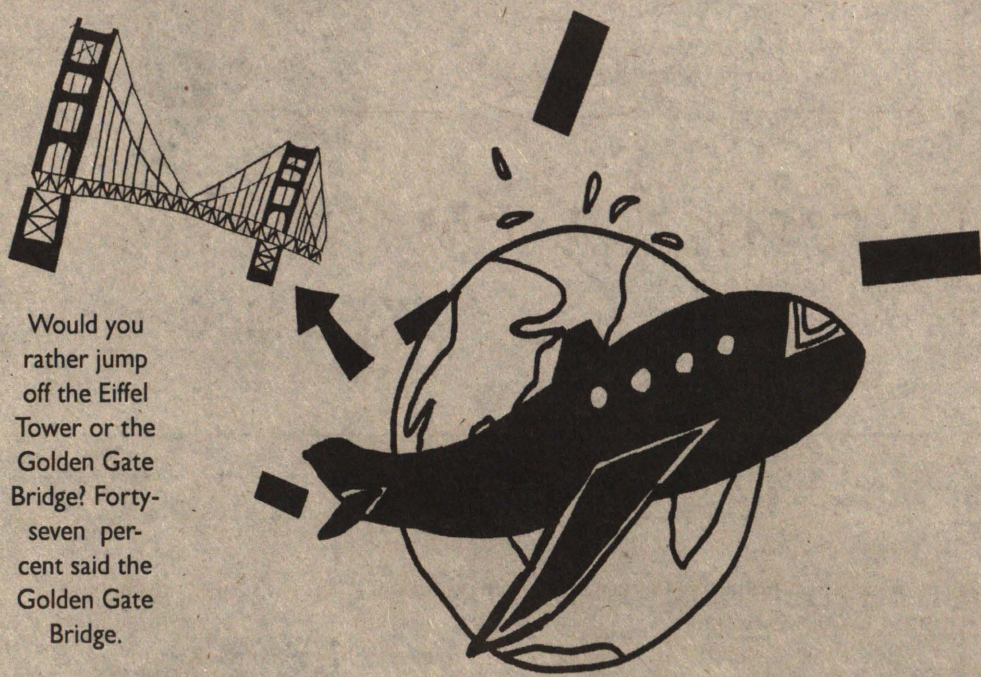
"I stayed with my host brother. My favorite part was being able to hang out with him, getting to know each other, and eating the food," said Bachelor.

Bachelor fit a lot of sightseeing into his trip. "We went to temples and this big five story arcade. It was really cool."

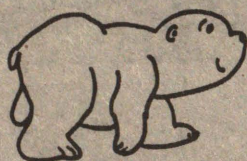
All this made up for the fact that Bachelor didn't understand anything that happened.

"I don't speak Japanese, so I never knew what was going on," said Bachelor. "But, on the plus side, I got to play lots of video games, although even those were in Japanese."

Bachelor plans to return to Japan this summer, this time with his family, even though he still does not know the language.



Would you rather jump off the Eiffel Tower or the Golden Gate Bridge? Forty-seven percent said the Golden Gate Bridge.



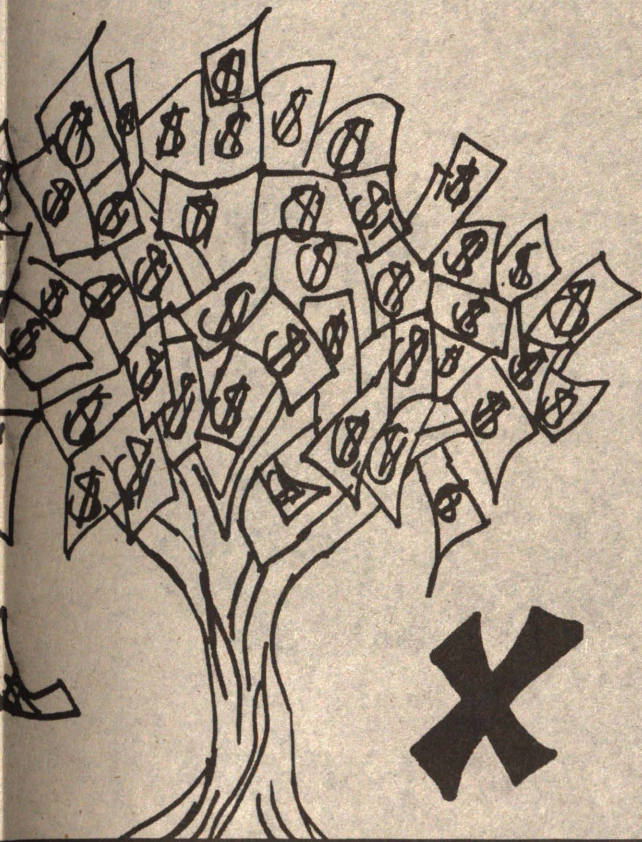
¿Cómo está Usted?

Bien, et vous?



Would you rather be able to talk to animals or understand all foreign languages? Fifty-four percent of students would rather talk to animals.

...won half a million dollars?



By Jacob Wucka

Most students work minimum wage jobs with no hopes of getting a promotion or making more than \$7.50 an hour.

However, senior Billy Stoyhoff should not worry about making minimum wage.

Stoyhoff won the \$495,000 lottery on April 13.

"Last Tuesday, I got a letter with a check. My dad was the one who bought the ticket for me but he didn't tell me," said Stoyhoff.

After his win, Stoyhoff called his mom who was in disbelief until she saw the check. Stoyhoff's friends also didn't believe

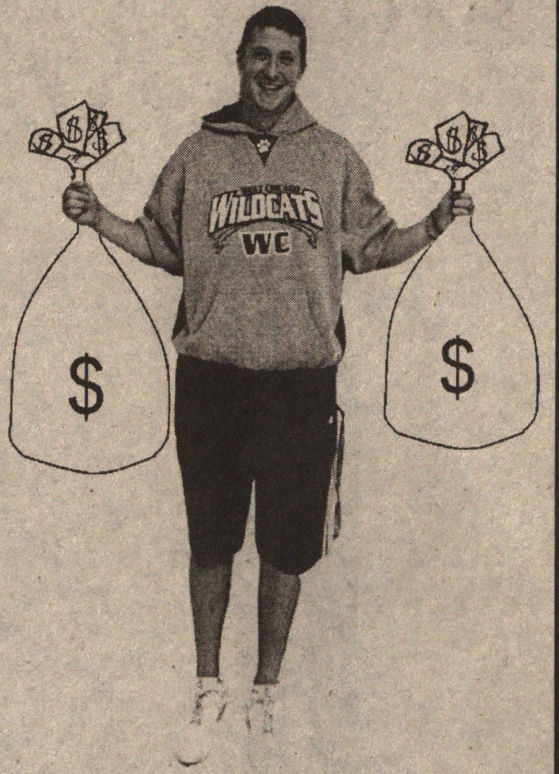
him at first, but according to Stoyhoff they have "all asked for money."

"Random people started calling my house so my mom has been telling them it's a scam," said Stoyhoff.

Stoyhoff will collect his lottery winnings over the next 12 years. The first check he received was \$2,359.

Stoyhoff didn't expect to win the lottery this soon, or at all. He started playing on his birthday Nov. 2, and since then has bought a couple tickets a month.

Stoyhoff plans to save most of his winnings, but also spend some on a Segway, and pay for his college tuition at the University of Iowa.



Senior Billy Stoyhoff

Art by Kym McDaniel

...built a house during spring break?

By Kym McDaniel

While most teens may spend their spring break on a beach, several seniors spent their time rebuilding and tearing down houses in the south.

Seniors Melissa Molskow, Chelsea Steck, Natalie Ckuj, Sam Siefert, and Kellyn Siefert went to New Orleans with their youth group to help the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. About 20 people went for the 18 hour bus drive.

"The residents are very grateful that we're helping them," said Molskow.

"They give us crawfish and have tons of kids living with them. They are so nice, sometimes they give us beads, too."

The teens paint, dry wall and help rebuild the houses.

"Our friend was ripping out the sump pump in a resident's backyard and it smelled absolutely disgusting," said Molskow.

Within the week, Sam Siefert said the most grati-

fying experience was when they dry walled an entire house in one week.

Along with dry walling, Ckuj said she mudded walls and fixed nails that others had poorly put in.

Ckuj also added she gutted out a basement.

"It was moldy and had standing water in it for months," said Ckuj.

The seniors will not be able to attend next year because of college, but all agree that it was the most rewarding experience they have ever had.



Senior Kellyn Siefert

Junior Kelli Grimm screamed for ice cream at the local Carol Garden's and got more than she bargained for.



...found a Band-Aid in your ice cream?

By Kym McDaniel

Junior Kelli Grimm did not order the special surprise ice cream when eating at Carol's Garden.

"I had just ordered vanilla," explained Grimm, who went to eat with her friend and sister at Carol's Garden in Carol Stream. "We had finished eating dinner and we all wanted dessert, so I ordered ice cream."

Grimm's waitress brought out the ice cream, which looked innocent enough. However, soon after taking a few bites,

Grimm noticed something was off.

"I scooped up a chunk of ice cream and it felt really weird in my mouth," said Grimm. "It was leathery and it wasn't as soft. I knew that it couldn't have been ice cream."

Grimm proceeded to put her fingers in her mouth and pull out a folded up, used Band-Aid.

"It was folded up but so disgusting," said Grimm.

Furthermore, the waitress could care less. Grimm said that the waitress was rude about the

mistake and said the Band-Aid must have "slipped off" her finger while she was in the kitchen.

After calling management, Grimm received another ice cream and her dinner free.

"I didn't even want the ice cream anymore though," said Grimm. "It was traumatic!"

Looking back, Grimm can laugh.

"Who else has really eaten a waitress' band-aid before?" she asked.

Grimm refuses to go back to Carol's Garden.

Public vs. Private

Did you have to decide between Wheaton Academy, the Illinois Math and Science Academy or our school? Ever want to know the other side?

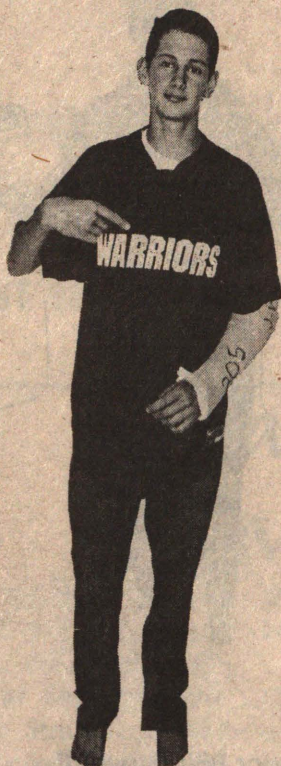


Photo by Joann Kaczmarczyk

Junior Danny Schmitz

Wheaton Academy

By Joann Kaczmarczyk

Most people think of Wheaton Academy as the school with a speed limit of 9.5 mph, full of stuck up kids.

Junior Danny Schmitz enjoys Wheaton Academy because of his friends, who are not the snobs they are stereotyped as.

"My parents picked Wheaton Academy for me, but I agreed to go there because of my friends," said Schmitz.

Unlike public high schools, private school Wheaton Academy, requires students to follow strict dress codes and even stricter rules. The punishment for breaking rules can vary.

"My friend wore her skirt too short one day, and she served detention by weeding the field for a whole week," said Schmitz.

Schmitz agrees that Wheaton Academy's rules may be stricter than a public school. "I don't always agree with them or think they're fair, but I usually follow them," said Schmitz.

Students learn all the same subjects regardless of what type of high school they go to, and the workload is usually similar.

"Everyone complains about homework. Most people think that any amount of homework is too much. I have friends at West Chicago, and we get about the same amount per week, but I think some of my assignments are harder," said Schmitz.

Extracurricular programs are one of the biggest differences between public and private schools.

"We don't have as many people, so our teams are smaller, and we have fewer clubs," said Schmitz. Schmitz is not bothered by this. What does bother him, though, are the dances.

"Dances are when most students have a problem with the rules. There's a strict dress code and a strict behavioral code, and they leave the lights on to make sure the rules are being followed. We have a ton of supervision at dances, and a lot of students don't have fun," said Schmitz.

Other than that, Schmitz is content at Wheaton Academy.

"I didn't have to go here. My parents wanted me to, and my friends go here, but it was my decision, and I am happy with it," said Schmitz.

Community High School

By Trevor Bodie

While senior James Eckler is graduating soon, he has never regretted attending a public high school.

Ultimately the choice to attend a public school was his parents', but Eckler prefers public over private schools.

"I like public schools because you get more freedom," said Eckler.

Besides freedom in the school, public schools provide transportation, no matter where students live.

"I attend public schools so I can always have a ride. Buses come and pick up people from their neighborhood but you must provide your own transportation at private schools because



Photo by Joann Kaczmarczyk

Senior James Eckler

the kids are so scattered," said Eckler.

Rules between the schools also differ greatly. From dress code to curriculum, the teaching methods also change from private to public schools.

"The areas of study are different at private schools. Religion is often taught as a class where as here it is prohibited," explained Eckler.

Public schools typically do not have a uniform policy either, this is something Eckler likes.

"I love the dress code public schools have because it allows students to express themselves how they want," said Eckler.

The loose dress code allowed Eckler and his fellow seniors to wear t-shirts that proclaimed "Graduation: Our get out of jail free card," after the new rules were implemented in August.

"I really don't like our rules at our school but I would not prefer rules that private schools have either. It's jail both ways," said Eckler.

Eckler likes the friends he has made throughout public school. Many kids in public schools grow up with the same group of friends until the end of high school.

"I have had some of my friends since the first grade. Without coming to a public school, I never would have met the ones I know now," said Eckler.

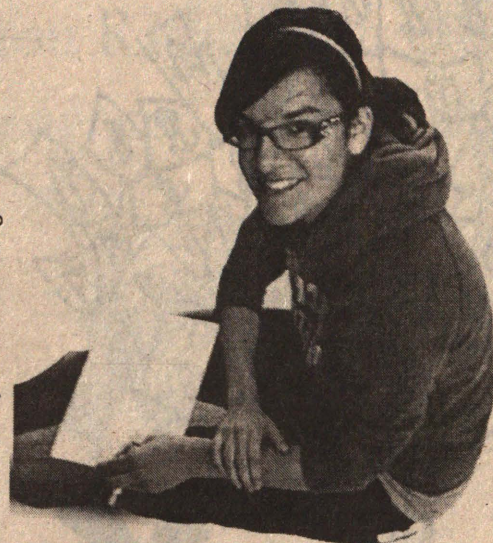


Photo courtesy of Allison Rodriguez

Junior Allison Rodriguez

Illinois Math and Science Academy

By Jessica Bergmann

Junior Allison Rodriguez has had a taste of both public school and boarding school.

Rodriguez attended West Chicago her freshman year, and then applied to the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA).

"IMSA is a public school because it is state funded. I had to take the SAT, a placement test and get teacher recommendations," Rodriguez said.

The biggest difference between West Chicago and IMSA is the fact that IMSA is a boarding school.

"I live on campus during the week and usually go home on the weekends," Rodriguez explained.

She believes that living on campus has prepared her for the future.

"The independence of living away from home since I was 15 has helped me grow up faster and taught me to take care of myself," Rodriguez said.

However, living on campus not only let Rodriguez grow as a person, but has prepared her for the college experience.

"Living on my own and making most of my own decisions has given me a preview of what college is like. The schedule is more like a college schedule than a 'normal' high school's would be, and the courses are really intense," Rodriguez said.

IMSA focuses on math and science based classes and electives, which means there are no easy A's. "I hope that it has better prepared me for college," Rodriguez said.

Although IMSA is challenging and competitive (only 250 students are accepted), Rodriguez has enjoyed her IMSA experience.

"Living with my friends has been a lot of fun. A big misconception of IMSA is that everyone here is really lame. I'll admit that that's true for a lot of people but there are definitely some very worthwhile people here," Rodriguez said.

In her spare time, Rodriguez is a part of Key Club, French Club, track, and is a manager for boys swimming. Next year, she will be a captain for girls swimming.

"We don't just sit in our rooms studying all the time, I promise," Rodriguez said.

Attendance staff member clocks out

After 27 years, dean's assistant retires

By Sarah Berger

For students dying to get out of high school after only four years, imagine spending 27 years walking the halls.

Barb Kearney is now finally taking a well deserved retirement.

Most students know Kearney as the lady in the attendance dean's office, the woman who helps them when their lockers get stuck or hands them that dreaded tardy slip.

However, Kearney is more than just the "lady in the attendance office." Kearney is the dean assistant and will sadly miss her position and relationships after she retires.

"I will miss all my friends here at West Chicago. The staff really becomes like second family, you get to know each other so well," said Kearney.

Kearney has come to truly care about the school and the people in it.

"I love watching the kids in sporting events here at the school. I also like the musicals. I was so excited when they decided to do 'Grease'

"I remember we were cleaning out lockers and I opened one and there was an open can of dog food."

--Barb Kearney

as the spring musical. I had asked many times for them to do that one again, so it was really special," said Kearney.

Kearney has been through everything from dog food situations to threats.

"I remember we were cleaning out lockers and I opened one and there was an open can of dog food sitting on the top shelf. I remember thinking how funny and weird that was. Also, the recent emergency situation the school had was a memorable experience," Kearney said.

As the years passed, Kearney has watched the school grow from 1,300 students to 2,100 students.

"I used to know all of the staff and teachers' names, but now there are just too many to remember," said Kearney.

In retirement, Kearney is planning on traveling in her new camper. "Hopefully if the gas prices go down, my husband and I will drive our camper and take off."

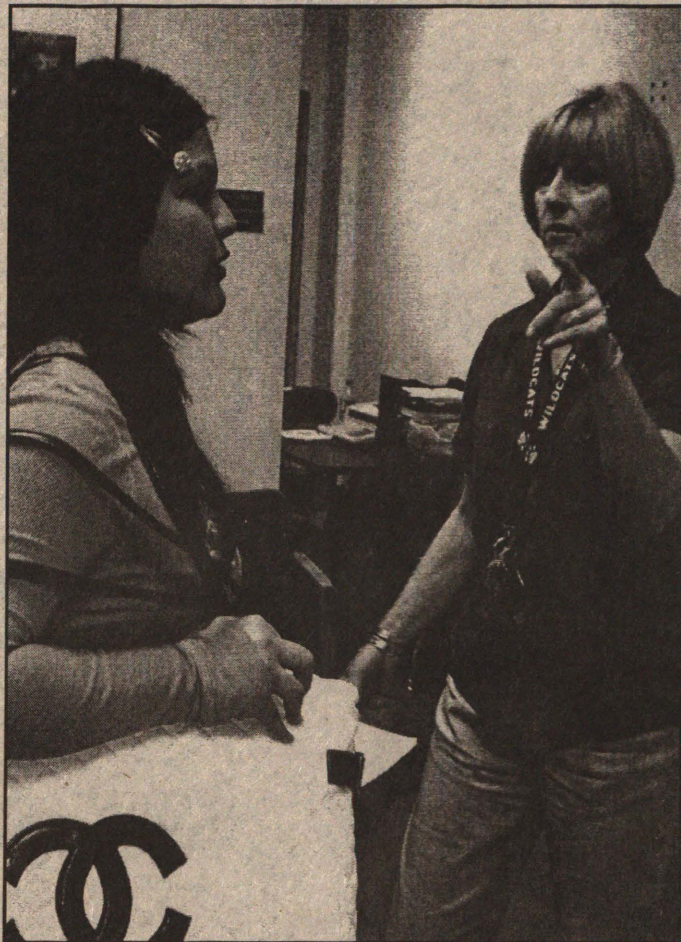
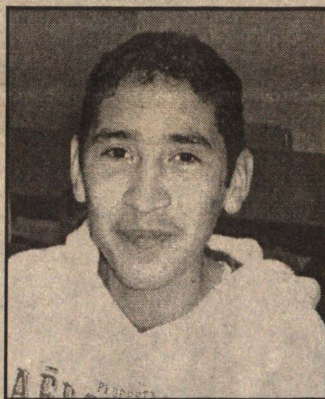


Photo by Sarah Berger

Barb Kearney deals with teens on a daily basis until she retires at the end of this year.

Happy days are here again

Ready for summer? Find out what some of your classmates are doing this summer. Summer nights begin June 9th!



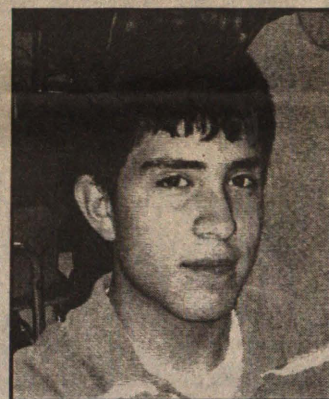
Freshman Abraham Garcia

"Going to Mexico. I have family there."



Junior Katrina Turzinski

"I'm going to Greece for a month because we have two houses there."



Sophomore Eugenio Tirado

"Playing soccer."

Top 5 reasons to consider this fact: 67% of your peers have not had alcohol in the last 30 days



1. There are about 2200 students at your school. It's easy to forget that if 30 were at the party over the weekend, over 2170 weren't.
2. Monday morning's gossip about parties may have spread to the whole school but that doesn't mean it's true.
3. Nobody walks into school on Monday and says "Dude, I stayed so sober this weekend".
4. If we were going to lie about the numbers, don't you think we'd pick an even bigger number?
5. It's true.

67% of your peers haven't had alcohol in the last 30 days.



Sponsored by the West Chicago Youth Commission & Breaking Free, Inc.
Source: "Our Choices, Our Lives" 2007 Drug Use and Perception Survey



Senior Allison Fletcher

"I'm going to La Paz, Mexico and building a shelter for women. Then I'm going to Ghana, Africa with a group called Continentals and passing out food and educational supplies."

Have a great summer!

Looks like the Joker got to the Dark Knight Coaster

By Greg Vodicka

After anticipating the newest addition to Six Flags Great America, the movie-based Dark Knight Coaster left me without a thrill.

The Dark Knight Coaster opened May 21, themed around the summer release of "The Dark Knight," a sequel to "Batman Begins."

Being a fan of Batman, and an even bigger fan of roller coasters, this ride was one that I was pumped for.

It starts by taking you into a mock subway station loaded with features that make you feel like you're really boarding a train.

A dark waiting area sets the scene, while the walls are covered with the train routes as well as fake advertisements for Wayne Enterprises and Gotham Loan Bank.

From my first step into the Gotham Central Railway station, I was impressed with how real the scene felt.

Following joker cards along the line, I reached the entrance to the ticket gate of the train station and was briefed with a Gotham City News T.V. report that would have given Fox a run for its money.

Other rides have tried to pull off fake news footage, but none were as successful as this. I had to double take to re-

alize that the news was setting up the story of the ride, and

not CNN's morning news report playing.

Soon District Attorney Harvey Dent, played by Aaron Eckhart, is introduced on

the program followed by a hijacking scene from the notorious Joker, the villain in the upcoming movie.

As the lights started to flash and the room darkened, glowing graffiti appeared on the walls. Walls reading, "Let's put a smile on that face," glow while riders stare.

The T.V. screen reads, "What are you waiting for?" as the Joker's voice shrieks the phrase.

It definitely left me and other riders grinning as we anticipated the terror ahead of us.

Following the terminal is a pair of two hallways leading to the

boarding platform. Coming from the platform I could hear a combination of thunder, explosions, and the Joker's creepy laugh, again set-

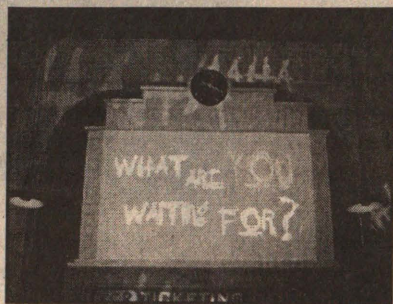


Photo by Greg Vodicka
Heath Ledger's voice as the 'Joker' can be heard laughing as the line moves.



Photo by Greg Vodicka

Anyone waiting in line for the new Dark Knight Coaster at Six Flags may find that the wait is the best part of the ride.

ting a great scene for the ride. Excited from the adventurous wait, I hopped aboard the train car, and it climbed up a steep slope bordered with eerie carnival lights.

The coaster sped up only to loop around several times as small sets with characters I didn't care to see followed every corner. More glow-in-the-dark paint and a few glowing lights lit up the dark room, making the six turns predictable.

After getting whiplash from the hairpin turns, the coaster took about three minor unexpected drops, only to slowly pull back to the platform.

This glorified haunted house was worse than the wait for it.

A perfectly themed ride, great for a family visit, left me hanging.

I would recommend this to anyone with a younger sibling or maybe a girlfriend with a weak stomach, but planning your day around visiting this coaster would be a mistake. If you are at the park, stop by for the experience of a neat waiting line.

Falling behind the Whizzer in best thrills at Six Flags Great America, the Dark Knight Coaster was not what I was waiting for.

Death Cab rakes in way more than average fares

By Kym McDaniel

Death Cab for Cutie's new album "Narrow Stairs" delivers the indie rock that listeners have been yearning for.

Students not familiar with Death Cab's name should not be deterred from their music. The band, named after a Bonzo Dog Band song, is the pioneer of indie rock music. Their first album, was released in 1997, and 11 years later, Death Cab continues to play on.

It is always exciting to hear a band's sound mature, something Death Cab has definitely accomplished within their decade of work. "Narrow Stairs," their album released on May 13 is nothing short of spectacular.

Much more rock than "Transatlanticism" released in 2003 or "Plans" in 2005, the lyrics of "Narrow Stairs" are much easier to interpret. Packed with imagery, stories and metaphors, Death Cab's originality and newfound simplicity was first previewed in February 2008 when they released "I Will Possess Your Heart."

Lead singer and a proclaimed god in some circles, Ben Gibbard croons, "It's like a book elegantly bound/ but in a language that you

can't read just yet." However, "I Will Possess Your Heart" was just a quick preview of much better songs on the album.

Singles like "Cath..." and "Grapevine Fires" lyrics each tell a separate yet important story. Like "Tiny Vessels" released on their "Plans" album, "Grapevine Fires" shows similarities and differences. While both tell a story, "Tiny Vessels" among other stories told on previous albums dealt with love, while a more crucial message of the summer and fall fires of 2007 in California are addressed.

Also, the group's former "Plans" album had a much darker tone than "Narrow Stairs." While "Plans" had the well known single, "I Will Follow You Into The Dark," which is just about as depressing as it sounds, "Your New Twin Sized Bed" on "Narrow Stairs" is upbeat and light.

Good job Death Cab, the only bad thing about "Narrow Stairs" is that it means fans will have to wait at least a few more years until Death Cab releases another album.



Harrison Ford has stood the test of time:

'Raiders': age 38

'Doom': age 41

'Crusade': age 46

'Skull': age 65

'Crystal Skull' proves age is not everything

By Sara Fouts

Audiences will not be disappointed because Indiana Jones is still alive.

"Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," hit the big screen 19 years ago, but 65-year-old Harrison Ford was ready for another adventure.

The latest installment of the series, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," takes place in Nevada in 1957, but the crew also travels to Peru to solve the mystery of the crystal skull.

The movie starts in the mythical government location of area 51. As Jones succeeds in another narrow escape from Russian soldiers, he gets stuck in the middle of an atomic bomb test.

To avoid the bomb, Jones climbs in a refrigerator and miraculously survives.

However, that is not the most shocking scene of the movie. Other mind blowing events that take place include a cliff-side car chase, flesh eating ants that devour everything in their path, and ancient indigenous people who are out to get the skull.

The crystal skull carries the legend that the one to return the skull to the mythical place, El Dorado, will have

the power to control people's minds.

Actor Shai Labeouf does an excellent job portraying the character Mutt Williams, who actually turns out to be Jones' son, Henry the third.

The relationship between him and his father strongly resembles the relationship between Jones and his father in "The Last Crusade."

Labeouf's most impressive moment during the film is when he straddles two moving vehicles while sword fighting a Russian soldier.

In terms of plot, it is completely unrealistic with aliens and spaceships. However, many people in the 50s believed in aliens, and were very concerned with area 51.

Aliens may be new to the films, but the humor is better than ever. Jones even pokes fun at his old age.

The amazing cast and special effects make the movie.

Even with an unrealistic plot, "Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" is a must see for all "Indiana Jones" fans. "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" receives:





Dairy Queen

By Mike Dalton

With the famous trademark of Dairy Queen, the "Blizzard," this ice cream vendor has been able to overcome time and remain a leader in the dairy treat world.

The store in Winfield, next to Tony's Steamers, does not come across as the most hygienic of establishments.

With dust loitering atop the cake freezer, I found myself questioning what my ice cream would turn out to be.

I ordered a simple vanilla cone dipped in chocolate coating.

However, it took a bit longer than expected (the store was empty) because the teenage girl serving me was too busy talking with another employee about her issues with the schedule.

Her hair was down with a bandana in it, piercing in the lip, eyebrow, and tongue, and she bore no signs of any type of uniform. Basically, this seemed like the person you'd least like to buy ice cream from. I got my cone, and yes, it was tasty, but DQ just comes across as too basic.

When they do get fancy and add brownie bits, whip cream and fudge, everything

tastes gross because it's all artificial. The brownie bits seem more like chocolate chips with a sugar coating.

I would not recommend Dairy Queen if anyone is expecting perfection and great delivery in their ice cream experience.

Perhaps it's time they bowed out and moved on.

Cold Stone

Upon entering the store next to AMC Cantera 30 movie theater, a delicious smell of ice cream and waffle cones surrounded me.

Immediately after the bell on the door rang to signal the employees that there was a customer, I am greeted with a friendly, but obviously overused, greeting of "Hi, welcome to Cold Stone!"

On this particular night, there was not as long of a line as would be expected from such a famous establishment.

I stood there contemplating my ice cream choices as an over-energetic employee stood idly by.

All sizes in Cold Stone do not rank in small, medium, and large. No, they are much more creative.

The sizes go as "Like It," "Love It," and "Gotta Have It."

Once I made my "Love It" decision, they immediately set out to make my frozen treat. However, as I stood

ORDER

waiting at the cash register, the employee who was supposed to be ringing me up had forgotten that I had not paid and began helping another customer.

Coughing a bit louder than was necessary, I regained the employee's attention where she proceeded to ask if I needed anything. "Yeah, I would like my ice cream and I guess I should pay for it."

In terms of pricing for their highly demanded product, Cold Stone has some of the most outrageous prices known to the ice cream world. A "Like It" goes for \$3.59, a "Love It" for \$3.89, and a "Gotta Have It" for \$4.29. Each additional "mix-in" (Oreo, graham cracker, chocolate chips, etc.) costs \$.31.

After I paid \$4.75 and got my dish of sweet cream ice cream mixed with graham cracker pie crust and cinnamon, I looked for an open seat.

The tables were filthy with melted ice cream residue and used napkins.

While my overly-priced ice cream tasted delicious, I found myself dissatisfied with the cleanliness of the store and could not help but be bitter with the money I had just spent.

However, it sure tasted good.

Tastee-Freeze

What may be considered a downtown landmark, Tastee-Freeze has finally reopened its doors to the hungrily awaiting public.

When I went to place my order at the window, the very friendly employees were all smiles and wondering what they could get for me.

I ordered the same treat as I had at Dairy Queen, medium vanilla cone with chocolate coating.

The price for my cone was \$2.53, only \$.02 more than what it cost me at Dairy Queen.

Upon tasting the chocolate coating, I couldn't help but think of cardboard. It was a flavorless taste that left me wanting to get right to the vanilla part. The vanilla tasted the exact same as Dairy Queen's.

Cones are not the only item on the Tastee-Freeze order board; they also offer a number of milkshakes and slushies. They even offer something called a "Freezee," which is basically a "Blizzard" from Dairy Queen.

Essentially, Tastee-Freeze and DQ are the exact same type of establishment, specializing in ice cream sales, but also offering hamburgers, hot dogs, and fries.

Sitting at the table immediately in front of the order window, a canopy blocks out the sun and brings in a nice breeze.

Inside, the small building was very well kept and surprisingly clean.

Between the cleanliness and excellent attitude and service from the employees, Tastee-Freeze can afford to occasionally overcook its chocolate dipping sauce.

The Winner

Each store covers the basics: ice cream. However, they each also bring their own styles, flavors, and methods into the mix.

Cold Stone likes to wow its customers with making their ice cream on a slab of marble.

Dairy Queen has new creations each month to offer ice cream lovers.

Tastee-Freeze steps up and attempts new creations despite a small storefront.

Overall, Tastee-Freeze takes the cake, so to speak, in customer service. They are quick, friendly, and generally

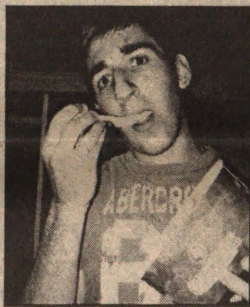
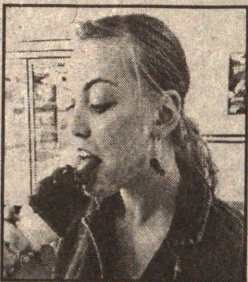
seem energetic to be trapped inside the small hut serving the hungry public.

In terms of taste and display, Cold Stone wins hands-down. They have created an entirely new way of making ice cream, by mixing real cream into the frozen batter.

Everything they sell is made in the back of the store.

Cold Stone may need to work on cleanliness, but nothing can beat their delicious ice cream.

Photos of tasters by Mike Dalton



'Grand Theft Auto' brings a whole new meaning to violence

By Jake Bradley

Moving to another country can be hard.

Moving to another country where gangs, drugs, and other evils are just part of the ordinary day can be even harder.

In the newest installment of the "Grand Theft Auto" series, main character Niko Bellic does just that.

Taking place in Liberty City (New York City), Niko arrives via ship after escaping from his troubles in Russia. The United States shows promise to Niko after constant phone calls from his cousin Roman, who tells him he is living the American Dream.

Roman welcomes Niko at the docks with his car, and they drive back to Roman's

"mansion."

Niko then realizes that his cousin isn't living the dream at all. Roman is a taxi driver for a local business, who is in a tremendous amount of debt.

Now that Niko knows he has to start from the ground up, he is forced to do odd jobs for his cousin in the taxi business.

In the early missions, Niko has to rescue Roman several times from gang members around the city. While Roman is in trouble with the gangs and his boss, Niko has to run and pick up customers that Roman was supposed to.

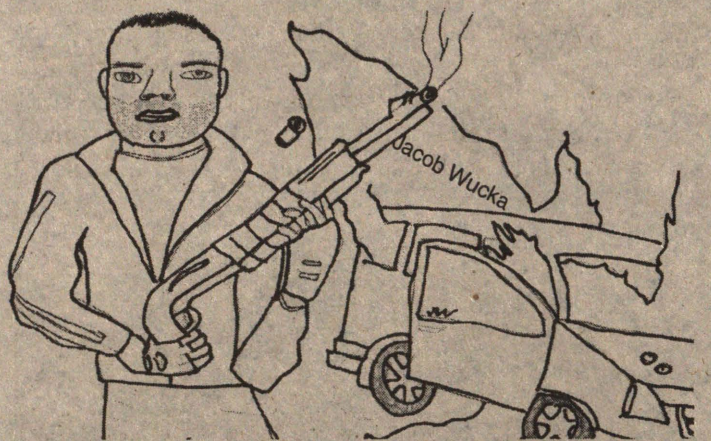
After the first few missions, and meeting a colorful cast

of characters, Niko finally gets jobs from the people he meets.

It's easy to see why the record breaking game sold so many on its opening week. Its vast options in single player, where the player's choices could affect the way the game ends, and its enhanced graphics make GTA IV different from all of the others.

Critics have attacked "Grand Theft Auto's" violence.

But Take-Two, who owns the series, continues to push boundaries adding even more violence than those in the past series. With more graphic car accidents to swift assassinations, GTA deserves its M rating.



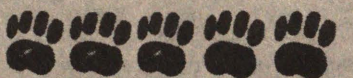
But behind all of the blood and guts, lies a well planned game with a deep story line and new features.

The game's 15 multiplayer modes helped with the sales, being available for the first time in the series. Players hosting matches with hundreds of options make the game exactly how the host wants it. Simple "Deathmatch" is fun, but playing it on Happiness Island with nothing but rocket launchers

and knives makes it a perfect match to play over and over.

Team-based modes, like Cops 'n' Crooks and Team Mafia, elevate multiplayer from simple frag-fest to strategic, car-jacking fun.

GTA IV, by far, is the best game of the series and gamers around the world are helping Niko achieve the American Dream.



From conference to regionals

By Greg Vodicka

After sweeping away the DuPage Valley Conference, the softball team continues on their quest for a state title.

After 11 nail biting innings, the girls squeezed by St. Charles North, beating them 1-0 Saturday.

After a double, hit by sophomore Kaity Olsen, senior Linnea Detrick hit in the only run of the game.

In their fourth season at the high school level, the two seniors are proud to go out with a bang.

"It really is an exciting last hurrah," said Detrick.

Beating York 3-0 on May 21, the team moved forward in the regional bracket.

With an impressive finish to their regular season, the girls grabbed the conference title with a 3-0 win over Plainfield South May 19.

This was the first time the Wildcats had won the DVC since 2001.

Solid pitching from freshman Mary Connolly consisted of 12 strike outs and only two hits.

On the offensive side, Connolly cranked her ninth home run of the season, tying the school's record.

Senior Megan Scott's lead off double in the third inning, paired with sophomore Alyson Taddeucci's third home

run of the season, led to a final score of 3-0.

The win was also the 250th career win for head coach Jim Schaudt.

"I couldn't have written a better outcome to this season," said Schaudt.

Adding to the team's successes, five players made all-conference: Detrick, juniors Chrissie Rovtar and Jamie Dash, sophomore Izzy Bruce, and Connolly. Connolly was also named the DVC's Player of the Year.

According to Schaudt, it's been years since the team has had five girls go all conference.

"In all my years I have never seen a freshman get Player of the Year," said Schaudt. "She earned everything she got."

Connolly admitted that she couldn't have done it without the girls behind her. She also said that she has plenty of room to improve.

"I still get nervous sometimes. I've never been here before," said Connolly.

Even with the DVC as tough as ever, the team persevered to take the title. The top five teams each had a record over 500.

"It's a huge accomplishment not only for our program, but for our entire school," said Rovtar.

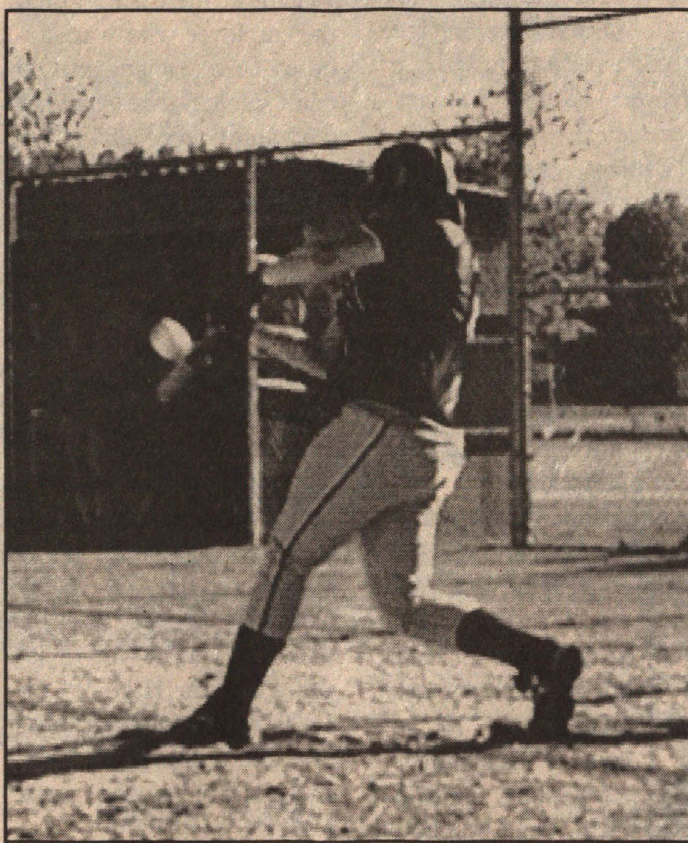


Photo by Greg Vodicka

Player of the Year, freshman, Mary Connolly gets ahold of a pitch at a regional playoff game against York on May 21.

As far as goals go, winning the DVC was the first step, but a regional and state title is the main ambition.

"Our goal now is to win state, but we are trying to take it one game at a time," said Detrick.

Detrick also gives a lot of credit to the team for stepping up.

"We have different players who step up each game. Yesterday (May 21) the bot-

tom of the order scored all our runs. It just goes to show we need the whole team to be successful," said Detrick.

Rovtar expressed that the team's success comes from their relationships off the diamond as well as on.

"We get to know each other on a deeper note and can trust each other," said Rovtar.

She also added that it doesn't come easy to make such strong relationships,

and said that she owes it to their time off the field.

"We have the famous softball team sleepovers in the beginning of the year. It's where we learn a lot about each other. Being cool with everyone outside of softball significantly helps how we play together on the field," said Rovtar.

While this exciting season comes to a close, the girls look towards next season to defend their conference title.

"We won't sneak up on anyone next year," said Schaudt. "We'll have a big bull's-eye on our back."

Rovtar said that the team is lucky to only be losing two seniors, however they are key players.

"We're losing Linnea (Detrick), who has a solid bat, and is a huge leader behind the plate. Plus Megan (Scott), whose bat really came alive towards the end of the season and is an awesome third baseman," said Rovtar.

Schaudt admitted it will be hard to replace players like Detrick and Scott.

However, the entire outfield and the majority of the infield will be returning next season. According to Rovtar, it can only go up from here.

The team looks to players such as Rovtar and Dash for leadership next season.



Photo by Megan Hernbroth

Senior and captain Ivana Boers leads the team at practice, along with senior captain Jessica Jones.

Season ends with loss to ranked team

By Megan Hernbroth

A successful season for girls soccer wrapped up with a tough loss against Wheaton North at regionals.

"We did much better this time, we played really well," said head coach Cesar Gomez.

They lost with a score of 2-0. Senior and goalie Kayla Radloff had 19 saves in the game. Wheaton North was ranked first in the conference, so the team wasn't very disappointed by the loss.

"We took baby steps all season," said Gomez. "We looked at the season one game at a time and it paid off."

The girls won 2-1 at Glensbard South on May 14,

qualifying for regional finals against Wheaton North on their home field.

The team ended with a 10-7-3 record overall and came in fourth with a 5-3 record in conference.

Other highlights this season were the win against Naperville North and the tie against Wheaton Academy.

"We weren't supposed to win that game at Naperville North and they were ranked really high, so it was pretty awesome," said senior, captain Jessica Jones. "And Wheaton Academy has an incredible team, so we weren't expecting to even come close to them this season."

Gomez looks back on his first season as varsity's coach

as a success.

"I didn't know we'd be this successful in the first year," said Gomez. "I came into this job and saw the girls were very hardworking people."

With strong JV and freshmen teams, the future in this conference is optimistic. Gomez is looking forward to training a new group of girls. The program is well-known throughout the town, so most girls coming into it will already know procedures and expectations they will have to live up to.

"We've got a good group of seniors this year that really left an impact, so it's going to be hard to find other girls to fill their spots next season," said Gomez.

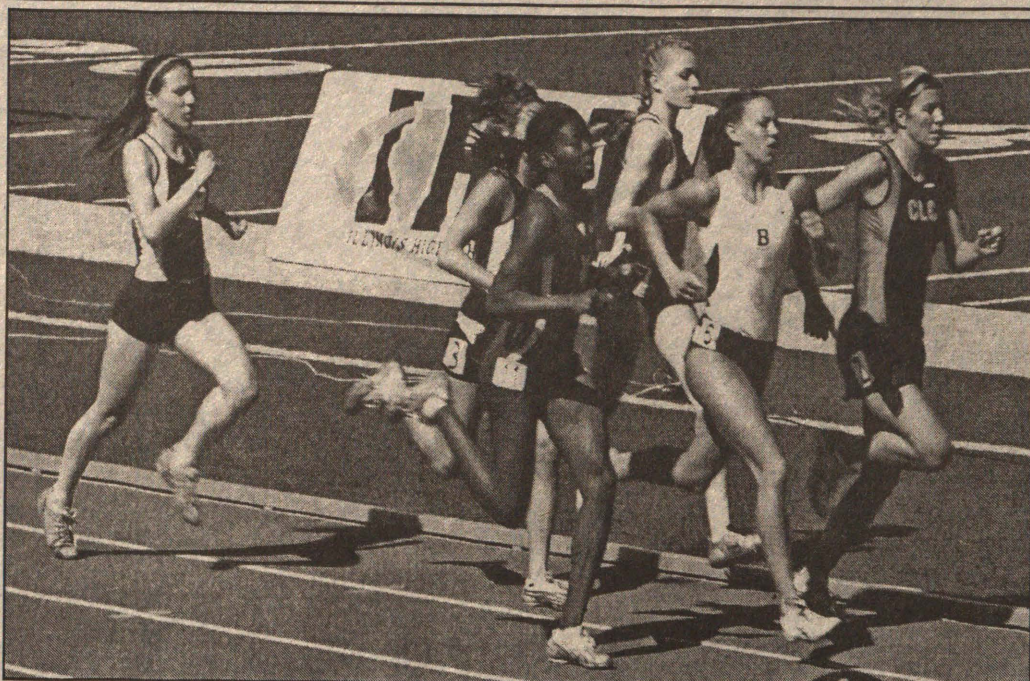


Photo by Joann Kaczmarczyk

Sophomore Annette Eichenberger (third from front) competed in state on May 16-17 at O'Brien Stadium in Charleston, Ill. Eichenberger placed sixth in the 800m dash.

Last leg of season means records for track teams

Girls track and field

By Joann Kaczmarczyk

Girls track has finished its most successful season of the past decade or more.

Senior Kristen Johansen and sophomore Annette Eichenberger qualified for state in shot put and the 800m

dash, respectively. Eichenberger placed sixth in the 800m with a time of 2:14.46, both by Eichenberger. She also broke the 4x400 relay record with the help of senior, captain Kara Triner, junior Brittany Smith, and freshman Karlie Becker, with a time of 4:09.10.

Apart from first and second place for Eichenberger and Johansen, the girls also scored fifth for the 4x400m

dash, respectively. Numbers continue to grow next year, and I look forward to working with all the new freshman that join. We have a very promising future ahead of us," said Petmezas.

Boys track and field

Due to injuries and bad circumstances, boys track is finishing their season just short of the mark.

"We started out strong, but the crazy spring weather kept us from doing our best," said coach Paul McLeland.

Various team members suffered injuries, but McLeland was still hopeful for sectionals, especially for seniors and captains David Musick and Josh Tikka, in long and high jump, respectively.

"Every time someone returned (from an injury), someone else left because of an injury," said McLeland.

Junior Trent Amey was the surprise upstart, placing the highest of the team with 10th place in the 100m dash.

The team may have struggled in competition, but the individuals improved.

"Against DVC, we haven't done the best, but we had a lot of personal bests. Out of 55 members, 52 have personal bests, and two of the three that haven't, (senior, captain) Neil Luka and Musick, have been injured," said McLeland.

The seniors all look back fondly on the season, and anticipate better results next year.

"We've had our ups and downs, and it's been fun. Next year will be better, because we have a lot of young talent," said senior, captain

run at sectionals.

They performed even better at DVC, where apart from Eichenberger and Johansen's success, Becker earned fourth in the 200m dash and senior Rachel Jefferson placed second in triple jump with 34'9", though they only placed seventh as a team.

"We're looking for more girls for next year. We only have four seniors coming back," said Triner.

The coaches anticipate a talented team, because the underclassmen performed well this year.

"I would like to see our

Saying goodbye

By Jake Bradley

After a season of ups and downs, the boys volleyball season closed with a loss at regionals to Conant May 20.

After losing one match, 25-14, the team turned it on during the second game, hoping to push the momentum into the third game. But the team fell behind in the middle of the game and lost the third game 25-18.

With a 13-27 record, and 3-11 in the DVC, Coach Kris Hasty was proud of her team.

During the season, the team worked on their weakness and grew.

Areas of improvement in the beginning of the season were leadership, blocking, consistency, and 100 percent effort, 100 percent of the time, said Hasty.

"Obviously we didn't fix them or we would have been regional champions," said Hasty. "However I saw some things in the Conant match that I had not seen all season."

Hasty noticed a relentless pursuit of balls, and plays that get the crowd and bench excited.

"If we would have been firing with all cylinders at the same time we would have had more wins this season," said Hasty.

Many players caught Hasty's attention by improving throughout the season in various ways.

Hasty recalls junior Ryan Krage and his defense through out the season, and senior Andrew Opperman when he stepped it up.

Everyone came together in the beginning of the season, and bonds grew from there.

With those bonds, it was tough saying goodbye to the senior class for some teammates.

"I'll miss them all," said junior DJ Clark. "Some of them were my teammates last year. They had great talent."

Junior Blain Flannigan will also miss the seniors. "But I'll miss Opperman's hits the most," said Flannigan.

As for the seniors, it was a tough goodbye for them as well since they are moving on to the college level.

"I'll miss the memories we had and made," said senior Oscar Grajeda.

Hasty added that she will miss a fun group

"Losing eight out of 11 to graduation for a second year in a row really hurts," said Hasty. "It is hard to build a team in one season."

Though the talented group of seniors is gone, Hasty is excited for next season and the new team.

"I am looking forward to working with some of the younger athletes for longer than just their senior year," said Hasty. "Having players get more than one year of varsity experience should really help out program."



Photo courtesy of Douglas Selby

Junior Zach Mowen makes a transfer with junior Trent Amey at sectionals on May 16.

dash, respectively.

Eichenberger placed sixth with a time of 2:14.46. Johansen did not make it to finals due to pain in her elbow.

The coaches were hopeful that more girls would qualify, though they are proud of the two that did.

"This has been, by far, one of the most exciting years for our team. We qualified two deserving athletes for state and we broke a number of school records, one of which has been on the record boards since 1971," said coach George Petmezas.

The records broken in-

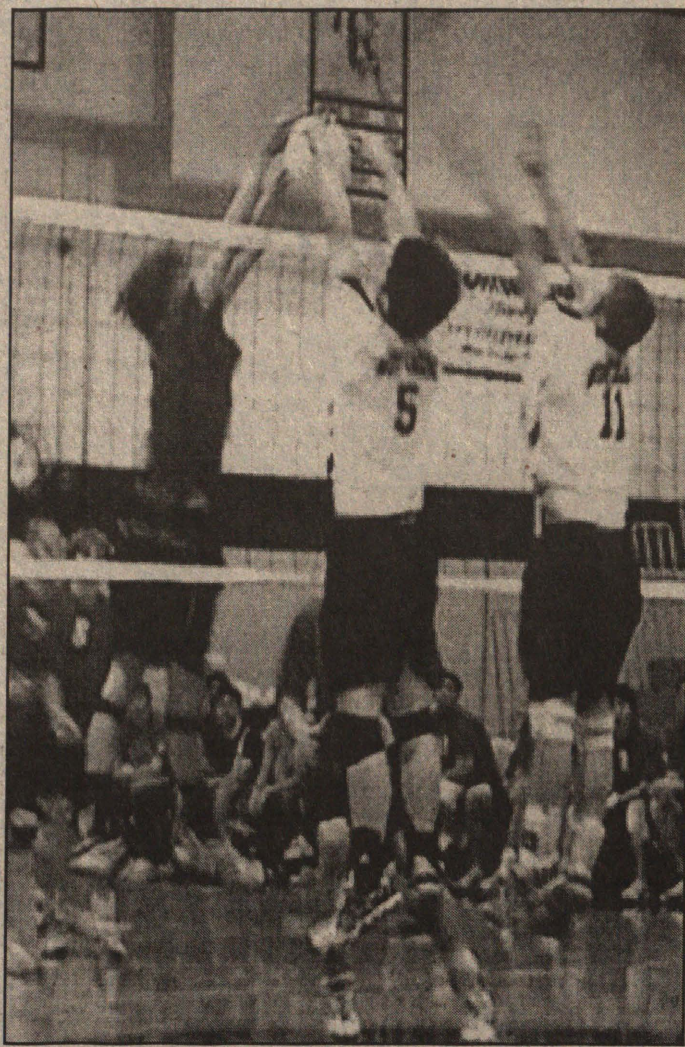


Photo by Jake Bradley

Seniors Andrew Oppermann and Mike Wall block a Conant middle blocker at the second regional match on May 20.

Individual in state finals

By Jessica Bergmann

Junior Ania Skorupski was the lone team player to compete in the badminton state finals held at Eastern Illinois University on May 9 and 10.

Skorupski beat Wheaton Warrenville South, East Aurora and Bolingbrook in the singles competition to place fourth in the overall competition at the Naperville Central sectional on May 1.

Skorupski was thrilled to find out she would be competing at state.

"I came really close last year, so I was happy to finally make it this time," Skorupski said.

Skorupski said that this was the first year that only one girl has competed. Typically, about 10 or more girls compete.

"Being the only person that made it was kind of lonely," Skorupski said.

In her first match, Skorupski competed against a player from Hinsdale Central. Each match consists of two games. Skorupski lost her first game 21-9 and her second 21-6, losing the match overall.

"The first match was a disappointment," Skorupski said.

After losing her frustrating first match, Skorupski came back to win her second match against Glenbard East, which

put her back on the scoreboard.

"I felt really good about my second match after I lost the first," Skorupski said. "I wanted to prove that I belonged in the competition."

Skorupski said that the new skills she learned during the season, such as the full court clear and the slice shot, helped her to claim a victory.

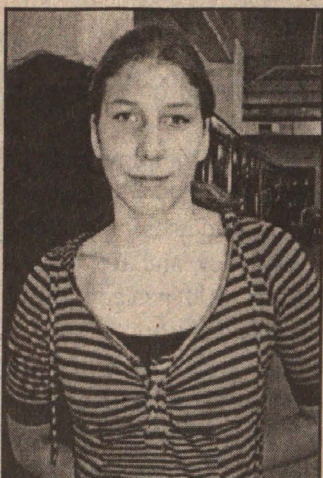


Photo by Jessica Bergmann
Junior Ania Skorupski placed fourth in sectionals to qualify for state finals.

However, her newfound energy did not last long. In her third and final match against Wheaton Warrenville South, Skorupski lost her first game 21-10 and her second 21-17.

Skorupski was pleased with her overall playing.

"I tried my best in all my matches and that is good enough for me," Skorupski said.



Beijing 2008

Olympics attempt to conquer conflict

By Mike Dalton

Despite all the conflict surrounding the 2008 summer Olympics and the torch relay, the games will still hold the age-old tradition of spirited competition and fair play.

The famous Olympic torch is being protested by a large number of protesters angered at China for hosting the 2008 ceremonies.

As tradition goes, the torch travels across the world before ending at the host country of the summer games.

However, due to the protesters against China and their oppression of Tibet, the Olympic committee has opted to not have the torch make its traditional final run across the country.

Games will be held in Beijing, China starting Aug. 8

and ending on Aug. 24.

Beijing's national stadium built in 2003 covers 258,000 sq. miles, and can seat up to 91,000 spectators.

Once the games finish, Beijing will turn their \$500 million stadium into housing for national and international sporting events, along with "cultural and entertaining activities," posts the official website for the 2008 summer games.

Forty-one different types of events will take place over the 16-day course of the Olympics.

During the athletic portion of the games, there will be 47 different matches; athletics covers all track and field events.

Swimming has the second largest amount of matches,

with 32.

Returning gold medalist, U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps, is coming back to the games to attempt more world records.

Phelps already holds the men's swimming world record in the 200 yd. freestyle, 200 yd. butterfly, and the 200 yd. independent medley.

Competing against Phelps during the 2008 games will be fellow countryman Ian Crocker.

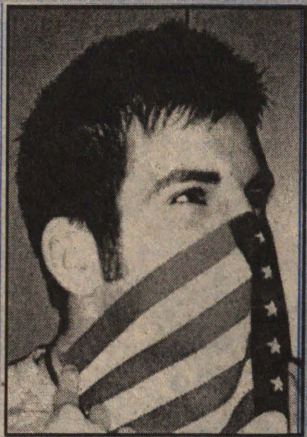
Crocker is the current world record holder for the 100 yd. butterfly.

Other returning Olympians are yet to be named, as the trials have not all been held for the games.

Protests or not, the 2008 Olympics are sticking to tradition.

Senseless protest not worth sacrificing years of training

As the Olympic torch travels to Beijing, China for this summer's Olympic



Greg Vodicka

Games, the protest against the bloodshed in Tibet follows closely behind.

The decision to award the

games to China after news of countless deaths including murdered religious leaders such as monks and nuns raised a dispute around the world.

Some protesters argue that allowing an event as prestigious as the Olympics to take place in a country that is causing so much death is appalling. Others make the point that a boycott would open the eyes of the world to the problems in countries under dictators.

Whether an athlete, a protester, or a sports fan, Americans need to consider the Olympic athletes.

From a young age, athletes dream of that spot on the Olympic team for their par-

ticular event. These determined competitors train long hours for years in hope to one day get a shot at the gold.

Although there are other global sporting events, none of them compare to the esteemed Olympics.

While this ceremony only comes around every four years, it is likely that even highly trained athletes that have the ability to perform at the Olympic level have one Olympic experience in their career when they are in their prime.

Sure, the Olympics will roll around in another four years, but so much can happen in that period of time for an athlete of this caliber. Besides injuries and other health is-

ues, an athlete has the wear of their lifestyle on their body to worry about. Years of training can take a toll on the body.

To inform Olympic contenders that they will have to wait another four years to get their shot is simply a slap in the face to their hard work and dedication.

Athletes should still get what they deserve; a shot at the gold as they have nothing to do with the many unfortunate deaths of innocent people.

Protesters have demonstrated that going through with the games would be turning a cheek to the issue at hand in Tibet.

Who's to say, however, that

a boycott would even make a difference? Why would communist China want to listen to the U.S. after 50 years, especially with corporate sponsors behind them?

Is it worth taking a gamble of throwing away everything teams and individuals have trained their whole lives for?

After sounding heartless, no one, including me, wants to see the deaths of innocent people be pushed aside for the games sporting fans adore to go on.

Understanding the argument that murder is more important than playing games, consider who will suffer in the process.