

Wildcat Chronicle

Community High School 326 Joliet St. West Chicago, IL 60185

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Coach asked for resignation

By Alexis Hosticka
Perspectives Editor

After 14 years of coaching basketball, varsity head coach Kevin Gimre has resigned his position due to a request from first-year athletic director Doug Mullaney.

"Mullaney asked me to resign my position as head basketball coach citing that it would be best for the future of the basketball program," Gimre said. "I disagree with the decision that the administration made and it was not my desire to step down."

Mullaney sees this as a very sensitive issue and respects Gimre's stance

After spending the past season evaluating the program, Mullaney believes that replacing Gimre will allow the basketball program to grow.

"Through the confidential conversations I've had with Mr. Gimre, I supported this direction," said Mullaney. "I support his position on the matter."

Mullaney declined to comment further on the reason behind Gimre's requested resignation, citing it as "confidential information."

"I liked coach Gimre, but this could be a good opportunity to work with a different system next season," said junior Charles Jacques.

During Gimre's eight years as varsity head coach, the team won the regional title twice, in 2003 for the first time in 43 years and again 2005. However, Mullaney sees Gimre's resignation decision as best for the players.

"We are doing what is best for the students and support all the educators and coaches," Mullaney said.

Gimre will continue to teach math, but is disappointed that he will no longer be coaching, saying that it was his "intention to continue coaching next year."

Gimre's former position is now open and Mullaney hopes to have a new coach in the position within a month.

I feel like we are now neglecting the kids [that are striving to get their best education], -- Math teacher Kristina Mallon



Photo illustration by Greg Vodicka

Current economy threatens programs

By Jacob Wucka
Sports Editor

Living in this volatile economy has forced lawmakers across America to make tough decisions regarding the future of this country.

Closer to home, the economic situation is forcing Community High School's administration to make some careful decisions regarding classes for the 2009-10 curriculum.

"We are still determining whether classes with small numbers can be run, when at this point, money is not readily available," said Assistant Principal of Student Services Gail Aronoff.

At the forefront of this debate is advanced placement (AP) classes.

As of March 16, the math and science division were taking the hardest hits; cutting AP statistics, AP physics, and

AP chemistry.

Strong reactions, like that of math teacher Kristina Mallon and parents, may have swayed the Board of Education's stance on the issue.

"I feel like we are now neglecting the kids [that are striving to get their best education]," said math teacher Kristina Mallon, who teaches AP statistics.

At the March 17 board meeting, parents filled the board meeting and voiced their concerns over cutting AP classes.

The board then reconsidered, and decided that one section of AP statistics and AP chemistry would be reinstated into the 2009-10 curriculum.

However, AP classes are not the only ones that have faced potential cutting. A popular physical education class has been canceled for next year.

"I understand the budget cuts," said family and con-

sumer science teacher Patty Clifford, who teaches the recently cut food and fit. "But why do they have to cut the whole course and not just a section or two?"

In food and fit, students participate in a physical education class for three days and then take a foods class for the other two that teaches the students how to live with healthier habits.

Clifford is disappointed that her class is being cut, especially due to the fact that other foods classes cost more to operate than food and fit.

"We [physical education teachers Amy Gibson and Kris Hasty] created the idea for this class, so we were very excited when we could offer it here," said Clifford. "It's really disappointing to see something that I see as an important class

See cuts page 2



Photo by Jessica Bergmann

In front of a packed house, Wego's finest strutted their stuff for the title of Mr. Wildcat. See page 3 for full coverage.

INSIDE Consolidation

After much consideration and \$15,000 later, the Consulting and Resource Group, hired by the administration, advised no change at this time.--see **NEWS**, page 3.



Unemployed

Finding a job after college may be harder than before, especially with unemployed professionals also searching for work.--see **PERSPECTIVES**, page 6.

Status Update

Social networking websites have become a popular means of communication for teens and young adults. But do users really know who is lurking on Facebook? --see **CENTER-SPREAD**, pages 8-9.

Record Breaking



Breaking records indoors, the boys and girls track team are ready to start their outdoor seasons, with the goal of a state title.--see **SPORTS**, page 16.

What's Happening?

By Sarah Berger
Entertainment Editor

NHS

Students from National Honor Society will travel to Mobile County, Ala. to help build and finish houses through the Habitat for Humanity program.

Eight students will be going on the trip over spring break from Saturday to April 4.

The trip is only open for second year NHS students who were inducted their junior year.

"We are going down to Mobile County to provide low income housing relief after natural disasters. Mobile County is one of the poorest regions in Alabama and is still recovering from Hurricane Katrina," said NHS adviser Kristina Mallon.

The trip was made possible through fundraising and a donation from Booster Club.

Choir

The auditorium was filled with the sound of music on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m as the choir performed its annual winter concert.

Performing with the choir this year were Benjamin Middle School and West Chicago Middle School choirs.

Everything from folk songs to contemporary choral traditional were performed as well as sacred and secular gospel music.

"Doing a variety of music at the concert keeps the audience entertained the whole time because they don't know what's coming," said sophomore and chamber choir member Emma Roberts.

We-Go Buddies

We-Go Buddies will combine a fundraiser for Jayne Zenker, a former student that is in need of a liver transplant, and a bowling field trip on April 16.

The field trip/fundraiser will be held at Bowling Green and is open only to We-Go Buddy members, but if people want to stop by and bowl it is appreciated.

"We are not going to pick a percentage yet that we are going to donate to Jayne, we are just going to see how much money is raised and then base it off that. The rest will be donated back to We-Go Buddies," said We-Go Buddies adviser Abby Lynch.



Photo courtesy of Candace Fikis

The boys economics team (from left) seniors Jozef Pavnica, Jack McCormack, Stuart Sankovitch and Jason Foreman captured first place in the state Federal Reserve challenge, while adviser Candace Fikis also led the girls team, seniors Shannon Cassello, Kristin Goffinet, and Priya Shah placed third in the state competition.

Finalists head to Houston

By Jessica Bergmann
News editor

The boys economic team swept away the competition on March 21, placing first in the state Federal Reserve challenge and earning the opportunity to go to nationals.

The team, which consists of seniors Jozef Pavnica, Stuart Sankovitch, Jason Foreman and Jack McCormack, will travel to Houston to compete against 12 other state champions in the region on April 27.

If the team wins this competition, they will go to New York City to compete for the title of top economics team in the nation and a \$1,000 savings bond.

According to Foreman, the

first few rounds of the competition were easy, but it got harder from there.

"We were up by almost 200 points. But the last round was quizbowl style, and I was actually nervous before that because I really wanted to go to Texas," Foreman said.

While this is the first year for economics team adviser and teacher Candace Fikis, her confidence is high.

"I feel real good about our chances to go to the [national] regional. Our players have a lot of experience through other business experiences," said Fikis.

However, the boys team was not the only one who found success. The girls team, consisting of seniors Priya Shah, Kristin Goffinet,

Shannon Cassello and Ania Skorupski placed third in the state competition.

Teammates definitely feel the competition between the gender separated teams, according to Skorupski, who was unable to attend state due to prior obligations.

"There is definitely a gender battle between us, we push each other and try to beat the other team," said Skorupski.

Competition topics consist of micro economics, macro economics, international economics, and current events.

It is a test style competition, where teams are rewarded 10 points for a correct answer, 5 points deducted for an incorrect answer, and no deduction for no answer.

Extensive application process

Students compete for opportunity to travel

By Alex Lima
Reporter

With one student coming back, three more students may have the chance to go to Germany under the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program.

Seniors Isabel Correa and Bill Heinze, along with sophomore Isolda Page, are all semi-finalists for the program, and will be notified in April if they are finalists.

The scholarship is only given to 250 students in the United States. The scholarship covers airfare and books.

"Basically all they need is spending money," said German teacher Terry Ströhm. "The government will take them on trips to meet other

European Union officials."

Since 1983, the program has given students a chance to know what it is like to live and attend school in Germany for a full academic school year.

"I was really interested in the German culture, and I wanted to learn more," said Heinze, explaining why he applied.

To apply to the program students filled out a lengthy application, got letters of recommendations, and mailed the applications in December.

After the applications were complete and sent in, the students were required to give an interview.

"The application process was really tedious," said Cor-

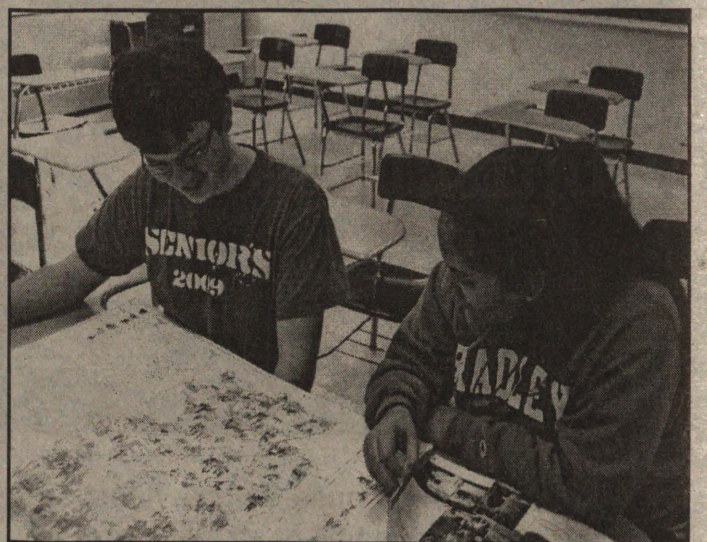


Photo by Alex Lima

Seniors Bill Heinze and Isabel Correa are two of the three semi-finalists competing for the chance to go to Germany.

rea. "I had to write about seven essay questions."

However, the time and effort paid off for Correa.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity and it will help me improve on my German speaking abilities," said Correa.

Junior Mary Murphy was

a finalist last year, and is currently in Germany.

Several former students of Strohm that went to Germany decided to go back and stay.

"I have a former student that now lives and has a family in Germany," said Strohm.

Cuts: School unsure about future of programs

(Continued from page 1)

go away."

The cuts are coming due to a combination of conflicting issues, mainly caused by the tight budget given to administrators for next year, along with low enrollment.

Under state law, the school has to maintain a balanced budget.

Administrators could approach the possibility of a raise in property taxes, which fund America's public schools. However, due to the economy, that option is virtually off limits.

"In deficit mode, one thing we look to is trying to make [class] cuts in ways that least impacts the students," said Principal Moses Cheng.

Cheng also stated that since the school's budget is going to be smaller next year, cuts will be made across the board.

"We will receive less money next year from all funding sources, and cuts will need to be made from everywhere in the school," said Cheng.

Whether any classes will be cut, or will remain cut is unknown, according to Aronoff.

Mr. Wildcat crowned while helping others

By Jessica Bergmann
News Editor

With a showstopping performance, Mr. Wildcat filled the auditorium with students, teachers, parents and community members on March 6.

After a two and a half hour performance, senior Jozef Pavnica was declared Mr. Wildcat.

"I was extremely surprised!" Pavnica said.

Pavnica, who sported footie pajamas for the modeling portion of the competition, wowed judges with his soulful talent.

"I didn't especially want to play piano, so I decided to play guitar. I've heard I'm not that bad of a singer and I had to show some talent, so I put together a medley of some of the greatest songs ever to play an acoustic," Pavnica said.

While Pavnica's performance earned him first place, other contestants kept the audience laughing through hip-hop dances, a solo drum performance, karate moves, and a spin on the popular TV show "Fresh Prince of Bel-

Air."

Senior Ivan Desfassiaux's talent portion, a dancing midget, earned him second place in the competition.

"I had the best talent ever. I should have won! You can't go wrong with an entertaining midget," Desfassiaux said.

Mr. Wildcat adviser Mitch McKenna was impressed with the overall performance, especially on behalf of the tech crew.

"The senior guys put in a ridiculous amount of time and effort into their performances and I think that it definitely showed. But, we couldn't have had such an amazing show without the tech crew. They were unbelievable," said McKenna.

The contestants began the night with a choreographed dance routine to a hip-hop compilation.

"We spent about an hour learning the dance. It took a little elbow grease to get right, but it was an absolute riot to perform. The dance was worth every minute practicing," said third place win-

ner senior Jack McCormack.

While Mr. Wildcat contestants prepared for their separate events, transitions included performances by the Diamond Steppers, cheerleaders, an acoustic set by student band Sheffield, and even a performance from Mitchell "Branch" McKenna.

"The idea came to me at midnight the day before Mr. Wildcat. I was lying awake thinking about how we needed a better transition and I thought of coming out as a character. Soon enough, Mitchell "Branch" McKenna came to me," McKenna said.

Next year, McKenna hopes that the performance will be even better.

"I want to make it like 'American Idol,' where they have a video biography of the contestants before they do the performance," McKenna said.

Mr. Wildcat raised \$1,200, with \$400 donated to the WeGo 2 Africa project and \$800 to the local community to help out families who have been severely impacted by the economy.

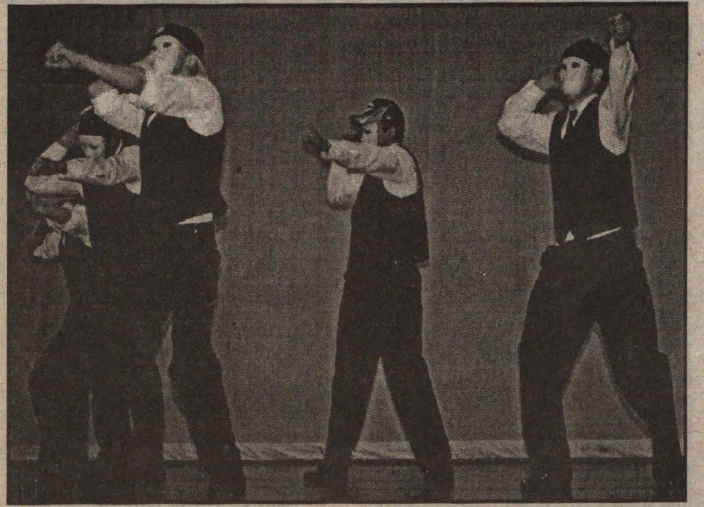


Photo by Jessica Bergmann

The contestants of Mr. Wildcat practiced for hours to perfect their opening hip-hop dance act.

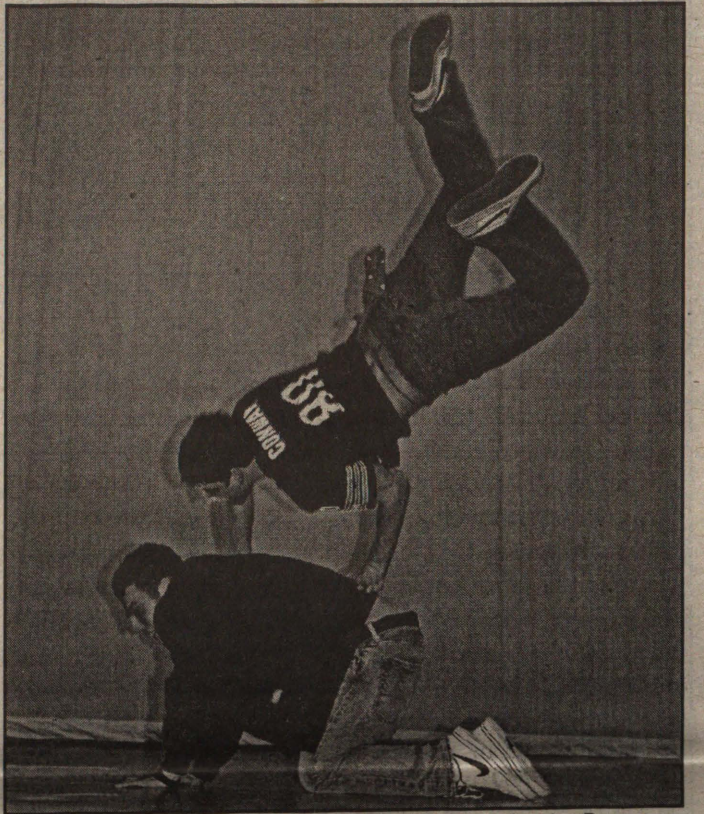


Photo by Jessica Bergmann

Senior Alex Puetz flips over senior Greg Vodicka for his dance talent, later serenading the crowd with singing.

Board of Education told not to consolidate

By Jessica Bergmann
News Editor

The high school will not consolidate with its feeder districts any time soon after a consulting firm concluded that the merge would be unnecessary.

Consulting and Resource Group, who conducted the \$15,000 study, recommended that the consolidation of District 94, Winfield Elementary District 34, Benjamin District 25 and West Chicago Elementary District 33 not take place.

"I don't believe I've had a better group of school districts," said William Phillips of Consulting and Resource Group at a presentation to the Board of Education on March 16.

This case is the first of 38 studies that the group found to be better off remaining separate districts.

A PowerPoint presentation conducted by the group showed that achievement in

the districts is high, buildings for each district are well maintained, and student population does not present a problem which would warrant consolidation.

Some of this offset in student population growth is due to the possibility that West Chicago Middle School will expand to accompany 6th graders from the feeder elementary schools.

And while the firm suggested that no changes need to be made at this time, Phillips suggested that all is not perfect within the school districts.

"Now it doesn't mean that there couldn't be some improvements here and there. But somebody is doing a pretty good job here," Phillips said.

Board president Tony Reyes hopes the study will bring truth to teachers and parents in the feeder districts who believed that consolidating would be more cost effective.

Every ounce counts Key Club hopes to raise 200 units at spring drive

By Payton Bayless
Reporter

Key Club will host another blood drive April 17 in the Bishop gym.

Sponsored by LifeSource,

the blood drive will provide blood for people in need. Each unit could save the lives of three people, so every ounce counts when at these drives according to Key Club adviser Ward Rau.

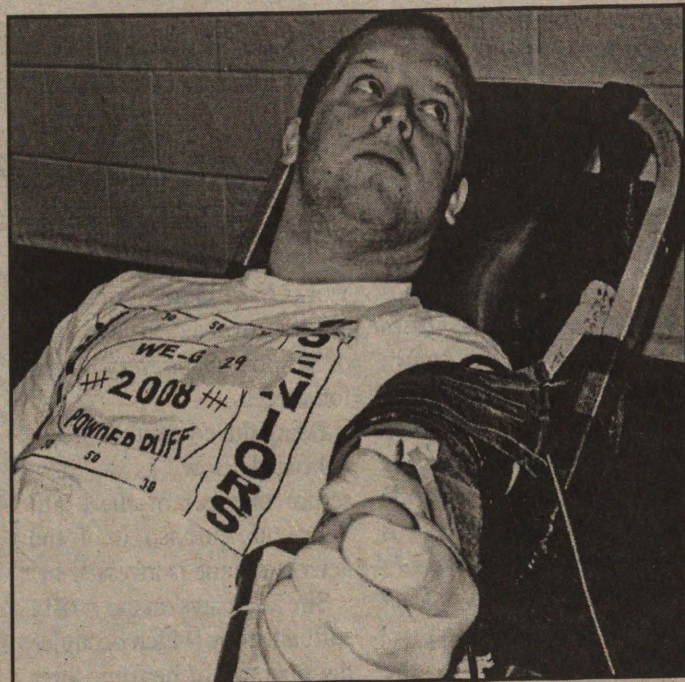


Photo by Greg Vodicka

November's blood drive provided 181 units to those in need. Anticipating an even bigger turn out in the spring, Key Club is prepared for the increase in donors.

"The need for blood is really increasing, so there will always be a reason for a blood drive at our school," said Rau.

To raise 200 units would be "amazingly outstanding" said Rau, who hopes to beat the 181 units collected in November's drive.

"If we raised 200 units, it would be enough to give transfusions to 1 percent of our school population," said Rau.

Key Club member senior Sarah Kimball agrees, but she thinks it may be "a little generous seeing as spring drives are not as productive as fall."

Because the drive isn't until two weeks after spring break, Key Club will start to publicize the event early.

Advisories will compete for the period with the most sign-ups. Whichever advisory gains the most signups will be offered a pizza party as a reward.

"This drive, we are not only doing that, but also adding some other prizes to better include advisories that may have an issue raising a lot of donations," said Kimball.

Limited space moves prom to new location

By Evan Morgan
Reporter

Prom will be a dance to remember due to changes Student Council decided to make from last year.

Instead of the Carlisle, prom will be held at the Empress in Addison on May 1. The location changed due to the limited space and an interest to do something different.

"We just had the interest to get a new location this year. The Empress is actually closer to the school so we felt that it was just a better location," said Student Council adviser Eric Lasky.

One significant change for this year is that students will be given the opportunity to choose the theme.

"We are thinking about doing an under-the-sea theme," said Lasky, "but it all depends on what students vote on for this year's song."

In addition to all the changes, Student Council will hold a fashion show after spring break as a way to get students excited for prom.

"We wanted to do a fashion show in order to make this year really stand out from the others," said junior and Student Council member Stefanie Pauling.

Last year's prom queen, senior Renee Cirone is looking forward to prom.

"I liked having a theme

because of the decorations but I think [prom] will be more fun this year because we are seniors and we will be making the most of it."

Despite all of the changes, after-prom will remain on the Odyssey cruise on Lake Michigan. Students will be given the opportunity to attend after prom regardless if they choose to attend prom.

Buses pick up students around 11:15 p.m. from the high school or the Empress. Students will not be allowed to drive themselves to Navy Pier.

"The idea is to get kids off the streets so they can have a safe, enjoyable time without the drinking or parties," said student activities director Kim Wallner.

Lasky said that prom attendees will face one surprise this year, but would not disclose any further information.

"We have something special planned for the upcoming weeks that I don't want to give away," said Lasky.

Ticket prices for this year have been estimated at \$50 for the first three days of sales and \$55 after that. Lasky said the increase in price is due to the cost for the DJ and banquet hall going up.

After-prom tickets will be around \$15 and will be sold from April 8 to 24.

Nominations for prom king and queen will be announced April 14.



Photo courtesy of Donald Zabelin

The LifeSmarts team won the state competition and will head to compete in nationals in St. Louis. From left, seniors Stuart Sankovitch, Bill Heinze, Same Wais and junior Ryan Stirrup.

Team onto sectionals with another state title

By Alex Lima
Reporter

Following in the footsteps of last year's success, the LifeSmarts team is going to compete in nationals.

Seniors Sam Wais, Stuart Sankovitch, Bill Heinze, and John Kinsella, along with junior Ryan Stirrup, won first place in the 13th annual Illinois LifeSmarts competition, giving them the opportunity to move onto nationals on April 25-28 in St. Louis.

"This is a very balanced team," said LifeSmarts coach Don Zabelin. "We don't have one player that can dominate

one round, any player can come up."

State competition was held on March 3 at Community High School.

"It was fun but at the same time stressful because I didn't want to let Zabelin down," said Wais.

Wais, along with the team, won every match. However, according to Kinsella one of the matches was quite the nail biter.

"I say we have a good shot at winning at nationals," said Kinsella. "We have a lot of time to prepare and improve our LifeSmarts knowledge."

Last year, Zabelin coached

a team that won second place in the national competition.

"Our goal is to try to get back to the final four," said Zabelin.

According to Zabelin, all five players are competing in LifeSmarts for the first time.

"This team is not at [championship] level, but we can get there if we work extremely hard," said Zabelin.

LifeSmarts is a program of the National Consumers League. The competition tests student knowledge of financial management, technology, environment, health and safety, and consumer rights.

Incorporating hard work with hobbies



Photo by Jacob Wucka

After senior Anna Lane finishes a long, hectic school day, she unwinds by practicing different softball techniques.

February's Student of the Month exhibits dedication, hard work, and involvement

By Payton Bayless
Reporter

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 decision is made by the student activities director and a committee made up of additional staff members.

February's Student of the Month, senior Anna Lane, knows a little about hard work and a lot about perseverance.

Lane believes she is Student of the Month because she works hard in all her classes, is very involved in, and out, of school, and is very driven for success.

Being the co-captain of the Scholastic Bowl, as well as a senior member of the Math Team, are just a few of the activities Lane is involved in.

She also plays on the varisty softball team, which occupies the majority of her time after school.

Though Lane is plenty busy with her in-school activities, she also likes to take

out a little time in the day for her hobbies like reading and sports.

"I thoroughly enjoy sitting outside in the sun and reading a good book," said Lane.

With her hectic schedule, Lane says she also loves to bake when she feels she needs to "get rid of some stress."

When she's not working on the latest book in the "Twilight" series or practicing her softball technique, Lane spends her time concentrating on her challenging school work.

"I know that I need to do

well in high school and learn as much as I can so that I can be prepared for college," says Lane, who

Balancing her priorities is a big part of her busy curriculum, and Lane has extensive plans for her future.

Lane plans to attend John Brown University, where she will study biology in order to pursue pre-medicine, a major which she recognizes will be extremely challenging.

After college, she plans to go to medical school and eventually become a medical examiner.

Lane said, "I do not know all the details that I want to occur in my life, but I know the direction I want my life to take."

Leaving a mark for Africa

Ceiling tiles made available to students to decorate school

By Alexis Hosticka
Perspectives Editor

Students will soon have the opportunity to decorate the school ceiling tiles as they support WeGo 2 Africa through their advisories and extracurricular activities.

"This [project] was initiated by the community leadership class," said club adviser Sarah Bellis. "Since it's only a one semester class, they asked [International Club] to carry on the fundraising."

Beginning April 14, advisories and clubs can purchase ceiling tiles from International Club to paint as a group.

The tiles will be \$10 if International Club chooses where to place them, but \$15 if the advisory or club chooses where to place the tile.

"The administration has approved that we can put them anywhere in the school," said

Bellis.

Details are still being organized about supplying paint and when the tiles will be painted.

International Club has helped with the WeGo 2 Africa project for the past three years by doing fundraisers such as a bowl-a-thon and T-shirt sales and plan to continue fundraising every year.

"It's a great way to reach out internationally," said Bellis.

Bellis encourages students to participate not only for WeGo 2 Africa, but to leave their mark on the school.

"You can be really creative with this," said Bellis. "It's a way to leave a mark on WeGo and represent yourself in a way that will decorate the school."

Another WeGo 2 Africa project is being run by social studies teacher Maggie Haas



Seniors Caitlin Shiga (left) and Kathleen Mason work to paint a senior ceiling tile which will be used as a template.

Photo by Jessica Bergmann

and her world geography classes.

With a goal of 1,000 backpacks, the students will spend a day of class time stuffing the packs.

"The kids just took ownership of the project," Haas said. "They make phone calls in advisory, sold suckers during lunch hours, and help during class."

The profits of the suckers sold in commons was all used toward buying assorted supplies.

They raised over \$350. For each sucker purchased at 25 cents each, they could buy a ruler, a pen, and three pencils.

Total, they have raised over \$4,000, which meets their goal of 1,000 backpacks.



Photo by Amanda Rathe

A German 1 performance of "der Zauberhammer" or "Magic Hammer" captivates audiences through creative costumes.

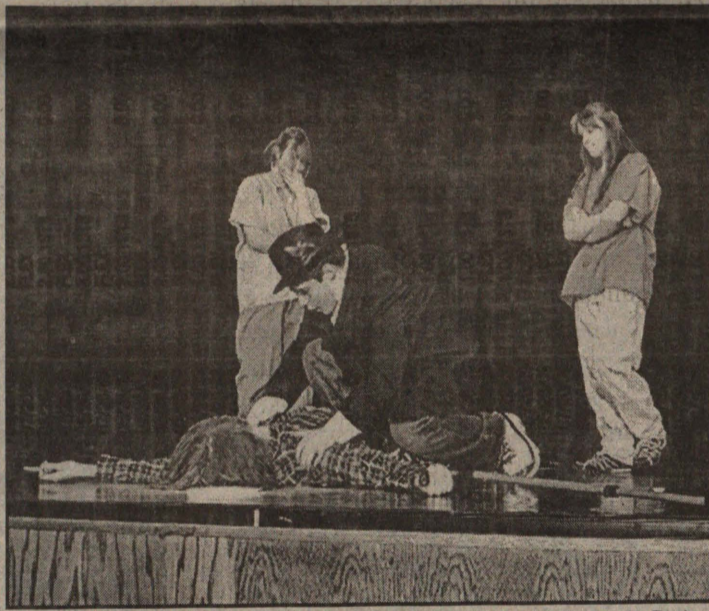


Photo by Amanda Rathe

With a common theme of games, a German 2 group performed "Human Tetris," a popular Japanese game show.

Skits evolve into skilled production

Megan Tennis
Reporter

German classes showed off their skills in a German variety show with the theme Wiederbelebungsversuch, which means "attempt at resuscitation," March 13.

"They showed off what they have learned and their creativity as they wrote and performed their skits," said German teacher Terry Strohm.

German 1 performed commercials and German 2, 3, and 4 performed skits.

A German band, directed by band director Stephen Govertsen, also played, and

Strohm directed the performances.

It was her 33rd performance and a special one since she is retiring this year.

"I have to say that I will miss watching the creative process that my students go through in order to make the German variety show their own," said Strohm.

Preparing for the play started second quarter when students began writing scripts.

"I like seeing their productions evolve from the first day when they are not sure what to do; to the last day when they perform for people," said Strohm.

Students also won awards

in categories including best costumes, best actor, best use of music, and best display of talent.

Best overall props went to German 3's "Baywatch"-themed play. Best skit went to another German 3 skit with a Richard Simmons theme. Best music went to the German polka band.

"It's not just about the words, it's about the props and costumes and the way they say things," said Strohm.

Seniors Rory Stewart, Anna Lane, and Anna Treudt were part of a skit called "De Goldene Saugglocke," which had a western theme including dance hall girls, a saloon,

and cowboy boots.

"We wanted something [the audience] hadn't seen before," said Lane.

Students were required to memorize all their lines so they tried to keep it simple.

Getting all the annunciation just right and getting things exact was what Treudt said was the hardest part of the skit.

Stewart, Lane, and Treudt say that while doing the skits they have learned a lot of vocabulary that isn't in the textbook.

After two and a half weeks of practice the students were rewarded with a lot of laughter from the audience.

Coming together for cure

By Sarah Berger
Entertainment Editor

The football field and track will be used for more than just soccer games and track meets this May. It will be used as a location for the fight against cancer.

Relay for Life will be held on May 29 at 6 p.m. until May 30 at 6 a.m. All ages can take part in finding a cure for cancer.

Teams can have 10 to 15 members, and if under 18, should have an adult chaperone and sign a youth release form.

With games such as karaoke, Wii, and a bags tournament, the walk will seem like a party itself, according to American Cancer Society staff partner Nicole Edmiston. Entertainment includes a live band, DJ, and Poms performance.

"Relay for Life is a wonderful event to help fight back [cancer]. One in three people are diagnosed every year, and the walk is meant to honor those who have passed away due to cancer and honor the survivors. It's just a really fun event for all ages," said Edmiston.

Along the track will be luminaries, which can be purchased for \$5 through someone on a team or online. The special luminaries ceremony will be held at 9 p.m. on the track.

"Relay for Life is really fun, it holds special meaning for me. My mom is a breast cancer survivor, and the walk means a lot to her and my whole family," said sophomore Sami Lauf.

Both students and faculty members participate in the event.

"I lost my mother to colon cancer five years ago. I participate in Relay for Life in her memory and to raise money to find a cure for cancer. It was been a wonderful way to work together with other people to raise awareness and funds for the American Cancer Society," said health and gym teacher Amy Gibson. "I encourage everyone to participate by being on a team or by donating to a team."

Our View

Obama needs to act to fix education

With No Child Left Behind left behind by the Bush administration, President Barack Obama debuted his plan on fixing America's public schools.

Obama highlighted a plethora of ideas including investing in early childhood education, merit pay for teachers, encouraging better standards, and more emphasis on fundamental subjects.

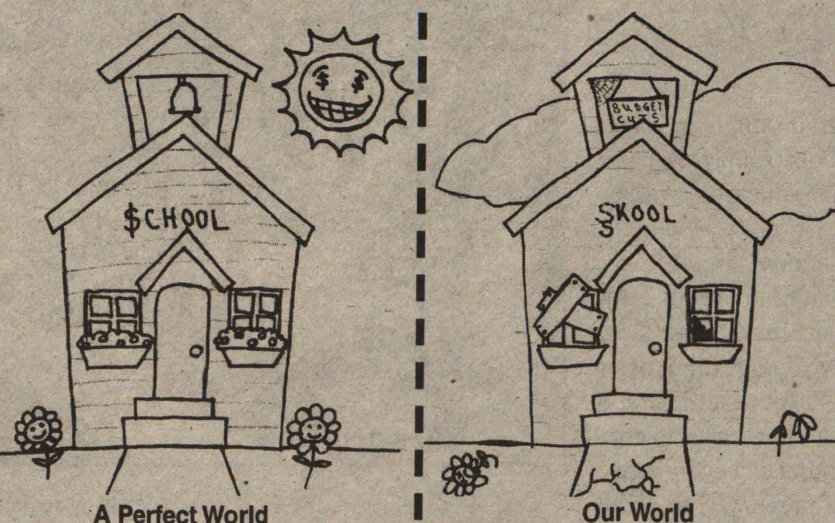
Each of his proposals may sound fine, but nothing he suggested will lift this education system out of the rut it is in.

In a perfect world, each public school would receive equal funding, and every student across the United States would have access to the most top-notch education and best qualified teachers.

However, as is well known, the world is not a perfect place.

Schools do not receive equal funding, and parents across the country can be as apathetic about their children's education as their kids are.

Obama needs to delicately approach the idea of creating an equal budget in this education system.



Presently, schools' budgets come from the property taxes of the community it serves. This means people from middle-class and poorer communities draw the short straw when it comes to the education of their children.

This current system is unfair and outdated. It shows that the wealthy drafters of public education excluded the less financially sound from their plan.

In order for Obama to fix education, he must make sure that students in Boston have the chance to use the same updated text books, the best technology, and the most qualified teachers as other students will use in St. Paul or San Diego.

Another issue that Obama has yet to address is getting parents involved.

How can any president expect a teenager from the inner city with no parental supervision to attend school and not end up on the street as a gang banger?

Obama needs to tell parents that their involvement can make or break their child's future.

Reminding them that an education can prevent their child from entering poverty would motivate them to step up and make sure their kids do their homework.

Recently, Obama said that he wants all high school students to attend college by 2020.

Although an audacious task, it could be done if Obama acts to fix education funding and parent involvement.

Age and degree should not be the deciding factors when hiring

The plummeting economy is making it difficult for young adults around the United States to save for college, but at this point, entering the work force is a bigger challenge.

According to www.CollegeGrad.com, of 2008 college graduate job seekers, 77 percent moved back with their parents because they couldn't find work, up from 73 percent in 2007.

When people in professional careers are laid off, it forces many of them to take the jobs that usually belong to teens in high school.

This leaves teenagers that want to make some extra money with nothing but mowing lawns and babysitting.

It is true that beginner jobs are an important factor in preparing teenagers with the basics they will need in the future, but others argue that those who have been let go from professional careers deserve the jobs.

Many of the workers have spouses and small children that need to be supported.



They have bills to pay, and many other expenses that a teenager does not even have to think about.

Also, it can be said that they have already paid their dues, working hard to be where they were before they were fired. They should be able to get a job over an inexperienced teenager.

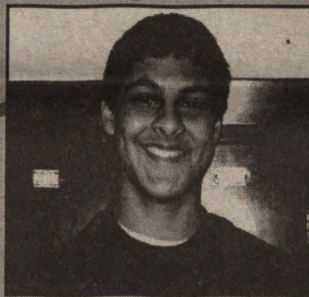
Both points of view make a very credible argument, making it difficult to choose who should get these jobs.

The person that should get the job should be the person who, after an interview, would be most suited for the position. It should not matter what the age and situation of the person is, only how they can benefit the business.

Students Speak

Compiled by Alexis Hosticka

How do you think the economy is affecting teens who are looking for jobs?



Freshman
Victor Mendez

"We will be competing with adults with more experience, which makes us appear less important."



Sophomore
Devon Tuma

"It's going to be hard because a lot of the jobs are taken by people who previously lost their jobs and are looking for income."



Junior
Rebekah Babis

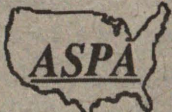
"More teens may need to look for jobs because parents can't give their kids income and there are fewer jobs available, which makes it hard."



Senior
Caitie MacDonald

"People are inspired to try harder to find jobs because [jobs] are not as easily available and everyone needs money."

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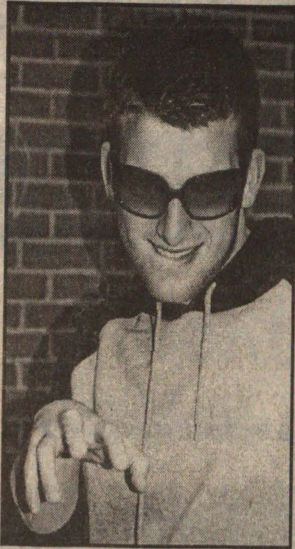
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THE WILDCAT CHRONICLE is the student newspaper at Community High School. It is a public forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views. The Chronicle publishes eight times a year, with the student editorial board making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

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

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FACEBOOKING OFF



Greg Vodicka doesn't care how many times you've seen the "Star Wars" trilogy
Editor in Chief

In the endless black hole of information that is Facebook, there is so much I've learned that I wish I never knew about people.

As I cruise through another days' worth of "news" on this popular social networking website, I come across things like "status updates" and "25 things about me" and only one thing comes to mind: Why

do I need to know this?

Some people may be proud of the fact that they've seen the "Star Wars" trilogy two dozen times, or open about wetting the bed until 3rd grade.

Others choose to broadcast their day's struggles on status updates, or post personal haikus about how depressing their lives are.

Most of these people

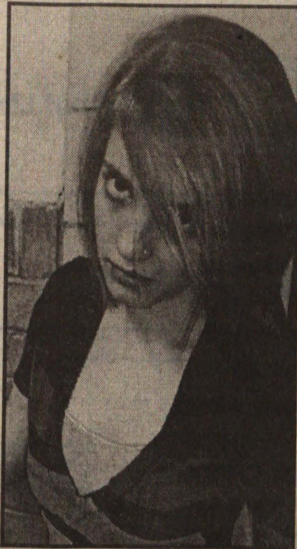
aren't funny or insightful, and they share way too much information.

As people complain about online predators and privacy rights, they still update their profiles, providing the World Wide Web with daily access into their personal lives. The truth is no one wants to hear about how depressing you think your life is or how busy of a day you've had.

Close friends should al-

ready know about their friend's struggles and issues, and should not be confined to the Internet.

A "friend" on Facebook may be someone you would not recognize if they bumped into you on your way to Starbucks. I don't care that my cousin's girlfriend is afraid of heights, or that my sister's college roommate had the worst night ever and needs a vacation.



Amanda Rathe thinks Facebook stole a piece of the teenage thought process
Center Spread Editor

Constructive activity all over the country is being trashed and traded in for hours of mind-numbing social stalking on the explosively successful social networking site, www.facebook.com.

Facebook quickly swept the nation and commandeered the attention and time of teenagers across the board.

Time that used to be spent doing homework, watching television, and making conversation is now devoted almost entirely to Facebook.

What is really going on here is that Facebook has single-handedly abolished time management and direct focus all at once.

When an aspect of someone's life changes, the first

place they go to report it is Facebook.

For example, when someone finds himself or herself in a new relationship it usually becomes "Facebook Official" within the next hour. Not only is it important that a person's personal information is current up to the very minute, but keeping tabs on friends is even more so.

Facebook provides the perfect outlet to stalk friends

to the highest degree.

The "Wall-to-Wall" feature allows users to view the banter that two people have between each other. Facebook is without a doubt an obsession, and an unhealthy one at that.

From preventing more constructive behavior to encouraging an unnatural interest in other's lives, Facebook has successfully stolen a piece of the teenage thought process.



Megan Hernbroth doesn't like it when parents use Facebook to stalk people
Features Editor

As teens, it might be hard sometimes to connect with parents. Some parents even go out of their way to be their son or daughter's best friends by acting like "one of the kids."

Some parents create a Facebook profile under the cover of reconnecting with their old high school friends, but in turn use it to check up on their kids.

With this new technology-based relationship, students are not even aware of what their parents know about them due to the parents' ability to check their Facebook page and their friends' pages.

Students are ultimately responsible for what is published on their page, but they don't always keep their parents in mind.

Grabbing pictures off of their son's or daughter's friends' Facebook pages is an invasion of privacy, not only to that friend, but to the son or daughter as well.

Putting these pictures on Facebook may not have been the smartest move on the students' parts in the first place, but now these students are able to be punished at home on top of school and athletic punishments.

Some parents may even see it as their place to inform the school of their child's behaviors.

Relationships have changed in the family setting, there's no doubt, but the ever-so-popular Facebook stalking should not have a place with this relationship.

Parents should rely more on the old-fashioned in-person bonding that still works.



Jessica Bergmann thinks Facebook will soon be a figment of our imagination
News Editor

Facebook: the new, yet old fad that's sweeping the nation. But how long until the fad dies out and teens and adults alike flock to another social website?

We are all familiar with social websites like Xanga, Myspace, and Facebook and most likely, we've all had an account on one of these websites.

Xanga began as the cool

place used primarily for blogging.

It allowed users to post blogs, profile pictures, and even put music and backgrounds on their page.

Then, someone, somewhere decided that Xanga was overrated and discovered Myspace, a similar concept but a website used more for social networking than blogging.

As users flocked from one website to the next, they discovered the fascinating, yet dangerous world of social networking.

Myspace allowed users to converse easily with friends.

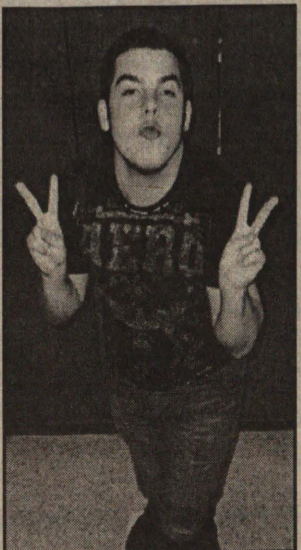
Yet, in an instant, users abandoned Myspace to flee to Facebook, exploring its new options.

But a fad's a fad and these websites come and go like high school relationships:

they're overrated, tacky, and involve way too much time.

Before we know it, some person somewhere in the world will discover a new social networking site, and eventually the crowds will herd and Facebook will only be a figment of our imaginations.

We all have our Facebooks, but it's only a matter of time before we discover Twitter.



Jacob Wucka is tired of people spending all their time on Facebook seeking attention
Sports Editor

Most people who sign up for social networking sites like Facebook would say they create their account to keep in touch with friends.

However, that is not the case for a majority of the 100 million Facebook users. Simply, Facebook is the quintessential tool for narcissists to boast about the only thing that matters to them: themselves.

Narcissists are people who spend their days talking about themselves, seeking attention, and wanting to be liked by everyone.

These people are easily detectable on Facebook.

They have over 1,000 tagged pictures of themselves, and an "Info Section" teeming with every movie they've ever seen, singer they've ever heard,

and every petty detail of their life thus far.

Furthermore, if every detail from their first step to their first kiss is in their "About Me" section, they're probably a little narcissitic.

Also, those who have more than 500 friends and only talk to about 15 of them just want to seem "likeable" to potential friends.

And the people who dress up for their profile picture and take it in front of a bath-

room mirror doing a generic peace sign and puckered lips (see left for example) are most likely narcissists. Obviously, people don't make a Facebook to not talk about themselves; but this bragging is pathetic.

All this "me, me, me" talk gives people a false sense of importance.

Facebook's true purpose (if any) is to allow people to stay connected; not to promote self-promotion.

facebook

Home

Profile

Friends

Inbox

**View Photos of Victor (118)****View Videos of Victor (5)****Send Victor a Message**

I love WeGo! :-)

Ignored risks create danger

By Jacob Wucka
Sports Editor

When signing up for a Facebook, many neglect to read the privacy policy and choose the most basic privacy settings, making their Facebook susceptible to online predators.

Instead, they click the box that says "I agree" and continue on to the next phase of registration without knowing how safe they truly are.

A recent survey by the Wildcat Chronicle found that only 10 out of 100 students took the time to read the important details about their safety.

According to their policy, Facebook strives to be a safe environment for children and teens alike.

Still, the creators of the website acknowledge that it cannot guarantee that the website is completely free of danger.

However, the website works hard to make sure it is clean. It erases anyone that posts "illegal, offensive, pornographic or otherwise inap-

propriate material."

Also, the website removed 5,500 sex offenders from the website since last May.

With strict search policies, it is most likely that these predators were not able to prey on anyone that they were not in the same network or friends with.

But that is the case in some instances.

Sex offenders can pose as people other than themselves making it harder for them to be detected and removed.

However, 54 percent of 100 students here are positive that they know who all their friends are.

"I'm not really worried about sexual predators because I feel like I could tell. I only add people that I recognize their names, if they go to school with me, or if we have mutual friends," said junior Madeline Warkins.

According to the Family Watchdog, 91 registered sex offenders live within a 10 mile radius of Community High School.

How many of them are your Facebook friends?

Victor E. Wildcat is wondering: What is Facebook all a

Wall

Info

Photos

Boxes



Update Status



Post Link



Add

What are you doing right now?

Mar 26



Greg Vodicka wrote at 7:50 am

People young and old u

New features make Facebook appeal to all kinds of members, and as this social networking website continues to grow, so does its range of users.

What started out with Harvard students and then Ivy League students, moved to universities and later high school students. Now anyone over the age of 13 with an e-mail address is allowed on Facebook.

The social networking site has accumulated 50 million members worldwide.

Students often join to keep in touch with friends. Members constantly use wall posts, But do members really know who is on Facebook?

Senior Miguel Amarro, a regular Facebook chatter said, "I can't text, so Facebook I get a hold of people."

However, plenty of students have yet to jump on the bandwagon arguing that it is a waste of time.

"There are so many better things you can do with your time," said senior Juan. "Plus I am scared of predators."

Senior Tony Quarto also is without a profile, and admits he feels a bit out of touch. "It's sad because my mom has a Facebook and I don't."

Students often say Facebook is a place for young adults and not parents.

Senior Zak Bayless "friended" his dad on Facebook this year, and admits it is awkward. "He never really goes on, and when he does it is usually for work," said Bayless.

Despite the awkwardness, Bayless says it does help him keep in touch with his dad. "He is out of the state on business."

Some students like to keep their social and family lives separate. Senior Molly refuses to "friend" her mom who is also on Facebook.

"I don't really care that she's on because I know she can't look at mine," said Molly.

However, Cody's aunt irritated her until they were Facebook friends.

"I only added her because she was bugging me about it and now I regret it," said Cody. "She posts weird pictures of her and her kids. I don't like knowing that much about my family members."

Other students deal with having their parents monitor what they do on Facebook.

Senior Patrick Stremel says that he doesn't think his dad got a profile to keep in touch with, and he doesn't mind it at all.

"I even learned a few things about my dad like all the college buddies he is in touch with," said Patrick.

Patrick's dad, a Facebook savvy regular, uses the social networking tool for family photos.

"I originally got a profile for our church group and eventually added my kids," said Stremel.

He believes it is inappropriate for an adult to friend request a teen, but if his

F You know you're addicted when...

1) you have Facebook Mobile 2) you get tremors while away from it 3) you update

Takes Over

Search

Quickly expanding to the pinnacle of social networking, Facebook is a focal point in many users' lives

all about?

Add Photos



Write Note



Music/Video

Post

All Posts

Posts by Victor

Posts by Others

Settings

Use Facebook to stay connected

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if his children's'

friends decided to send him one he doesn't mind accepting.

Matt also has a Facebook for his job working for Capgemini. According to Matt, it started out as an easy way to send a large amount of messages at a time to co-workers.

"We are a Paris-based company so it is sometimes difficult to get a hold of everyone," said Matt.

Matt also said that they have started to use Facebook in the interview process.

"We look at potential employees profiles and take that information into consideration for hiring," said Matt.

In addition to parents, teachers have also gotten into the website.

After being persuaded by a friend, social studies teacher John Chisholm created an account to stay close to his college friends.

"I made sure my profile was only viewable to my friends," added Chisholm.

Once a week is about all the time Chisholm says he spends on the networking tool.

"I think it's a waste of time, and people get caught up in all the applications and quizzes. I stay away from all that and mainly use it for friends," said Chisholm.

Admitting he likes browsing pictures on friends' pages, he said that it is nice to be able to see pictures of friends' families which you may not have many opportunities to see in person.

Chisholm also likes the invitation application Facebook offers.

"When we had a surprise party for my mom we sent out invitations through Facebook so there was no way she could find out," said Chisholm.

With family that lives out of state, English teacher David Jennings first logged onto Facebook to keep in touch with them. Now, school groups such as Pep Club, SADD, and Wego through the Tube are all groups Jennings monitors on a regular basis.

"I am a disorganized person. I have a sheet a paper with everyone's e-mails and phone numbers somewhere, but looking them up on Facebook and dropping them a message is much more convenient," said Jennings.

Rumors about deans cruising Facebook are false. Assistant Principal Pete Martino said, "The only reason we would ever go to Facebook is if an issue that started on Facebook caused material disturbance at school."

He said that if a problem occurs at school that started on Facebook, they use administrative access and go to the source. Gang affiliation or representation and threats are the main issues found. According to police officer Joe Gaztambide, police can use Facebook as an investigative tool.

"If there is an issue with someone, we can ask to see their Facebook. If they refuse, we often will still check it out," said Gaztambide.

However, according to Gaztambide, the county and state police departments both have access to Facebook to look for predators and monitor dangerous activity.

Facebook preoccupies, limiting work and sleep

By Jessica Bergmann

News Editor

With many useful aspects and an addicting concept, students have begun bypassing their homework to spend more time on Facebook.

And while some students have avoided Facebook altogether, www.southerlibrarianship.icaap.org estimated that more than 50 percent of all online American youths ages 12-17 use a social networking site like Facebook.

As students continue to log on to Facebook, they have begun encountering a problem: Facebook overuse.

According to www.insidefacebook.com, the average user spends approximately 20 minutes on Facebook per login.

However, senior Sarah Zaidi estimates that she spends more than five hours per day on the social networking website.

"Whenever I find myself doing homework on my computer, I'm simultaneously on Facebook as well. Not only does it distract me a lot, but I find that I don't get any of my homework done," Zaidi said.

Some organizations, such as the American Psychological Association, even claim that Internet addiction disorder has become prevalent with Facebook use, although "published studies on [it] are scarce."

Senior Jamie Roman believes that the website has changed the way she goes about her daily life, because she feels compelled to check her Facebook too often.

"The second I come home I'm on Facebook. The majority of the homework I've missed this year is due to being distracted on Facebook, and I probably check my page six times throughout the day," Roman said.

While Facebook has negatively impacted Roman's schoolwork, senior Joe Serio says Facebook has gone as far as taking a toll on him physically. "It definitely impacts my sleep," Serio said. "With the amount of time I waste on Facebook, I find myself having to stay up way later in order to get anything done."

However, Serio believes that every generation has had its epidemic, and that Facebook is the epidemic of today.

"Facebook to us is like 'Late Night with Letterman' was to the '90s," Serio said.

update your status more than twice a day 4) you've eaten a meal sitting in front of the computer



Dirty jobs uncovered

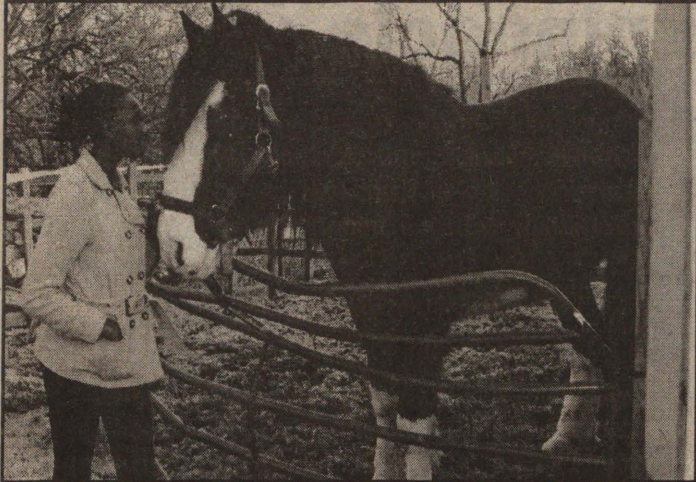


Photo by Megan Hernbroth

After years of working at Kingsway Farm in Winfield, sophomore Stephanie Lambert bonds with each horse there.

Works for the love of horses

By Alexis Hosticka
Perspectives Editor

Sophomore Stephanie Lambert has become accustomed to the smell of horse manure and tack as she spends a day every week cleaning up around Kingsway Farm.

She has volunteered her time at the farm for the past three years picking up horse manure and cleaning tack.

"Sometimes I get free riding time, but it's never guaranteed," said Lambert. "But of course it's worth it because I love the horses."

Lambert has been riding horses once a week for the past seven years during the school year. Over the summer she volunteers and rides two to three days a week.

"I clean the arena after the horses poop and wash all the dirty tack or horse equipment," Lambert said.

But the dirt and poop isn't

the worst part. Lambert's legs are covered with scars from working at the barn.

"[I was] dragged across gravel [by a horse] for about 30 feet until I got slammed into a dumpster then let go," said Lambert. "It hurt!"

Lambert was also injured while riding bareback.

"The horse reared up and I fell off and it fell on top of me," said Lambert. "It landed on my leg, which got stuck between the horse and the door."

Besides gaining scars, she's also gained knowledge.

"Now I have a better work ethic, I've learned how to take care of someone else's property," said Lambert.

She doesn't plan to deal with horses after high school.

"If by some stroke of luck I got to run a horse racing farm it would be awesome," said Lambert. "But it's not a career."

Digging six feet under

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

Fear of dying is easily one of the biggest fears. Sophomore Anthony Nolzco decides to turn this fear into cold hard cash.

Spending most of his time six feet under, Nolzco earns his extra cash digging graves with family friend John Reynolds.

"My mom is friends with John's wife, and she knew that I needed some extra money," said Nolzco. "So one day my mom just came up and told me that I was going to dig graves for John's company."

The company Nolzco works for digs graves for over 40 cemeteries.

"When we get a call, we have to drive out to the site and mark the spot where they want the grave," said Nolzco. "The grave is usually six feet deep, eight feet long, and four feet wide."

Digging the actual grave, however, is not the most physically demanding aspect of Nolzco's job.

"We use the back hoe to dig out the spot, so that's not too hard," said Nolzco. "But the hardest part is probably doing the landscaping around the graves and planting the flowers after the person is buried."

On top of landscaping and major land excavation, Nolzco also partakes in setting up for the funeral.

"We usually set up the tents and chairs," said Nolzco, "but we also have this

large cement vault to put the casket in when it's lowered into the ground, but some people want to see the casket put into the vault so we have to do certain things for that situation."

After the procession and the people have left, the dirty work really begins for Nolzco.

"After the people leave, we load the mounds of dirt back on top of the vault," said Nolzco. "Then we dump 100 to 150 gallons of water to settle the dirt again and to weigh down the vault so it doesn't float if there's a major flood, which a lot of people don't realize."

Today, most people anticipate the worst and decide to plan ahead, especially when it comes to an unexpected death.

"Some people buy graves when they're younger so they

don't leave the expenses to their family when they're gone," said Nolzco. "But a lot of the older graves were dug too close to the pre-purchased ones, so sometimes we have to go in and move them."

In order to move the graves, Nolzco had to shove aside his gag reflex and get down to business.

"When we dig up the old graves, a lot of the old vaults and caskets break open," said Nolzco. "We usually find the metal parts of the casket but once one of the workers found the remains of a femur bone. It was totally gross."

Even with the tough work and predominant gross-factor, Nolzco wouldn't trade his job for any other.

"It's totally worth it," said Nolzco. "It's taught me a lot about hard work and really earning your money."



Photo by Megan Hernbroth

Although sophomore Anthony Nolzco didn't help dig this grave, he demonstrates his winter-digging techniques.

Finding diamonds in the rough

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

Some jobs require a little extra time and care, even a little dirt under the fingernails. Junior Edgar Lomeli has the dirt under his fingernails to prove it.

Lomeli expanded the idea of dirty work to include his job where he takes inventory at an auto junk yard for H & H Auto.

"At first I was just looking for a job," said Lomeli, "so I just looked for somewhere

that needed help and this junk yard was hiring."

In order to take inventory of all the cars dropped off in the lot, Lomeli has to thoroughly inspect all the cars for usable parts.

"I have to go up to the car they tell me to look at and see if all the lights work," said Lomeli. "Then I have to write down everything I find. I also have to see if the fenders are in good shape and see that everything works, opens, or closes."

Useable parts found in the

cars are salvaged and recycled to make new parts for other cars. Sometimes to get to these diamonds in the rough Lomeli has to use a bit more than just elbow grease.

"The worst part is going through the cars to find the parts when they're covered in oil," said Lomeli. "That part is always really messy."

Lomeli doesn't have to deal much with physical work, unless certain car parts are wheeled in.

"My job isn't too physical," said Lomeli, "unless I'm do-

ing tire stock, and then it's all lifting with the tires and I have to move them a bunch."

Because his job isn't too physical most of the time, Lomeli has been able to keep all of his body parts intact.

"A buddy of mine lost a finger once, but I'm not entirely sure how," said Lomeli. "But nothing really bad like that has ever happened to me, so I guess I'm pretty lucky."

After his time in the junk yard, Lomeli has figured out that the benefits of his job equal the few downsides of

his trade.

"There's really nothing bad about this job except trying to remember the codes and numbers for when I have to write things down," said Lomeli. "But I'm not really sure if there's anything too great about it either. I've learned about the different parts of cars that I've never known about from working here, but that's probably the most there is to it."

Working with cars also hasn't inspired Lomeli to get behind the wheel for a living.

"I'm not really sure if I want to work with cars again," said Lomeli.

Never growing out of honor

By Amanda Rathe
Center Spread Editor

After years of pledging their honor, seniors Dave Lustro, Joe Serio, and Jack McCormack finally reached the ultimate goal when they were inducted as Eagle Scouts. Reaching Eagle status takes a lot of time seeing as it is preceded by Boy Scouts.

Potential Eagle Scouts must move through Boy Scouts and then take on the many required steps in the program that make them eligible to earn the title.

"To become an Eagle, you need to complete a certain amount of service hours, you need 21 merit badges, and you need to run a leadership project that must be over 100 hours of your time," said Lustro. "You have to complete a paper, and go through conferences in front of council members in order to be inducted in and approved."

Projects for induction can vary, but they must help the community in some way.

"I organized a blood drive, including the time, loca-

tion, and donors. Forty-three pints were collected, and all the blood was immediately used for surgeries and transfusions," said McCormack. "The planning took a few weeks, and then the actual drive happened over the course of a day."

Lustro and Serio both did projects to improve the community visually. Lustro built benches in James Pate Phillip State Park in Bartlett.

It took him over 119 hours over the course of two months.

Serio worked to refinish the doors on the front of his church.

"I had to put a plan together

about what I was going to do," he said. "I got a donation from Home Depot for the supplies, and then coordinated group members."

For Lustro, the time commitment to his project and

the Scouts was well worth becoming an Eagle Scout.

He said that finally mak-

ing it this far in his childhood program feels great, and is a prestigious honor.

Not only will having the Eagle Scout title look good on resumes and college applications, but it has also taught the boys some valuable life lessons to carry on and share with others.

"I started scouting when I was in first grade because it was fun, but I discovered you could learn life skills and be with fellow Scouts who I enjoyed hanging out with every week," said Serio.

Lustro supports Serio, saying, "It gave me much leadership experience, and it will give me the knowledge that I can do anything I set my mind to."

Since making it that far in Scouts is not common, the students are very proud of what they have achieved through their commitment.

"It's great to know that less than .05 percent of the people in the world become an Eagle Scout," Lustro said.



Photos courtesy of seniors Dave Lustro, Jack McCormack, and Joe Serio

just watch me

find the right track

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Evolution of the cell phone

By Sarah Berger
Entertainment Editor

In the '90s, teenagers were obsessed with getting the latest CD or newest gaming consoles. Now, teens are turning to a more high-tech, and expensive, toy: the cell phone.

With all the new cell phone models coming out, it's safe to say the new era of mobile phones has officially begun.

Phones that are popular now come equipped with a number of applications. Forget about using a cell phone for just calling someone, people now use their cell to text, check e-mail, get directions,

listen to music, and update Facebook.

"My favorite application on my iPhone is the game Rolando," said sophomore Matt Provenzale. "It's about saving the Rolando's homeland, which has been invaded. It was definitely worth the extra money."

While some people live on these applications, others find them completely unnecessary.

"It's not necessary to have all those applications on your cell phone because all you need to do is make a simple phone call," said junior Justin Thompson. "I don't know

why people need things like touch screens."

Are phones with many applications really worth the price tag? The new Blackberry Storm has a hefty price of \$200, and many buyers have been disappointed with the phone.

"It takes like 20 minutes to send a text, you have to really push down hard on the touch screen because it's built almost like a keyboard. It's annoying," said sophomore Ashley Tunk.

As the current generation becomes more obsessed with buying the latest cell phones, an addiction to the phones is

a danger.

"I'd be lost without my cell phone, it's how I get connected with my friends and family and everything that's going on," said freshman Janel Tomassoni.

Concerned adults find this trend unhealthy for teenagers.

"I don't think it's healthy for teenagers to be addicted to their cell phones, they're missing out on genuine social opportunities because of it," said French teacher Kristin Schaffer.

Some teachers even find the cell phone addiction affects a teenager's schoolwork.

"The problem I noticed is it affects people's writing. Students will use text message language in formal essays, and they don't even know they're doing it," said English teacher Blair Brown.

Still, some teenagers don't think there is a problem with the growing teen obsession.

"Teens aren't pressured to buy expensive phones, no one really cares unless you're a guy with a pink cell phone," said sophomore Justin Malandrucolo.

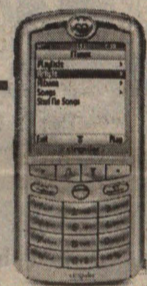
Cell phones have changed significantly over the years, see time line, but what will come next?

2002




The T-Mobile Sidekick was one of the first phones to have a full keypad.

2005




The Motorola Rokr was the first cell phone to play music and have iTunes.

2006




The Razr flip phone started the trend of ultra-sleek, small cell phones.

2008



The iPhone can play music, go online, and get directions.

2009



The Blackberry Storm has a touch screen, so that it feels like an actual keyboard.

Cinderella's magic close to home

By Megan Tennis
Reporter

Freshman Elena Tubridy is waiting for her prince to come, but she's out of luck because Cinderella gets the man every time.

Noble Fool Theatricals is staging the Roger and Hammerstein version of the classic fairy tale Cinderella, playing through April 5 at Pheasant Run, where Tubridy plays one of the ladies waiting for the prince to choose her.

Disney's movie version of "Cinderella" is what usually comes to mind when fairy tales are brought up, but this version is nothing like it.

Set in the 1940's, the prince isn't real royalty,

he's Hollywood royalty.

All of the well-known characters are actors.

All songs are swing and the dances include numbers like the Jitterbug, the Lindy Hop and the Fox Trot.

Tubridy would know since she acts in the musical and choreographed some of the

dances.

"It's classic Cinderella with a twist," said Tubridy.

Tubridy plays the character Rosemary, who is one of the lucky girls that gets to try on the glass slipper.

Also, Tubridy's character gets in a cat fight with the prince's assistant.

Conceited, lovesick, loud, and clingy are words Tubridy uses to describe Rosemary.

A scene called "The Search" is Tubridy's favorite scene, since she gets to try on the glass slipper and tries to keep it away from the prince.

Tubridy says the infamous glass slippers are clear and silver Steve Madden, three inch stilettos and are amazing.

"I have some stiletto marks on my leg from a few mishaps," said Tubridy with a laugh.

Tubridy has performed in many musicals and plays with the Noble Fool theater company, but she says she has never done a production like this before.

"I've never done a musical that's been so well thought out

and that has so many good ideas," said Tubridy.

"The Step Sisters Lament," a song about the two step sisters and their frustration of the prince liking Cinderella, is Tubridy's favorite number.

Eighth grader Janell Deetjan plays Cinderella.

Tubridy describes her as a triple threat.

"She's amazing at singing, acting, and dancing," said Tubridy.

The costumes are all 1940's related just like the songs and dances.

Helen Buck is directing the musical, a first for her. Buck is a world champion Irish dancer so she's been exposed to the performing arts.

Cast members practice approximately 9-12 hours a week and it pays off.

"It's unlike anything you've ever seen before. It's not your typical princess show," said Tubridy.

Pheasant Run is located at 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles. Tickets cost \$15, and free parking is available.



Photo courtesy of Noble Fool Theatricals

Teenagers and kids alike sing, dance, and act their way into the audience's hearts with their performance of "Cinderella" performed at Pheasant Run. "Cinderella" will be performed until April 5, and is a twist on the classic fairy tale.

Taste Testing at Ivy

Three seniors took a trip to the new restaurant Ivy, 120 N. Hale St., Wheaton. Read on for their personal reviews.



Katie Bell

First Impression: The inside of the restaurant literally took my breath away, it was impressive. I felt like I was in a cathedral. There were stained glass windows, a huge brick fireplace, and an amazing staircase leading to a wrap-around balcony.

Food: My Ivy House pasta was linguini, tri-color peppers, grilled chicken with a spicy cream sauce. My pasta had a little too much pepper, but it was definitely worth the \$11.

Service: The waitress checked on us several times. She also offered recommendations. The service was quick and extremely friendly.

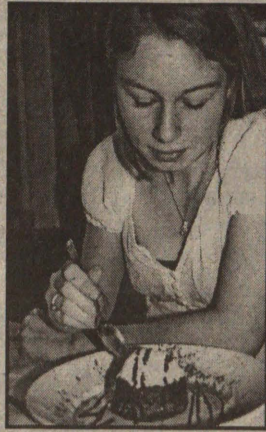
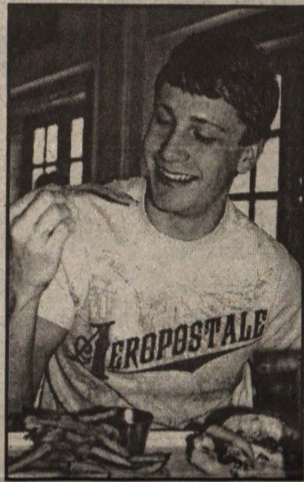
Photos by Jessica Bergmann

First Impression: The restaurant looked really nice and fancy, the music was smooth and jazzy and gave the place a warm feeling. It brought the elegance out of the meal.

Food: I ordered the chicken fontina which was marinated chicken, sliced tomatoes, lettuce, roasted peppers, Fontina cheese, and bacon on bread. It was delicious, as well as the \$1 tomato basil soup and the crème brûlée.

Service: The owner gave me a warm and friendly hello. We didn't have to wait for a table at all.

Dave Lustro



Hannah Taylor

First Impression: When we entered the restaurant, we were greeted with an airy and sophisticated atmosphere. The cathedral-like architecture adds to the classy and romantic feeling.

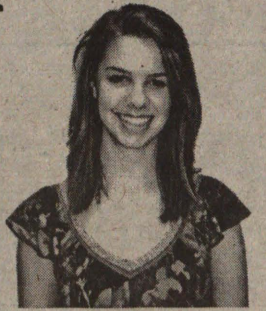
Food: I ordered the filet, which was a 4 oz. center filet with asparagus and Ivy's citrus hollandaise sauce, served with whipped potatoes. At first, the meal looked really small for \$13, but it was filling with the asparagus and potatoes. Also, the chocolate lava cake was delicious!

Service: The waitress was great, she did not hover but she was there when we needed her.

Reporter's Picks

By Megan Tennis
Reporter

Every month, check here for a different reporter's pick in movies, music, books, and games. For March, Megan Tennis chooses her favorite picks in entertainment.



.....Movie..... 'Knowing'

Nicholas Cage scores another role as the ultimate puzzle-solver in his new flick "Knowing." The movie starts out with a flashback to 1958 where a group of elementary kids are asked to draw a picture for a school time capsule.

One mysterious girl covers her paper with random numbers instead of a drawing. About 50 years later, the little girl's suspicious paper lands in the grasp of a young boy named Caleb Koestler. His

father John Koestler (Cage) is the one who cracks the code. Suddenly the lists of numbers become visual pictures in the minds of John and his son.

The numbers turn out to be predicted death tolls and coordinates of all the natural disasters that have occurred in the past 50 years.

As John and his son realize the digits continue into their generation, they transform from puzzle-solvers to possible life-savers. in a chilling and twisted plot.

.....Music..... Kelly Clarkson 'All I Ever Wanted'

Kelly Clarkson hits a high note with her new album "All I Ever Wanted," which came out March 17. The American Idol winner already stole some hearts with her first single off the album titled "My Life Would Suck Without You." The sweet, simple, and poppy tune is catchy enough to be an instant hit.

Clarkson slows it down in the track "Cry" with strong lyrics that are easy to relate to. "Cry" may be the ultimate

breakup song and you can almost feel the pain Clarkson feels as she sings the ballad. Clarkson shows diversity and speaks her mind in the track "I Do Not Hook Up." The song has a rock vibe as she twists her opinions and feelings into a good song about taking it slow in relationships.

"All I Ever Wanted" shows off Clarkson's ability to relate to her fans and her killer vocal chords. "All I Ever Wanted" has something for everyone.

.....Book..... 'You're So Vein'

In "You're So Vein" by Christine Warren, Ava Markham is used to ignoring the fact that supernatural creatures exist, until she becomes one herself.

One night, Ava is attacked by an unexpected vampire visitor and is soon in touch with her greatest fear when she suddenly transforms into something immortal.

Now Ava is picked up in the whirl of it all and find herself on the hot trail of a murder-

ous vampire. Along with a handsome, but mysterious, vampire named Vladimir, Ava finds herself in a world she never knew existed.

Christine Warren keeps you flipping the pages in this romantic thriller.

With a twisted plot and a surprise around every corner, you will easily find yourself slipping into a supernatural world.

The book is available Tuesday in paperback.

.....Video Game..... 'Empire: Total War'

The sequel in the Total War series is as intense and exhilarating as the first installment. With better graphics and even more features than before the game is descriptive and addictive.

The game takes place in the 18th Century and focuses on

exploration, economics, politics, and religion. Players are able to use armies across the globe and use a real-time battle mode that let's them direct battles that take place.

History takes on a whole new disguise in a game that will easily draw you in.

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Warming Up

Reaching for a higher rank

Young team is adapting to playing at varsity level

By Jacob Wucka
Sports Editor

With its season just beginning, boys volleyball is already feeling the pressure that comes along with having a young team.

"We are inexperienced at the varsity level," said head coach Kris Hasty. "But everyone seems willing to work hard and that's a good part of

team needs to get used to playing at the varsity level before the season begins.

"We don't have that many guys that have played at this level yet," said Romanelli. "We have to work twice as hard to get that level."

Varsity newcomer and senior Blaine Flannagan also believes that the team is at a slight disadvantage compared to other teams in the DVC.

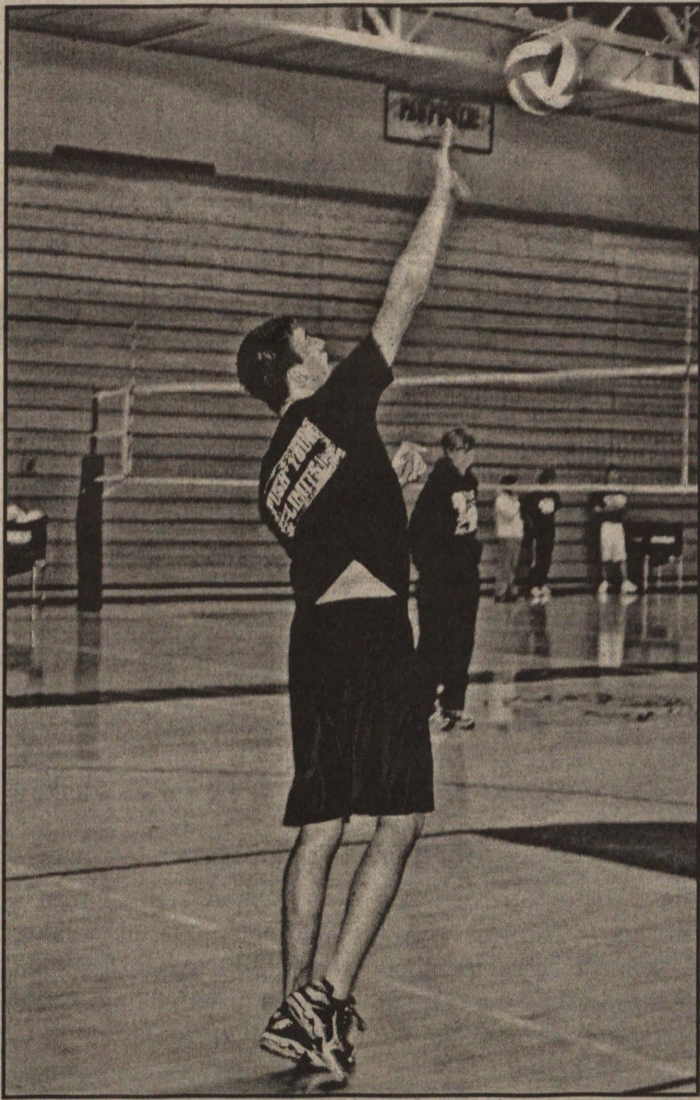


Photo by Jessica Bergmann

Being one of three returning seniors, Dan Calabrese serves to a teammate during practice.

our team."

With only three returning seniors that played at the varsity level last year, captains Ryan Krage and Steven Romanelli, and senior Danny Calabrese, know that the young team can be successful.

"We have a lot ahead of us, but we've got to work hard, stay dedicated, and be team players," said Krage, who placed All-Conference last year. "We might struggle a little bit but we're optimistic and we'll give it all we got."

Romanelli agrees with Krage and believes that the

"A lot of us don't play travel ball, when a lot of teams in our conference do," said Flannagan. "We'll just have to work harder to get in the groove."

Hasty is holding the boys to the same level of expectation that she has had for all of the teams she has coached throughout the years.

"As always we would like to finish in the top half of our conference which is a challenging goal," said Hasty. "Some guys have no idea of their potential so I hope we have good players by the end of the season."

Sending birdies flying

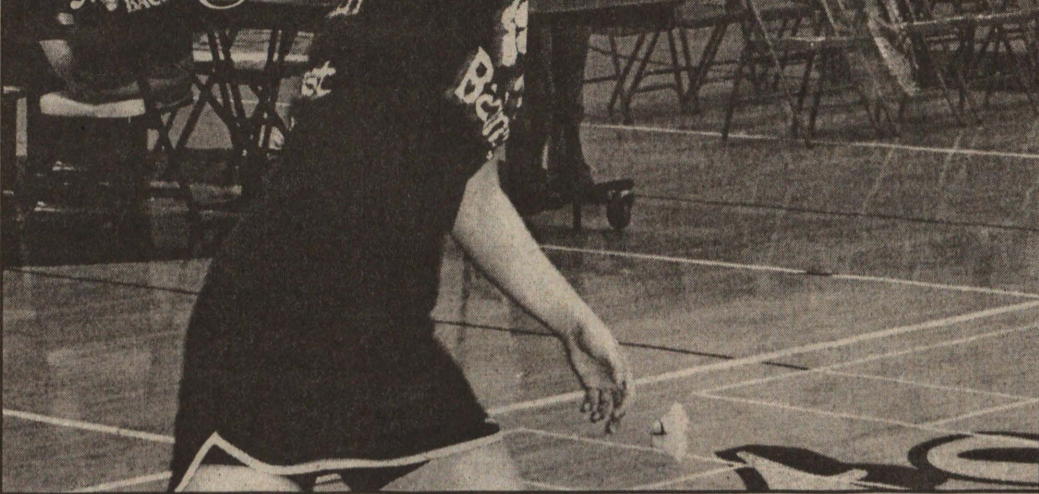


Photo by Alexis Hosticka

Sophomore Devon Tuma prepares with the team before a match against Oswego.

By Alexis Hosticka
Perspectives Editor

With a 2-0 start to the season, the girls badminton team is ready to make a comeback from last year's last place finish in the DVC.

"[Our goal is] to be competitive in all our matches and in our conference," said assistant coach Ted Paulson. "Most of our varsity players have played three or four years, so hopefully we'll just have a lot more team victories and individual accomplishments."

Varsity won its first match versus Streamwood by 13 points.

Many of the players on both the JV and varsity share similar goals, including uni-

fying the team more than the past.

One of four team captains, senior Lia Smith, has two main objectives for the upcoming season.

"I'd like to just have overall improvement in our matches and come together as a team because both are really important," said Smith.

The team also has three captains, including junior Mariela Kruthoff and seniors Yesenia Geromini and Jamie Roman.

Kruthoff is confident in the team's playing ability, but is looking for more enthusiasm.

"For the team, I want more school spirit, I want to be united, and I even just want to do more fun stuff togeth-

er," Kruthoff said.

Sophomore Andrea Siefert has high hopes for the season, but is also looking forward to building a strong team unity as they win and lose together.

"As a team our goal is to do our best," said Siefert. "If that means winning a couple matches, then fine, but if we lose, then at least we tried our hardest."

Sophomore Devon Tuma has an optimistic outlook on the season and is, of course hoping to win, but won't be disappointed if they lose a few matches.

"Our goals for the year are to bring together our team and to just be the best badminton players we can be," Tuma said.

Ready to make an impact

By Jake Bradley
Reporter

Lack of experience hurt the boys tennis team last year, but off season preparation is shedding new light, and the team is ready to make an impact in the conference.

The team has five returning players, and head coach Sione Moeaki sees a lot of potential throughout his roster.

The season begins April 17 with the Plainfield South Quad, and the first conference game will be April 21 against Naperville North.

"If I play the top four guys for singles," said Moeaki. "We will be stronger, but I am going to try and balance it out."

Moeaki's expectation for the team is to improve from last year and win more conference matches. He also hopes to qualify more players

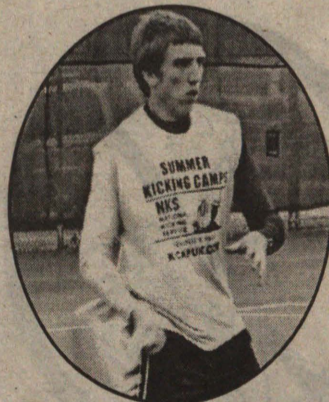


Photo by Jake Bradley

Senior Jason Foreman readies himself as the team's first competition at the Plainfield South Quad approaches on April 17.

to state. "I challenged them to play all year-round and take private lessons over the summer," said Moeaki.

A 1-7 record in the DVC and placing seventh out of eight in the conference tournament was a weak showing for the team, so Moeaki also had the boys work with

a professional tennis player over winter.

"We went over the modern stroke," said senior captain Jozef Pavnica. "Most of the guys showed up and I think that it will help us be more consistent throughout the season."

Pavnica believes that working with the professional eased the team's fear about their lack of experience.

"At schools like St. Charles and Naperville, we face kids that have been playing since they were seven, or have grown up with a racket in their hand," said Pavnica. "But some of the guys on our team have only been playing through high school."

Despite the lack of experience, Pavnica thinks that this is the strongest the team has been since he joined the team, saying that it has a lot of talent and depth in the roster.

Warming Up

Working past last year's victories

Team hopes to surpass the successes of 2008's regional champion team

By Greg Vodicka
Editor in Chief

Expectations couldn't be higher as the defending regional champion softball team steps back onto the diamond lead by new head coach Emily Johnson.

"I have very high expectations because that's all I really know," said Johnson.

After four years of division I softball at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and still playing competitive softball, Johnson can identify with her team as a player.

In addition to coaching, Johnson works as a pitching instructor at the DuPage Training Academy.

Johnson specializes on the

defensive aspect of the game while assistant coach Bob Barron works on batting.

"Both coaches have their own expertise so it makes for a good balance," said junior Alyson Taddeucci. "But they are both set on trying to get us to state."

After only a few short weeks as a team, senior captain Chrissie Rovtar said that the difference from this season to last season is the positive atmosphere Johnson has created.

"[Johnson] can hold a serious practice and keep the team focused with some new drills that we've never done," said Rovtar.

Base running, tee work, and infield drills are just a

few areas Rovtar said are being stressed at practice.

"We are also only working with live pitching rather than soft toss like last season," said Rovtar.

A core group of girls carried over from last season while newcomers and seniors Katrina Turzinski and Anna Lane are looked to for helping the team out.

"We've all been playing together for quite awhile, and our chemistry is one of our strongest points," said senior Courtney Macko.

Keeping relationships strong on and off the field, the girls already have several team sleepovers planned as well as other team bonding events.

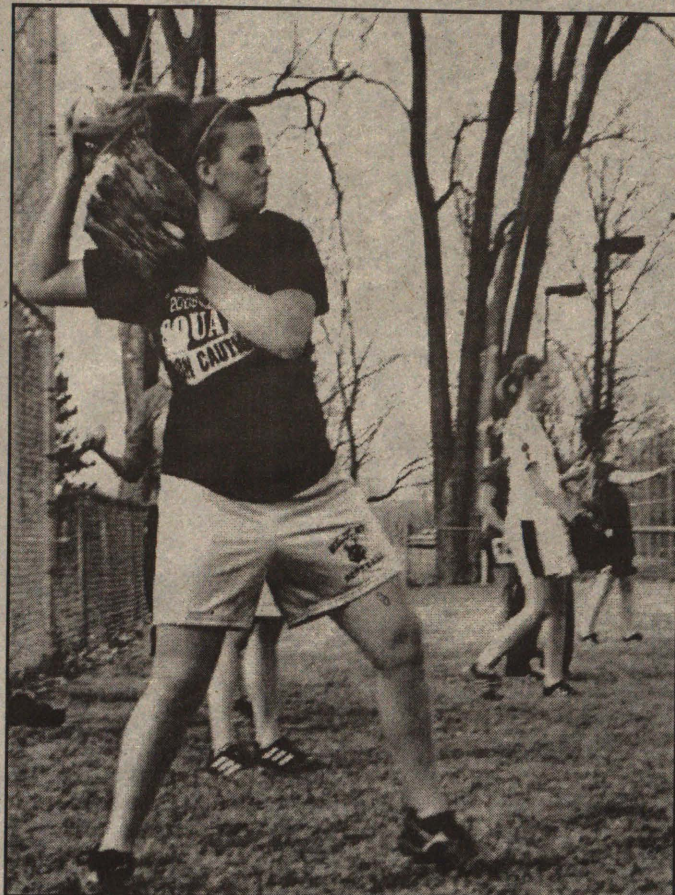


Photo by Greg Vodicka

New to varsity, senior Katrina Turzinski practices throws before the team's double-header at Willowbrook on Saturday.

A change in lineup

New head coach laying foundation for success

By Clark Hudmon
Reporter

Spring is around the corner and for many this means one thing: baseball. And for the Wildcats this means many new faces and changes to its lineup.

The biggest change for the baseball program is the arrival of the new head coach, Dan McCarthy.

As McCarthy builds the foundation for a winning season, he will focus on the fun-

damentals.

"I feel this year's team has a strong opportunity to succeed this year, and do some real special things," said McCarthy.

The players are jumping on the optimism McCarthy brings, and they believe in his system.

"He [McCarthy] is really calm; he drills us a lot on what we are supposed to do. He expects good things from us, and we all understand the end goal: winning," said ju-

nior Blair Skarin.

According to McCarthy's players, he is calm and focused at practices, never yelling or screaming, and he expects the same from his players.

Veteran players, like senior pitcher Jordan Long and senior outfielder Rhett Gunderson, are returning but new faces are arriving.

New players include three juniors: first baseman Kevin Peterson, second baseman Al Robbins, and shortstop Skarin.

Captain Gunderson feels this mix will bring a healthy competition from juniors, and solid leadership from the seniors.

"This year's team is bonding well together. Most of us are good friends, but we do not take practices lightly. We push each other, because we all want the same thing: to win," said Gunderson.

One goal that the whole team has in mind is to finish atop the DVC, and to go deep within the playoffs.

This year's team is a better rounded team than teams in the past, and will rely heavily on solid pitching and stellar defense, according to Robbins, which the Wildcats have with breaking ball pitcher Long, and newcomer Charles Jacques.



Photo by Alex Lima

Girls soccer scrimmages in hopes of advancing their skills for its upcoming season.

Attainable goals

By Alex Lima
Reporter

With second year underway, and a new season starting, head coach Caesar Gomez plans on making this girls soccer season memorable.

"Everyone on this squad now has been under my wing and they know what we want from them," said Gomez.

According to Gomez, 10 players returned from last year.

"We are happy with what we have seen so far," said Gomez. "We would like to be a better seed than last year."

Last year the lady Wildcats were ranked in the bottom half of the DVC.

Another goal is to get a bet-

ter seed for regionals.

"Last year we finished fourth and we are hoping to do better this year," said senior Melanie Fischer.

With only a couple of weeks, Fischer believes that the team is looking good.

"Our goal is to get something up on the wall of the [Bishop] gym," said Fischer.

The first step to achieve that goal was to win a conference match against division rival Schaumburg on Wednesday.

Due to press time, results for the game are unavailable.

"Schaumburg is a good squad," said head coach Caesar Gomez. "Winning that game would mean a lot, a lot for the new squad and a lot for the program."

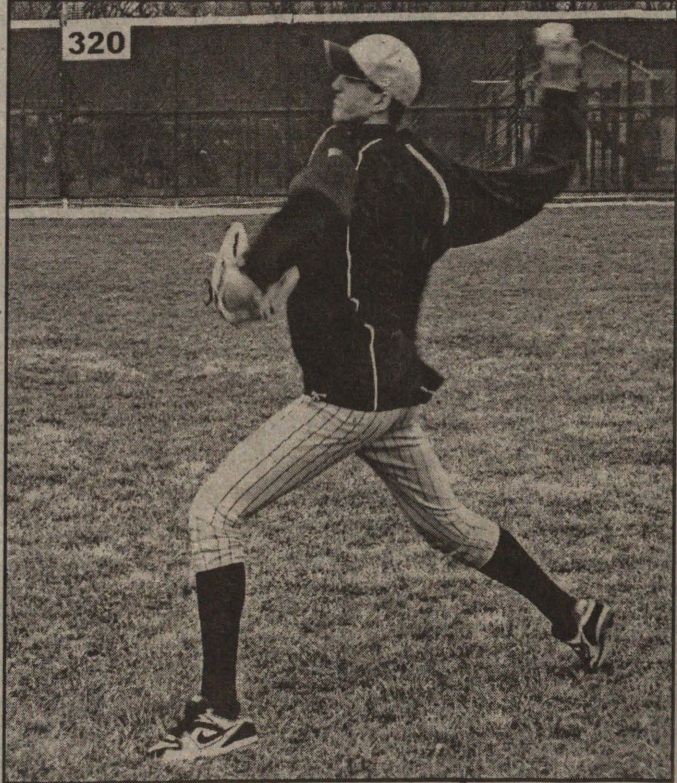


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Junior Charles Jacques throws pitches to senior Jordan Long (not pictured) at Pioneer Park.

Competition for starting positions

Not even two years into her high school career, sophomore Kelly Dunn was named All-American. All-Conference was awarded to sophomore Mary Connolly for her first season as a Wildcat. Junior Luis Ortega also made the All-Conference team after his sophomore season.

Why are we seeing this increase in the list of underclassmen star athletes at West Chicago?

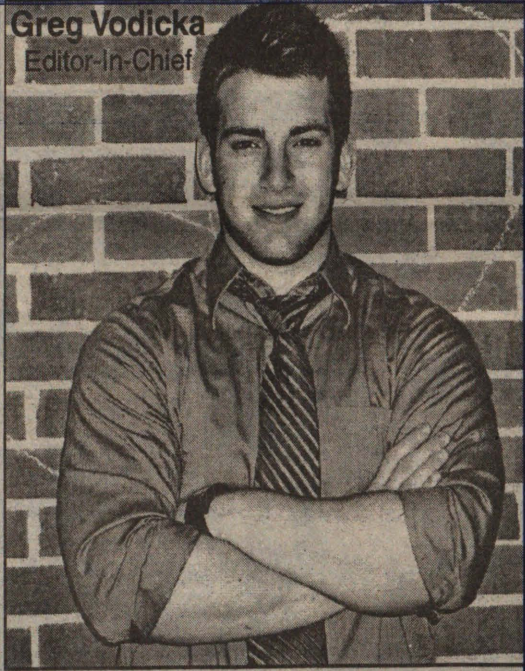
Often, college critics say starting freshmen reflect a weak program. You have a four-year senior that the school has spent time and money prepping and priming, while you have a true freshman, straight out of high school, starting over the senior. What does this show about the program?

Lately, it seems that, in certain sports, underclassmen are rising above four-year seniors at Wego.

I would argue that the best player should always take the field regardless of how old he or she is. The whole point behind organized athletics is for competition with the goal of a victory. All politics aside, that is why we play sports, and that is why we compete.

In addition, some might say that starting underclassmen play so that when they are seniors they will have that much more experience. While it is true that experience is key, it boils down to the same result: The best player should play.

Greg Vodicka
Editor-in-Chief



Understanding the point that four year athletes have put their time in the program and should have the opportunity to see the field, I still believe the position goes to the best player.

Would you want a less competent doctor operate on you so, one day, they can chalk it up to experience points? On the other hand, would you listen to another less competent doctor over the best doctor when prescribing a treatment if that less competent MD had been around longer?

When it is put into those terms, the choice is simple. While athletics is not a matter of life and death, I challenge players, coaches, and fans to take a closer look before complaining about a player not getting a spot they "deserve."

Experience and poise on the playing field is one of the cornerstones of a quality athlete, but at what cost? Coaches make the decision to play a player for their own reasons. Whether it is experience or talent, the best player should always be the one on the field.

Above all, underclassmen pushing the program in the right direction can only improve circumstances for Wildcat athletics. As feeder programs begin to develop, younger athletes have the potential to rise above and become assets to the team.

This can only be good for the program because it creates depth as well as competition for positions.



Photo by Alex Lima
Junior Matt Kubik pole vaults above the onlooking crowd at the Friday DVC meet.

Leaping to new heights

BOYS By Payton Bayless
Reporter

GIRLS By Evan Morgan
Reporter

Sophomore high jumper Jeff Foreman qualified for the indoor state meet when he broke the DVC record at 6'4" at the March 20 meet.

Foreman will compete in the meet Saturday in Bloomington.

The team might have only had one member to qualify for state, but boys track has had many others who have proven their capability in each meet.

Besides Foreman, other members who brought significant efforts to the team include senior captains Zach Mowen and Kyle Nichol, junior captains Deven Lopez and DJ Muzzy, along with junior Matt Kubik, and sophomores Derrick Pietrobson, and Gunnar Sterne.

"I definitely have high hopes for this year's team," said head coach Paul McLeland.

Already with four meets under its belt, the team continues to progress a little more with each competition.

"The team has improved in everything, even with us losing a couple of seniors, we're already better," said McLeland.

Although many members have suffered minor injuries, the team still looks toward a bright future. McLeland said that reaching state is "definitely a possibility."

"As long as we all stay uninjured, we should do pretty well," said Pietrobson.

Pietrobson aims high, hoping to beat the 800 meter record. Others on the team hope for record-breaking performances, too.

"We plan to finish in the upper half of the DVC this year, and we have excellent athletes, many who have a chance to qualify for state," said Lopez.

Aiming high and doing their best to come out on top, the team hopes their hard work will pay off.

"Our goals for DVC are mainly to get out of being in last place and try for the top four in conference," said Nichol.

The ever-increasing amount of injuries had a negative effect on the team's outcomes. With two captains and several other members out, each event has placed lower than their goal.

"The hardest thing about this season, so far has been dealing with people getting injured," said Nichol.

The boys face Naperville North and Glenbard East April 14 at 4:30 p.m. at Naperville North.

Girls track ended its indoor season Friday at DVC at Glenbard East where it finished in 8th place despite battling through countless injuries this season.

Annette Eichenberger took the only victory in the DVC where she placed first in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:25.

The team shared a common goal of improving its conference finish from last year.

"We didn't do as well as we wanted but it gives us more of a drive for outdoor season," said senior captain Brittany Smith.

Assistant coach Bob Maxson said, "Because of the pressure that [the girls] were under, they didn't perform at their best, but they are still great athletes and we hope to do better during outdoor."

Eichenberger was named an all conference athlete and will compete in the state meet Saturday in the medley relay along with Smith, junior Yan-Ya Starkey and sophomore Maggie Tikka.

This year's team is led by senior captains Katrina Beedle and Smith who were described by head coach George Petrezas as "providing good leadership."

"We're encouraged that the returning girls have come back and worked this hard so early in the season and we are extremely pleased at the ability of our new talent," said Maxson.

Last year, the team qualified two girls to state, including Eichenberger who placed 6th in the 800 meter run.

Along with the state qualifiers, sophomore and all conference athlete Karlie Becker returns as a key sprinter for the team.

Both Eichenberger and Becker are out for the time being with injuries but coaches still had positive outlooks on the injuries this year.

"Fortunately it's early in the season, but it's still hard to determine how serious the injuries really are," said Maxson.

Even with injuries hurting the team's full potential for the season, a new wave of athletes have stepped up to take as many victories as possible.

Freshman Maggie Brach and junior Connie Tan have proven themselves thus far in sprinting, along with freshman Kelsey Sawyer, who has swept away the competition both in cross country and track this year.

Girls track begins its outdoor competition April 8 against Naperville North and Wheaton Warrenville South.