

# Outbreak avoided:

*Precautions taken to handle global threat*

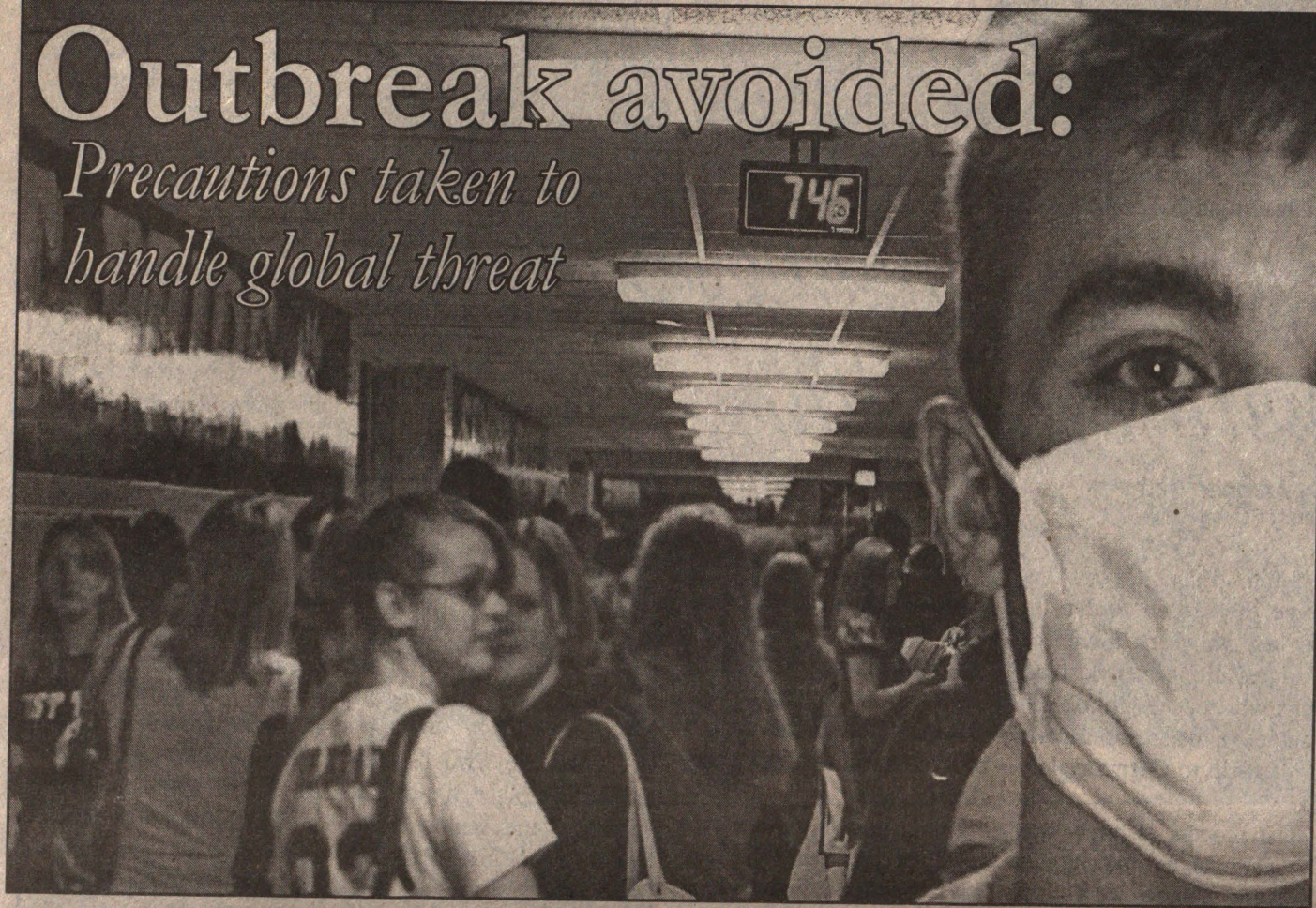


Photo illustration by Jessica Bergmann

While cases of the swine flu appear locally, Community High School attacks the threat before it becomes a serious problem. Although students did not wear masks to school, many precautions were taken to prevent the spread of the deadly flu strain.

## School remains open

By Jessica Bergmann  
News Editor

As the swine flu pandemic erupts around the world, cases of swine flu have been localized to the Chicago area and at the high school.

Swine flu is a disease of pigs that, when caught by humans, can present respiratory problems, fever, and nausea.

"There is a broad category of influenza that has multiple strains. We know of medications for most of these strains because it's based off of previous years. However, each year a new strain mutates," said school nurse Beth Jones.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), concern arises from the fact that this strain is new.

"In the past, the flu was passed only from pig to pig. Now, it can transfer from pig

to humans," said Jones. "The problem arises because we don't know how it's going to act in the human body and we don't know if the medications will be effective."

In an informational article published at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), the CDC claims that "because this is a new virus, most people will not have immunity to it, and illness may be more severe and widespread as a result. In addition, currently there is no vaccine to protect against this novel H1N1 virus."

The DuPage County Health Department called the school May 1 to warn that a student was diagnosed with a probable case of swine flu, which was later confirmed.

Students and parents were informed of this probable case through the automated phone system that calls each student's home.

While students showed con-

cern over the timeliness of the warning, prom festivities were not affected by the case and the school continued to function as normal.

"By the time we had a confirmed swine flu case, it was already obvious that there were other cases in the surrounding communities. There was no increase in the number of cases or the severity, so the school didn't need to take any further action," Jones said.

Principal Moses Cheng strongly believed that it was in the best interest of both the students and faculty to remain open, as suggested by the Health Department.

"The Health Department wanted to look at the absent count of students to see

how many students had been absent within a range of dates," addressed Cheng told the Board of Education on May 5.

Cheng said that, if the Health Department found a significant amount of absences due to swine flu, the school would be recommended to close. However, between April 20 and May 1, absences were not significant enough to cancel classes and activities.

While the swine flu hype has slowly died down, students have also become aware of the recently diagnosed case of MRSA within the school.

On May 15, students, parents, and staff were informed that a student was confirmed to have MRSA.

"We disinfected the school over the weekend and notified students and parents immediately on Friday," said Jones.

Jones specified that the student with the MRSA infection is undergoing treatment and advises students not to be concerned, but still take precaution.

## Changes in future

By Alexis Hosticka  
Perspectives Editor

Along with the new school year, a handfull of changes will be coming students' way including alterations to the advisory program and school calendar.

"One of the goals of advisory is to create a larger invitation for students to become part of and feel safe in the school and community," said advisory program coordinator Chris Covino.

One of the main changes for next year is a twist on reading day. In addition to students having the ability to choose what they want to read, all students will receive the "One Book, One School" book to read for a quarter of the year.

Every grade of students will read the book during a different quarter of the year because, as of now, there is only enough funding to buy 600 books, although more funding is being pursued. Each advisory will be able to choose if they would like to read the book as a group or individually.

"You can never think that everyone will enjoy [the book]," said Covino. "But hopefully the largest part of the school will."

The criteria used to choose the book included selecting a protagonist or antagonist who represented the student body and one that examines socially conscious themes such as real-life conflicts.

The money to purchase the books is coming from a Title One Fund and they have applied for a matching grant specifically for reading initiatives within school.

"We make adjustments every year, and based on

See Changes, page 4

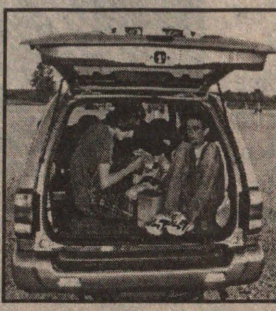
### Sold Out

After four sold-out shows, the spring musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" proved to be a huge success--see **NEWS**, page 4.



### Summer fun?

The excitement of summer is diminished when students realize the responsibilities and hardwork of three months off of school--see **CENTER SPREAD**, pages 8-9.



### Drive-in

Looking for a new way to spend a warm summer night? Cascade Drive-In offers teens a safe place to get away from an indoor theater and enjoy a show with friends--see **FEATURES**, page 11.

### Behind scenes

As the baseball season ends, the Chronicle goes behind the scenes to the announcer's booth and dugout to recognize more than just the players--see **SPORTS**, page 17.



## What's Happening? Relay for Life

By Sarah Berger  
Entertainment Editor

With music, movies, and games, finding a cure for cancer has never been so fun.

Relay for Life will be held Friday on the football field beginning at 6 p.m. and will go until 6 a.m. Saturday. In order to spend the night, you had to have raised at least \$75.

Several of the high school's own clubs and sports teams have formed Relay for Life teams including Art Club, NHS, poms, Key Club, girls basketball, girls track, Student Council, FBLA, yearbook, JV girls soccer, and even a teacher's team.

Entertainment for the evening will include the movies "High School Musical" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" on a giant screen. Along with the movies there will also be themed laps, games, and karaoke.

## Student Council

By Jake Bradley  
Reporter

For the first time, the executive board for Student Council will be represented by juniors.

Now sophomores, Nici Burlingame, Bree Ringe, Maria Barajas, and Robbie Windisch were elected to represent the school and come up with next year's fundraisers and activities.

Burlingame, former sophomore class secretary and freshman representative, was elected executive board president, while Ringe was elected vice president, Barajas was elected secretary and Windisch elected treasurer.

"I love having responsibility," Burlingame said.

The board will meet with their sponsors and bring up their ideas for the rest of the council, where they will decide within the full council, and what activities they will do.

"I've already been planning prom and homecoming. There are also a lot of service projects that Student Council is participating in, so I'm hoping to get a lot more people involved," Burlingame said.

Adviser Chris Lukas believes elections were extremely successful and hopes to continue the success in years to come.



Photo by Jacob Wucka

Senior Isabel Correa won a scholarship which entitles her to study abroad in Germany for a full year.

## Mixing language with new culture

By Amanda Rathe  
Center Spread Editor

Senior Isabel Correa became the second student in the last two years to win the Congress Bundestag Scholarship, which she will take advantage of when she departs on her trip to Germany July 21.

The process to apply was fairly simple, but the chances of being chosen were relatively small.

"First I had to fill out the application, and once that was approved, I had the interview with the scholarship organization (Youth For Understanding)," said Correa.

Correa's first stop will be at Washington D.C., where she will receive an honor at the White House.

From there, she will leave for Germany where she will attend a language camp for a month before being completely submerged in the German culture.

"I'm nervous because I won't know anyone," said Correa. "But I'm also excited because it will be a new experience."

Even though Correa will graduate this year, she will have to attend high school for another year in Germany, but she will not receive any credit.

Despite her nerves, the trip cannot come fast enough for Correa.

"I'm just anxious to get there," she said.

Senior Bill Heinze also won the scholarship, but declined to accept it.

## On to California for five qualifiers

By Jake Bradley  
Reporter

Five members of FBLA will be soaking up some sun while competing in Anaheim, Calif. in June.

The members will compete in the National Leadership Conference after placing in business related tests at the State Leadership Conference over spring break.

Senior Diana Martinez finished first place in business procedures and was extremely pleased with her success, despite some worries.

"I was second to last finishing the test out of 30 others, so I was pretty surprised when I heard my name being called out for first place," Martinez said.

Senior Joe Serio also finished first place in personal finance, and seniors Hannah Taylor, Jozef Pavnic, and John Kinsella also qualified.

"I'm really lucky to have this amazing opportunity to go to California. I've worked really hard and had to learn a lot of material in order to get to where I am," said Taylor.

The State Leadership Conference, held in Deca-

tur, April 4-5, had over 900 students from around the state test their knowledge in business communication, business law, accounting, economics and other business subjects.

Some students had to show their knowledge in different ways for various subjects.

"Subjects like desktop publishing had on-site testing," said adviser Maria Wirth. "They created something here in the school, but also took a test about the subject at the conference."

Other FBLA members who placed were: senior Kevin Marano and freshman Alex Marano in desktop publishing; Taylor in business communication; senior Stuart Sankovitch in business law; Pavnic in accounting I; senior Jack McCormack in economics; senior Hanna Colliander in Who's Who in Illinois FBLA; senior Jason Foreman in computer applications; and Kinsella in spreadsheet applications.

"I am really excited. I've never been to California and I can't wait for the sightseeing, the nice hotel, Disneyland, and meeting new people," said Martinez.

## Familiar faces departing school

By Jacob Wucka  
Sports Editor

When the bell rings next year, three familiar faces will be noticeably absent. Supt. Lee Rieck, German teacher Terry Strohm, and Director of Latino Intervention Services Miguel Arroyo are retiring.

Before Rieck came to West Chicago, the school had gone through three superintendents in three years. Rieck has been the superintendent for 10 years.

"I found the idea of working with a diverse student population appealing," said Rieck.

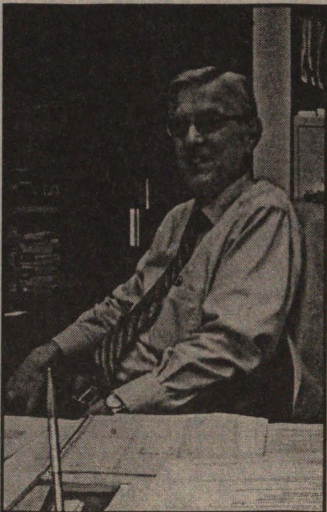
From the start of his time here, Rieck has focused on school improvement.

"When I came I had some ideas of what I wanted to do - create stability in leadership, engage the community, explore something different for our athletic conference," said Rieck.

When Strohm began

teaching at West Chicago in 1976, the German variety show had just been created, and the exchange program had not started. A lot has changed.

"The German plays started my first year here. At first, we started doing traditional plays in German, like 'Snow White.' I started taking kids' suggestions, and they decided that they wanted to write their own," said Strohm.



Strohm is glad that the German program has grown as much as it has. She is especially happy with the exchange program.

"I was a poor student and could have never gone to Germany," said Strohm. "So its nice taking my students there because it's something I never did [as a student]."

For 15 years, Arroyo has been wishing the students of West Chicago good morning.

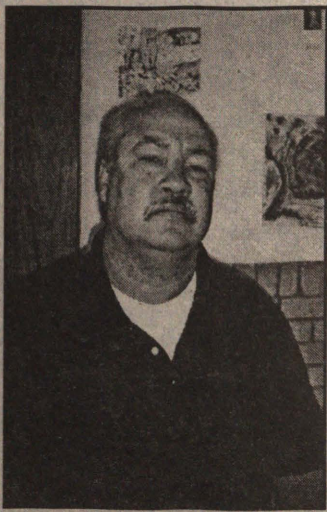


June 3 will be the first time he says goodbye.

"I take pride in saying good morning to the students," said Arroyo. "I'm kind of saddened by it [my retirement]. I could go another five years."

Arroyo has spent his time here staying dedicated to the students.

"As a dean here for 11 years, I learned to treat everyone fairly despite whatever the problem is," said Arroyo.



Photos by Jacob Wucka

Supt. Lee Rieck, German teacher Terry Strohm, and Director of Latino Intervention Services Miguel Arroyo will say goodbye to the school that they have been an asset to.



# Students under the city lights

*Seniors capture first in state to move on to New York City*



Photo by Alex Lima

After winning first place in the Stock Market Challenge, (from left) seniors Sam Wais, Steve Romanelli, Stuart Sankovitch, and adviser Donald Zabelin will go to New York City.

By Alex Lima  
Reporter

Big city, bright lights, and a Broadway show are only a taste of the Big Apple that students who won state in the Stock Market Game will seize in June.

Seniors Steve Romanelli, Sam Wais, and Stuart Sankovitch will visit the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) to receive their awards.

"I'm really excited, I really want to go on the floor of the NYSE," said Romanelli.

After the students visit the floor of the NYSE, they will attend a Broadway show, and visit the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

The students are part of an

investments class taught by business teacher Donald Zabelin.

Econ Illinois, Chicago Tribune Educational Services Department, and Cabrera Capital Markets sponsored the game.

To start off, each team begins with imaginary \$100,000 to invest in common stocks. During a 15 week period, teams can buy and sell stocks at any time.

Throughout the game, Community High School had never been in first place. However, just hours before the game ended, the boys sold all their stocks and won.

The final portfolio had a value of \$193,804 which was \$3,487 more than the second

place team from Mascoutah High School, and did 88 percent better than the Standard & Poor's 500.

"In the beginning we had a good chance," said Romanelli. "There was a couple times where we lost hope, but we stuck with it."

According to Zabelin, success is based on how the actual stock market performs.

Romanelli also won the Investwrite competition. Students in Zabelin's investments class were required to write an essay about investing.

Zabelin submitted Romanelli's essay and it was chosen as the winner.

"It's awesome that all the stuff I learned paid off," said Romanelli.

## Coach leaves after one year with team

By Greg Vodicka  
Editor in Chief

After one season as a Wildcat, head football coach and physical education teacher Hal Chiodo will move on, leaving his position open for the 2009-2010 season.

Highland Park High School will become Chiodo's home as he signed on as head football coach on May 5. With a strong football tradition, a healthy financial state, and an average ACT score of 25.8, Highland Park has plenty of appeal for Chiodo.

"The rest of the coaching staff is intact which will also be nice," said Chiodo.

However, Chiodo said that he didn't come here expecting to move on.

"I feel like last season was meant to be," said Chiodo. "In mid June with no coach, [the team] was in a bad spot. We made what could have been a bad situation a good one."

According to Chiodo, 41 seniors is an abnormally high number for any school and it was a special group. Regardless of the win/loss record, he considers the season good because of those seniors.

"I feel like I was meant to see them through their senior year after all they have been through," said Chiodo. "I have to believe it will all work out in the end."

While Chiodo and his family struggled with the move from Morton and will repeat the process for Highland Park, Chiodo has no regrets

about coming to West Chicago.

"I absolutely enjoyed the student body and the teachers at this school. I was treated like a king," said Chiodo.

The diversity West Chicago has is one part of Community High School Chiodo says he will miss.

"There is a certain level of respect and acceptance at this school that is unique," he said.

Athletic Director Doug Mullaney said that he wasn't surprised at Chiodo's decision to leave and supported him with his choice.

"I'm excited for [Chiodo]. I hope he gets what he needs, but I'm also excited for us," said Mullaney. "This is not a time to feel sorry for ourselves. It is a time to get excited."

According to Mullaney, a

lot of people are interested in the coaching position, but the goal is to find the right fit of someone who will "see it through."

"We don't want another big name with us and have them leave us like this year," said Mullaney.

Mullaney said that the administration is looking for someone who is committed to building the program.

"It's not about the varsity record, it's about the freshmen. We need to build this program from the bottom up," said Mullaney.

The application process opened on May 6 and closed May 15. Mullaney plans to have the interviews finished and a decision made by early June.

"As one door closes, two more always open," said Mullaney.

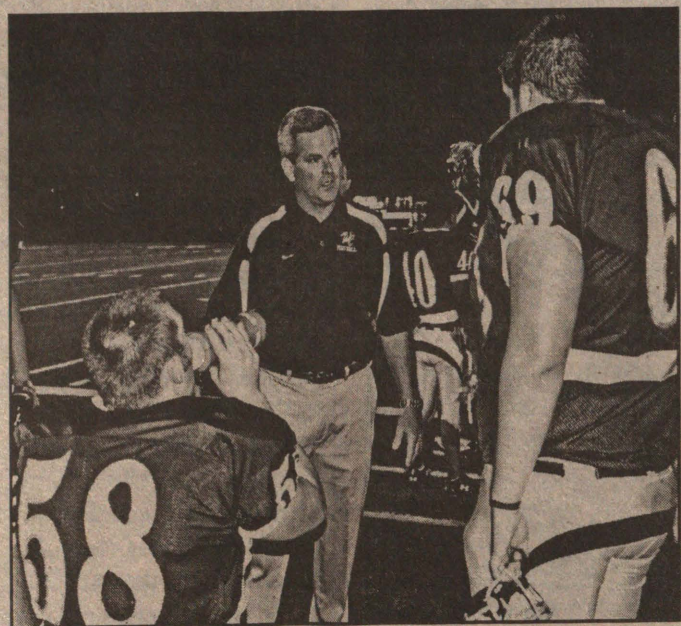


Photo by Jessica Bergmann

After a season of hard work and discipline, head football coach Hal Chiodo will leave the team for a new school.

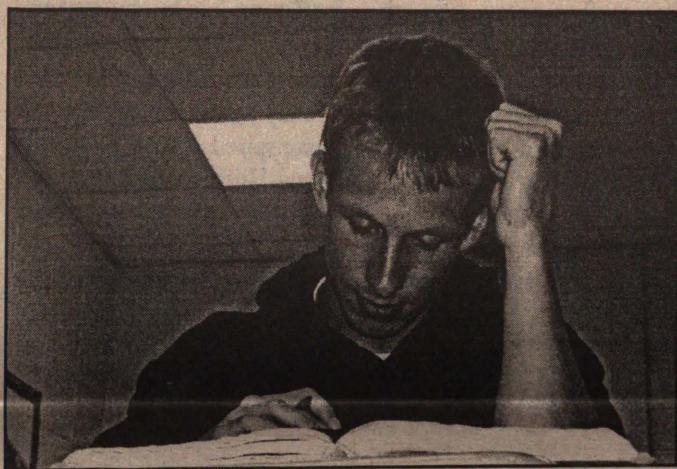


Photo by Clark Hudmon

Senior Stuart Sankovitch balances sports and other extracurricular activities while hitting the books.

## Always getting down to business

Clark Hudmon  
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.*

Always getting down to business is May's Student of the Month Stuart Sankovitch. He was a part of the teams who brought home first place finishes in competitions like the Economic Challenge, Life Smarts, Illinois Personal Finance Challenge and Stock Market Game.

His biggest push into the fascination of business was his grandfather.

"My grandpa was the reason I got into business. I watched him build really nothing into a multi-million dollar business," said Sankovitch

Sankovitch has struggled with his fair share of adversity, after getting a brain tumor when he was 2 and again at 5.

He did not let his ailment stop him from playing sports. He battled through it, and found his passion in lacrosse, where he has been a two year varsity starter.

Sankovitch has always had a passion for business and has been in FBLA for four years and has taken every business course he can.

In FBLA this year, he placed fifth in state for the business law section of computation. Sankovitch is also the secretary for FBLA.

He has represented West Chicago business classes at places like Chicago, New York City, and St. Louis.

The biggest accomplishment this year was when his team won the Stock Market Game.

He plans to attend University of Iowa and major in finance.



# Standing ovation

## Four sold-out shows prove success of spring musical

By Payton Bayless  
Reporter

After four captivating and sold-out shows, the cast of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" was quite satisfied with its performance.

With the very convincing acting and creative props, the show provided a little something for everyone. The festive costumes brought a splash of color to every scene.

"What I most liked [about the performance] was the energy the crowd had," said senior Megan Green, who played one of the lead parts as the narrator. "It was ridiculous."

Receiving standing ovations from each crowd, the actors felt that their 10 weeks of rehearsal and practice paid off.

"Each step of the process got bigger and bigger, and I just enjoyed being part of the magic," said Green.

The cast and crew had many parts of the process to perfect before the final performance, each one proving more trying than the others.

"First was the music, then we learned all the dances, it was staged, props were added, and then the pit [orchestra] came in at the same time as our costumes and lighting to give the full effect," said head director and English teacher Mary Hafertepe.

The leads and some of the cast were made up of several returning actors and singers. Each member showed their experience on stage.

Playing the toe-tapping, Elvis-inspired Pharaoh, senior Dave Hiltner boogied across the stage and kept the crowd entertained.

"I enjoyed playing Pharaoh because he switches personalities quickly from serious to a crazy swinging hipster," Hiltner said.

Sophomore Nik Kmiecik, who played the optimistic

main character Joseph, knew how to keep a tune during his 12 scenes.

"We had a very talented cast, and everybody continued to grow in their parts and skills," said Hafertepe.

Compared to last year's production of "Grease," Hafertepe said that "Joseph" was much more structured and it proved to be a complete ensemble show.

"With each colorful scene transition, the crowd seemed to follow along intently," said Hafertepe. "Plus, there was more singing."

After the final performance, the cast and crew like to look back on how they did.

"It was one of the best experiences of my life," said sophomore Jeff Pierpoint, who had a solo performance during the show. "At first, I was a little nervous but not once I actually got on stage."

After weeks worth of long rehearsals and late nights, Hafertepe said the performances exceeded her high expectations.

"There was one time when I just sat and thought to myself 'Wow, this is everything I imagined'," said Hafertepe.



Photo by Alexis Hosticka

After 10 weeks of practices and rehearsals, the cast and crew of "Joseph" pulled off four sold-out shows.



Photo by Alexis Hosticka

Sophomore Nik Kmiecik entertains audiences with 12 scenes in perfect tune as the lead character Joseph.

# The music continues

By Megan Tennis  
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.*

June's Student of the Month, Kim Kleczewski, has a full schedule and is involved in and out of the school.

Kleczewski said she thinks she is Student of the Month because she participates in a lot of activities.

Her after school agenda includes jazz band, orchestra, golf, and badminton.

Kleczewski said she now feels the need to set a good example for students.

"It made me kind of want to do my homework even though senioritis was kicking in," said Kleczewski.

With so much on her plate, Kleczewski deals with stress by hanging out with her friends.

"We don't take too many things seriously so we always

have a good laugh," said Kleczewski.

Her friends also make her work harder academically.

Majoring in music education and attending Monmouth College is in Kleczewski's future.

She hopes to be a high school band director or music teacher.

"I realized that I wanted to be able to teach kids music because it's what makes sense to me. I want to be able

to provide a positive environment for kids who want to learn music," Kleczewski said.

As a senior, Kleczewski believes she knows the ropes of high school extremely well.

"Do everything you can. Even though everyone says it, it's true. School is kind of pointless if you don't do stuff. Even if you're busy, at least you're not bored," said Kleczewski when asked if she had any advice for students.



Photo by Alexis Hosticka

Senior Kim Kleczewski puts forth the time and dedication to learning to play piano, aside from her busy schedule.

# Changes: Noticeable adjustments next year

(Continued from page 1)

responses from students and teachers, we're trying to make advisory more useful," said second program coordinator and head of the counseling department Maura Bridges.

Other planned changes for the advisory program include switching current events day from Monday to Tuesday and making Monday a grade specific "get ready for the week day." One Monday, for example, freshmen might work on study skills and how to use the planner while juniors put together their resumes.

Wednesdays will become a club awareness day for club presentations about activities that they are currently doing. Friday will remain video day for WeGo Through the Tube or any other video presentation.

It is also under consideration to check that students are filling their planners and completing goal setting with the planner as part of the advisory grade.

"Right now, it's still a skeleton calendar," said Bridges. "[Covino and I] will work on the calendar over the summer, and decide how the planners are going to work for next year, but right now, we're still receiving feedback."

The last change in the program will be the possibility of the combination of two counselors' students into a single advisory. This would be done in order to create similar sizes of advisory, and both counselors would visit the advisory during course selection and other units.

Both Covino and Bridges are looking for more student feedback. Any students with comments are encouraged to set up an appointment with either coordinator.

Another big change that will likely be implemented next year is dealing with the late start days. The plan is to change it to one late start a month instead of every week. The plan has not been finalized yet and will be discussed at the next board meeting.



## Yearbook overcomes challenges for awards

By Amanda Rathe  
Center Spread Editor

The Challenge yearbook staff received four awards and three honorable mentions from the Northern Illinois Scholastic Press Association (NISPA) recently.

Staff members received the Golden Eagle award, sharing it with only five other high school yearbooks in northern Illinois, and the Silver Certificate that they share with eight other high schools.

"The Golden Eagle is one of the highest recognized awards, and as an editor of the yearbook I'm proud to say that we were able to earn it," said senior Courtney Nese-meier.

Other awards included blue ribbons for its copy and writing and photography, and three honorable mentions for yearbook coverage, theme development, and layout and design.

"I was pleasantly surprised. It's really an honor to know the hard work kids put in after school, in-class, and in the summer has paid off," said yearbook adviser Patricia Santella.

Editor Alyson Taddeucci was also proud of the staff for their different accomplishments.

"After winning an award, it really shows that all our hard work paid off and our efforts didn't go to waste," Taddeucci said.

## Another golden year for Chronicle

By Megan Tennis  
Reporter

For the third year in a row the Wildcat Chronicle earned the Golden Eagle trophy from the Northern Illinois School Press Association.

Only three schools received the Golden Eagle, which recognized best in class.

Junior Jacob Wucka received a blue ribbon for graphics and honorable mentions for editorial cartooning and editorials.

Senior Jessica Bergmann, sophomore Alexis Hosticka, and Wucka all received blue ribbons for the team in-depth category.

Junior Amanda Rathe won an honorable mention for individual in-depth.

Senior Greg Vodicka won a blue ribbon for reviews.

The Chronicle also received a gold certificate. All awards were based on first semester issues.

"Journalism students are a dedicated group who are willing to take their time to make the best paper," said journalism teacher and Chronicle adviser Laura Kuehn.

The Chronicle also won a gold medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and first place rating from the American Scholastic Press Association.

The American Scholastic Press Association is a nationally ranked organization.

"Most people don't understand much about journalism because it's more than just a class, it's a team, it's a family, and it's a business and we all treat it like that," said Vodicka.



Photo courtesy of Laura Kuehn

Bringing home the Golden Eagle for the third year, first semester Chronicle staff members (bottom left) senior Jessica Bergmann, junior Amanda Rathe, sophomores Sarah Berger, Megan Hernbroth, Alexis Hosticka and (top left) seniors Alex Lima, Clark Hudmon, Greg Vodicka, and junior Jacob Wucka.

## Dancing to the top

By Sarah Berger  
Entertainment Editor

*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.*

With a combination of determination, organization, and passion, senior Rachel Molinaro is April's Student of the Month.

Molinaro believes she is April's Student of the Month because she has a 4.0 GPA the last four years, as well as for her hard work.

When it comes to after-school activities, Molinaro is on dance production, was in "Grease" last year, and performed in this year's spring musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

"I dance pretty much every day at Dance Encounter in North Aurora, and I work as

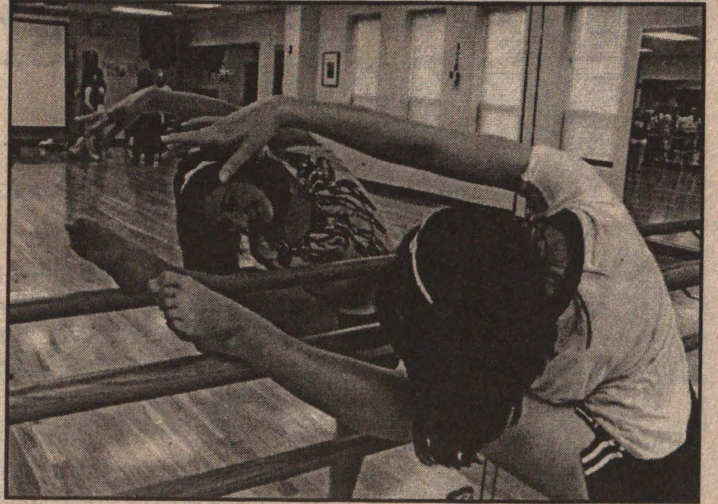


Photo by Sarah Berger

Senior Rachel Molinaro combines hard work with dedication when it comes to her passion for dancing.

a dance teacher at the Winfield Park District on Saturdays. I also work with WDSRA which is a dance class for kids with special needs," said Molinaro.

Molinaro's passion for dance also plays a large role in her future; she will be double-majoring in dance performance and political science next year at Northwestern University in Evanston.

"My ultimate goal is to be in a dance company in

Chicago, and then move to Washington D.C. to work behind the scenes with politics," said Molinaro.

After spending four years in high school, Molinaro decided that her favorite classes were AP English 3 and western civilization.

"Mr. Covino has definitely had the biggest impact on my life because he was fun, but at the same time got to the point. I grew so much in that class," said Molinaro.

## Skills USA member qualifies for nationals

### Sophomore will travel to Kansas City as representative

By Evan Morgan  
Reporter

As a recently elected Skills USA state officer, sophomore Mayuri Parmar is heading to the national competition in Kansas City, Kan. as the sole representative from the West Chicago Skills USA team.

Parmar ran against four other participants and was named secretary of state. Of the five that ran, Parmar, along with two others from different schools, will represent Illinois in the national competition.

Thirty-nine students competed in the April 23-25 Skills USA state competition, where 18 of the students placed within the top six and Parmar qualified for the national competition.

Students were able to enter any of the categories offered in the competition.

"There's countless numbers of categories, from food to clothing to cabinet building. Pretty much anything that can be considered a skill,"

said Skills USA adviser Patti Kozlowski.

First place was given to sophomore Bree Ringe for her presentation of four photos in the black and white photography competition.

"We all did really well this year and I think next year we will have a better team because there will be more competition," said Ringe.

Parmar also won second place in the commercial sewing category along with her election win.

Sophomore Sarah Norton placed in two categories at the competition. She finished second in the interior design category and fourth in commercial sewing.

The only third place finishes went to senior Emily Laffey, who won two third place medals in the courtesy corp. and action skills speech contest.

Juniors Kelsey Spriggs and Emily Tulipano received fourth place medals along with senior Bill Burke and sophomore Rachel Ditella.

"It's a good opportunity for anyone who has any type of skill; everybody has a talent and they should use it," said Tulipano, who competed in the preschool teaching assistant category.

Seniors Amanda French and Milena Camargo, as well as sophomores Megan Swartz and Andrea Siefert took fifth place for their entries.

Sixth place awards were given to seniors Sarah Kimball and Donna Quiroz, juniors Angela Gentile and Mike Trevino, and sophomore Maria Barajas.

"I think in past years we did better, but I'm still proud of everyone's hard work," said Kimball, who competed in the photography category.

All of the students who placed at the competition received a medal to keep for themselves and a plaque to hang in the school.

Kozlowski said that the students worked hard for their medals and that their effort alone was something to be proud of.

"The students don't mind working; they're very hard-working people who leave their egos at the door," said Kozlowski.



Our View

## Government should not take away parents' rights

After taking ownership interests in insurance companies, banks, and car companies, the next thing the government could take ownership in is family life by taking away many fundamental parental rights.

This could happen through a plan to amend the United States Constitution.

The plan, called the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) could be voted into effect in the U.S. through the United Nations. The CRC dictates that children would have the right to "seek governmental review of every parental decision with which the child disagreed," and "the government [would have] the ability to override every decision made by every parent if a government worker disagreed with the parent's decision," according to an article at [www.worldnetdaily.com](http://www.worldnetdaily.com).

Parents' duties are to make decisions that are best for their children. The children live at home, likely use their parents' money, and live in a house that their parents own - not the government. The government's job is not to baby-sit parents, but to deal with bigger, more ominous problems such as the economy and foreign relations. Kids will complain about anything,

and the government has no time to deal with petty grumbling from the American youth.

Another issue within the CRC is abortion for minors. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently decided to allow 17 year olds to purchase over-the-counter abortion pills, and the CRC extends that decision even further by saying that children (no specified age) would have access to abortions and reproductive health information without parental knowledge.

Parents pay for their children's medical bills, and have a right to know what is going on in their children's lives. In one instance, according to [www.worldnetdaily.com](http://www.worldnetdaily.com), parents were denied access to their son's medical records because he did not give them permission to view the records.

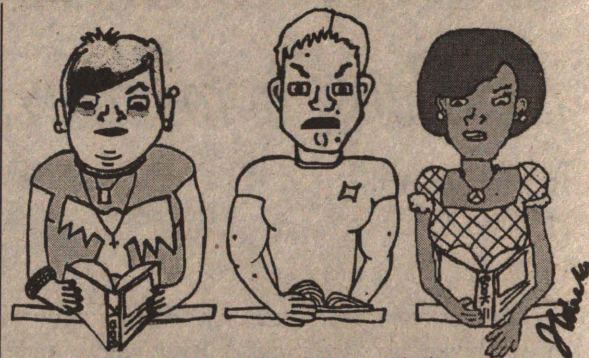
The parents have a right to know what is going on with their 13 year old's health, and the doctor should not have the right to retain that information.

However, at school, students are not even allowed to take an aspirin without the nurse's and their parents' permission. It seems a little backwards.

The most ridiculous of the statements included in the CRC is that children would acquire a legally enforceable right to leisure. About one of every three American children is overweight or obese, and mainly because they exercise less and spend more time watching TV, or playing computer and video-games, according to [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org).

The last thing the kids need is to have the right to sit in front of a computer; it is a parent's duty to encourage their child to be physically active so that they can have a healthy lifestyle.

Parents are their kids legal guardians, and the government has no right to take that guardianship away.



"Not only do I have to sit in advisory with these people, I have to read a book that I hate!"

## Preschool curriculum won't better advisory

For the '09-'10 school year, advisories are undergoing changes that may leave many students feeling as if they've regressed to elementary school. One of the proposed changes forces every student to use their reading day to read one book that the student body votes for.

The plan is called "One Book, One School," and the set of books will alternate between grade levels by quarter. The class is allowed to choose whether the book will be read aloud or silently among the students. This plan sounds good on paper, but when it actually goes into play it will be a disaster. With only one set of books, the chances of them lasting until the end of the year for the last grade are slim. Students will lose or at least damage these books so the last grade will be left sharing food stained pages.

Not only this, but teenagers are perfectly capable of choosing their own reading materials. Students have different opinions on what makes an enjoyable read, and there is no possible way that the student body can decide on one book that every student in the school will want to read. It is much better to leave the choice up to students. Kids already have assigned books in English class and could use a chance for free reading.

As if micromanaging reading materials isn't bad enough, the administration is considering making regular planner checks a part of the points given in advisory. Teachers would walk around and check each student's planner to make sure they are filled out. This system has proven to work well in third grade classrooms across the country, but somehow in high school it is just pathetic.

By the time students are seniors, the last thing they need is someone checking on their organizational skills. They are about to embark on the rest of their lives and they are capable of keeping track of their homework the way they want. As for the rest of the grades, it would make more sense to teach them how the planner can help them and leave the usage up to each student.

Many students already look at advisory as a waste of their valuable time, and having the school controlling them like a group of marionettes in a puppet show will only add to this popular opinion.



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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](mailto:Lkuehn@d94.org) or delivered to room 319 before or after school.

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## The pursuit of prettiness

### Going where no boy has ever gone before

Beauty is more than just skin deep... yeah, right. Being that I am a 6 foot tall, 200 pound, awkwardly shaped behemoth of an 11th grader, feeling 'pretty' is hard for me to do.

The same is hard for boys and girls throughout this school. One way, people (mostly girls) cope with their inadequacies is through the tanning bed.

It's a futuristic looking mechanism that performs a task right out of the "Jetsons:" it makes people pretty! Feeling a little pasty, I decided that it would be nice to have a "healthy" glow for prom.

I went to Executive Tans in Carol Stream, planning on buying one tan. This is where my journey began.

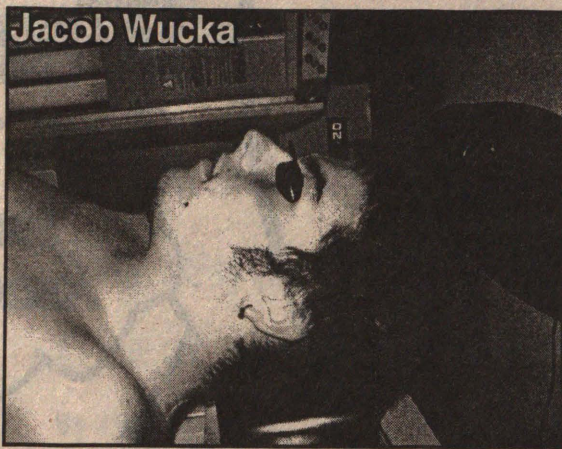
Walking into the sensually lit building, I was greeted by the receptionist. With some concerns lingering in my mind, I asked "will I turn orange?" "Oh, of course not," said the receptionist who I believe was the long lost cousin of an Oompa-Loompa.

Although I wasn't fully convinced, I decided to go along with my one tan.

Yet after some convincing rhetoric from the receptionist about how I won't be tan enough for prom, I purchased a \$40 package for five tans and a pair of goggles. Then, I spent \$3 on a "body shot" or tiny ketchup-sized cup of bronzer. Surprisingly, for a big boy like myself, that little "shot" covered me well.

When first climbing into the tanning bed, greased

Jacob Wucka



up like a griddle, the first thought that popped into my mind was that of "Final Destination 3." In particular, the scene in which two girls fry to their deaths due to overheated tanning beds. What a happy thought to start my journey.

Still, I chose to continue, and after 15 minutes of staring at the radiation that may have been giving me cancer, my first tan was done.

The following day I went in right after school. There I sat, as I saw four girls from school.

Although I've never been the epitome of masculinity, I still felt emasculated sitting in this waiting lounge with some girls from school.

After a 30-minute wait (because everyone needed their tanning fix), I went to my tanning bed with the body shot: a combination of a double bronzer and intensifier. I was climbing the tanning lotion food chain fast, a mistake.

Once more I felt great getting out of the tanning

bed, and I definitely looked darker. It wasn't until later that night that I realized my tan stomach and back were turning red.

The next day I was hesitant about going tanning, but I was assured from someone at school that the tanning bed would "tan over" the red and it wouldn't hurt (Thanks, Megan Zajac).

I went tanning that night, and when I came out I could barely move, let alone bend at the knees.

My face and arms were fine; it was my stomach, back, and backs of my knees that were wrecked.

It was at that point that I realized being burned by a radioactive light bulb hurts 100 times more than being burnt by the actual sun.

That night I covered myself in aloe, and took three cold showers. I lay without the blankets on when I slept because whenever anything touched me, my skin would get so irritated I would shiver.

I decided to end my tanning journey there.

The next night was prom. Still reeling in pain during school, it all suddenly stopped as I got ready for prom. I went to the dance, and let's just say the burns didn't stop me from getting my groove on.

Still, was it worth it?

Forty dollars for three tans? I know I said I received five tans, but when I went back three days after prom, they said my account was only for five days. I wasted a lot of money on this unclear package, and those expensive body shots. Also those burns were severe. I was fruitlessly trying for a good portion of my night to ease the pain one way or another.

Despite the pain, after sliding out of the tanning bed I felt better and thought I looked good as well. I now understand why people do it. It's relaxing, and it does boost self-esteem, or at least it did for me.

I guess after all, beauty is just skin deep.

## Students Speak

Compiled by Jake Bradley

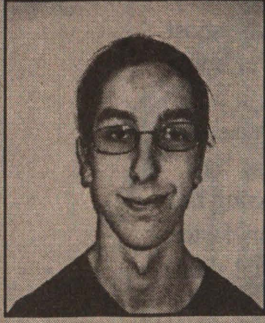
### What do you think about the reading day changes in advisory planned for next year?



Senior

**Sarah Kimball**

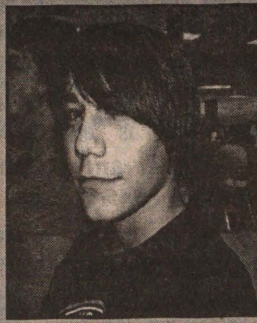
"It would be treating us like children if they read to us."



Junior

**Ryan Fitzenreider**

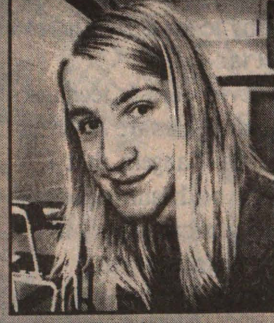
"I feel that it's cutting away from our freedom. Not everyone wants to read the same book."



Sophomore

**Brendan O'Malley**

"It is a bad idea because people don't read as it is."



Freshman

**Wayne Ballotti**

"It would make me feel controlled."

## Implementing a tax on students is just greedy

### Jessica Bergmann

As the end of the school year rapidly approaches; I once would have looked forward to a carefree summer of tanning and shopping.

Yet, this summer will be one of the most stressful for me and all of the other seniors who will be preparing for college life.

Hours of blowing money on microwaves and ramen noodles, days spent stressing over roommate assignments, and months spent mentally preparing for the workload ahead of us are just a few priorities seniors concern themselves with over

the course of the summer.

However, more importantly is the fact that many seniors will be working seven days a week in order to put a small dent in enormous tuition costs.

According to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), the average tuition cost for the 2008-2009 school year was around \$25,000, not accounting for other expenses such as room and board fees, book fees, and additional items like laptops and other necessities.

Now, in Providence, R.I., the mayor wants to make college students pay even more, slapping on a \$150 per semester tax on four different universities. If the proposition passes, this will be the first time in United States history that a city will directly tax students just for being enrolled at a university.

While \$150 doesn't seem like much of an additional cost, the total over a four year period is an extra \$1,200 out of the students' wallets that isn't necessarily there.

Even worse than just paying the tax itself is the excuse the mayor of the town is making. As quoted by the Associated Press, Mayor David Cicilline believes that "everyone should be doing their part and

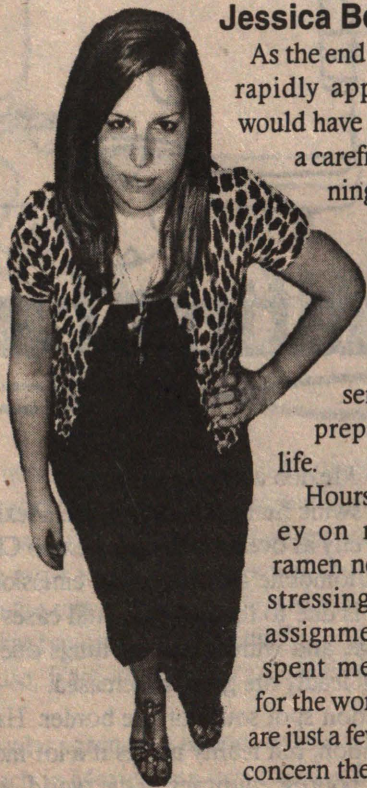
coming to the table."

So, is he saying that the students paying upwards of \$40,000 per year just aren't giving enough? Because, the way I see it, these college students are already helping the city out financially just by being at school. The students are already a big source of revenue for the town, bringing in money to local businesses and restaurants.

And, according to the Associated Press, the four schools already agreed in 2003 to pay the city \$50 million over the course of 20 years. It seems to me that both the students and the school are doing their fair share of helping the city out financially.

Lawmakers, like the mayor, should not be placing the excess burden on college students for paying city deficits, especially in these economic conditions where colleges are cutting back on the amount of financial aid and scholarships they can give to students.

Instead, officials like the mayor, need to come up with budget and salary cuts in order to make ends meet.







## Warm weather: no

**Summer Annoyances:**

**Mosquitoes**

## Traveling

By Jessica Bergmann  
News Editor

Temperatures aren't the only thing rising this summer. So are gas prices, which are sure to make a dent in students' wallets.

And while gas this summer will be less expensive than last, prices are still rising.

According to [www.eia.doe.gov](http://www.eia.doe.gov) as of May 25, the average price for a tank of gas in Chicago was \$2.468.

Last summer, where gas prices were at a record high of over \$4 per gallon, senior Katelyn Casey paid almost \$70 to fill her 2004 Ford Explorer.

As for this year, Casey is hoping that prices remain lower.

"I can't afford to be paying the same amount of money this summer as I did last," said Casey, who said the majority of her driving came from traveling to and from work.

However, despite their hopes, students in West Chi-

cago have already seen a 10 percent increase in gas prices.

gas due to the current oil price. "I was surprised," said senior Virginia Smith, who said she was surprised for the sudden spike.

"I would get extra gas at a station that is cheaper than the others."

Surprisingly, the price of oil per barrel is leaving students in a lurch at the pump.

General mandated that the sun be kept out of the sun. In 1990, Congress passed the Clean Air Act that mandates a cleaner burn.

blend during the summer months in order to reduce smog and pollution.

According to a study provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in 2007, the transition from regular blend to ethanol blend accounted for an increase of \$1.02 per gallon from May to August.

## Tanning takes a dark turn

By Amanda Rathe  
Center Spread Editor

As jeans go into storage and shorts move into the normal rotation, it becomes more and more important for many teenagers to sport a perfect tan.

However, most teenagers are either not aware of or disregard the dangers that U.V. rays from both tanning booths and the sun can supply in the near or distant future.

"The thing people need to realize is that those who have skin cancer did most of the damage when they were young," said anatomy and physiology teacher Hank Murphy. "If you damage a cell while it is still youthful, the damage is more significant."

And for those who think tanning booths are safer than the sun, think again.

"Tanning booths are every bit as dangerous as the sun," said Murphy. "There's a chance they would be safer,

but the people running them are not medical professionals and may not regulate the time and U.V. exposure correctly."

Many teenagers will use a sunny day to tan the palest parts of their body that rarely see the light of day during the winter, sporting bikinis and swimming trunks.

Unfortunately, this is a poor health decision and could increase chances of skin cancer.

"Places that rarely see the sun react to it more severely," said Murphy.

Doctors used to tell people to avoid going into the sun altogether, but Murphy feels that this is over the top.

"Giving people such strict guidelines will cause them to do nothing at all," he said.

Rather than telling people to avoid the sun, Murphy believes that teaching safety precautions is better. "Sunscreen is valuable, and we should always remember the parts that catch the most sun. Teenagers should remember

the tips of their noses and the tops of their ears," he said.

Many times, people are trying to be tan by a certain deadline such as prom or a vacation.

According to Murphy, the skin undergoes the most damage when it tans or burns too quickly.

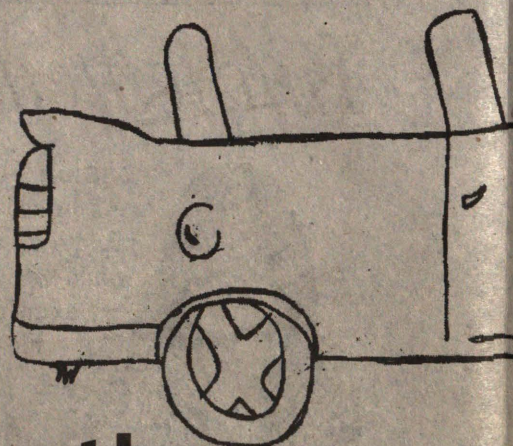
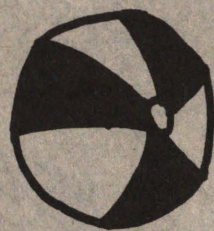
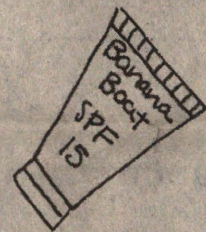
"Skin cancer is caused by trying too hard too fast," said Murphy. "A tanning bed makes it easy to tan faster, leaving more potential damage to skin cells."

This does not mean however, that looking tan for a special event is impossible.

"If you are in a hurry, consider spray tanning," said Murphy.

Taking precautions with tanning could turn out to be worthwhile, not only for skin health but for appearance as well.

"There is nothing less attractive than wrinkles and scarring," said Murphy. "And that's what you will get from tanning."



## Choosing a safe vacation destination can m

By Sarah Berger  
Entertainment Editor

After counting down the days left of the school year, every student rejoices when at last the final bell rings, signaling the start of the sweet summer. Images of laying out on an exotic beach or swimming with dolphins in the Caribbean fill teenagers' heads. But with dangerous times like these, tourists need to be especially careful where they choose to vacation, because a seemingly carefree trip could turn into a deadly fight for your life.

Every year, Mexico's finest resorts in posh places such as Puerto Vallarta and Cabo are filled with tourists eager to party and relax. This year, though, as the potentially fatal swine flu engulfs the country, a warning has been issued that

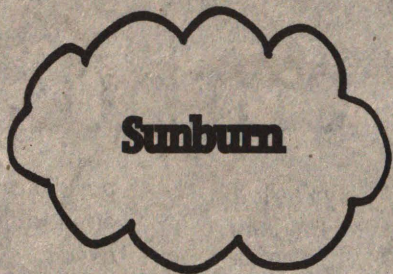
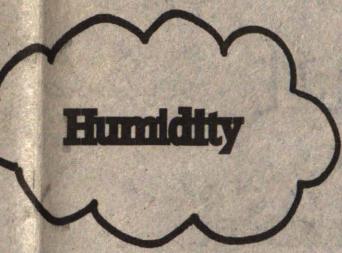
stating that people should avoid travel to Mexico until mid-July.

According to the Huffington Post, the swine flu has hit places like Mexico mainly because of air pollution. With a city as overcrowded as Mexico City, air pollution is especially bad due to automobile and industrial emissions. The link from air pollution to swine flu is due to the fact that fatal cases of swine flu result in extensive lung damage, and with weakened lungs due to pollution, the chances of swine flu being deadly are greatly increased.

Mexico isn't the only dangerous vacation spot south of the border. Haiti seems like a postcard perfect island vacation, but reality makes it a lot more dangerous than that. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world, and



## Not just fun & games



## g at a cost

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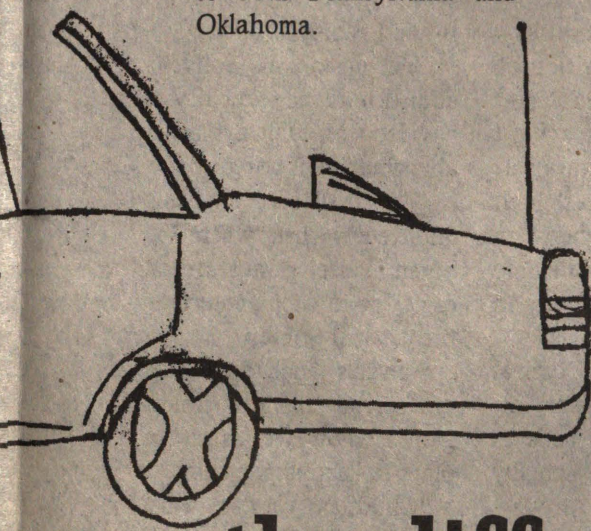
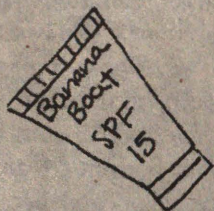
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"I know about summer  
blend," said senior Molly  
Cody, who admits that she  
doesn't necessarily think it's  
worth its price tag. "I could  
care less about the environ-  
ment since I'll only be in it  
for another 60 years. I don't  
think it could get as bad as  
they say by then, and if it  
does, so be it. But for the fu-  
ture generations, yeah I guess  
it's worth the extra cost."

According to an article  
published by Medill Reports  
Chicago, energy analyst for  
Alaron Trading Corporation  
Phil Flynn estimates the gas  
prices in the Chicago area  
will not reach more than \$3  
per gallon.

So, while students and  
families debate about  
summer vacations, they  
may begin to think twice.  
"My family will just have  
to plan these trips and make  
sure we have the funds no  
matter what to visit my fam-  
ily," said senior Anna Lane,  
who will be traveling by car  
to both Pennsylvania and  
Oklahoma.



## Working the summer away

### Students and staff strive to earn extra money

By Alexis Hosticka  
Perspectives Editor

With summer just around  
the corner, many teens  
are looking forward to the  
months of no homework and  
sleeping until noon. How-  
ever, some are dreading the  
monotonous hours of work  
that come with their summer  
jobs.

Due to the bad economy,  
teenagers are lucky to have  
just one job, but senior Cait-  
lin MacDonald has managed  
to snag three.

Although she is looking  
forward to the money that  
comes from her work, there  
are, of course, multiple down-  
sides.

"The worst part is probably  
just watching everyone else  
go out and have fun while I  
have to work," said MacDon-

ald. "I don't ever have time  
to hang out outside and get  
a tan."

During the school year, she  
works at Carson's four days  
after school until 10 p.m.,  
and on the weekends.

Over the course of the  
summer, she plans to work  
at Carson's, In the Swim, and  
at the Kane County Cougars  
stadium.

"My plan is basically to  
work as much as possible,"  
said MacDonald.

To date, her worst working  
experience was on black Fri-  
day when she had to arrive at  
Carson's at 3 a.m., worked 12  
hours, and only had a half-  
hour lunch break.

But MacDonald isn't only  
motivated by the money; she  
is also encouraged by seeing  
the fruits of her labor.

"I know that I'm not wast-

ing my time and I'm actually  
doing something productive,"  
said MacDonald.

However, students aren't  
the only ones who have to  
deal with summer jobs.

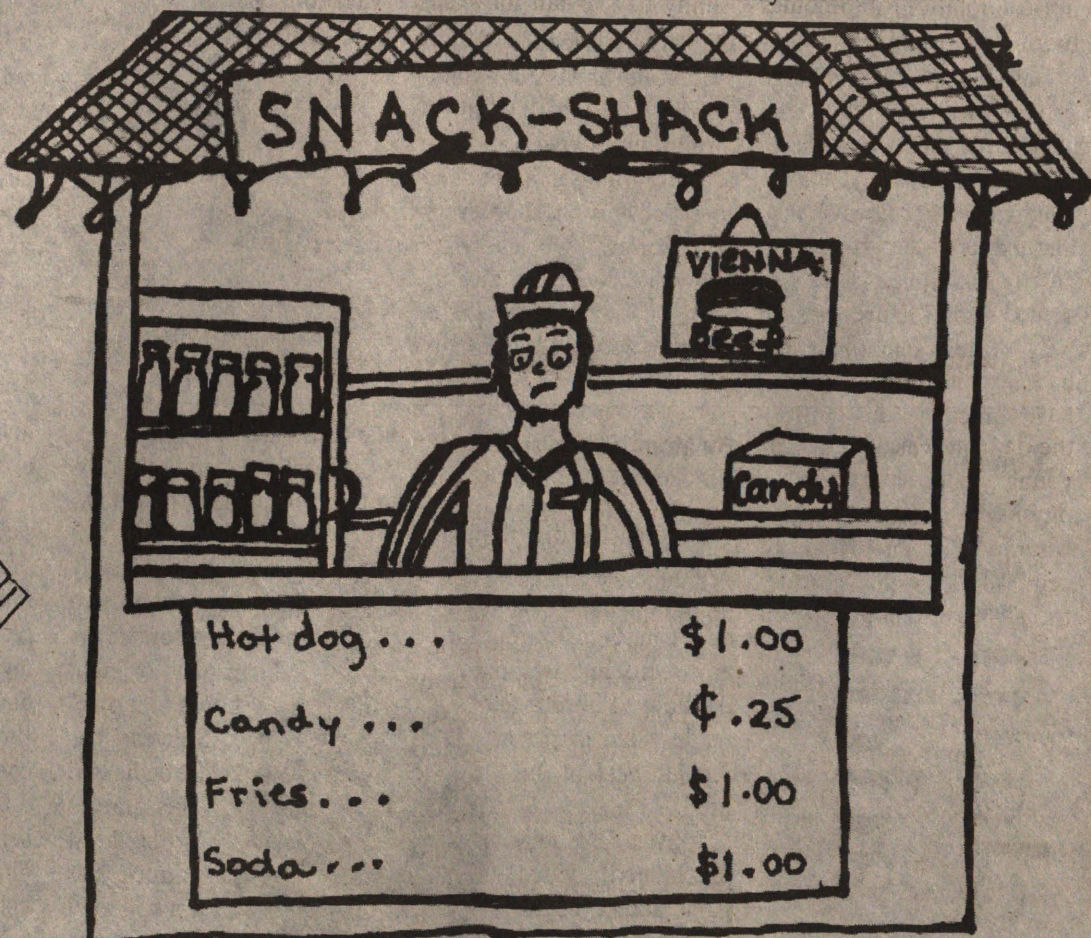
Spanish teacher Michael  
Schneider will teach summer  
school as well as continue to  
work at a restaurant over the  
weekends.

While he enjoys teaching,  
the restaurant work isn't as  
enjoyable.

"I guess that waking up  
in the morning is the worst  
part," said Schneider. "At the  
restaurant, I don't like deal-  
ing with people who aren't  
friendly or don't tip well."

He is motivated to work by  
the monetary rewards, and  
hopes that eventually he'll  
earn enough to go on a nice  
vacation one summer.

"I have less free time right  
now and no time to take a va-  
cation," said Schneider. "But  
I wouldn't have the money to  
take a vacation anyway, so  
maybe next summer."



## mean the difference between life and death

as a result there is major food shortage on the island, which in turn causes food riots according to [www.tremblantlifestyle.com](http://www.tremblantlifestyle.com)

"It was very interesting," said sophomore Bobby Giese, "I think the merchants were more in-you-face there and more aggressive. Even though it was separate from the rest of the island, it was still scary to think that you're going to a country that has civil wars and stuff."

Also, Haiti is subject to an AIDS epidemic, hurricanes, and political instability.

Maybe adrenaline junkies want something a little more exciting than lying on a beach in Mexico or a tropical island, but it's best to think twice about where to

go and what to do on vacation, because it could cost a life.

Bike-riding in the South American mountains sounds relaxing as well as adventurous, but for a certain location in Bolivia, the ride is anything but.

The El Camino in de la Muerte La Paz, Bolivia translates to The Death Road. The 43 mile road is famous for its 1,600 foot vertical drops and its narrow route. El Camino claims around 100 deaths per year due to mountain bikers and motorists that plummet into the canyon. Is the dangerous ride worth a life? The answer: probably not.

Whether it's a deadly virus or a deadly road, be careful when traveling, because it could be a final destination.



## Confessions of a true...

### *Shopping fanatic*

**By Greg Vodicka**  
Editor in Chief

"What am I going to wear tomorrow?" senior Megan Zajac wonders as she stares blankly into her heap of new clothes piled on top of last season's attire.

With over 300 outfits, 40 pairs of shoes, and countless accessories to complement any style, Zajac proves that shopping is a girl's best friend.

A trip to the mall at least two times a week is normal for Zajac, who insists she's not a shopaholic.

"I've been shopping this way since I was about 13," admitted Zajac, 18.

However, to Zajac, it is not necessarily a hobby as much as it is a necessity.

"I [shop] when I don't have anything to wear and I'm tired of my same clothes," Zajac said.

Rarely does Zajac wear her clothes until they are unwearable.

"I usually wear something once or twice and then it just chills in my closet because I keep buying new stuff that I want to wear right away," she admitted.

A trip to the mall is always successful for Zajac since she always finds something to buy.

"I've never had a problem not finding something, and I don't leave empty handed. That would be a waste of a trip," Zajac said.

While some may think that shoppers generally shop for clothes, Zajac argues that accessories are also important.

"I'm a big accessory person. I love bracelets and rings," she said.

With so many outfits, Zajac's wardrobe is a riot of colors with clothes draped over bed posts, drawers, the dresser, and closet. An additional closet and dresser are used in her home's guest room for outfits that are not in season. Finally, a large stand sits on her dresser for bracelets and other accessories.

Zajac's shopping is fueled by her mom's seemingly endless cash; however, she admits that both parents don't approve of her spending.

"They always threaten to cut me off but they never really have," Zajac said.

Claiming she is not addicted, Zajac said that the difference in her obsession and one of a drug abuser is that she does not have to shop every day. However, when asked if she would be able to give up her habit for a week, she said, "There's no way! Could any girl?"



Photo by Payton Bayless

### Workout enthusiast

**By Payton Bayless**  
Reporter

Waking up at 2 a.m. to work out may not appeal to everyone, but for freshman Jessi Bass, it is just a normal part of her routine.

Depriving herself of sleep in order to exercise may sound like a problem, an addiction even, but Bass doesn't see it like that.

"I wouldn't say it's an addiction, I'm doing sports that I love," said Bass. "So I guess it's doing what I love that drives me [to do it]."

When her dad's schedule began to fill up with work, Bass decided that waking up early was the best way to spend time with him.

"We go work out earlier to fit it into our busy schedules and I just started doing what I love," said Bass.

As if giving up their mornings to go work out wasn't enough, Bass and her dad also find time in their after-school/work activities to head back to the gym.

Bass likes the variety she

puts into her workouts by doing different physical activities.

"Sometimes I'll swim, play tennis, I run, and just a little bit of everything," said Bass. "I also do a lot of lifting for my upper and lower body."

Bass and her father are both members at Lifetime Fitness Club, which is necessary for all their early morning and late-afternoon visits.

"We're usuals there, so we know our way around the place," Bass joked.

While the employees of Lifetime consider her a daily customer, others look up to her in a different way.

"People just think I'm pretty hardcore and disciplined, and they're surprised when I tell them how early I get up to work out," said Bass.

As demanding and risky as this hobby can be, Bass believes that there is nothing wrong with staying in the best possible shape that she can be.

"I don't really think this would ever go too far because it's doing what I love to do and I don't know if it could ever turn bad," said Bass.



Photo by Greg Vodicka

## Self-proclaimed gaming addict

**By Megan Hernbroth**  
Features Editor

Between battling nonexistent wars, and rocking out in front of a virtual audience can seem alluring for any teen, but freshman Anthony Soliven has made video games a regular part of his life.

Soliven is a self-proclaimed video game addict, beginning at the age of 9 after watching his dad play in the virtual world.

"My dad was really into video games and showed me the ropes," said Soliven. "I wasn't much of an outside person, so video games were really entertaining to me."

Since he began, Soliven estimated that he has spent a total of six to seven years in front of

his consoles.

"It really depends on how much time I have that day," said Soliven. "If I'm busy, I'll probably play for about two hours but some days I can play for eight hours or more."

Soliven has since dedicated his time to the latest rock star inspired video game, Rockband, and an old favorite revamped, Super Smash Brothers, on the PlayStation 3 and Wii.

On Rockband, Soliven jams out, achieving a ranking near 800 worldwide.

In order

to get his video game fix, Soliven makes daily sacrifices.

"I've given up a lot of sleep, and I always forget things after I start playing," said Soliven. "I always forget schoolwork because I tell myself I'll do it when I'm done playing, but by the time I'm done, I'm really tired and completely forget."

Contrasting the typical belief of video games rotting minds, Soliven believes video games have actually taught him skills.

"Some things I've learned are how to think on your toes and to be more observant of surroundings," said Soliven.

Although he has learned from video games, Soliven acknowledges that he is addicted to them.

"It's become a natural part of my life," said Soliven. "I can't be away from video games for more than 12 hours without constantly thinking about what I could

be doing or accomplishing. It's all I can think about."

One upside of Soliven's addiction is the reliability of a video game always available when he is bored.

"The best part of being addicted is that, when I'm bored, video games are an easy go-to for entertainment," said Soliven.

Soliven's addictions have not spread to more violent games, however, and he plans to keep it that way.

"Children choose what they play," said Soliven. "If they pick a violent game, they were influenced even before they started playing."

With \$1,000 invested in his so-called addiction, Soliven advises others to keep away from his own mistakes.

"I would say that, even though video games can be fun and addicting, it shouldn't become a lifestyle," said Soliven. "It's kind of that way with me now, though."



Photo by Megan Hernbroth



## Now Playing:

# Cruisin' to the drive-in



Photo by Megan Hernbroth

When seeing the outdoor screen at Cascade, drivers can easily be reminded of summer.

**By Megan Hernbroth**  
Features Editor

Summer means four main things: tanning by a pool, vacations to relaxing locations, no school, and, most importantly, weekly trips to Cascade Drive-in Theater.

As one of the few drive-ins in Illinois, Cascade provides a truly unique experience for anyone searching for that summer feel. With the days of summer fast approaching, this reporter headed to Cascade to research the typical drive-in experience with seven friends.

After driving up to the theater on North Avenue near Prince Crossing Road, we have to dish out \$8.50 a person for tickets to our cashier named Poppy.

Poppy has been involved in the movie theatre business her whole life, and couldn't imagine working anywhere else.

"I really like to be with the people," said Poppy. "You can tell they like to be here, so they're happy, and it rubs off on you."

Movies and friendly service aren't the only lures to the landmark drive-in; food is also high on the list of importance. While listening to '50s music, those of us who constantly crave food head over to the snack bar, the single most fattening food provider in the area.

Loaded with delicious nachos, giant pretzels and cheese, pizza, hot dogs, and more candy than the biggest sweet tooth could devour, we head back to our designated area to relax until the show starts.

Some of these movie-goers have been coming to the drive-in for as long as they

can remember, and have decided to give their kids the same experience.

After visiting Cascade four times last summer, the Flores family from Chicago decided the drive-in was a better experience for their children.

"We feel safer around here," said Christina Flores. "It takes us back to when we were all younger when we always went to the drive-ins that were close to us, and we have a lot of good memories there. We want to create a safe legacy of traditions with our kids that don't involve alcohol we get real family-bonding."

Settling down around 8 p.m., the show finally begins, starting with a '50s commercial for Pic mosquito repellent, still sold in the snack bar, giving the theater an authentic touch. Our

double feature for the night is "X-Men: Wolverine" and a portion of the thriller "Obsessed."

In order to get the best experience possible, it is crucial to hardly watch the movie. We talk, joke, and take pictures through the entire film, al-

most feeling bad for the cars parked within 40 feet of us. Our radios are tuned to 88.5 FM, the drive-in's custom radio station, and the car speakers sitting on posts next to us are blasting.

Several trips to the snack bar later, and it's almost time for intermission. We have absolutely no intention of leaving just yet, making rest stops to the bathroom while a bag of popcorn juggles kernels on the big screen.

Workers in the snack bar see many locals such as me

and my group of friends, but that doesn't stop them from keeping a smile on their faces during the long hours of scooping popcorn or dishing out hot dogs.

Manager of Cascade, Jeff Kohlberg, works the rounds during the night, one of his stops being the concessions.

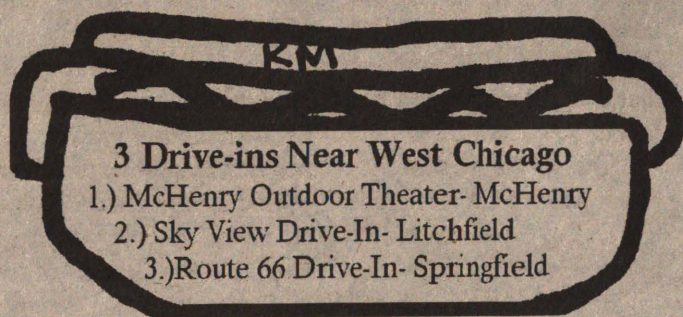
"I've done this since I was a boy," said Kohlberg. "This drive-in is around 50 years old, and the concessions are still good."

During the second movie, some of us have settled down and are dozing under a multitude of blankets and pillows, while others still can never quite sit still. Stomachs rumble with mass quantities of



Photo by Megan Hernbroth

Minutes after meeting some of the group at Cascade drive-in, sophomores Bobby Giese (left) and Matt Bannon enjoy some of the goodies from the snack bar.



### 3 Drive-ins Near West Chicago

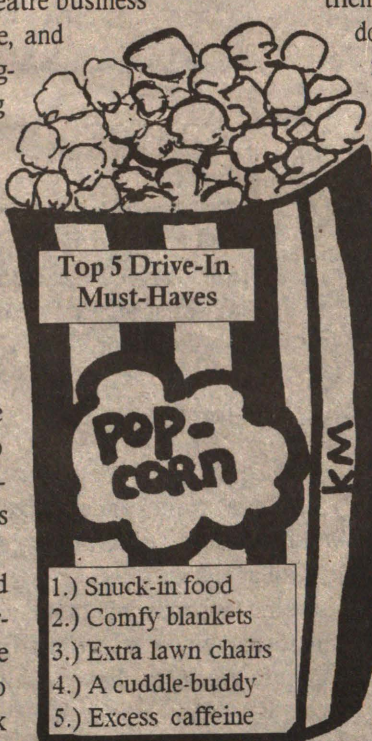
- 1.) McHenry Outdoor Theater- McHenry
- 2.) Sky View Drive-In- Litchfield
- 3.) Route 66 Drive-In- Springfield

junk food that parents would be fearful of, and empty pop cans litter the trunks.

As 11 p.m. approaches, our time at the drive-in nears a close. Being mostly sophomores, most of us have only just gotten our licenses, so

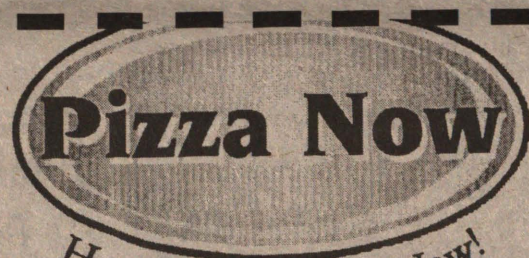
curfew is a part of our lives.

We sneak past the other viewers, disturbing them for the last time that night. But, of course, we'll be back next week to repeat our routine at one of the landmarks of summer.



### Top 5 Drive-In Must-Haves

- 1.) Snuck-in food
- 2.) Comfy blankets
- 3.) Extra lawn chairs
- 4.) A cuddle-buddy
- 5.) Excess caffeine



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## Road trip to a summer of fun

Follow the road to exciting summer festivals to squeeze the most fun out of this sweet season

By Alex Lima  
Reporter

Mark your calendars for the Taste of Chicago, the largest food festival in the Midwest.

Beginning June 26 and ending July 5 the Taste of Chicago will be filled with more than 70 restaurants.

Entrance to the festival is free and admission to the concerts at the Petrillo Music Shell is also free.

Performing at the Petrillo Music Shell June 27 at 5 p.m. will be the Counting Crows and July 1, R&B singer Ne-Yo will perform at 5:30 p.m.

Local bands will perform at the Taste Stage with different music styles each day. World Music Day is June 29, and July 1 will be tribute bands, such as Heartache Tonight who perform songs by the Eagles.

Aside from music, there will be cooking demonstrations from well-known chefs such as Emeril Lagasse who will be there opening day, and Art Smith, who is Oprah Winfrey's personal chef.

Grant Park will open at 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. June 27 to July 2, with the park will remaining open an extra half hour on July 3 and 4. On July 5 the Taste of Chicago will wrap up at 6 p.m.

Food and beverages are sold by tickets.

Tickets are sold in strips of 12 for \$8 which includes a \$2 surcharge that contributes to event services including security, clean up, and recycling.

By Sarah Berger  
Entertainment Editor

A picture-perfect summer day includes great food, entertaining music, and a variety of things to do. Naperville's annual Ribfest not only meets these standards, but exceeds them.

Ribfest will run from July 2 through July 5 from noon to 10 p.m., and will feature 17 different rib vendors along with daily live music performances.

Some of the tastiest ribs in the state will be selling their specialties at Ribfest, including Desperado's BBQ & Rib Co., Sgt. Oink's Pit BBQ, Famous Dave's, and last year's winner in best ribs Sweet Baby Ray's.

"I went to Ribfest last year on the Fourth of July, and it was a blast. The food was amazing, I would definitely go again," said sophomore Megan Gossen.

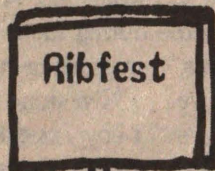
Performing this year at Ribfest are Heart, Blue Oyster Cult, Herman's Hermits, and Huey Lewis and the News. The festival will have two stages, the Miller Lite Stage and the Rock & Roll Stage, so you can pick and choose what performances you would like to watch.

Besides the music, Ribfest also has a family area that includes carnival rides, rock climbing walls, and a petting zoo.

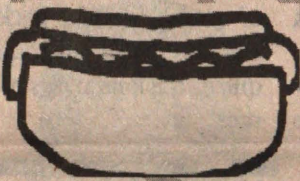
"This is a great family event with something for everyone. We have great ribs and tremendous entertainment. I would encourage people to go to the website to get the full schedule of events," said Julie Litcher, who is on the Ribfest Steering Committee.

To top it all off, on July 4 there will be a fireworks show at 9:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 a person and can be bought at the gate or on the website [www.ribfest.net](http://www.ribfest.net). Ribfest is located at Knoch Park in Naperville.



Hungry? Grab a hot dog and cheese fries at Scooby's, a local favorite. Located at 28W771 North Avenue, West Chicago.



By Evan Morgan  
Reporter

West Chicago's summer festival, Railroad Days, hopes to bring entertainment to all from July 9 to 12. This celebration features a variety of well known and local bands, a carnival, fireworks show and a mud volleyball tournament.

This year marks the 37th year for Railroad Days.

"Railroad Days is a community celebration meant to stimulate economic development by bringing people together," said West Chicago Chamber president David Sabathne.

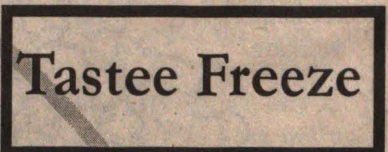
Railroad Days features fun for all ages, giving children the opportunity to have a good time at various activities while absorbing town heritage at the same time.

Local businesses such as Din Hua, Santo Marias, Augustino's and Fontana Blue will vend food throughout the event.

Musical entertainment will feature 18 bands that will play on a \$1 million sound system rented by the city, including the Ides of March and former Monkees singer, Davy Jones as the most well known bands, along with local bands such as Echo Sun, Karen Hart and Downpour.

Sabathne said, "There are just so many great bands and musicians to choose from."

Every year, Railroad Days features an afternoon parade to kick off the final day of the festival. The parade includes local clubs and organizations from the community, including the Lion's Club, Medinah Horse troop, VFW, Civil Air Patrol, and the West Suburban Shriners. This final send off is a free event that winds its way through historic West Chicago.



Cool down with an ice cream cone from Tastee Freeze during the dog days of summer. Located at 130 W. Fremont, West Chicago.

By Jake Bradley  
Reporter

The best in rock, alternative, and hip hop will be in Chicago's Grant Park, August 7-9, for Lollapalooza 2009.

Over 130 bands will be playing on six different stages, over three days including Tool, Vampire Weekend, Jane's Addiction, Beastie Boys, Rise Against, Snoop Dogg, and Asher Roth.

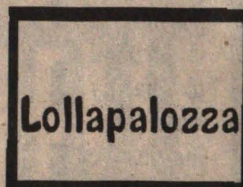
After a successful turnout at Perry's, where electronica fans got their fix of scratches and spins last year, DJ's will be there again this year including Kid CuDi, and MSTRKRFT.

Tickets for the event are \$190 for a three day pass. When all advance tickets sell out, the price rises.

The entrance you will submit your ticket in exchange for a wristband, which you must keep on throughout the weekend. With this wristband, you are allowed re-entry, unless you damage or tamper with your wristband.

CTA has plenty of trains and bus routes to bring you right to the park. Also Lollapalooza has made bike racks available next to the entrance, and there is the McDonald's Cycle Center at nearby Millennium Park.

Every ticket purchased enhances Chicago's public space through the Parkways Foundation, the beneficiary of Lollapalooza.



Sadly, this road trip must end, and that ending place is high school. I guess the saying is true, it's not about the destination, but the journey.



## No salvation for new 'Terminator' movie

By Clark Hudmon  
Reporter

Terminator was right when it said "I'll be back," unfortunately it would have been better if it never came back.

Plenty of action occurs in "Terminator: Salvation," but somewhere in all that action the plot is lost.

"Salvation" kicks off with a man, Marcus Wright, on death row for the death of his brother and two officers

minators in 2018.

When Connor and the resistance attempt to fight off Skynet, they run into Wright. It is here they find out that he was an experiment brought out by Skynet, and he is a hybrid robot, the only of his kind.

Connor has trouble trusting Wright, though he decides to listen to his mother's tapes. Connor listened to her corny action movie quote, "follow your heart, John."

The movie's final battle

perfectly from the timeline of the story, to the monotonous star actor.

Bale shows no versatility in the first half of the movie. It seems that Bruce Wayne was removed from "Batman" and placed in 2018.

"Salvation" though shows that Bale's acting has very few emotions.

There is determined angry, confused angry, and his toughest one to pull off, compassion.

This movie is packed with

Now

- Leading actor-Christian Bale
- Time-2018 L.A. postnuclear holocaust
- Villian-T-600

- Leading actor-Arnold Schwarzenegger
- Time-1984 L.A. pre-destruction
- Villian-T-800

Then

in present time. He decided to do what little good he could do by giving his body to science after he dies by lethal injection.

Wright awakes in a world filled with blood thirsty machines, or terminators. He is placed in a totally new world which was destroyed by "Judgment Day," or the nuclear destruction that was depicted in the "Terminator: Judgment Day." The humans form the resistance which is led by John Connor, played by Christian Bale. They fight for survival against Skynet and its ter-

scene depicts a computer animation of none other than Arnold Schwarzenegger, as he is the first of the T-800 determined to take out Connor.

"Salvation" is filled with tangibles that any mindless teenage boy amped up on testosterone would enjoy: violence, car chases, amazing special effects, and gorgeous women.

Unfortunately the movie forgot to add the key factors to a movie, as its plot is almost as weak as the acting and corny action lines.

"Salvation" follows the "Terminator" movie series

action, but you can predict every turn in the movie. Too much money was spent on the effects, less on building up a plot, and none on a script.

Special effects in "Salvation," and the rock'em, sock'em robot style of the movie keeps you on the edge of the seat waiting for the next big explosion, but too much is missing from the plot.

"Salvation" is a testosterone flick, perfect for the guy's night out with lots of bone crunching action, but no plot.

## Green Day is back, stronger and louder

By Sarah Berger  
Entertainment Editor

After four years of lying low, Green Day is back, pumping out the punk jams better and edgier than ever.

Green Day hasn't released an album since 2005's "Bullet in a Bible," which had produced the legendary songs "American Idiot," "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," and "Good Riddance." Their new album "21st Century Breakdown" has a lot to live up to, but of course, Green Day never seems to disappoint.

"21st Century Breakdown" is made up of 18 tracks and is broken down into three different acts; Act I is titled "Heroes and Cons," Act II "Charlatans and Saints," and Act III "Horseshoes and Handgrenades."

Already, the album's new

single "Know Your Enemy," a repetitive, but catchy song with it's repeating the line "Do you know the enemy?" has won the hearts of many Green Day fans.

Green Day incorporates an old-school vibe while at the same time showcases its powerful guitar skills with tracks like "Viva la Gloria!"

The band manages to pull off an album that screams angry and misunderstood lyrics while at the same time giving listeners a catchy beat that is easy to whistle to.

In the song "21st Century Breakdown" lead singer Billy Joel Armstrong belts out lyrics like "My generation is zero, I never made it as a working class hero, 21st century breakdown, I once was lost but never was found, I think I'm losing what's left of my mind to the 20th century

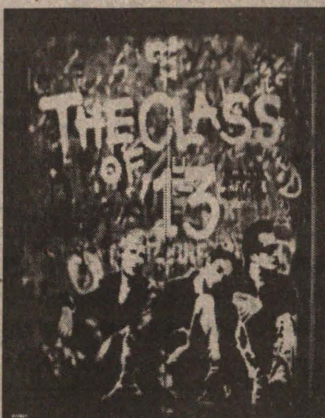


Photo by Sarah Berger

**Green Day's new album has vivid artwork that calls the Class of '13 doomed.**

deadline."

With an era filled with mindless, bubbly songs and musicians that are simply not musical at all, Green Day's new album brings back good, quality songs that causes listeners to *think* and *feel* again. Green Day took a long four years, not a mere four months to record this album, and it certainly shows. "21st Century Breakdown" reminds us all what music used to be, an art form, not just a way to get a quick 15 minutes of fame.

## Reporter's Picks

By Megan Hernbroth  
Features Editor



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

### .....Movie..... 'Dance Flick'

As part of the latest hit at the box offices, slapstick humor and "Scary Movie" style comedy are rolled into one in the Wayans' brothers latest hit, "Dance Flick."

A young dancer from the streets named Thomas Uncles (Damon Wayans, Jr.) puts his ideals to the test after meeting Megan White (Shoshana Bush) and bonding through both of their pas-

sions for dancing. He is sent to a prestigious arts school after getting in trouble with the law where he and Megan realize the other's potential.

Taken from popular dance movies such as "Step Up" and "Step Up 2," "Dance Flick" follows the same storyline and adds quick hits and corny, overplayed jokes to get the audience to think it is different.

### .....Music..... Elliot Yamin: 'Fight for Love'

After his tour on "American Idol," Elliot Yamin struck gold with his hit "Wait for You."

On May 5, Yamin came back with his latest album, "Fight for Love."

Yamin's album captures his soulful voice, creating an almost R&B feel to the songs. In the song "This Step Alone," Yamin's voice sails through the high and lower notes, describing his relationship with someone who can't

make up his mind, and is therefore making up his mind to be alone.

One of his more upbeat songs, "Don't be Afraid" encourages listeners that it's okay to fall in love, and there will always be someone to catch them.

With an album name reflecting the theme of almost every song of his newest CD, Yamin is definitely not just an "American Idol" one-hit wonder.

### .....Book..... 'The Last Child'

Set in a small hometown, John Hart's latest novel "The Last Child" explores family dynamics after 13-year-old Johnny Merrimon's twin sister Alyssa goes missing.

Johnny's family calls in a private detective to search for Alyssa, but he is unsuccessful for over a year.

But after another girl in the area goes missing, the detective has no choice but to break some rules in order to solve his case.

Hart has written other novels that climbed to the New York Time's bestseller list, and "The Last Child" is sure to follow this pattern.

### .....Video Game..... 'Fallout 3: Broken Steel'

After the incredible response to Bethesda Game Studios' "Fallout 3," developers could not keep the downloaded content arriving fast enough. On May 5, "Fallout 3: Broken Steel" was released to waiting audiences.

In the original "Fallout 3," the gamer's character is an escapee from an underground bomb shelter, where citizens of almost every country have been hiding since the threat of a nuclear holocaust. Once out of the shelter, the character explores neighboring areas while searching for his missing father.

With "Broken Steel," however, players finish their fight with the Enclave remnants where the last downloaded portion of the game left off.

New perks and achievements come along with additional caps help players continue their character and work with the new Brotherhood of Steel to wipe out the Enclave remnants for good.

Along with the perks and achievements come new locations, such as Olney Powerworks, new weapons, such as the Tesla Cannon, and new enemies, such as the Super Mutant Overlord.



*Season Wrap Up*

## Rain delays Cats' regional hopes

**By Greg Vodicka**  
Editor in Chief

After three innings in the rain, the Wildcats lead over Rolling Meadows 3-1 in their first game in the regional bracket. As of press time the final score from the game is not available.

With three runs in three innings and a solo homerun from junior Kaity Olsen, the ladies proved they came to play in the post season.

"We were really moving around runners which is what we wanted to see," senior Chrissie Rovtar said.

The Cats ended their regular season play with a close win against Wheaton North May 21. With primed defenses on both sides, the game was scoreless until the 6th inning. Following Olsen's base hit, sophomore Mary Connolly smacked a double to right field moving Olsen in scoring position. Rovtar took the RBI for the lone run of the game, leaving the score 1-0 in the Wildcat's favor.

"I think we came out a little dead, and we can't let that happen," Rovtar admitted.

According to Rovtar, at this point in the season, teams are aware of their biggest threats and know how to defend them. It makes for some low scoring games.

However, that was not true for the Wildcats victory against Wheaton Warrenville South May 20. Connolly's 10 strikeouts held the Tigers to

**27-5**

three runs, while sophomore Alyson Taddeucci and Rovtar went 3-for-4 and Olsen went 2-for-4, adding to the Wildcats bank of 10 total runs.

"It was [Wheaton Warrenville South's] senior night so we were all pretty pumped," said senior Courtney Macko.

Several players who do not normally start got to see the field this game proving that the team has plenty of depth.

"I'm confident with everyone on the team and everyone can pull their own weight

out there. That's really going to help us in the playoffs," Connolly said.

Coming off of a loss late in the week, the Cats beat Glenbard North 1-0 May 18.

"We took advantage of an error which made the difference in the game," said Rovtar.

As the Cats leave conference play and move onto fighting for a regional title, they continue to have a rough road ahead of them. Head Coach Emily Johnson says that the competition level is still high.

"We are going to have to work for every run. Nothing will be handed to us," Johnson said.

Johnson still feels that the team needs work on staying mentally strong.

"I need to see that we can come from behind," said Johnson.

One loss elimination in the post season means every game could be the last according to Connolly.

"Before, we were playing

not to lose. Now we are playing to win," said Connolly.

Even at the second seed, Rovtar believes that the team needs to take all opponents seriously.

"It all depends on what team comes out to play and

wants it more," said Rovtar.

However, junior Taylor Dash said that she is confident and not going to let the pressure get to her.

"I'm not nervous," Dash said. "I'm more excited to see how well we do."

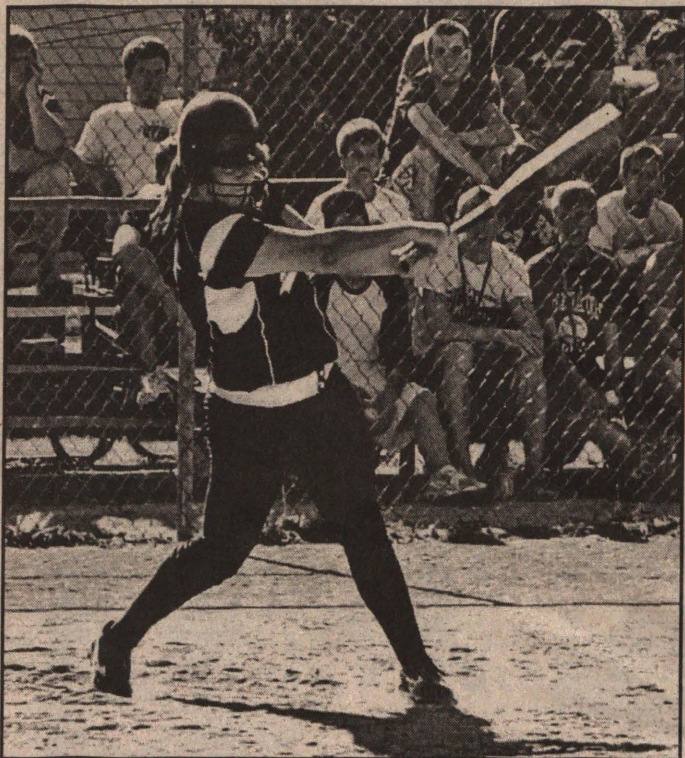


Photo by Greg Vodicka

Sophomore Mary Connolly competes among the best pitchers in state while destroying their ERA's at the same time.

## Runners, jumpers advance at state

**By Alexis Hosticka**  
Perspectives Editor

For the second year in a row, junior Annette Eichenberger traveled to the girls track state meet, taking third place in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:15.

Although Eichenber was the only member of the girls track team to qualify for state, many members of the team made personal bests at the sectional meet.

"We had a lot of new talent this year, but we had a tough year," said head coach George Petmezias. "We fought through a lot of injuries and illnesses which I think drained the girls, but during this last month, they really bounced back."

Petmezias thinks that that girls worked their hardest this season and hopes that next season will be even more successful.

"I would love it if all the runners did summer camp and cross country, it really helps keep them in shape and ready for next season," said Petmezias.

Junior Matt Kubik and sophomore Jeff Foreman are the sole qualifiers for the boys

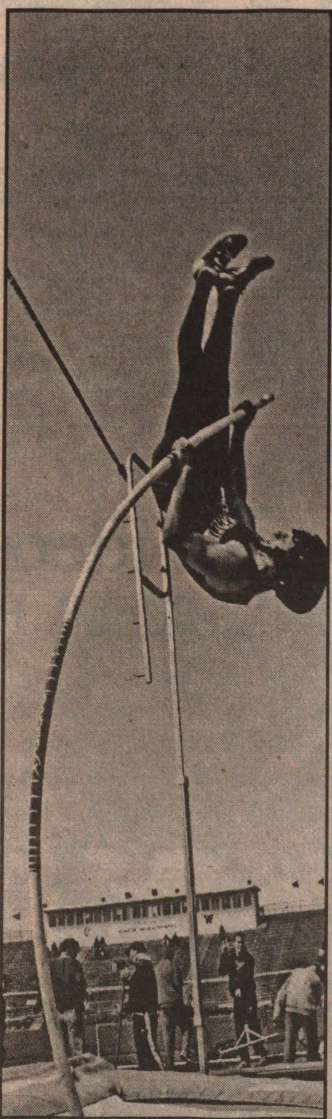


Photo by Evan Morgan

Junior Matt Kubik defeated Glenbard East in order to take first place in the DVC meet May 15.

state meet, which will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Kubik's qualifying pole vault was 13'9", which earned him second place.

"I was just getting off of being sick, so I was nervous," said Kubik. "I was down to my third jump which was my last chance to qualify. My bones were shaking and I was really nervous, but I was really happy when I cleared it!"

Foreman took first place at the sectional with a high jump of 6'4".

Three relay teams also competed. The 1600 relay team was 1.51 seconds away from qualifying for state. The group of seniors Zach Mowen, Trent Amey, and Kyle Nichol and junior Nick Hawco placed 5th and broke a 30 year old school record with a time of 3:26.18.

The 400 relay team made up of seniors Alex Pirela, Trent Amey, Kyle Nichol, and Zach Mowen placed third at the sectional with a season-best.

The 3200 relay team of seniors Brian and Doug Mateas and sophomores Derrik Pietrobon and Gunnar Sterne placed fifth.



Photo by Alex Lima

Sophomore Meagan Radloff maneuvers the ball away from opponents at the game against Naperville Central.

## Success out of reach

**By Alex Lima**  
Reporter

Finishing their season with a harsh loss in their second regional game against Conant on May 19, the girls soccer team ended their tough season.

In the first regional game on May 16, the lady Wildcats dominated the Elgin Maroons and won 5-0. Prior to their win against Elgin, the girls were on a winning streak, and placed first in the Bartlett Tournament May 6 through May 9. In the opening game of the tournament, the girls tied with Bartlett 1-1. However, the girls got back on track and slaughtered Glenbard North 6-0. After easing their way past Glen-

bard North, the girls kept their winning streak alive on May 9 and beat Plainfield South 3-1.

"We started off timid but we progressed into a well developed team," said sopho-

**8-9-3**

more Chloe Ellis.

Ellis noticed big improvement from last year with coach Cesar Gomez.

"I think he has gotten better with the girls," said Ellis. "He helps a lot of us out."

Gomez has helped the girls work better as a team.

"We've progressed as a team and played together to play good soccer," said sophomore Kelsey Whitaker. "It's been a challenge."



# Struck out: *Team focusing on building strength for next year after losing strong senior pitchers, hitters*

By Clark Hudmon  
Reporter

As the season finally draws to an end, the boys baseball team ran out of strikes, after losing in the state playoff game on Monday

Looking like a slip and slide with rain dampening the field, the Rams took the better of West Chicago as they topped them 6-3, ousting them from playoffs.

The Wildcats will have big shoes to fill as they will lose their three top hitters in Ethan Bureau, Rhett Gundersen, and Tyler Christ. Two top pitchers Jordan Long and Trevor Bodie, who fought injuries all season, are also graduating.

Christ reeled in a .460 batting average, and had six home runs, snagging the season batting average record of .448 from Wildcats legend, Barret Seratto, who is now starting at Purdue University.

The year started and ended strong for Christ, as he mixed

his excellent play at the plate with acrobatic catches in center field.

Christ's all-conference selection was no surprise for

## 12-14-1

head coach Dan McCarthy. "Tyler [Christ] has done

a great job this year, exceeding my expectations. He has hit for average, hit for power, and has been rock solid defensively in center field," said

McCarthy.

Senior Cole Paler has stepped up for the Wildcats, as Bodie has fallen out of the rotation. He was 5-0 this year in the support role, and was a nice surprise for McCarthy.

"I do what I can for the team, my main goal is to give the team an opportunity to win the game every time I step out there," said Paler.

Many juniors stepped up for the Wildcats, though they will need to gain confidence for next year, said McCarthy.

"As a class, they have to improve their mental approach to the game and not get so down on themselves when things don't go as planned," said McCarthy.

Baseball is not over for many players, including Bodie who will be going to St. Joseph's College in Indiana. Long is going to Taylor University in Indiana, Christ is attending Lawrence University and Bureau will be playing baseball at Eastern Illinois University.

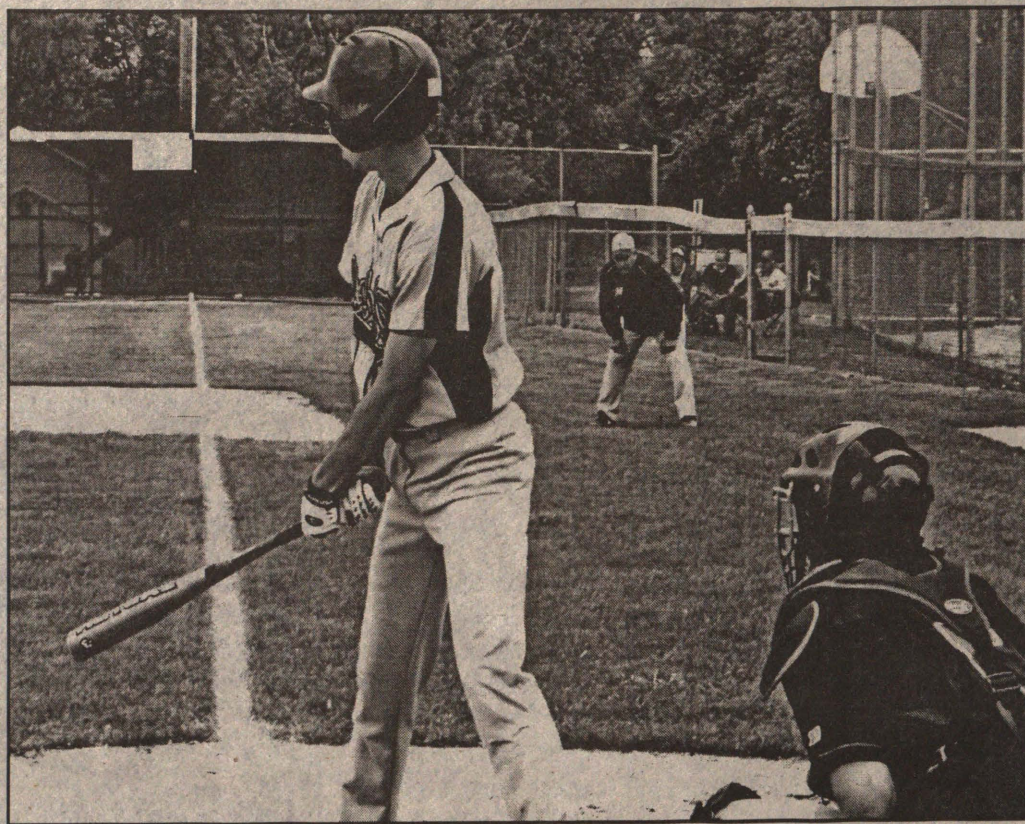


Photo by Clark Hudmon

Senior Tyler Christ keeps others on their toes with his All Conference hitting and outfielding skills.



Photo by Megan Hernbroth

Sophomores Jeremy Piane (18) and Austin Barber (22) go side by side as they face Waubonsie Valley at home April 23.

## Looking at losses positively

By Megan Hernbroth  
Features Editor

As a rough season nears a close for boys lacrosse, the team and coaches both look to every game as a learning experience to benefit the team in the future.

"We are a young team and we are learning as we went along," said Chris Conner, one of the two head coaches. "Next year's team will be better and more experienced. Most of the team is sophomores now and next year they'll have another year of

experience under their belt."

Ending the regular season, the team went up against Waubonsie Valley for a second time, losing 15-2.

With a tough game against Geneva, the team played hard, forcing Geneva to for-

## 0-13

feit with 6 minutes left in the game, changing a 10-5 Wildcat loss into a tie-game, boosting the Wildcats into the play-offs.

Their first play-off game is against the winless Grayslake

North on Thursday, but the score was not available as of press time.

Against Wheaton North at home on May 19, the team tried to keep up and fell short only slightly with a score of 8-4.

Competing against St. Rita on May 16, the team lost 17-7, although the offense tried to hold their ground against a tougher defense.

"Our offense did all right but they scored on us off fast breaks because our midfield players are tired," said sophomore varsity player Darrek

Sams.

The team faced Naperville Central at an away game on May 14, losing 13-2 against what some players describe as an aggressive team.

"They were a tough team and their players were really aggressive," said Sams. "It was a crazy game."

Even though they may not win every game, the team still sees an improvement from earlier this season.

"Our chemistry has gotten a lot better," said varsity captain junior Blake Zampano. "Because we're such a young team and we've bonded so well, it will hopefully be better next year."

Competing against Glenbard West on May 12, the team missed a win with a score of 15-3.

As a former varsity member, junior Brandon Cleek switched to junior varsity after witnessing the fast-paced games at the varsity level.

"I started late last year," said Cleek. "And varsity is a lot faster-paced obviously, and you need a lot more skill. When I didn't know what was going on, I'd get frustrated with the game and go no where."

With a year of extra training on the JV level, Cleek hopes to be prepared for an even better season next year.

"We knew it was going to be a tough season because we lost 14 of our senior players and only four of the current

players were on varsity last year," said Cleek. "Hopefully for next year we'll all know how to play better with one year of experience under our belts."

During their game against Wheaton North on May 7, the team lost with an unrecorded score, but some players are starting to see improvement with every experience.

"We are a young team with a lot of individual talent," said sophomore varsity player Austin Barber. "We only have one senior on varsity and we are playing against teams of almost all seniors. It has been a tough season so far but we are keeping our heads up and improving every game."

During their face off with York High School on May 4, the team was able to keep the score tied leading up to half-time, but lost it during the second half, losing overall 13-6.

"We have a really fresh team," said Cleek. "But it's hard because we're not part of the school. We're a club sport so it's hard to get students that would be really good at lacrosse to come out. The cost for it is high and the equipment is really expensive, so people don't always want to play."

Even though boys lacrosse is not part of the school's athletic program, the team plays teams in and out of the DVC and retain the Wildcat stamp.



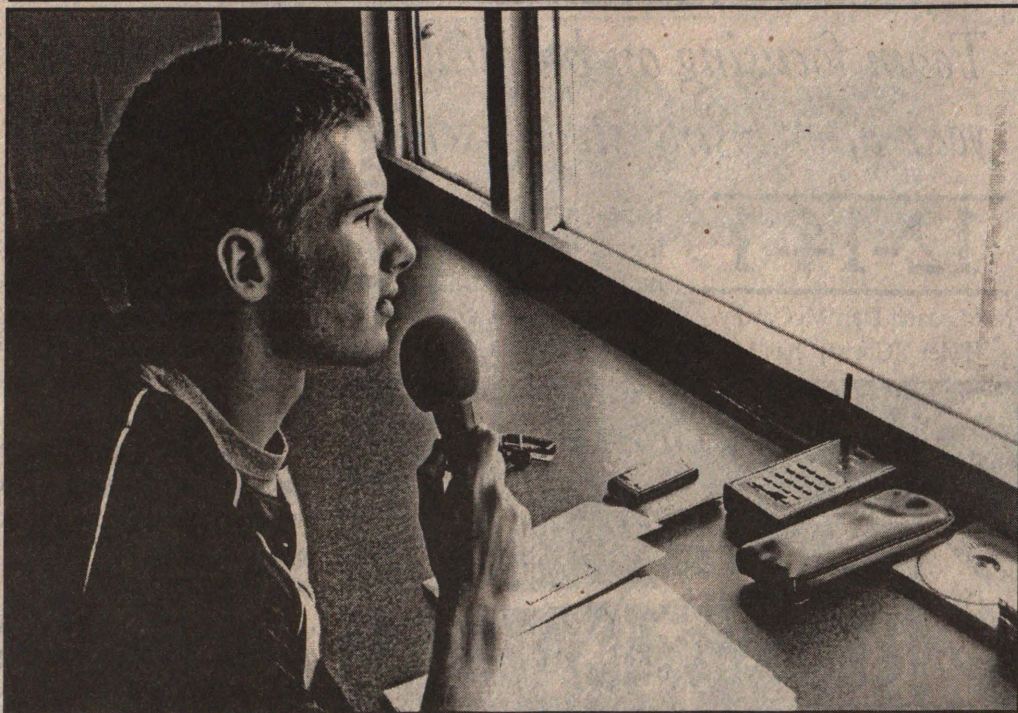


Photo by Megan Hernbroth

Senior Brian Skrypczak spends his afternoons at the ballpark announcing games for the varsity team as a way to help out his fellow Wildcats.

By Megan  
Hernbroth  
Features Editor

## Behind the scenes of Baseball

Behind the glass or in the dugout, two individuals get a front-row seat to the action of every home varsity baseball game. As announcer and team manager, these two students are the faceless individuals that make every game possible.

As manager of the baseball team, sophomore Nici Burlingame stays in the dugout throughout the games with a great view, but the crowd may not even be aware she is there.

"I still wanted to be involved in a school activity somehow, but I wasn't in poms anymore," said Burlingame. "I heard in the announcement they were looking for a baseball manager so I decided to give it a try."

As part of her crucial role, Burlingame attends every varsity game no matter what the forecast and keeps track of every run, score, and out.

"Lately, I've been bringing the guys food to keep their spirits up," said Burlingame. "I try to cheer them up if they're down with a lot of chocolate, and I think it helps."

One of the upsides of Burlingame's duties is the friendships she believes she has with the rest of the team.

"I get to hang out with guys all the time," said Burlingame. "It's really cool to see how they act when they aren't trying to impress people, like when they're in the dugout or the locker room. I see a lot of the guys during the school day and we talk outside of school or games."

With one season of experience under her belt, Burlingame can not wait to continue her duties next year.

"Coach [Dan] McCarthy already asked me to do it un-

til I graduate, so I think I'm going to," said Burlingame.

Next up to bat is senior Brian Skrypczak, the official announcer for every varsity home baseball game.

"My friend Jordan said the coach was looking for an announcer for the season," said Skrypczak. "I checked with the coach and I was more than happy to do it."

Skrypczak attends every game, announcing the starting line-up for both teams and informs the crowd of who is up to bat at that moment.

"I set up and announce the whole starting line-up before the game actually starts," said Skrypczak. "I also get to pick the music before the game."

Skrypczak believes his job has made an impact on the crowds as well as the team.

"I think I really give a voice to the game," said Skrypczak. "I really bring the enthusiasm to the crowd and update them with the score. Coach

said I was the official voice of the Wildcats."

Skrypczak has a bird's-eye view of the field, an optimal position to give the crowd a true Wildcat experience.

"The best part is getting to see every game and I get a great view from the box," said Skrypczak.

As part of his duties, Skrypczak believes he has gained speaking skills on top of the other benefits of being the announcer.

"I really think I've gotten better speaking skills from this," said Skrypczak, "but being committed to every game is a lot harder than you would think."

One thing both the manager and the announcer agree on is, even if the weather may not be the best, they are there to support their Wildcats.

"It's always tough when it's cold and this box has no heating," said Skrypczak. "And it's tough to watch them lose, but I feel that it's worth it overall."



Photo by Megan Hernbroth

Sophomore Nici Burlingame stays in the dugout keeping track of all the important stats as the team manager.

Last column:

## Missing tradition

Three years of sports columns have come and gone. For my last sports column I will ever write for the Chronicle I really wanted to make this one count.

One of the very first columns I wrote was how I felt it was not time to leave the DuPage Valley Conference.

As proud and stubborn as I am, I have a hard time admitting to myself that moving conferences is necessary. Even after two seasons with losing records, I am still not ready to say that leaving is the best decision.

I think that students and staff alike get too caught up in the conference debate. Always looking for the easy way out, we neglect to look at the real reason West Chicago is stuck in the inevitable losing rut. It is hard for me to point out one reason for the losing streak when there are plenty of pieces to the puzzle that might need to be moved around.

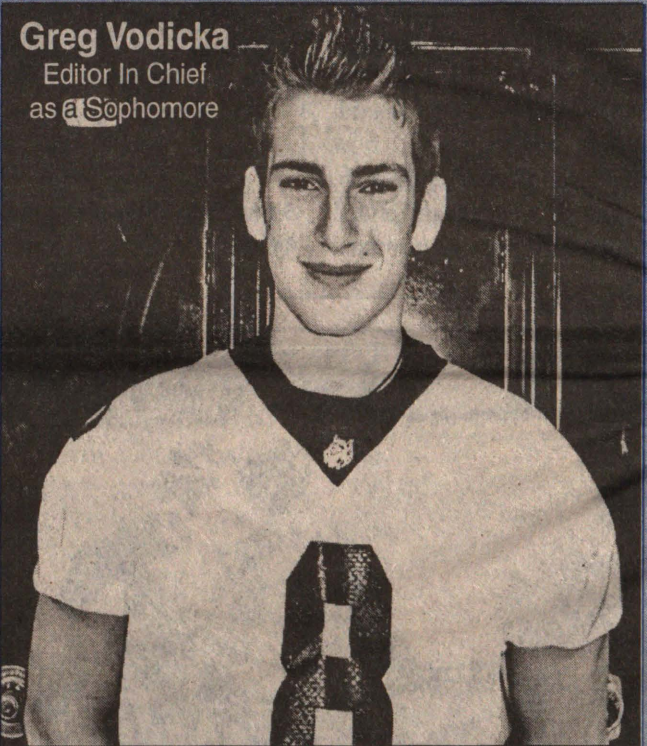
However, one problem that I am convinced holds us back is that "West Chicago mentality."

That kid that refuses to play football because he says that he doesn't want to be on a losing team, the girl who refuses to play softball because she thinks she isn't good enough, and those parents who move their kids to private school because they refuse to be part of a dying athletic program, all are prime examples of that mentality.

Where did this distrust and disrespect come from? For Wego athletes, it has become an uphill climb and a losing battle.

Greg Vodicka

Editor In Chief  
as a Sophomore



It is difficult not to let the negative connotation influence opinions. Plenty of athletes have the same mentality that they are inferior to the Wheaton or Naperville teams.

One thing I would like to see come out of West Chicago is tradition; that need to be involved in athletics because it is expected of you. Conference title is an anticipated stepping stone to reach that state championship game that is anticipated.

Each school in the DVC plans to see the field in early November when the Cats have turned in their equipment and been off for over a month.

Where did that lack of enthusiasm come from? When did we decide to throw in the towel and give up on goals that all athletes share?

Some might remember the fall of 2003 when the Cats made it to the playoffs. That was the most excited I've ever seen this town get.

As students, staff, and the rest of the community jumped on the bandwagon, there was Wildcat fever in the air. We don't give this town enough credit for how encouraging it can be. This community feeds the fire that this student body creates. And that was just one game into the playoffs. Imagine making it to state. This town would erupt.

I would have loved nothing more than to have made it to the playoffs this season and walk onto that home turf knowing we were the team that made the difference. The dream is gone, and it is up to upcoming years to live it.

I want all Wildcats to realize that all the pieces to that puzzle are there, and it is time we all took advantage of that opportunity.

Leaving the conference might be the quickest path to the playoffs and a successful season, but I still say the DVC is the place to be until we take care of our unfinished business.