

## Making movie magic *Adding the glitz of Hollywood to homecoming*

By Sarah Berger  
Center Spread Editor

Students have the chance to be cast in their favorite movies as Hollywood brings its allure to the high school with the homecoming theme of WeGo to the Movies.

Each grade represents a different movie genre. Seniors are horror, juniors have action/adventure, sophomores represent comedy, and freshmen have science fiction.

Kicking off homecoming week was the pep assembly on Monday.

At the assembly seniors Louie Diaz and Aly Taddeucci

were crowned homecoming king and queen.

"I thought it was a little ridiculous that I got chosen but I'm really happy because it's a lot of fun," said Taddeucci.

The annual dodgeball tournament was on Monday. Results were not available as of press time. Each team had to represent their favorite flick.

"My team chose to represent the movie 'Taking Woodstock' because the music from the movie is the kind of music we listen to on a daily basis, and we like to dress like hippies," said senior William Richards.

Tuesday was jersey day, and

Wednesday the senior and junior girls face off in the annual powder puff game.

"I can't wait to crush the juniors at the powder puff game, I've been looking forward to it since I was a freshman," said senior Allyssa Brinkman.

Students are released from school at 12:50 p.m. on Friday for the homecoming parade.

School spirit is carried into the homecoming football game on Friday as the Wildcats battle West Aurora at 7 p.m.

Homecoming will wrap-up on Saturday with the dance in Bishop Gym from 7 to 10 p.m.

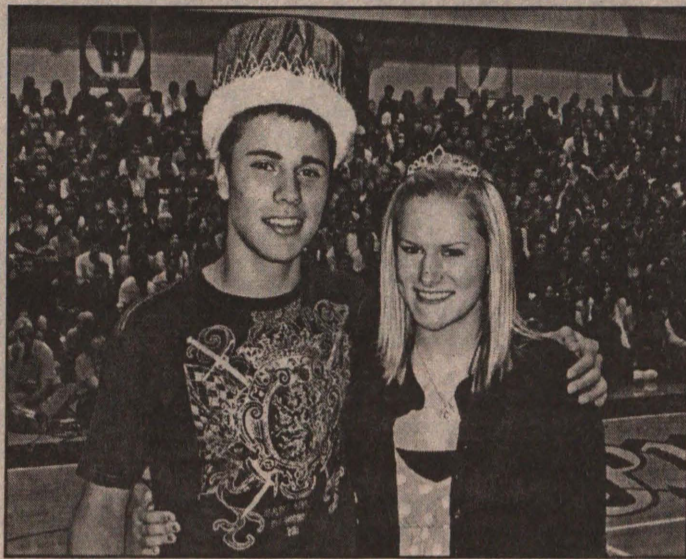


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Seniors Louie Diaz and Aly Taddeucci became this year's homecoming king and queen at the pep assembly on Monday.

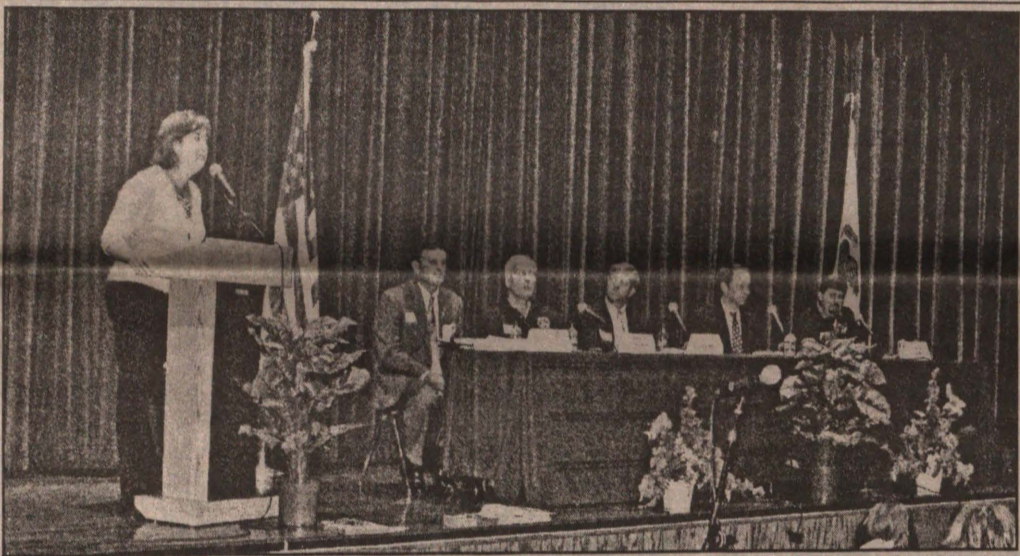


Photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Daneels

Government teacher Mary Ellen Daneels introduces (from left) District Representative Dirk Enger, State Senator John Millner, State Senator Randy Hultgren, Congressman Peter Roskam, and State Representative Randy Ramey at the town hall debate held in Weyrauch Auditorium.

## Town hall debate held with students

By Megan Hernbroth  
Features Editor

Politics became more personal as Congressman Peter Roskam, Representative Randy Ramey, Senators Randy Hultgren and John Millner, and District Representative Dirk Enger participated in the school's first legislative round table on Sept. 18.

Students in government classes wrote questions ranging from health care to energy resources and concealed weapons during the meeting that ran through lunch periods.

"The government students are coming of age to vote and to get involved in the community," said government teacher Mary Ellen Daneels. "We thought it was appropriate for them to meet the legislators that represent them and ask them questions."

The meeting began with introductions, including major priorities for all the members.

"Every year we get different issues in the local area," said Ramey. "Right now we have a \$90 billion hole in our funding for activities so we have to decide if we cut fund-

ing or raise taxes."

Ramey also emphasized the controversy surrounding the concealed carry case that is up for debate in the House.

"I'm for [concealed carry]," said Ramey. "I think I came here last year to talk about it and I don't think I swayed many of the candidates. But the issue is we need proper precautions and we are one of the largest hunting states in the United States, so we have the right to protect ourselves."

See Town Hall, page 3

## Voting policy changed for homecoming court

By Jacob Wucka  
Editor in Chief

After years of loose regulations, advisories now choose the homecoming court instead of individual students.

"We've decided to make a change with how homecoming ballots are handled because of long-standing problems," said Pep Club adviser Dave Jennings.

Before the change, individual students could vote for the five senior boys and five senior girls they wanted to be on the homecoming court.

Jennings stated that there was no protection for the votes, and he cited incidents throughout the years that have led to this change in voting policies.

"Last year we were accused of letting racism creep into the ballot-counting contest, and there was no way of proving or disproving this," said Jennings.

He also cited incidents in which students would nominate people as a joke.

"This is the second year in a row where we have had someone be prank-nominated. We have spiteful groups of people

nominate someone who was, in both cases, glad to be told they didn't have to do this," said Jennings.

Aside from problems of previous years, Jennings said that there were four or five complaints made about the voting process.

"We received reports that individuals were voting more than once, along with other complaints," said Jennings.

Now, advisories choose three boys and three girls for the homecoming court. Of the top five chosen, those with the most votes become king and queen. Jennings believes the handling of the votes by teachers will make the process unbiased.

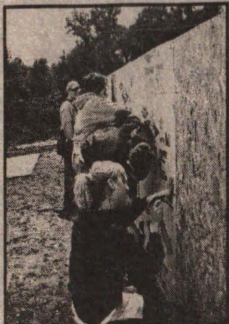
"We want to totally remove students from the collection of votes. We don't want room for there to be controversy anymore," said Jennings.

Another change this year bars freshmen, sophomores, and juniors from voting.

"We used to show the video with all the nominees, but we stopped the video because we think that Johnny Freshman will only vote for Sally Senior just because of her looks," said Jennings.

### Impact

Habitat for Humanity is off to a great start, already building houses within the community. Read about their great work--see NEWS, page 3.



### Hazing

When do team-initiation ceremonies cross the line? What are the consequences of hazing? Has there ever been hazing at WeGo?--see CENTER SPREAD, pages 8-9.



### Mission Trips

Instead of spending their summers treating themselves, these students traveled south of the border for mission trips. Check out these students' remarkable journeys--see FEATURES, page 10.

### Game Time

It's football season! With a new program but a winless season, will the boys be able to pull out a win before the end of the season? --see SPORTS, page 16.

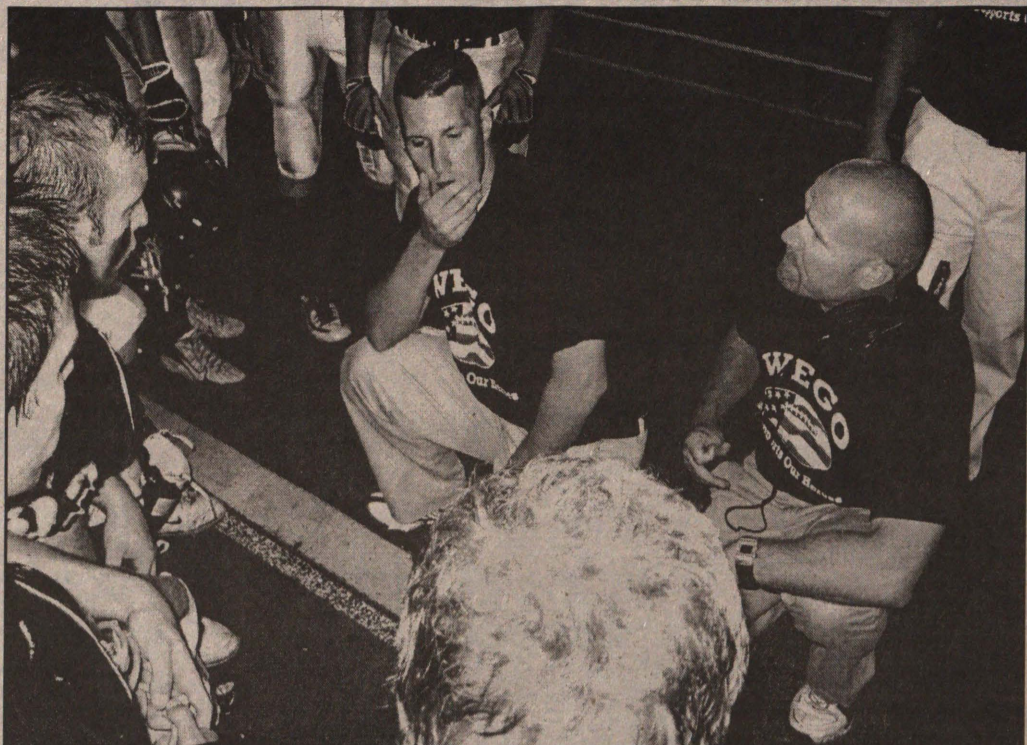


Photo by Jacob Wucka

New head football coach Paul Reinke (center) brings with him his years of experience as both a professional arena football coach and high school football coach.

## Experienced coach sees potential in football team

By Megan Hernbroth  
Features Editor

After going through two head coaches in the last 10 years, Wildcat football hopes to strike gold with the newest head coach, Paul Reinke.

Reinke left Cary-Grove High School, hoping to unleash the talent he sees in the players here.

"I wanted to be the head coach here," said Reinke. "I liked the amount of potential I saw here and everything they had to offer here."

With nine years of coaching high school football at Wheaton North and Cary-Grove and four years coaching professional arena football for the Green Bay Blizzard, Georgia Force, and

Grand Rapids Rampage, Reinke hopes to continue his successes with Wildcat football.

"My goal is to get the team playing at a consistent, high level," said Reinke.

Coming into the job, he had hopes for success based on the team's potential.

"I really enjoyed the kids, I like the facilities this school has to offer, and I really liked the potential I saw in this team," said Reinke. "I think they really have the potential to achieve good things this season."

As the football season gets under way, Reinke put all efforts into team practices, hoping results will translate into conference games.

"The kids are practicing very good and really hard," said Reinke. "They do everything I ask them to do."

Reinke's practices focus mainly on fundamental skills and techniques he believes all athletes should know.

"The results of our practices have been really good," said Reinke. "Now we are waiting for the results to translate into games."

With hopes for success at West Chicago, Reinke does not lack the optimism which is often associated with coaching.

"My goal is to get us into the playoffs this year and put ourselves in the position to win the conference championship," Reinke said.

## What's Happening?

By Kristina Manibo  
Reporter

### *Warming up the day*

Giving transition center students an opportunity to work on a variety of skills is what inspired the idea of student-run daily hot beverage sales in the '08-'09 school year, and it went so well, the sales have been continued into this year.

"Students can work on social skills like answering the phone and face-to-face orders, money skills by taking payment and making change, and overall general work skills," said special education teacher Abby Lynch of the program. "The plan

is to keep going [with selling coffee] as long as there is an interest in it."

A student or staff member can use a classroom phone to call extension 6247 to order hot chocolate, hot tea or regular or decaf coffee with optional flavors. Students may also stop by Room 159 to order drinks.

Special education students answer the phone to take the order, and another student or staff member in the transition center will deliver the beverage. Small drinks cost \$1 and large drinks \$1.50.

### *Combining fun and learning*

The Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) is helping the community and having fun at the same time by volunteering and visiting museums downtown.

"We try to get students to volunteer with projects happening around the school and in the West Chicago area," said Lucinda Sanders, OLAS club sponsor.

All students are welcome to join OLAS. Students can

learn about Latin American culture and practice their Spanish-speaking by hanging out in the club, said Sanders.

Students also get the chance to attend cultural events and take field trips downtown.

Students attended the Celtic Fest on Sept. 12 and OLAS officers marched in the Mexican Independence Day Parade on Sept. 13.

### *Serious practice*

Students in the LifeSmarts program will start off the semester with practice, practice, and more practice.

With serious competitions in March, students taking business courses will take LifeSmarts tests during first semester.

Students who perform well will be considered for the LifeSmarts team to compete at state level in March.

They are quizzed about consumer related topics such as the environment and money management.

"If we're fortunate enough, we'll be competing in Miami Beach next April," said Donald Zabelin, consumer education teacher and LifeSmarts coach.

LifeSmarts was state champion in 2000, from 2002-2006, and 2008.

## New superintendent puts his focus on students

By Jacob Wucka  
Editor in Chief

With an enthusiasm for education and a long career of leadership, Supt. Lalo Ponce is getting used to his new surroundings at his first year at Community High School.

"You have to have a passion for the work of superintendent," said Ponce. "What motivates me is seeing students as well as staff succeed and do well. Some individuals might like the work, or some may like the title, but I have a passion for the success of students and staff."

Ponce began his duties as superintendent July 1, replacing Supt. Lee Rieck, who retired.

Ponce started his career in

Dallas, and more recently has worked as assistant superintendent for administrative operations at Elgin Area School District U-46.

Ponce began applying for superintendent positions earlier this year.

"I was a finalist [for superintendent] in Green Bay, but I pulled out because it was not a fit," said Ponce.

He found his niche in West Chicago after beginning the interview process.

"After I started interviewing here, I really got hooked by this school's mission statements because they are all focused on the kids," said Ponce. "This is a school district that holds students in high esteem. Once I got in-



Photo by Jacob Wucka

New Supt. Lalo Ponce is passionate for his work and strives to interact with the students, staff, and parents.

interviewed, I really wanted to come here."

Currently, Ponce is working to communicate with community leaders, parents,

and tax payers, which he refers to as the "true owners of the school."

"The superintendent should be available to stu-

dents, staff, and parents. Also, the superintendent needs to communicate and be able to deliver the direction of the district, but he also needs to listen," said Ponce.

If Ponce had to sum up one goal he hopes to achieve at West Chicago, he said that he wants every student to succeed.

"I would like to see every student remain in school, and transition into the after-high-school experience of their dreams," said Ponce. "I think what will be successful [in achieving this goal] will be having the students adopt the habits and attitudes, and learning the skills and knowledge it takes to be an outstanding student."

# No need to worry

By Alexis Hosticka  
News Editor

Although the school failed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the third year in a row, Principal Moses Cheng feels that all of the students are learning and progressing at a proficient level.

"The purpose, the heart of the program is good. Everyone in education would agree that the intention is good, but the mechanism is flawed," Cheng said.

Overall, the school scored a 54.2 percent on reading and 51.8 percent in math, missing the target of 70 percent by almost 20 percent.

"Kids are learning and making progress," Cheng said. "We just have a lot of kids with different backgrounds, so that makes it difficult."

The white subgroup passed with 74.3 percent in reading and 71.7 percent in math.

The Hispanic subgroup failed with a 33.2 percent in reading and a 30.4 percent in math. This failure is mainly due to the fact that all students are required to take the test in English.

However, if one group fails, the whole school is labeled as failing.

"The state's standards increase by 7.5 percent every year," Cheng said. "This is completely illogical because by 2014, we're supposed to be at 100 percent."

Cheng's major concern is not to pass AYP, but to help the students continue to learn.

To do this, many of the programs initiated last year were continued into this school year.

"We started a reading and writing initiative, and freshman teachers have been working together," Cheng said.

Cheng encourages juniors to try their best on the ACT and Prairie State Achievement Exams in spring.

"Definitely take it seriously," Cheng said. "I know it's a long two days of testing, but do your best because the results impact not only you, but your peers and the entire school."

A few years from now, Cheng is unsure of what the results will look like, but he does believe that the state will need to change their plan and expectations.

"The state is going to have to look at AYP and No Child Left Behind and what it really does," Cheng said.

# Houses one nail at a time

By Sarah Berger  
Center Spread Editor

Hammering one nail at a time, students and teachers involved in the school's Habitat for Humanity chapter gave back to the community by building a house for low-income families in West Chicago on Aug. 29.

Habitat for Humanity is a worldwide organization that builds affordable houses at no profit.

The project students and teachers participated in was part of the DuPage Habitat for Humanity chapter.

West Chicago is one of four Habitat for Humanity high school chapters in DuPage County.

"As a campus chapter, we commit to paying yearly dues, donating a portion of our fundraising to our local affiliate, and donating a portion of our fundraising to the international branch of Habitat," said Habitat for Humanity adviser Blair Covino.

Volunteers worked on building one of 11 homes that will be part of the new Pioneer Prairie neighborhood.



Photo by Sarah Berger

Senior Caroline Leuer volunteers her weekend to help build homes for Habitat for Humanity.

"The houses that Habitat for Humanity builds are for low-income families, but they are not free. The families still have to pay a 30-year mortgage, but it's at a reduced rate," said volunteer and special education teacher Cat Thielberg.

Students who worked on the Habitat House included seniors Caroline Leuer, Jillian Macritio, Kelsey King, Angela Gentile, Rino Loio-tile, and Gerald Gaughn.

Working alongside the students were Thielberg, and English teachers Covino, Nick Kempfski, and Mary Hafertepe.

"While WeGo 2 Africa helps kids all the way in Africa, we're helping out people right here in West Chicago," said Leuer.

This was no easy project. Volunteers did all of the labor needed to build the house, many without any construction experience.

"We put up braces for the roof, constructed a beam for the garage, and put up the roof. I hit my head four times and it really hurt," laughed Kempfski.

At the Sept. 22 Board of Education meeting, counseling department head Maura Bridges said that Habitat for Humanity set a new record for student involvement, with 75 students in attendance at the first meeting.

"There are still many opportunities for students to get involved with Habitat for Humanity such as fundraising, the youth organizations that help sponsor some of the Habitat Homes, and opportunities to educate," said Covino.

Volunteers agreed that the experience of building a home for an under privileged family in West Chicago was something well worth the time and labor.

"The experience was very rewarding because we will be able to see what the end project will look like. It's just so nice to help people in need," said Gentile.

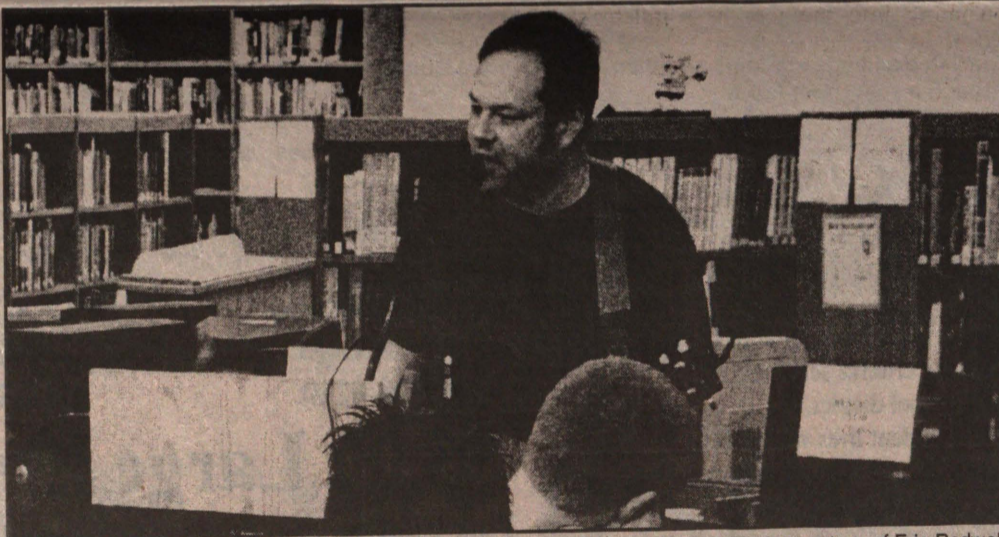


Photo courtesy of Eric Bodwell

Author and musician Frank Portman performs for the creative writing class in addition to talking about his writing style and novels.

# Creative, eccentric style

Visiting author and musician gives new outlook to creative writing class

By Alexis Hosticka  
News Editor

What do rock bands and hobbits have in common? Both have provided inspiration for author and musician Frank Portman, who recently visited the LRC as part of his book tour.

"I think that I want to do stuff that is not like everything else," Portman said, referring to his writing style. "You know, presenting conventional material in an interesting way."

His first book, "King

Dork," came out in 2006 and his latest, "Andromeda Klein," just went into print. Portman is a musician, and only decided to start writing a few years ago.

"I've been writing songs since I was a little kid, but they were rarely any good," Portman said. "Three years ago, I wrote my first book because an agent thought that my musical ideas would make a good story."

Portman, has been part of the band "Mr. T Experience" for 20 years and is inspired by

a variety of topics.

"A lot of my songs are about girls and how difficult it is to find a girlfriend," Portman said.

Portman, who came on Sept. 17, was invited by LRC director Eric Bodwell through a connection with Anderson's Bookshops.

Creative writing teacher Tara Deleon feels that the students enjoyed the visit and that it benefited them.

"The music was funny, it was a good time and a cool experience for the students to be one-on-one with an author," Deleon said. "His music and writing are pretty eccentric, and his books deal with pretty big issues."

# Town hall: Continuing debates

Continued from page 1

Other members were open to the questions.

"Our forefathers said we have the right to bear arms, but that was back in the days with muskets and you could only fire one shot a minute," said Enger.

Another topic posed by the government students dealt with health care and President Obama's bill.

"I think we are rushing a decision because some people haven't even had a full chance to read the bill through yet," said Roskam.

Enger disagreed with Roskam.

"What is unacceptable to me is this country is one of give and take," said Enger, "yet we have a 3,000 percent mark-up on prescription drugs and families file bankruptcy every 30 seconds because of health care costs."

Overall, Daneels felt the meeting was a beneficial experience for the government students.

"We heard a lot of positive feedback," said Daneels.

## A taste of Chicago

By Sarah Berger  
Center Spread Editor

Exchange students from Soria, Spain will get a taste of American life while staying at their host students' homes until Saturday, experiencing everything from Chicago to homecoming.

The Spaniards will leave on Saturday, ending their 10 day stay.

"We have been doing the exchange with this specific school for eight years, but we have been doing the exchange program for 20 years," said exchange coordinator Sarah Bellis.

Every year, the Spanish students who participate in the exchange program alternate between going to Spain and hosting a Spaniard here.

Now, it's the Spaniards turn to vacation across the ocean. Before coming to West Chicago, the Spaniards visited New York.

"I like New York, it's a big city with lots of shops and hot dogs in the street," said Ignacio Soto.

Fifteen students are hosting this year, including four sophomores, eight juniors, and three seniors.

A variety of activities have been planned for the Spaniard's stay, such as a trip to

Chicago to see the Field Museum and Art Institute as well as tailgating at the homecoming football game.

Along with having fun, the Spaniards are also learning how different America is from Spain.

"At American schools, the subjects are really different. In Spain we can't eat in class, but we can use our cell phones and wear whatever we want. I got in trouble here for the shirt I was wearing," said Soto.

The Spanish exchange program not only gives students a chance to experience a dif-

ferent culture, but a chance to make life-long friends.

"It's fun to see Nora, the girl I stayed last year in Spain with, again. I had such a great time with her in Spain. It was so much fun going to Chicago together," said junior Megan Gossen.

Connecting with their exchange students across the Atlantic is an opportunity not many other schools get to have.

"No school in this area has the exchange program our school has, it makes this big world a little smaller," said Bellis.



Spanish exchange students and their hosts explore Chicago through a scavenger hunt.

Photo courtesy of Sarah Bellis



Photo courtesy of Ben Vanderlei

Students traveled to Germany to immerse themselves in the culture, including juniors Ben Vanderlei and Kelsey Malan.

## Summer in the Alps

By Yasmyrn McGee  
Perspectives Editor

Thirteen students said "auf wiedersehen" to West Chicago as they traveled to Germany in June spending three weeks immersing themselves in German life.

German teacher Jane Rodziewicz described the trip as a great experience for being a part of and learning about another culture.

"It's nice to be able to communicate with people from another part of the world, because not everyone gets that opportunity," said Rodziewicz. "We're really lucky that we have that opportunity."

Students left June 11 and returned July 2. They visited the school in Gunzenhausen as well as other cities. They also spent three days near the Alps.

Junior Ben Vanderlei recalls his time in Germany as extremely memorable. Students had to give presentations at the school they visited, which Vanderlei described as having a college campus set up.

"[Students] can come and leave at any time they want," said Vanderlei. "They only have usually six periods in a day and get out of school at 1 p.m."

Vanderlei, who considers himself a connoisseur of German food, also recalled the delicious meals he had while in Germany.

"If God was a food it would be sauerbraten," said Vanderlei.

Senior Alex Schreiber-Deam described her family as laidback and remembered bowling and visiting downtown with the hosts and American students.

## Out in the cold

*Students with bus service last year are left out*

By Kristina Manibo  
Reporter

At the beginning of the school year a number of students realized they could wait however long they wanted, but a bus was not going to come to their bus stop.

Students living on Hillview, Coolidge and Sterling Avenues do not receive bus service while in the '08-'09 school year, the same students took buses to school and back.

"Students living on these streets are not qualified to ride the bus because they live within the 1.5 mile radius," said Lucy Del Real, dean's secretary. "We were not aware of this situation until we received a bus eligibility letter from the bus company."

Since the school did not realize that the students were not eligible until school had already started, the bus company continued to provide bus service for students for

the '08-'09 school year.

Middle and elementary school students share the same 1.5 mile radius, but have different criteria set forth by their school district.

If a student lives within the 1.5 mile radius but walking to school is a safety hazard, he or she will be bused to school.

Several students including sophomore Kaitlyn Tynczuk live on Coolidge and Hillview Avenues, and no buses are available for Tynczuk's area.

Students who live on Jeri Lane receive bus service but they are a street away from Coolidge and Hillview Avenues.

"[On the first day of school] when we tried getting on the bus, the bus drivers looked at our IDs and told us we didn't have a bus number. We went to the office and they told us we didn't have a bus," said Tynczuk.

Routes are different in the morning and afternoon because the bus company services both the high school and middle school for morning routes, and separate buses for afternoon routes.

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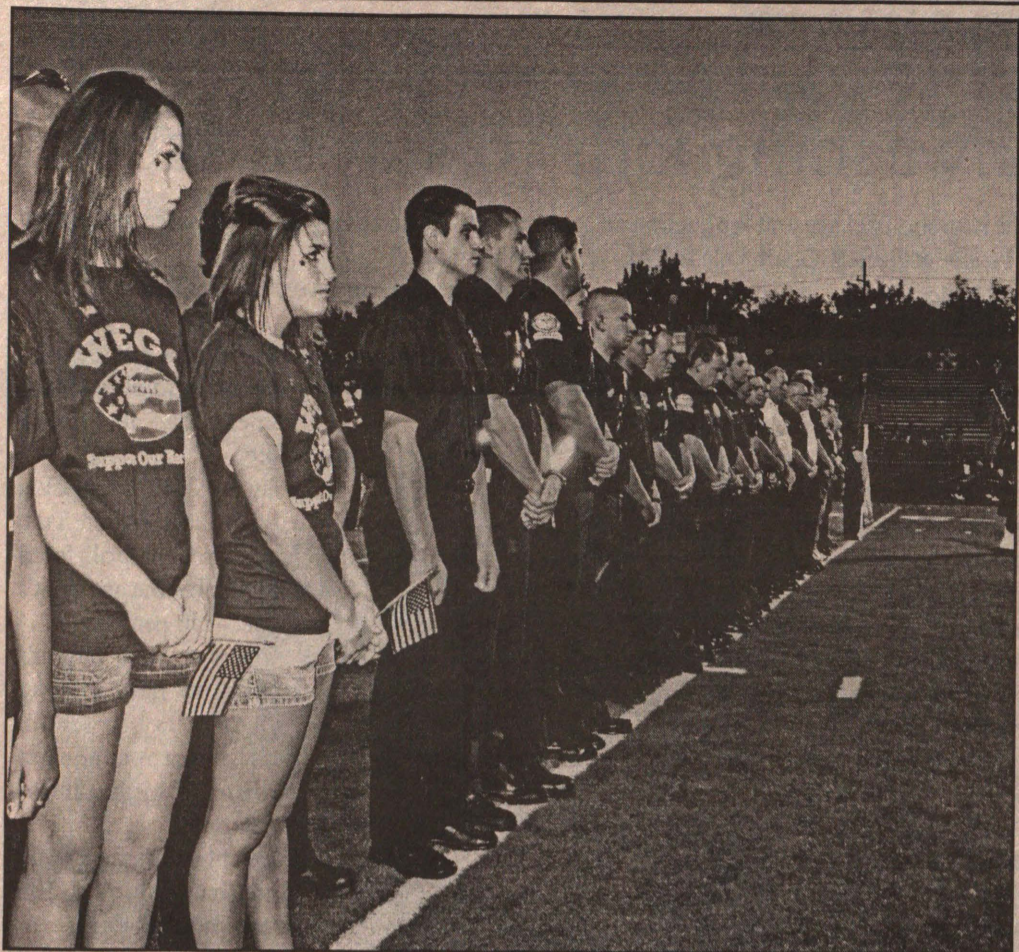


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Skills USA officers help to honor servicemen and women from West Chicago and the surrounding area at the Sept. 11 varsity football game.

## Honoring our heroes

By Jacob Wucka  
Editor in Chief

A plan by SkillsUSA to sell t-shirts in honor of the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks morphed into an extravagant event at the Sept. 11 football game.

"We had a meeting on the last day of school, and we were thinking of fundraisers for the next year. We realized that a football game was on 9/11, so we decided to design a t-shirt for that game. We never thought this would become as big as it did," said senior Emily Tulipano.

Along with selling the t-shirts that read "WeGo Supports our Heroes," administration invited local policemen, firemen, and community leaders to the football game.

"It's important to recognize heroes that don't always get the accolades they deserve," said athletic director Doug Mullaney. "They save lives, protect the community, and are here when we need them. It's too bad that we don't honor them every day, but I want everyone to know that West Chicago and Wheaton do."

At the start of the game, the policemen and firemen were accompanied by SkillsUSA officers seniors Angela Gentile and Kevin Szul, junior Mayuri Parmar, and Tulipano to the 30-yard-line for a moment of silence for the victims of 9/11.

Next, the military color guard played "Taps," the tra-

ditional music the military plays during funerals and flag ceremonies. An air-force fly-over was planned, but eventually was scrapped.

"The coolest thing was when we stood on the 30-yard-line," said Tulipano. "It was an honor being able to stand next to them."

English division head and football announcer Chris Covino watched the presentation from the commentator's box.

"It's very special to have our servicemen, mayors, and state representatives here. It's great when a community comes together as one in remembrance of the victims of 9/11," said Covino.

Following the school band's performance of the national anthem, the game began as usual. However, this time there were more than 200 fans in the stands wearing the

proached.

"Everyone here tonight is very honored to be here," said Quarto. "We respect our community very much, and being thought of by this community was very nice."

The squad shouted and supported the football team from the stands as usual, but they also showed their support for America.

"It's been eight years since 9/11, and it's amazing that it's our senior class that is the first year to do this," said senior Jamie Antczak.

Senior Chad Driscoll painted an American flag on his face to show American pride.

"I wanted to show my support for the victims of 9/11, and I was still able to wear face paint for the game," said Driscoll.

The halftime show was dedicated to America's servicemen and women with the

*It's great when a community comes together as one in remembrance of the victims of 9/11'*

-- Football announcer Chris Covino

t-shirts sold by SkillsUSA.

"The message we hoped to spread was that West Chicago really supports our heroes, and that we are still thinking about the victims of Sept. 11," said Gentile.

Police officer Anthony Quarto was honored to be at the game, and said anticipation was building at the police stations as the game ap-

band playing military songs.

"There are songs that represent each branch of the armed services, and they are songs that people don't know. It's good for us to perform them so people can hear them," said band director Steve Govertson.

Color guard also incorporated military themes into their routine.

## Changes put into play for advisory

By Alexis Hosticka  
News Editor

After much discussion, advisory program coordinators have decided to hold back on the One Book, One School program that they had planned on initiating this year.

"The primary reason for putting [One Book, One School] on hold was not financial, just secondary," Chris Covino, one of two advisory coordinators, said. "We just weren't sure that the book would interest everyone. If we were going to spend so much money, we wanted to be sure that the book was the right choice."

Covino and Maura Bridges, the second advisory coordinator, are still considering choosing a different book and initiating the program later on, but no decisions have been finalized.

One of the main ways Covino and Bridges look to make their decisions regarding the advisory program as a whole is through student input.

In order to receive a constant flow of feedback, they created a student leader program.

Student leaders are juniors and seniors who attend a freshman advisory four days a week, and meet with Covino once a week.

"The purpose of the program is to provide a leadership opportunity for students and a peer to answer questions for the freshmen," Bridges said. "It also provides student feedback, which we have wanted for the last three years."

People who want to impact the future advisory program can volunteer to become student leaders. Interested students can see Bridges for the required teacher recommendation form.

But students who are not advisory leaders are still welcome to provide feedback by setting up a meeting with Bridges or Covino.

"We're always open to new ideas," Bridges said.

One of the changes that has been put in place this year is switching current events from Monday to Tuesday.

Government teacher, Mary Ellen Daneels, is also creating trivia games to go with the news each week. A new focus for Wednesdays is activity awareness.

## Spiking down cancer

By Yasmyn McGee

Perspectives Editor

it has just been real dear to me."

The girls volleyball team will bump, set, and spike for breast cancer Oct. 8 for Volley For The Cure.

They will face off against Glenbard North while raising money for breast cancer through admittance fees, a 50/50 raffle, t-shirt sales, and other promotional items for sale. A ceremony will also be held in-between games for breast cancer survivors.

"My aunt had breast cancer, but she survived," said sophomore Meghan Carnot. "During her time of recovery it was really hard on our family but it made us closer."

For varsity volleyball coach Kristi Hasty this cause hits home.

"I've had numerous friends who've been diagnosed with breast cancer," said Hasty. "I have lost a friend to breast cancer and one of my neighbors is a survivor. My very good friend is a specialist who exclusively handles breast cancer patients. So I think with friends in mind

This game not only has a deeper meaning for Hasty but the teammates too.

"My sister's godmother has breast cancer," freshman Carla Dannug said. "It's really been hard because she's such a wonderful lady and she has been like a second mom to me."

But it doesn't have to be a relative to affect senior Quin Gable.

"My neighbor about two years ago was diagnosed with breast cancer," said Gable. "She was in remission last year and she is now a survivor of breast cancer. Unfortunately, about a month ago, she was diagnosed with bone cancer."

Hasty encourages everyone to buy a \$10 pink t-shirt, donate money or simply come and show support. Varsity will play at 6 p.m. and junior varsity at 5 p.m.

"We're painting the whole gym pink," said sophomore Hayley Gillespie of the team's goal for the special game.

Our View

## Homecoming voting is vetoed

After dealing with multiple issues over the past few years regarding voting for and nominating the homecoming king and queen, the Pep Club advisers have placed a new set of rules on the process.

One of the major changes that has been implemented is regarding the number of students other students can nominate for homecoming court. Instead of every student being able to nominate five girls and five boys, it has been narrowed down to three girls and three boys per advisory.

This change is completely unfair to students because it not only decreases the number of students they can nominate, but now entire advisories have to agree on just six people.

If everyone in the advisory wants to nominate someone different, it will be nearly impossible to pick only three girls and boys. Since the main reasons for the changes include self-nominations, students turning in more than one ballot, and prank nominations, we just need to find a way to prevent those activities.

Instead of forcing everyone in an advisory to agree, let the students nominate five boys and five girls each, and have the advisory teacher collect and quickly check over the ballots.

If students are not mature enough to handle this voting system, they don't deserve the privilege of voting for a homecoming court.

Another change that the Pep Club advisers made is that only seniors can vote for king and queen instead of all four grades. To an extent, this makes sense because the majority of the freshmen probably do not know the seniors.

The juniors, on the other hand, likely know and are friends with many of the seniors from classes, sports or clubs. Instead of reducing the voting to just seniors, it would make more sense to allow only upperclassmen to vote.

A third reason that caused this change in procedure is the fact that the school was accused of racism in the voting process. However, there was no way to prove or disprove this accusation.

The fact is, Caucasians make up the majority of the school population, so it only makes sense that they would be the majority of the homecoming court.

When a few students act immaturely, it affects the rest of the school population. It is not fair to the students who did not do anything wrong to be so negatively impacted by the minority of troublemakers.

Students should be mature enough to follow the voting procedures set forth, but this time the rules got a little too strict. Voting for homecoming court should be fun, not a meticulous procedure.

## Brainwashing kids to stay in school

Between the stimulus package and the health-care showdown, President Barack Obama clearly has a lot piled on his plate.

But throw in charges of trying to indoctrinate America's youth and well, you got yourself a full course meal, Mr. President.

On Sept. 8, Obama gave a televised speech to America's elementary school children, explaining to them the importance of setting goals and staying in school.

Part of the lesson plan to go with Obama's speech, but was ultimately cancelled, was the question "What can you do to help President Obama?"

Of course, this question was misconstrued by the far-right which interpreted it as though the president is forcing our nation's youth into swearing their allegiance to him.

However, the answer to the question is not "Hail Obama." The answer simply is "to set goals" and "to stay in school." It was a simple message that enraged people.

There is nothing wrong with a president, whether the president is a liberal or a conservative, trying to convince America's youth to stay in school.

After all, every president of the past 30 years has done so.

Ronald Reagan spoke with high school kids in the White House in 1988, George H. W. Bush did the

same in 1991, and every president since has echoed "stay in school."

So why is it so controversial that Obama wants to do the same?

First, an address from a president on this wide of a scale to elementary school students has never been done before.

Secondly, Americans are losing their trust in the president fast.

In fact, a recent poll from Gallup showed the president's support at 50 percent.

However, it is beyond essential to have Obama instill this stay in school mentality into the next generation of high school students.

A recent government study found that around 7,000 students drop out daily.

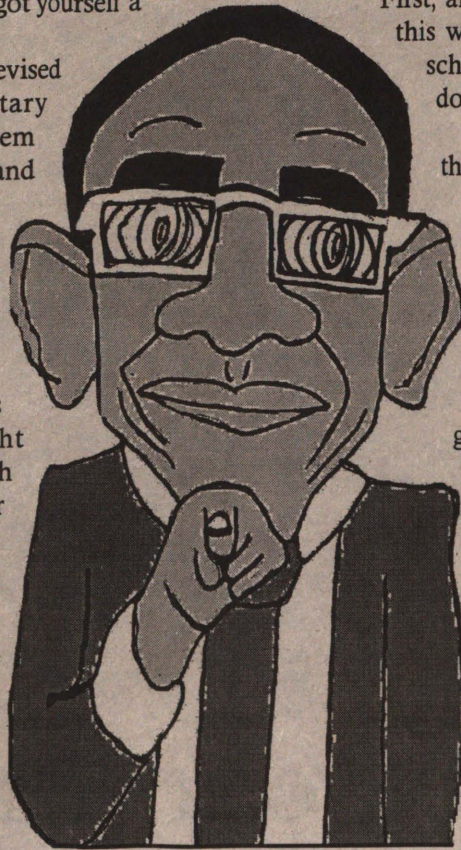
That equates to about 1.2 million high school dropouts by the end of the year.

People should be happy the president is trying to address this issue, especially the far-right.

After all, high school dropouts typically have the lowest paying jobs, and are more likely to rely on government welfare.

Politicians need to find a way to curb the dropout rates, but they also should support all efforts made to do so, regardless of whether a Democrat or a Republican is leading the charge.

Education is not a partisan issue.



## Love shouldn't hurt for anyone

"Words cannot begin to express how sorry and saddened I am over what transpired."

This was the statement R&B singer Chris Brown released to his spokesperson after attacking his then girlfriend and pop star Rihanna.

On Aug. 25 Brown was sentenced to five years probation, six months of community service and attendance of a domestic violence program for a year after pleading guilty to assault. And while his lawyer and, surprisingly, many students argue that his sentence was too harsh, students' reasoning for their opinion seems to be the same: What he did wasn't that bad.

When teens, especially girls, say that a guy who attacked his girlfriend leaving contusions on both sides of her face, a split lip, a bloody nose and bite marks on her fingers and arms is not that big a deal there is something wrong. It is not a simple "lovers' quarrel." It's physical abuse.

According to www.chooserespect.org one in four teens reports verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse each year. One in three teens report knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped, choked or otherwise physically hurt by his or her partner. This could be your cousin, the kid sitting next to you in your history class, your neighbor or even your best friend.

Relationship abuse has become so much of the norm that victims consider it a part of the dating experience. Nearly 80 percent of girls who have been physically abused in their dating relationships continue to date their abuser, www.chooserespect.org reported.

Bottom line: Abuse of any kind is never okay. No matter if you're a successful singer or a high school student, abuse is not acceptable. And in order to stop it people need to stop minimizing the issue and address it for what it is: a real problem.

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

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

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## Health care reform is a necessity...

### Yasmyn McGee

Since President Barack Obama has been in office, there has been much controversy.

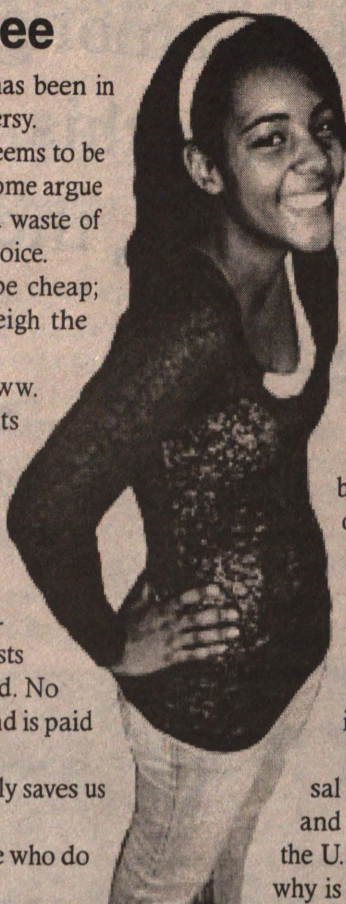
But the most controversial topic seems to be his plan for health care. And while some argue that the new plan is irrational and a waste of money, it's really the most logical choice.

It is true that the plan will not be cheap; however, the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.

For example, according to [www.barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com) his plan prevents insurance companies from dropping coverage when people are sick and need it the most. It also caps out-of-pocket expenses so people don't go broke when they get sick. Extra charges for preventive care like mammograms, flu shots and diabetes tests that improve health will be eliminated. No costs would be added to the deficit and is paid for upfront.

These are ways that the plan actually saves us money while benefiting us too.

Obama's plan will also benefit those who do not have health care.



According to [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org) there are an estimated 45 million who are currently uninsured.

Some argue that since a portion of those uninsured are in the U.S. illegally, we should not make insurance available to them. But considering that we don't mind those same people working for us and fueling money into our economy, I don't see why this would be such a huge problem.

Not only will the plan provide new tax credits to help buy insurance but it also offers a public insurance option to provide those who are insured and are looking for affordable coverage with a real choice according to [www.barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com). With Obama's health-care plan it stresses the base of what America is built on: choices.

Currently 36 countries have universal health-care coverage including Iraq and Afghanistan, which is paid for by the U.S. according to [CNSNews.com](http://CNSNews.com). So why is it that we don't have it?

Another misconception about Obama's health-care plan is that the elderly will be left in the dust and health services left in disarray.

But his plan will protect Medicare for senior citizens. It reins in the costs of health care by implementing a number of delivery system reforms and aligns incentives for hospitals, physicians and others to improve quality.

An independent commission of doctors and medical experts will be created to identify waste, fraud and abuse in the health-care system. Obama's main focus is basically putting patients first, not on practicing defensive medicine according to [www.barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com).

"[Health care] should be a right for every American," said Obama. "In a country as wealthy as ours, for us to have people who are going bankrupt because they can't pay their bills. For my mother to die of cancer at the age of 53 and spend the last months of her life in the hospital room arguing with insurance companies because they're saying that this may be a pre-existing condition and they don't have to pay her treatment, there's something fundamentally wrong about that."

Health care is an important issue and there is no simple answer.

But doing nothing is not the answer.

## ...but not at the expense of taxpayers

### Alexis Hosticka

President Barack Obama has proposed many changes since his inauguration, but the one that has received the most opposition is his new plan for U.S. health care. The reasons why Obama's health-care plan is *not* the right choice for America are many, but I think a few stand out above the others.

For starters, our government doesn't have the money to fund this plan. According to [www.heritagefoundation.org](http://www.heritagefoundation.org), the proposed plan would increase our current deficit by \$239 billion within 10 years. In order to pay for this, there would be many additional taxes. According to [www.msnbc.com](http://www.msnbc.com) there would be "\$349 billion in new taxes and fees, including a tax on high-end insurance plans and fees charged to insurance companies and medical device manufacturers."

Almost all of this spending would be completely unnecessary, as millions of Americans already have a health insurance plan they like.

Although Obama has said repeatedly that people can keep their current, employer-sponsored insurance plans if they like, other government agencies and private research firms have found otherwise.

For example, there are proposed economic incentives for those who choose the new health care over their current plans. Also, those who do keep their current plans, employer plans and individual alike, will eventually have to change to new costly federal benefit standards.

Nonetheless, the plan would cause an estimated 88.1 million people to lose their current plans.

These required upgrades will undoubtedly cost more, forcing many to switch to the government-sponsored care. Lawmakers are even considering a penalty or tax for those who don't switch to the new plan, according to [www.heritagefoundation.org](http://www.heritagefoundation.org), a conservative online news source.

Lastly, I don't want a plan that would, as Sarah Palin said, let "level of productivity in society [determine] whether [someone is] worthy of health care."

One of Obama's top health-care advisers, Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, wants doctors to look whether "the money could be better spent on somebody else" before they give treatment. He says that, "medical care should be reserved for the non-disabled...not guaranteeing health services to patients with dementia," according to an article at [www.nypost.com](http://www.nypost.com).

With all the advances in medicinal technology, there is no reason that the disabled or elderly should be left to die. A doctor's first concern should be the health of his patients, not the money it will take for surgeries, medicines, or whatever else they may need.

I don't think that we really need a new, nationwide plan in the first place. According to an article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*,



the advertised "45 million Americans without health care" is a debatable number. About a quarter of people counted as uninsured are eligible for Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program, but have chosen not to enroll.

Another fifth, about 10 million, of those labeled "uninsured Americans" are actually not American citizens, but illegal immigrants or legal immigrants but not citizens.

And in a study conducted by Mark Pauly of University of Pennsylvania and Kate Bundorf of Stanford, they concluded that, "nearly three-quarters of the uninsured could afford coverage but chose not to purchase it."

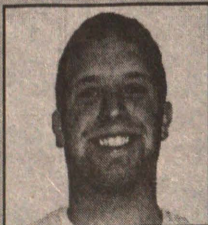
In addition, only about 30 percent of the uninsured remain uninsured for longer than a year, and less than 2.5 percent for three years or longer. This is because health care is tied to employment, and those who are temporarily out of work are often also temporarily out of health care.

Instead of making health care such a suddenly urgent issue, Obama needs to relax, look deeper into the issue, and reflect on the unreasonable proposals that he has made.

## Students Speak

Compiled by Sarah Berger

What do you think of the new homecoming rules?



Senior

**Matt Matson**

"It'll narrow it down a lot more."



Junior

**Chrissy Jonas**

"I think we should have the old rules, it would be more efficient."



Sophomore

**Marissa Caputo**

"I think it's dumb because people don't vote for their own opinion, it's majority rule [in advisory]."



Freshman

**Kayley Johnson**

"I don't like it, there are not enough opportunities for people to be king and queen."

Hazing is a common problem among high school athletes, but when this disturbing trend crosses the line, the results can turn dangerous.

## Team bondage

*Junior Maggie Tikka looks back on the night that started as a harmless sleepover*

By Sarah Berger  
Center Spread Editor

Blindfolded and freezing, the underclassmen on the 2008 girls track team had more to worry about than their personal best times at the traditional team-bonding sleepover that year.

When junior Maggie Tikka was a freshman, she was excited to go to the first girls track team-bonding sleepover. At first, the sleepover seemed harmless.

"They had all of the girls sign their names on a sheet which the senior girls told us was to keep track of which girls came to the sleepover. Then, they told us to change into our swimsuits since the girl's house we slept over at had a hot tub," said Tikka.

Quickly, things started to take a turn for the worse.

"The seniors told all of the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors that, to get to the hot tub, we had to go outside and then back inside through another door. The seniors told us that they would meet up with us later. At that point, I started to get suspicious," said Tikka.

The girls proceeded to walk outside in their swimsuits in the freezing cold, only to find no other door that was supposed to lead to the hot tub.

"One of the junior girls ran back inside and locked the door as the senior girls yelled out the window 'Welcome to Track Initiation 2008.' It was February and none of us had shoes on so the snow was burning our feet," said Tikka.

The girls were let inside after answering difficult riddles, and once inside the

seniors blindfolded the girls and roughly led them to the basement.

"The seniors shoved foods like marshmallows and lemon juice into our mouths. Some girls started crying because they claimed they were allergic to some of the foods we were being forced to eat," said Tikka.

The bad behavior stopped when two seniors said that the initiation had gone far enough. Once the coach and athletic director found



The 2008 girls track team had a rocky start to the season after their captains were suspended for a few meets for the hazing at the team bonding sleepover. The entire team was lectured on the dangers of hazing.

out about the events that happened at the sleepover through a mom, the seniors were harshly reprimanded and the captains of the team were suspended for a few meets. Neither the coach or the athletic director are here any longer and were not available for interviews.

"Honestly, I thought that it was pretty funny. I do think that they should have checked to make sure no one had allergies, and standing in the cold was a little too harsh. A few girls were really upset by it, but personally I thought that nothing truly dangerous was going on," said Tikka. "I don't think it was truly meant to hurt anybody."

## Hazy situation

By Jacob Wucka  
Editor in Chief

As with every story, there are two sides. In the case of the hazing that occurred in 2008, there were those that were hazed, and those that did the hazing.

However there was another side to the story. Sara Fouts ('08) was a track captain at the time of the hazing, and she found the idea of embarrassing her younger teammates appalling.

"Before the sleepover where the initiation occurred, I had no idea what the other captains were planning," said Fouts.

Fouts did not participate in the hazing because she had to attend a family function that night, but she never thought hazing would

occur since it was supposed to be a team-bonding sleepover. After the sleepover, she heard of all the events from the hazing.

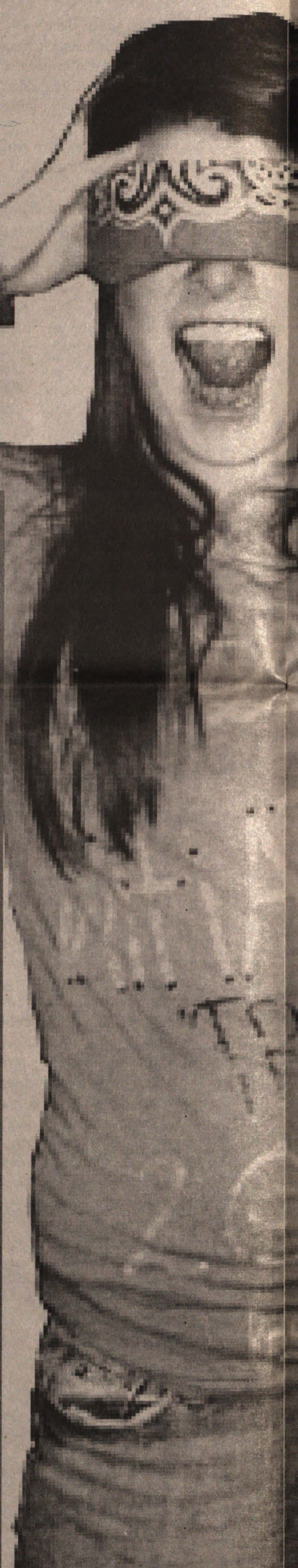
"From what I heard, one of the girls almost choked on food the hazers were force feeding them," said Fouts.

Even though there was no serious harm, when the coaches heard of the hazing, they quickly went on the offensive.

"The coaches had a serious talk with the captains involved and explained why what they did was so inappropriate," said Fouts.

With rumors of the incident circulating around the school, Fouts felt uncomfortable being a part of the team

"I was personally embarrassed for my fellow captains about this incident, and embarrassed to be associated with them. I was always stuck saying, 'it wasn't me, I wasn't there.'" said Fouts. "I know for a fact that the captains regret what they did. I don't think that they knew what they were getting themselves into that night, or the seriousness that comes with hazing."





## Embarrassingly fun times for squad

### Poms initiates members in a safe and silly way

By Alexis Hosticka  
News Editor

The poms squad has developed a safe, fun way to introduce (or reintroduce) the juniors and underclassmen to the squad. Although it may be a bit embarrassing, the poms initiation is a healthy method of team bonding.

"We basically let parents know that their daughter made the team, then one of the seniors will wake them up around 5 a.m. and the senior picks whatever clothes they want them to wear," Devin Vassar, poms coach, said. "We then take them all out to breakfast. We try to just keep it fun and lighthearted."

The initiation tradition, which has been going on for more than 10 years, not only provides a way for the squad members

to bond and meet new members, but also for Vassar to become closer with the students she will be coaching for the next year.

"They don't have time to do their hair, or put on any makeup that morning, so of course some of them are embarrassed," Vassar said. "But I like it because I get to know the kids."

Senior Megan Ogorzalek has gone through the initiation many times.

"I was embarrassed at first, but I saw how ridiculous everyone else looked, and it was just fun," Ogorzalek said. "They didn't let us brush our teeth or wear makeup, but it was just one day."

But senior Kim Busch was eager for the initiation her freshman year, because it was then that she found out that she made the squad.

"The first year I was really excited because I found out that I made it, and I didn't think I was going to," Busch said. "It was just fun because you finally get to meet everyone else on the squad."

Of course the seniors also anticipate being able to dress up the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. Senior Amber Weinmann is looking forward to being the initiator instead of the initiated.

"I'm going to make them look so bad," Weinmann said. "But it's just a bonding thing, it's just funny."

So although the initiation may be a little scary for the new members, it's also a great way for everyone in the squad to really get to know each other.

"I don't think all of [the squad members] like it when it's happening, but they can look back on it as good memory," Vassar said.



Photo courtesy of Devin Vassar

Senior poms dress in crazy clothes, but it was all in good fun. The girls' parents were notified before the initiation.

**48%**

of high school students involved in a group or sport admit to being hazed

**1.5 MILLION**

high school students are hazed each year

**79%**

of NCAA athletes report being hazed in high school  
\*statistics according to www.insidehazing.com

## Zero tolerance: School's policy prevents harmful hazing in sports

By Kristina Manibo  
Reporter

In 2003, a brutal act of hazing occurred at Glenbrook North High School, in Northbrook. At the traditional Powder Puff football game, things quickly escalated from bad to worse, resulting in five injured girls including a girl who broke her ankle and one who had to receive 10 stitches. The senior girls brutally beat the juniors girls by slapping and kicking them, as well as forcing them to eat mud, throwing feces and fish guts at them, and pouring vinegar and tabasco sauce in their eyes. All of this was caught on video, and was even featured on "Oprah." Dean Whitney Rusin and athletics division head Kim Wallner believe that the reason why this hasn't happened at WeGo is because of the zero-tolerance policy.

**Q: How would you define hazing?**

**Rusin:** It depends on the situation and the severity. Hazing can be a wide variety of things.

**Wallner:** It's so broad, I think hazing can be defined in many different ways. I don't want to narrow it down.

**Q: What is the school policy on hazing?**

**Rusin:** We have a zero-tolerance policy, there is not necessarily a warning. Hazing happens often in sports, and we take swift, immediate action when it does.

**Wallner:** The coach that hears about the incident will begin to address it and then the dean will become involved. It will later become the school's decision. It's a zero-tolerance policy, and that applies to athletics and activities.

**Q: Does this zero tolerance policy apply to all schools in Illinois?**

**Rusin:** Each school has their own policy, however I feel that a lot of schools take hazing seriously along with having a zero-tolerance policy.

**Q: At what point do you draw the line between the team having fun and actual hazing?**

**Rusin:** It's a tough line to draw, it's tough to decide. Any time the student receives unwanted attention it can turn into harassment and become a serious issue.

**Q: What is your view on hazing, do you think the consequences should be less worse or strict?**

**Rusin:** The consequences we have are appropriate. Hazing can put a lot of people at risk and can have severe consequences for those who endure them.

## Summer of service

By Megan Hernbroth  
Features Editor

While spending the summer relaxed by a pool may be the norm for most students, junior Shelby Copple felt called to do more with her vacation.

Copple traveled to Guatemala with a Christian organization called Big World Ventures with the goal of evangelizing major towns.

"Our main goal was to evangelize in many areas through community service," said Copple.



Photo courtesy of Valerie Fisher

With three other girls, from left, junior Karena Lunquist, senior Rebekah Babis, and junior Valerie Fisher explore the Brazilian landscape.

## On a mission in Brazil

By Alexis Hosticka  
News Editor

From icy cold mountain peaks to sunny ocean beaches, juniors Karena Lundquist, Valerie Fisher and senior Rebekah Babis had the opportunity to experience it all during their summer in Brazil.

Babis traveled to Spiritosanto and Cariasica, Brazil, to help at churches in the area from July 1 to July 15. Fisher and Lundquist were immersed even deeper in the culture during their five-week stay in Vivaleha, Brazil, from June 16 to Aug. 3.

"[The trip] was basically so we could see what was happening down there and what kind of work was going on," Babis said.

The church Babis, Fisher, and Lundquist attend in the U.S. originally started in Brazil, where there are about 7,000 churches. The Brazilian churches then helped start about 50 churches in the U.S.

"I've been trying to go for the past two years, but things got in the way," Babis said. "It was definitely an experience to remember. The Lord's work is so powerful down there."

Although there was mission work going on, it was also a vacation experience.

"In the morning, we usually went to the beach and then we'd go back to the house to eat lunch, and just hang out in the afternoon," Lundquist said. "One weekend we went to this resort-type place and went zip-lining, which was a lot of fun."

But it also got a little chilly in the mountains.

"On a few weekends, we went up in the mountains and saw lots of animals: monkeys, ostriches, and a ton of other stuff," Lundquist said. "But at night it was really cold so we had to wear lots of extra clothes."

Fisher really enjoyed the trip, and it was difficult for her to pick a favorite memory.

"There was this one big church in the rainforest that we visited, and I had a really amazing spiritual experience there. It was also just cool to experience a different culture," said Fisher.

But there were downsides to the trip as well.

"The bathrooms were probably the worst part. You had to throw your toilet paper in the garbage, and a lot of times there wasn't soap or anything to dry your hands off with," Fisher said.

Although Lundquist knew that the trip was going to be different from the U.S., it was a bigger change than she expected.

"Their driving is really crazy. The cars go really fast, and there are motorcycles just weaving in and out between everyone else," Lundquist said. "I also didn't expect to see so much poverty. There were lots of slums and people on the streets."

But all three girls agreed that they would go back in a heartbeat.

## South of the border

Instead of attending church on just a weekly basis, four students decided to take their religions further than they ever thought



Junior Shelby Copple (center) spends one of her last days with children from a Guatemalan orphanage.

Photo courtesy of Shelby Copple

Copple started her two-week journey in Miami with 625 other teens from all over the world.

"Most of the kids were American, but they were from all over the country," said Copple.

"But there were a lot of Canadians also. One girl I sat next to on the plane was from Malaysia, and there were probably 11 or 12 from South East Asia."

While Copple was in Miami, her group of 39 other teens practiced dramas they would perform in Guatemala. Dramas consisted of elaborate costumes to help convey to Guatemalans the life of Christ and attempted to convert their beliefs.

"After the skits we would walk around and ask the people who were around us if they believed in Christ and if they wanted him to be their personal savior," said Copple.

With a group of 625 teens in addition to adult chaperones, living similar to native Guatemalans was out of the question. "We stayed in Antigua in a really nice hotel," said Copple. "There, there's only the nicest of the nice or horribly dirty places that are not safe at all." In addition to staying in Antigua, Copple and her group traveled all over the country and even to islands. "When we went to the islands, we would see either women in traditional garb with the skirts down to the floor with their kids on their backs," said Copple, "or they would be wearing Hollister and Abercrombie clothes. It was really weird."

During her stay, Copple visited orphanages and built homes throughout the country, hoping the citizens would see the changes as the

work of Christ. "On the last Friday we were in Guatemala we went to an orphanage," said Copple. "A lot of the kids were from battered and abusive homes, so we just played with them and did a lot of face painting. It was nice because it was like the one day those kids were able to be kids and just have fun."

While visiting larger cities, Copple couldn't help but notice the differences between the United

States and Guatemala. "The homes there ranged from okay to horrible," said Copple. "Everything was cramped and dirty, not like here at all. Their hospitals were dirty and all their food came from open markets, so

most of it was tainted." Because Guatemala's government is corrupt, Copple's mission trip was almost cancelled. "The authorities were thinking of closing the borders, so it might've been cancelled or we could've been stuck there, which would've been really bad."

Copple's group went to many markets and public areas, equipped with armored body guards. "Our guards were assigned to us by the mayor of the town we were in," said Copple, "and most of them had machine guns and flame throwers." Even with armored guards and poor conditions, Copple used this experience to prepare herself for her next adventure.

## New faces added to ranks

### 10 new teachers join the West Chicago elite

124 - 9 = 115 + 10 = 125  
 124 total teachers last year  
 9 teachers left last year  
 10 new teachers  
 125 current teachers

Compiled by Megan Tennis  
 Entertainment Editor

Jill Serling

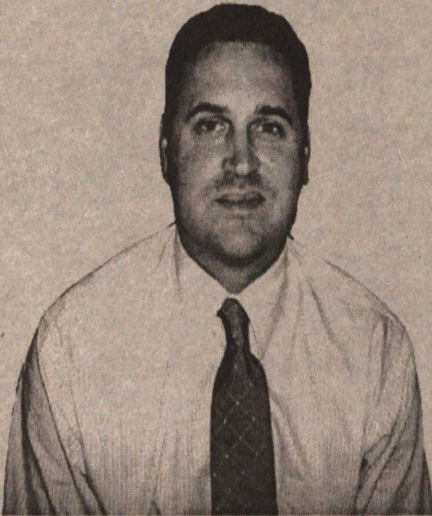


Math & Science

Serling has been teaching for two years.

**What advice would you give your students?**  
 "In and out of school, you should set high goals for yourself."

Kevin Baldus



Baldus has been teaching for 10 years.

**How has teaching helped you in your life?**  
 "It gives me an opportunity to be around a lot of great kids and it gives me direction for my life and what I want to do with it."

Asiya Umer



Umer has been substituting for four and a half years.

**Why do you like teaching high school students?**  
 "I learn a lot of subjects along with my students, stuff that I should've learned in high school. I enjoy that challenge."

Mirium Anderson



World Languages

Anderson has been teaching for six years.

**What's your teaching style?**  
 "I would like my style to be firm but caring and reasonable."

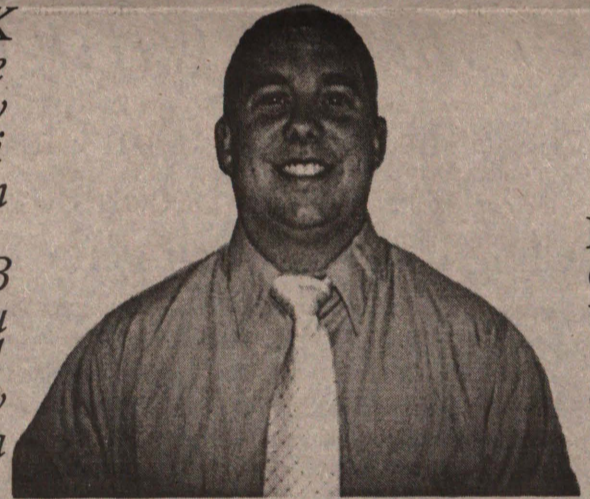
Christina Munguia



Munguia studied at Northern Illinois University.

**What's the best part about teaching?**  
 "Helping the kids have fun."

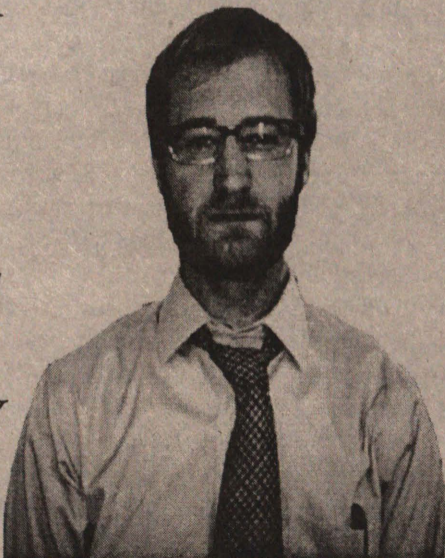
Kevin Bulva



Bulva has been teaching for three years.

**Do you have any good memories from your past teaching experiences?**  
 "The students and seeing them succeed and going to all their different activities."

Ronnie de Vries



Language Arts

de Vries has been teaching for three years.

**What's the most important thing you want to teach your students?**  
 "Freedom has to do with being able to imagine something different."

Gina Hurley

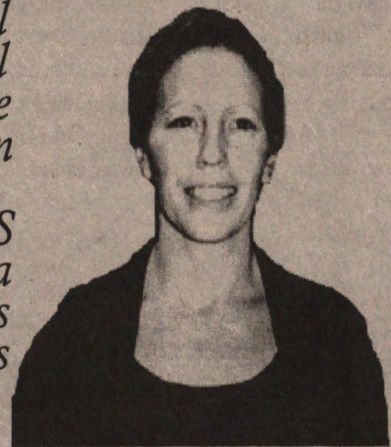


Hurley studied at Northern Illinois University.

**Why did you become a teacher?**  
 "To help students make real life connections with what they learn."

Physical Development

Ellen Sass



Sass has been teaching for three years.

**How is this school different from your previous school?**  
 "I am enjoying working with the students, as well as the teachers here."

\*To read about the new football coach and gym teacher Paul Reinke, see page 2.

## Casual is always in style

### A band of local teens continues to rock hard even after some of their members graduated

By Alexis Hosticka  
News Editor

After starting only two years ago, Business Casual has quickly become a well-known band in the halls, with their first CD coming out in about a month.

Over the summer, the band performed in multiple venues.

"We got to play at Railroad Days, we did a couple of house parties, and participated in the Battle of the Bands in Wheaton," senior Brendan McCormack, guitarist, said.

Since many of the band's members have graduated, McCormack said that they do not have any big plans for after the release of the CD.

"Before they left, we recorded all of the tracks," McCormack said. "We had never really focused on recording,



Members of Business Casual, from left, Jack McCormack ('09), Jozef Pavnica ('09), senior Brendan McCormack, and Gian Aniello ('09), have been making music for two years, and recently recorded an album.

Photo courtesy of Brendan McCormack

but since [the seniors] would be gone soon, we decided to record some songs."

The definite price for the CD has not been determined, but they will sell for \$5 to \$6.

Dave Hiltner ('09) played trumpet for the band over the summer and for the upcoming CD. He believes that McCormack is a great leader for the band.

"McCormack is a consummate professional and his songs set a new standard for detail and complexity in songwriting. He is the embodiment of the classic 'mysterious, brilliant, and eccentric genius,'" Hiltner said.

David Lustro, Hiltner's fellow trumpeter also enjoyed playing with Business Casual and agrees with Hiltner that McCormack is a fabulous musician.

"Brendan is a fantastic musician... He is one of the best musicians I have ever played with and I am honored to have played with him and the other members," Lustro said.

Students interested in learning more about the band and its upcoming CD can check out its page on Facebook.

## From the garage to headlining Lollapalooza

These three bands from Chicagoland went from small-time gigs to become some of the biggest selling bands of their genre and our generation

By Kristina Manibo  
Reporter

When one hears "Illinois," they think of dirty politics and corrupt governors.

It may seem like it, but Illinois does more than foster corruption.

Fall Out Boy, Chevelle and Rise Against are top bands that got their starts in Illinois.

### FALL OUT BOY

With seven popular albums since 2001 when they first formed in Wilmette, Fall Out Boy is a famous punk pop band in music.

Bassist Pete Wentz and guitarist

Joseph Trohman initially started the band. Drummer Andrew Hurley joined, and afterwards lead vocalist Patrick Stump.

Fall Out Boy released an album in May 2005 "From Under the Cork Tree." The children's book, "The Story of Ferdinand" by Munro Leaf inspired the album title "From Under the Cork Tree."

The album landed in the pop top 10, singles were "Dance, Dance" and "Sugar, We're Going Down."

Two years passed before Fall Out Boy released "Infinity On High" in 2007 with another single, "This Ain't a Scene, It's An Arms Race."

"Folie a Deux" is Fall Out Boy's recent album, released in December 2008 with the single "I Don't Care."

According to www.

About.com, Wentz said, "We're probably four of the most ordinary people you'll ever meet, just placed in an extraordinary position."

### CHEVELLE

Rock trio Chevelle formed just outside of Chicago. Like Fall Out Boy, the band slowly rose in popularity since the 1990s.

Brothers Peter, Sam and Joe Loeffler completed the group with Peter as lead singer, Sam on drums and Joe playing bass.

"This Type of Thinking (Could Do Us In)" was Chevelle's most successful album, being their highest-charting on many mainstream modern rock charts.

Dean Bernardini, replaced Joe on bass in 2005.

"The thing that will always drive us is that Pete and I love to write music together," said Sam on www.KNAC.com in 2005.

### RISE AGAINST

Punk rock band Rise Against came together in Chicago, and released five studio albums, two EPs and one DVD.

Lead singer Tim McIlrath,



guitarist Zach Blair, bassist Joe Principe and drummer Brandon Barnes make up Rise Against.

Signed to Geffen in 2004, a part of record label Universal Music Group, Rise Against recorded an album, "Siren Song of the Counter Culture."

The album successfully made its way to the Billboard 200 chart, and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) certified the album as gold.

To promote their album, Rise Against toured across the world to the UK, Europe, Japan and Australia.

In the UK Rise Against went on the "Give It a Name," "Reading Festival" and "Leeds Festival" tours.

They released their fourth album, "The Sufferer & the

Witness" in 2006.

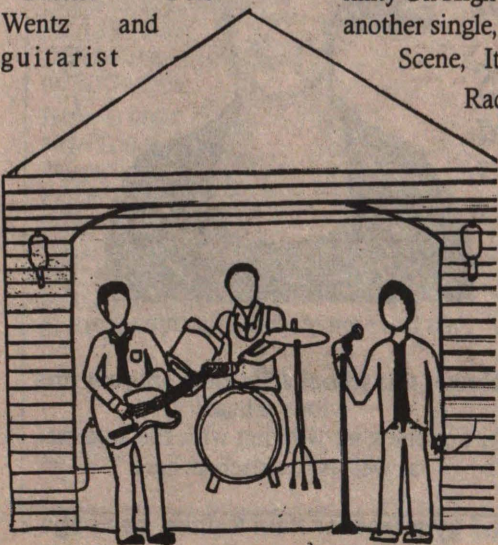
To support "The Sufferer & the Witness" Rise Against toured in June 2007.

Rise Against was again on the Billboard 200 chart with the release of their album which sold 48,397 copies during the first week. And again in 2008 RIAA certified the album gold.

Rise Against's fifth album appeared in Australia Oct. 4, Oct. 6 in Europe and Oct. 7 across the US.

"Appeal to Reason" sold 64,700 copies, more than their previous album and was number three on the Billboard 200, becoming their highest charting album in their career.

Fall Out Boy, Rise Against and Chevelle prove that Illinois can offer talent and not just corrupt politicians.



## Summer praise goes to low-budget films

By Jacob Wucka  
Editor in Chief

In a summer of critically panned blockbusters like "Transformers 2" and "GI Joe," there were also lower budget films that flew under the radar of the public but received a lot of critical praise. But how many students saw these movies? Out of 100 students surveyed, these are the results.

### The Hurt Locker (Rated R / Drama)

Since the 2003 invasion of Iraq, there have been countless movies made depicting the current conflict in the Middle East. However, none have illustrated the situation quite as well as this summer's independent war film, "The Hurt Locker." Starring Jeremy Renner (a rather unknown actor) as Sgt. William James, "The Hurt Locker" follows his day-to-day life in Baghdad as he disarms roadside bombs. The film is suspenseful, eye-opening, and has no political intentions. According to Rotten Tomatoes, 98 percent of critics gave "The Hurt Locker" positive reviews, leading film critic Richard Corliss to call it "a near-perfect film."



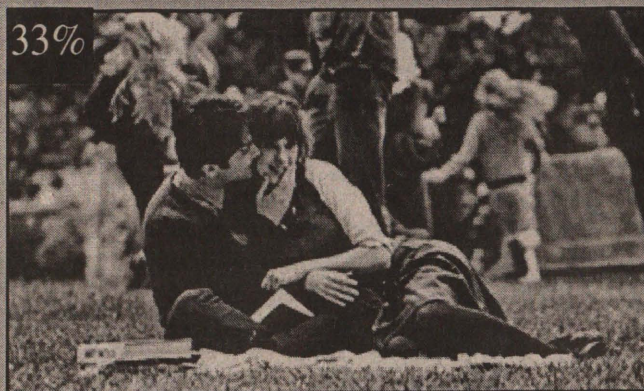
Set in Iraq, bomb defusing Sgt. William James (Jeremy Renner) runs for his life after attempting to defuse a suicide bomb in "The Hurt Locker."

16%

Photo courtesy of Summit Entertainment

### (500) Days of Summer (Rated PG-13 / Romantic Comedy)

When "(500) Days of Summer" starts, the narrator tells you that simply "this is not a love story." He says that as the camera shows the main characters Tom (Joseph Gordon Levitt) and Summer (Zooey Deschanel) holding hands, an engagement ring on Summer's finger. Through its inventive plot and witty but still funny dialogue, "(500) Days of Summer" shows the trials and tribulations of a young couple in "like" (remember, not a love story). Critics like Richard Roeper placed "(500) Days of Summer" at the top of their "best" lists. It also prompted film critic Michael Ordoña to say "(500) Days of Summer is something seldom seen: an original romantic comedy."



Tom (Joseph Gordon Levitt) and Summer (Zooey Deschanel) experience what it's like to be in "like" in the not-love-story romantic comedy "(500) Days of Summer."

33%

Photo courtesy of Fox Searchlight

### The Collector (Rated R / Horror)

It's hard to make an original horror film nowadays. Enter "The Collector," a torture film from the writers of "Saw." It has an original idea: burglar breaks into a house while the family is on vacation. The catch: someone worse has already broken in and is torturing the family in the house now rigged with many dangerous doohickeys. The burglar (television actor Josh Stewart) now faces a moral dilemma: get out, or stay and save the family. Guess what he chooses? "The Collector" was praised by horror movie fanatics and [www.BloodyDisgusting.com](http://www.BloodyDisgusting.com) which called it a "raw, gritty, and uncompromising horror film that puts the previous 'Saw' films to shame."



Burglar (Josh Stewart) faces a moral dilemma as he is forced to choose between getting out of a house rigged with dangerous traps by a raging psychopath, or staying and saving a family in the horror film "The Collector."

28%

Photo courtesy of Freestyle Releasing



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WEST CHICAGO

## Keeping momentum strong towards state

Team focused on successful season

By Alexis Hosticka  
News Editor

With many individual first place finishes, the girls swim team has already made a good start to the season.

"The girls keep plugging away, and we have a really good group of freshmen," said head coach Nick Parry. "The practices keep getting harder, and the girls are all up to it."

The team, which has a 14-6 record, beat Bartlett winning 9 out of 12 events on Saturday. At the meet dual meet on Thursday versus Wheaton Co-op, senior Caity Madsen placed first in the 200-yard individual medley and the 100 butterfly. Junior Kelly Dunn also placed first in the 100 breaststroke and the 50 freestyle. Senior Kelly Loftus placed first in the 100 freestyle, and the team took first in the 200 freestyle relay.

According to Parry, the top swimmers for the season are Dunn, senior captains Maria Sedjo, Loftus, and Madsen, and freshmen Yvette Kruk and Maya Skorupski. Both Kruk and Skorupski are swimming about as fast as Dunn did her freshman year.

The girls would like to meet and surpass what they did last year at state, and Parry would like to see the team place as high as possible in DVC, sec-

tionals, and state. Last year, the team came in fourth in the DVC, but Parry believes that they have the potential to win the conference.

"We'd really like to get three relays to state, and qualify as many girls as we can," Dunn said. "I'd also like to place top six in state."

Madsen has similar goals, and feels that the team has the potential to reach them.

"We have more of a variety of swimmers this year, last year we were denser in certain races," Madsen said. "But just like last year, we all motivate each other in practice so that we can do better."

Parry feels that the new group of freshmen will help the team out a lot.

"Two of our freshmen will factor highly in what we will be able to do," Parry said. "And, we're older and more experienced. I also think the girls definitely have more confidence."

But Dunn realizes it won't be easy to surpass last year's state finishes, but it is definitely a goal to work towards.

"It's going to take a lot of hard work and mental and physical dedication to improve from last year," Dunn said. "We're doing harder sets, so I can take advantage of that, have a positive attitude, and just keep my goals in mind."

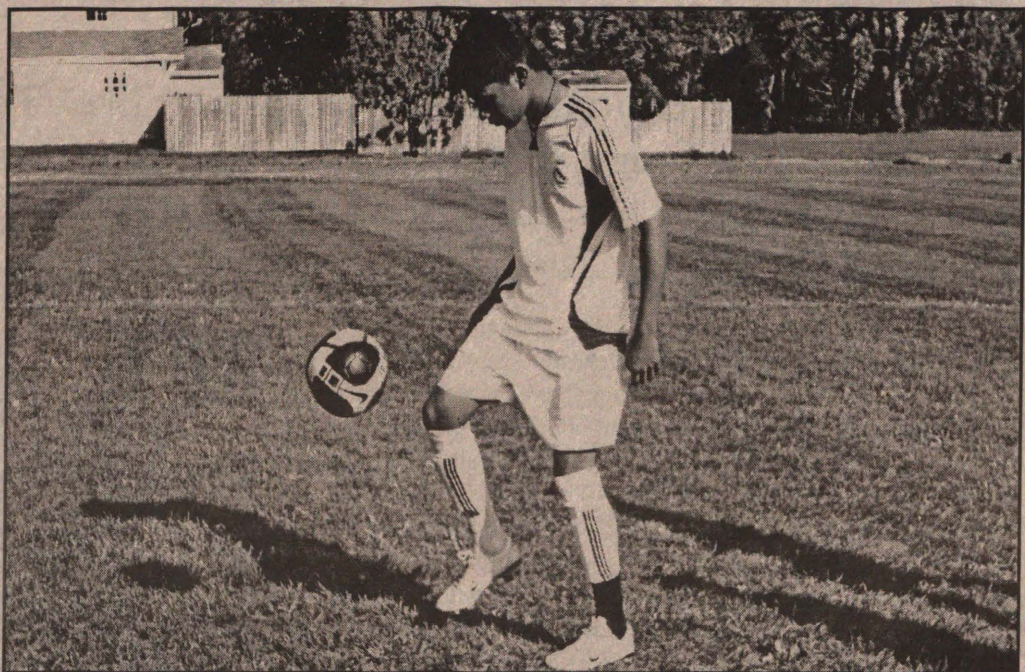


Photo by Sarah Berger

Although they are young, the soccer team is focusing on building skills. Senior captain Dorian Carrasco warms up before practice at Pioneer Park.

## Young but skilled players

By Sarah Berger  
Center Spread Editor

Many new faces will be popping up on the varsity boys soccer field eager to prove themselves as a tough team to beat.

"The season's going pretty well, we have a younger team this year consisting of mostly skillful sophomores and juniors," said senior Alex Gallegos.

Currently, they have a record of 2-6-1 as of press time, but the boys are eager to put the past behind them.

"We had a rough time at the beginning of the season, since we are such a young team we had a hard time

knowing each other on the field. As time goes on, we know each other better and have high hopes for DVC. I think we have learned a lot and risen above adversity," said senior captain Dorian Carrasco.

### 2-6-1

Besides working on getting to know each other on the field, another skill that the team has to develop is scoring.

"Our passing is definitely a strength we have as a team, and have good defense. We need to work on scoring and being more aggressive," said coach Steve Brugmann.

Although the team had a rocky start, the boys have shown plenty of potential to do well.

"The toughest team we've played was Lake Zurich. We lost to them 1-0, but it was a well-played game and they are one of the best teams around, so that shows a lot," said Brugmann.

With their goals set, the boys are charging forward.

"Our goals are to make DVC playoffs above 500, and to just do well the rest of the season," said junior Denis Mahmic.

The varsity boys soccer team plays at Wheaton Warrenville South on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

## Forwarding young teams' skills

By Kristina Manibo  
Reporter

Last season boys golf went advanced to sectionals for the first time in 25 years. This year they hope to repeat it.

"I'm excited for the meets and our conference tournament," said head coach Eric Lasky. "I'm looking forward to having success and getting someplace."

At second place in conference, the boys golf team plans to finish in the top half of conference and to advance to state competition. According to senior captain Blair Skarin, the team is young but capable of success.

"We don't have much seniority this year. Leader-wise, we've only had one senior and junior step up," said Skarin. "At a personal level, I want to go to state. As a team, we can go to sectionals again."

### GIRLS

With girls golf team struggling in last place at confer-



Photo courtesy of Eric Lasky

Hoping to repeat last year's sectionals success, senior captain Blair Skarin practices his drive.

ence last season, coach Michael Cain and junior captain Karlie Becker have their minds set on improving.

"I want the team to improve overall on their scores and be more consistent," said Becker. "So far we're doing okay. We've definitely improved this season."

Cain is staying positive to

motivate and help his team improve.

"I'm always trying new stuff to allow them to hit the balls more consistently and putt better but it all depends on them," said Cain.

According to Cain, several have progressed this season with better hits and lower scores.

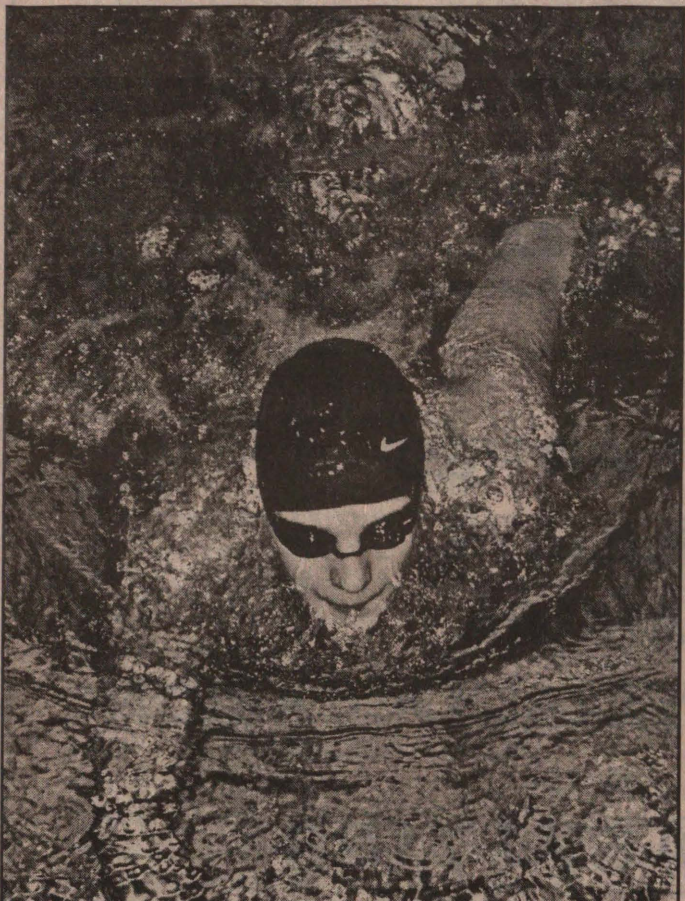


Photo by Alexis Hosticka

With state in her sights, junior Kelly Dunn is pressuring herself to swim her best at practices and meets.

# Newfound pride leads team to success

By Megan Hernbroth  
Features Editor

After a pride-instilling record last season, girls tennis is striving for further success.

"We are really hoping to do better in our DVC matches," said varsity coach Sione Moeaki, "and we're also trying to qualify some teams for state."

Against West Aurora on Thursday, the team battled through tough matches to win.

As their second DVC match-up, the team was rewarded with a hard-earned victory against Glenbard North on Wednesday. Saturday, the team competed in a quad against Glenbard North and two other teams, coming in second overall.

Against Plainfield North on Sept. 19, the team won overall with many personal victories. Instead of the traditional trophy, however, the team was rewarded a stuffed alligator as a goofy prize.

"We did really well," said senior Alexis Brunelli. "I am really proud of us and we deserved to win."

## 2-6

With a record of 2-6, the team looks to improving their individual and doubles scores to win more matches.

"We're really not bad," said senior Alexis Brunelli, "but a lot of the DVC teams are better than us. Outside of the DVC we're really good."

Against Wheaton North on Sept. 15, the girls put up



Photo courtesy of Matt Ackerman

Before a match, senior Madeline Urban practices with her doubles partner senior Jamie Antczak (not pictured).

a close fight but were not able to take the win.

"I played really well against Wheaton North," said Brunelli. "The only problem is that I still lost."

Although the team has only had two conference games, wins outside of the DVC prove that the players have potential.

"We have an older team on varsity this year," said Moeaki. "They are mostly juniors and seniors who have been on the team for three or four years and have struggled a lot for the team. They are the most improved."

Sophomore Iliana Guzman joined the team to try something new.

"We work hard during practices but it all pays off in the end," said Guzman.

## Showing signs of improvement

By Megan Tennis  
Entertainment Editor

Members of girls cross country obtained new personal bests at Bartlett Invitational on Saturday.

Juniors Maggie Tikka and freshman Julia Caithamer received their personal bests, and senior Emily Hahn and sophomore Diana Serio earned ribbons.

"This year they want to do well and they asked me to work them harder," said head coach Bob Maxson.

According to Sayner, the top seven girls are stronger this year because the whole varsity team from last year is back.

Maxson said that their biggest competition is Naperville North and West Aurora because they're some of the best teams in the conference. He said the team's biggest challenge is staying focused.

This year's captains, se-

niors Hahn, Tanya Starkey, and Eichenberger, are working on staying focused.

"We set goals earlier so [the runners] know what to work for earlier [in the season]," said Hahn.

Hahn's strategy this year is to not stress about races. She said this helps her relax and that she has already shown improvement.

She said that the team has bigger goals and that they're focusing on the top three girls going to state. The team also hopes to go to sectionals.

### BOYS

Boys cross country is also working hard to reach their goals. On Saturday the team placed second out of 14 teams at the Bartlett Invitational.

Junior Gunnar Sterne led the pack coming in fourth place.

"We have a lot more dedication on the team," said senior and top-seven runner Evan Morgan.

Head coach Paul McLeland said that this is the best team the school had had in about 10 years.

Proving this the team had another victory race on Sept. 17 beating Naperville Central, with Sterne coming in first followed by senior Mike Russo.

"We have a lot more dedication on the team," said Morgan.

Senior and top seven runner, Brent Smith said that the team is training every day, and lifting every other day.

McLeland said the team's biggest challenge will be working towards going to sectionals and beating the team's biggest competitors: Wheaton Warrenville South and Naperville North.

"All the guys, whether it's varsity or freshmen, are working hard. [The boys] are working towards getting their best and that's all you can ask for," said McLeland.

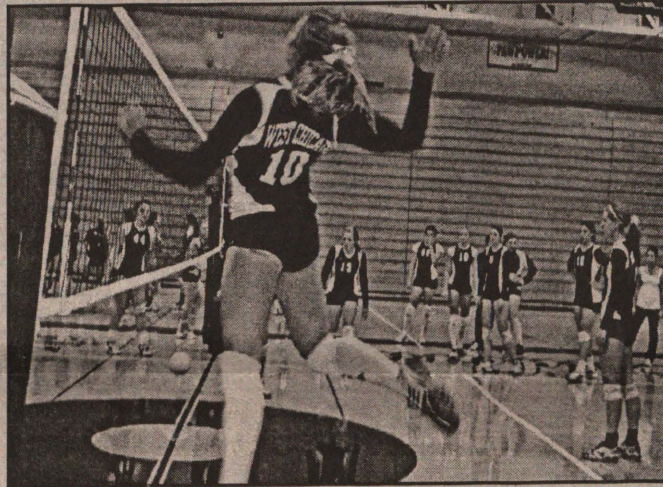


Photo by Yasmyn McGee

With a near-perfect season, girls volleyball is proving to be stiff competition. Sophomore Julia Conard practices before the game against Naperville Central.

## Positive vibes set team up for victory

By Yasmyn McGee  
Perspectives Editor

Spiking down the competition the girls varsity volleyball team dominated the court this season.

They are 13-4 in games and coach Kristi Hasty and the players said this is because of their boost in confidence and experience in playing club over the summer.

## 13-4

"We have a lot of potential," said co-captain Connie Tan. "Compared to last year we're a lot more confident."

Problems such as getting along with everyone are a thing of the past according to Hasty who said that everyone is very respectful.

"Everyone gets along," senior Quin Gable said. "We pretty much make up the entire varsity team from last year. We have yet to have one this year but we're planning [team sleepovers]."

Team leaders that Hasty sees this year are sophomore Julia Conard, who's quiet on the court but leads by example, and junior Kathy Fletcher, who has a competitive spirit and is always into the match.

Hasty said that the toughest games they've played so far were the games against Wheaton South and West Aurora.

"But everyone's going to be tough in a conference," said Hasty. "We have got to be on top of our game every night. Every match we have got to come prepared. We have a great shot at winning. As long as we're not overconfident but know that we can do it."

And Hasty is not the only one who thinks the team has improved.

"Our mentality is different," noted senior co-captain Taylor Kutilek. "People tell us we're good."

"[We'll take it] one match at a time," said Hasty.

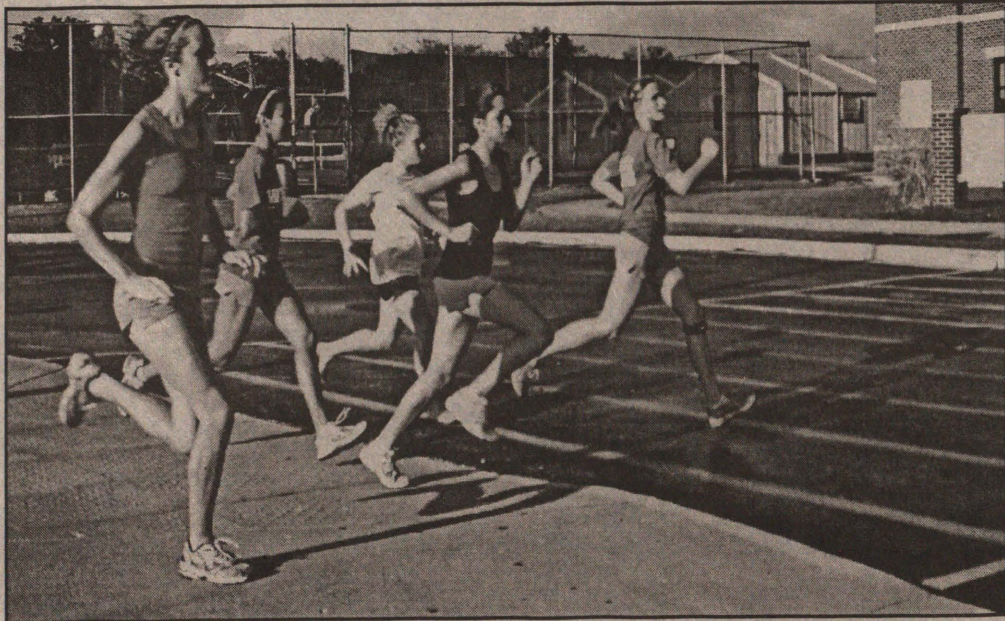
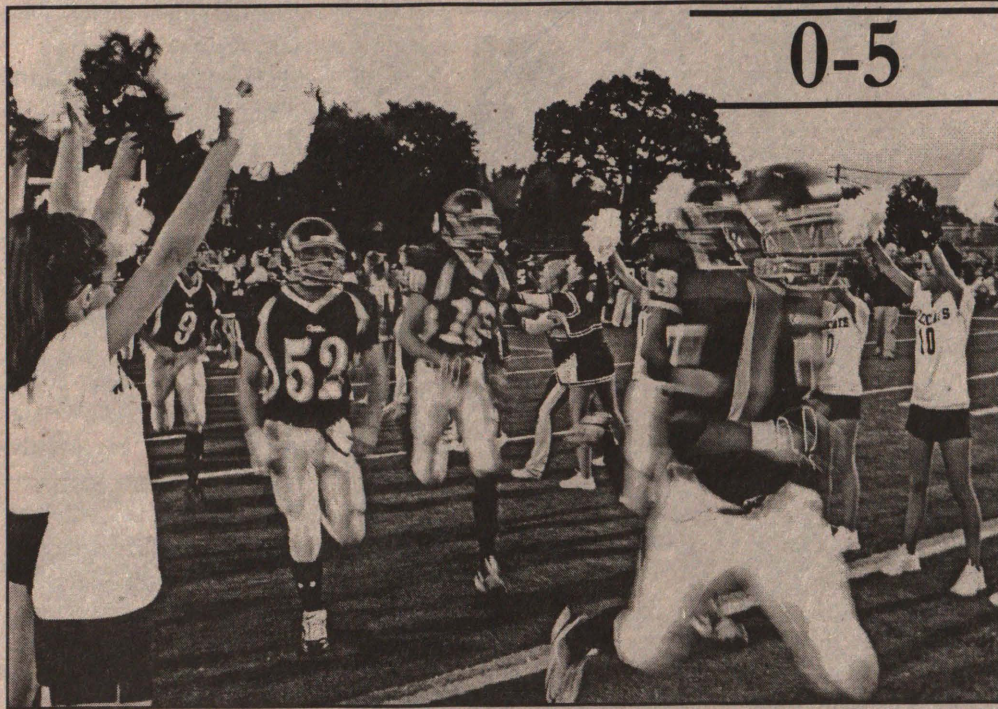


Photo courtesy of Kelsey Sayner

To get fit for cross country, (from left) senior Tanya Starkey, junior Lucy Fuentes, senior Emily Hahn, freshman Erika Macias, and sophomore Diana Serio train after school.

# BAND OF BROTHERS



0-5

Photo by Jacob Wucka

To the theme of "Pirates of the Caribbean," the football team runs through the tunnel of poms, cheerleaders, and the freshmen football players before every home game.

## New program built on team unity

By Jacob Wucka  
Editor in Chief

West Chicago's football program has a tumultuous history: four coaches in four years, low team morale, and even lower scores.

However with a new coach and a new direction, the football team is ready to work together for one common goal: a successful program.

"The kids practice hard every day, but we have a new offensive strategy, defensive strategy, everything for the kids is new," said new head coach Paul Reinke. "They haven't had any consistency, and they have had four coaches over four years. I'm trying to bring consistency to this program."

So far the team has a winless record with hard losses at Plainfield North, Glenbard North, and home against Wheaton North, Batavia, and a close loss to Glenbard East.

According to seniors Scott Wheeland and Dakota Enders, this year seniors are welcoming juniors and teaching them instead of treating them negatively like they were in previous years.

"The overall atmosphere has changed. We've come together and we're a lot closer as a team," said Wheeland. "We're making [the juniors] feel welcome. After last season, we've learned to treat them like they're on varsity."

Junior Evan Bernard, who played on varsity last year, believes team chemistry is better this year.

"Last year the juniors were despised, and the seniors placed themselves higher," said Bernard. "This year there's no joking around like that, we're all one, and we all hang out. This year we're all equal."

Senior Michael Bryant is building up the junior class for success.

"We're teaching a lot [to

the team.

Senior Kenny Levey hopes that with Reinke's new plans, the Wildcats will be able to compete better in the DVC for years to come.

"[Other schools] have a workout program that they have been improving with for many years and we're just starting ours," said Kenny Levey. "Our new workout is going to make us bigger, faster, and stronger."

Size constraints are also proving problematic for the team.

"The size of our team isn't as great as other schools," said senior Deven Lopez. "It's really hard to go against schools with 80 or 90 kids when we have far less."

Although there are clear limitations of the Wildcats, the boys still have a strong intensity and are ready to win.

"I turn into this little wolverine when I go on the field," said senior John Wehr. "I don't care who's out on the field as long as we hit them hard and make them hurt."

Bernard knows the pressure that comes with every game, and he is motivated by the fact that he has something to prove when he plays.

"We all need to focus on our jobs and get ready to roll," said Bernard. "We have to get our minds around all the hype that comes with every game, and get ready to go."

Enders is striving hard to prove the team is better than what the rivals think.

"What drives me is the fact that we have the chance to show up a Glenbard, to beat a Wheaton-Warrenville, and have an upset game," said Enders.

the juniors]," said Bryant. "We're trying to be a good starting point for the juniors to progress on."

Junior Sean Paler is one of those working on his skills.

"They've been really supportive, and they help us with techniques, and how we run routes with the receivers," said Paler.

However with the success of the team's bonding, there are also physical restraints that are causing problems for

*I turn into this little wolverine when I go on the field. I don't care who's out on the field as long as we hit them hard and make them hurt.'*

-- Senior John Wehr

According to Reinke, the team is very competitive and able to win.

"Our foremost strength is that the kids want to be good, and desire to be successful," said Reinke. "I think we bring a consistent work ethic, we have an organized and detailed approach, and we have enthusiasm."

Another strength of the team is the different leadership approach the seniors have taken this year.

## What's in a name?

*Being in the squad is more than just wearing a t-shirt*

It's amazing how entitled a \$15 t-shirt with a funny nickname and number on the back can make a person feel. Squad shirts: Admit it, if you didn't buy one this year, you most likely own one from a previous year.

Still, that piece of fabric represents more than just an average t-shirt you wear.

The squad represents a large portion of the student body that comes out every Friday, sporting blue and white body paint, maybe an outrageous outfit, and one or two members may be carrying a didgeridoo (although I have yet to see one this year).

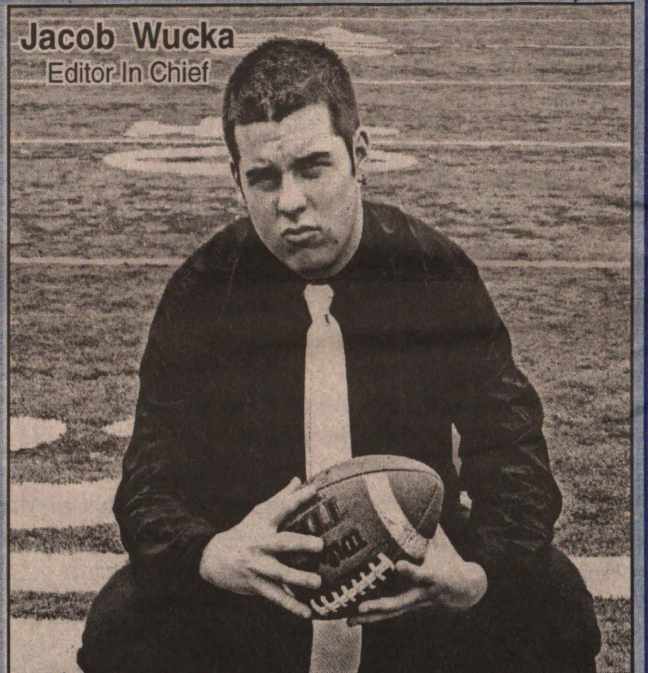
Of course the squad chants and shows their support for the guys on the field; shouting chants like my personal favorite of this year: "John who? John Wehr!"

And during the games, everyone seems to be having a good time, and everyone seems united in unwavering support of the Wildcats.

But let's take into account every other day of the week. What's the attitude around school? If you think it's all positive about the football team, you're definitely wrong.

Now the squad can be defined as the cheering section of the bleachers for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Sorry freshmen, you're not technically allowed (even though you take up half the bleachers at home games).

Jacob Wucka  
Editor in Chief



But once everyone starts talking bad about the team, whether during a game or after, you don't deserve to call yourself a squad member anymore.

It doesn't matter if the team is losing or not having the best game, you have to stay there and support. It's the team's job to play and it's our job to cheer them on.

Also, the squad needs to set an example to our rival teams. They come to the games too, decked out in their school colors and maybe they have bongo drums (in variance to our didgeridoos).

Rival squads come to our home games for three reasons: to cheer on their team, to watch us lose (because it's what they expect), and to rally against our squad by being more dedicated than us.

We need to show them that even if our team loses to their team, we're still here supporting our guys as loud as we can, and with the same, if not more, intensity than what our rivals have.

This is especially true at home games, but also at away games. Does anyone remember the Glenbard North game on Friday? At the start, the bleachers were filled. By the third quarter, there were four upperclassmen left.

Our boys are on the field until the last play, and we should be in the stands until then too.

At the GBN game, there was more than just a weak squad. We were down harshly the entire game, and even before the game the guys were harassed by GBN's fans, who waited outside their locker room.

I don't know how these guys can stay motivated getting beaten weekly so far. That's why we have to be in the stands supporting the team. We have to keep these boys' spirits up. That's what it means to be a true member of the squad.