

Wildcat Chronicle

Community High School 326 Joliet St. West Chicago, IL 60185
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Report sheds light on district's future

ACT scores on the rise

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

Every spring, two long days of testing determine whether the school makes AYP and helps many juniors make some college decisions.

Although the school did not make AYP in the '08-'09 school year, scores are improving from previous years. The average composite ACT score increased by 0.4, resulting in an average score of 20.8. This score put the school at the same level as the state.

"We tried to do stuff in advisory to help students prepare, and hopefully those things paid off," said counseling division head Maura Bridges. "The increase in graduation requirements might have helped as well."

The school still fell below the national average in all areas of the test except science reasoning, where the school average was 21.1 and the national average 20.9. Students who take more than or equivalent to the core classes averaged 1.9 points higher compared to those who take less than core classes.

In contrast to past years where a maximum of 43 percent of students have taken core classes or more, in '08-'09, 55 percent of students chose the tougher class load.

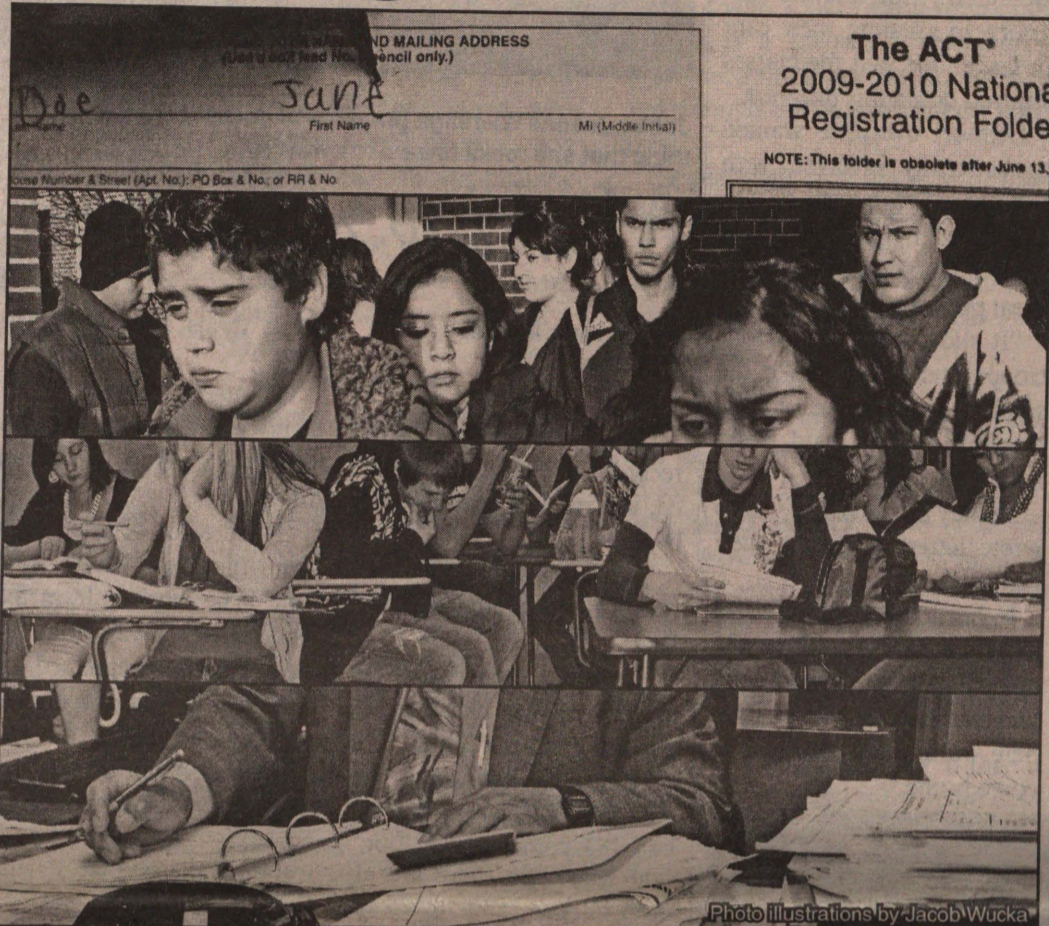


Photo illustrations by Jacob Wucka

Class size to increase

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Although West Chicago's student body has experienced no significant gains or losses, class size continues to rise.

Class sizes have risen over the past four school years, but fell sharply last year. This year, they've slowly started to rebound.

"In some cases we've cut classes, or combined classes, or we've offered a Spanish 4 and 5 together, but there have been no significant changes," said Assistant Principal of Student Services Gail Aronoff.

Class size is an issue that administration has been working to fix. Currently class size averages around 25.8 students, up from 23.8 students last year.

"It depends on the room, the nature of the class, and the amount of written work that teachers have to correct. It's not an easy answer. It's not like once a class hits 28, that's it. There are a variety of factors," said Aronoff.

However, management information systems supervisor Beth Hunter, who put the report card together, believes class size may average around 28 sooner rather than later.

"We can expect class size to get bigger. This is more a cause of budget restraints than enrollment," said Hunter.

Shift in racial demographics

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

The majority of students at West Chicago are Hispanic, surpassing Caucasian, for the first time in the school's history.

According to the state fall housing report for 2009-2010, 46.6 percent of students are Hispanic, and 45.2 percent are Caucasian.

The report also shows that the Asian and African-Ameri-

can subgroups have grown as well over the past year. This year, African-Americans account for 2.3 percent of the population, up from 1.8 percent in 2008. Also, Asians amount for 3.4 of the population, a 1.3 percent rise.

Still, the Caucasian population has fallen sharply since the 1999-2000 school year where Caucasians made up 66.5 percent of the population. At the same time, Hispanics made up 30.1 percent

of the population.

However, according to management information systems supervisor Beth Hunter, who handles the school report card, the minority-majority switch at West Chicago does not signal any changes within the school.

"This is not the first time where the majority is not white," said Hunter. "If you added up all the subgroups, white was not a majority, even last year."

Budget concerns rise with faculty, administration

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

With \$6.6 million sitting in a bank account from the High Lake property, Spanish teacher Sue Junkroski questioned the Board of Education on why the money has remained untouched at the Oct. 16 board meeting.

Junkroski was the teacher's association president at the

time the High Lake property was sold and is now puzzled by the fact that there is almost \$7 million sitting in the bank while the school decides what programs to cut.

"All the conversations during that time were about making sure that money was used to help kids," Junkroski said.

New board members changed that and made the money restricted to only capi-

tal improvement. However, the current board has the power to change that decision.

"The High Lake money is not earning very much interest; it seems counterproductive to leave it there when the [students] need it now," Junkroski said.

Junkroski understands that some money is needed for capital improvement, but feels that \$6.6 million is more than

enough.

"The money was always intended to be used for kids," Junkroski said.

However, the board has different ideas for the money.

"I believe the dollars can be spent on school infrastructure improvement, similar to the original property purchase intent, which was to allow infrastructure upgrade of a possible school," said Board of Educa-

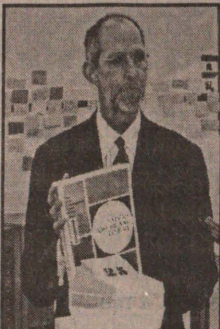
tion president John Jensen.

If the board was to change the rules set in place, it would require a super majority of five out of seven votes.

"As a member of the board at the time of the sale, I always stated that the sale of the property was to gain interest and allow home building that minimizes student population growth while increasing taxable property," Jensen said.

INSIDE Guantanamo

During the government simulation, students heard a speech from a law counsel for two Guantanamo Bay detainees. -- see NEWS, page 3.



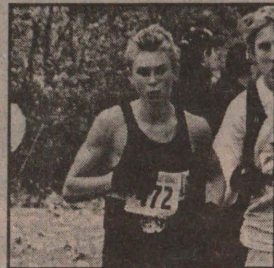
Body Image

Being a teenager is hard enough. Add in the mixed messages from the media, and life only gets more complicated. -- see CENTER SPREAD, pages 8-9.

Pie Tasting

Does the best pumpkin pie in the area come from Jewel-Osco, Costco, or the frozen foods aisle? If you're still unsure what to serve this Thanksgiving -- see ENTERTAINMENT, page 13.

Run, Gunnar, Run



With his posters hanging in commons, junior Gunnar Sterne made the trek to state. Read how Sterne and both cross country teams did -- see SPORTS, page 16.

Packed with a touch of love

By Kaitlyn Sladek
Contributing Writer

Seventy-five care packages created by advisories are being sent to soldiers serving overseas.

Boxes were filled with candy, beef jerkey, Twinkies, hygiene products, paper-back books, and numerous other small gifts for the soldiers and collected, Nov. 11, Veterans Day. Students were also encouraged to write letters to the soldiers.

Coordinator Mary Ellen Daneels hopes that they will be shipped in time for Christmas.

"What I love most about doing this is making students at Community High School aware of the sacrifice soldiers are making on their behalf, and supporting our troops overseas," said Daneels.

Students were just as excited about this project.

"I think that it's nice we're

doing something to help people fighting for our country," said freshman Valerie Schroeder, who helped put together a package.

Schroeder's advisory collaborated with another advisory in creating their care package. She said the classes enjoyed doing this program.

"Almost everyone wanted to be really involved with this," said Schroeder.

Schroeder isn't the only student who thinks this was a great program.

"It shows support for our troops and it can make the soldiers overseas feel a little closer to home," said freshman Katie Yackey.

Yackey's advisory also wrote letters to put in their care package.

In her letter, Yackey wrote to tell the soldiers, "We really appreciate all your hard work and sacrifice, and we're right here waiting for you guys to come home."

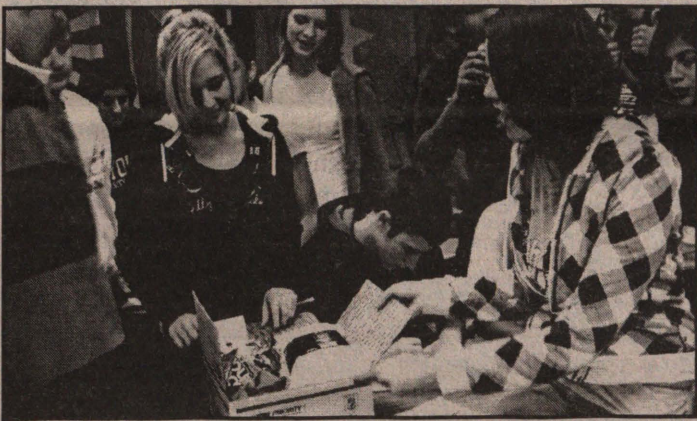


Photo by Kaitlyn Sladek

Sophomores Katherine Schofield and Anna Cain (from left) finish packing up a care pack for a soldier overseas.

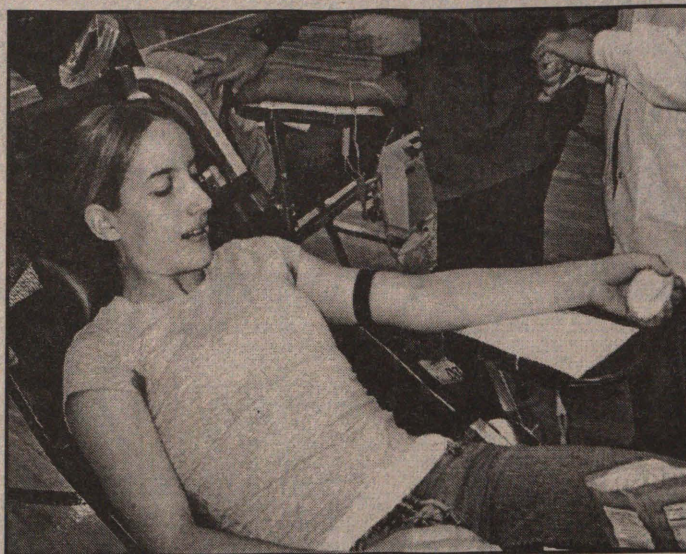


Photo by Yasmyn McGee

Junior Joanna Wierenga prepares to donate blood, something that she looks forward to every year.

Making an impact

By Yasmyn McGee
Perspectives Editor

Friday's blood drive broke records with 183 units donated, beating last year's record by two.

"We had a very good day," said Key Club adviser Ward Rau.

However, even with the success of the blood drive, one thing worried Rau.

"I'm a bit concerned, we had 260 kids sign up but we had 187 come in the door," said Rau. "So there are almost 80 kids who signed up but never got here."

Rau also hopes that students will follow the instructions better next year when donating.

"We had six or more kids who either passed out or had some type of reaction. That's too many," Rau said. "But not everyone follows the directions to eat breakfast and

drink fluids [before donating]."

Volunteers from Key Club impressed both Rau and workers from the blood drive.

"I had a lot of good help from the Key Club," said Rau. [The workers from the blood drive] always told me they were so impressed by how helpful and cooperative our Key Club helpers are and how pleasant all of our students are. It speaks well of our school."

Rau believes that having Kurt Becker and Shawn Gale, two players from the 1985 Chicago Bears Super Bowl team, attend the blood drive was a nice extra touch.

"It was an interesting, fun thing to have the Chicago Bears players here," said Rau. "I don't think it changed the numbers at all but it made it more interesting and fun for the kids who were here."

More than a coaching job

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

After coaching for 12 years as a sophomore and assistant varsity basketball coach at different schools, teacher Kevin Baldus is ready to take on the challenge of being head varsity basketball coach.

"I'm a very competitive coach and I like to challenge my players to achieve whatever they can," Baldus said. "But there needs to be flexibility to help them achieve."

Baldus' goal is just to win as many games as possible, and he is confident that he is going to coach the hardest working team in the conference.

"Nobody will out work us. Dedication is going to be a common goal, and [the team] needs to believe in each other to achieve those goals," Baldus said.

Basketball is more than just a game and a sport to Baldus. He feels that there are also lessons and morals that the team can take away from the

season.

"I want the seniors to walk away with a sense of accomplishment and take away life lessons that I want to instill in

them," Baldus said.

Baldus believes he was selected for the job because of his drive to get the basketball program on its feet.

"My motivation to get the program where it needs to be is what I think got me this position," Baldus said. "I have a genuine passion to get West Chicago where it needs to be, I have a sense of pride in the program."

Baldus is a graduate of North Central College where he played on the basketball team. Before college, he was a West Chicago student and graduated in '93 after starting on the varsity basketball team for three years.

"This is more than a head coaching job to me," Baldus said. "It's almost like I have unfinished business here after all of the work I put in as a student. It's just a really neat opportunity to come back."



Photo by Kristina Manibo

New varsity basketball coach Kevin Baldus works with the players at one of their first practices.

What's Happening?

TP for charity

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

Typically, toilet paper belongs in a bathroom or closet. Well, not anymore.

Students have the opportunity to fill dean Pete Martino's office with toilet paper, Principal Moses Cheng's office with diapers, school police officers' offices with baby wipes, and dean Whitney Rusin's office with laundry soap.

"We're basically going to try to make it impossible for them to work," said WeGo Beyond community sub-committee co-chairperson Shannon Sanchez.

Students will be able to donate before school and during lunch hours at the old Bookstore. The items collected will be donated to St. Mary's food pantry. They will also collect change at the end of cafeteria lines.

"We're asking kids to put change from their lunch in the jars," Sanchez said.

The goal is to collect a total of \$2,500, which would then be quadrupled. WeGo Through the Tube will feature the food pantry after Thanksgiving break.

Gobble gobble

By Carly Tubridy
Contributing Writer

Two turkeys will be set loose in the school on Friday.

Thanksgiving is around the corner so Student Council is holding their annual turkey costume contest, which started Nov. 11.

Students donated money to vote for the teacher who they wanted to see in a turkey suit. Students could donate as much or as little as they wanted.

The two teachers who generate the most money will wear the costume.

"I'm voting for Mr. Gimre. He'll look good in a turkey suit," said sophomore Alma Valerio.

Student Council officers choose the charity, which changes each year. The charity has not been decided. Through the contest, the school has generated a total of about \$4,000 for charities.

Music teacher Stephen Govertsen won in 2008.

"I will tell you that the turkey suit was very flattering to wear," said Govertsen.

Variety of talents perform for charity

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

This year, the annual variety show really lives up to its name by having a large variety of talents and groups performing on Thursday.

"There is a really good mix of acts this year; it's going to be really fun. The officers write the scripts to go along with the acts and they did a really good job," said FBLA adviser Maria Wirth.

With a theme of Under the Sea, proceeds of the show are going to March of Dimes,

which helps raise money for premature babies.

Acts include Flatline, River Dance, Angels, DaDa Dance, Mixed Dance Group, I'm Not a Girl, Public Policy, Power Kicks, If You're Wondering, Steppers, Piano Man, Black Panther, Luck A Bee, and TRIAD.

Along with the two bands performing at the end of each act there will also be short skits, singing, and break-dancing.

"Along with being in one of the bands, I'm playing the piano and singing "Piano

Man" while playing the harmonica. I'm really looking forward to performing with and for my friends," said junior Joe Wais.

Other performers are also pumped up for the show.

"I'm very nervous and excited at the same time. I want to make this performance for the best dancer ever, Michael Jackson," said junior Ryan Thomas, who's break-dancing to a mix of songs.

There will be two shows on Thursday; the 4 p.m. show costs \$2 and the 7 p.m. show costs \$3.

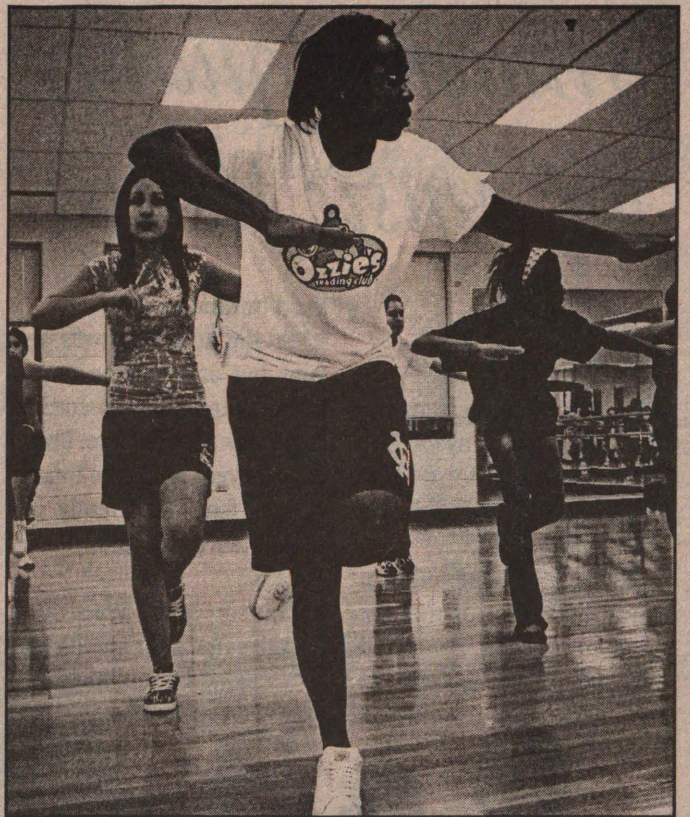


Photo by Kristina Manibo

From left, sophomore Elizabeth Correa and juniors Bria McWilliams and Hadama Thomson practice for Thursday's annual variety show.

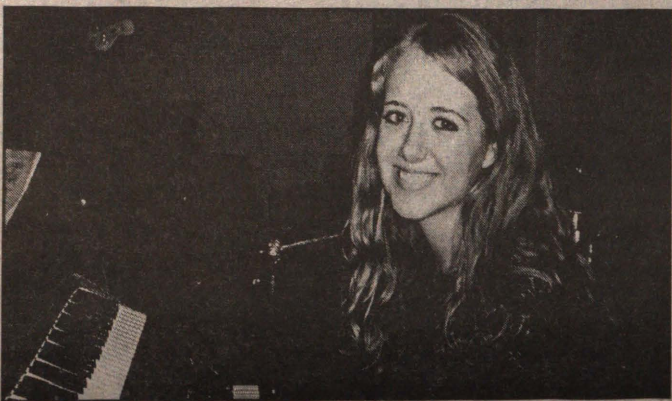


Photo by Steven Duda

Senior Rebekah Babis is November Student of the Month for her participation in many extracurricular activities including the fall musical, "Little Shop of Horrors."

Musical skills

By Steven Duda
Contributing Writer

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

A high GPA and her involvement in choir, marching band, and various theater productions catapulted senior Rebekah Babis to Student of the Month status.

What was your reaction when you were chosen as Student of the Month?

I was surprised because I had just remembered that we had Student of the Month. Like, 'Oh, yeah, we have that!'

Are you involved in any extracurricular activities?

Right now I'm involved in my eighth [theater] production, [Little Shop of Horrors], where I've done various things.

I've done chamber choir for three years, and this year I joined marching band.

Why did you decide to do all these activities?

I've always liked music and in eighth grade I got more into theater. The cool part is how everybody's parts fit together; it's nice to make something enjoyable for everyone.

What do you want to do with your future?

I'd like to be doing something with music for the rest of my life, but not necessarily as a career.

For my career, I'm thinking about something in a science and engineering field, but I'm not sure yet.

Why do you want to go into science and engineering?

It's a growing field and it's easy to get jobs. I'd like to be doing something that's helping society as a whole. That sort of stuff comes more easily to me, and I'd like to be doing something I wouldn't have to struggle with.

Who influences you the most?

I would say Mr. Fantozzi. I feel like I really have a place in school because of choir, and I feel like he inspires me to try harder and get more involved in school.

Expert helps seniors pass government bill

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

In recent months, the country has been debating the methods used by the government to interrogate inmates at Guantanamo Bay detention center.

When seniors Yesenis Marban and Mati Esteban introduced a bill to ban torture in their government class, they invited a law counsel to Guantanamo Bay, Joe Margulies, to give his input about their bill.

"We used to live by a commitment that we would not torture. This is an affront to

our morals, and a bastardization of the law," said Margulies.

Margulies, a law professor at Northwestern University, believes that after Sept. 11, the tides in this country changed for the worst.

"For the first time we actually endorsed attaching someone to an incline board and pouring water down through their throat, making them feel like they're going to drown," said Margulies.

In 2002, Margulies represented two Guantanamo Bay detainees; one of which was water boarded 83 times in one month.

Their case went to the Supreme Court, where it was ruled that detainees can challenge their arrest in federal court.

Margulies said the case allowed the United States to regain some respect.

"The lesson of history is that when the US acts like the moral force of the world, it builds moral capital, and others try to live up to it," said Margulies.

He cited the Vietnam War and World War II as examples as when the US failed to be the moral authority of the world.

"There is 'what happened' and 'what America remembers,' and from that a national memory develops. We have a national memory of the Japanese internment camps during World War II, and we look at those as a stain on our values," said Margulies.

Margulies chose to come to the simulation to speak because of the national memory being developed now about the United States' torture techniques.

"Right now we are creating the dominant memory of our aggressive tortures. This memory is being shaped in high schools all over the country. It's very important for me to join this conversation," said Margulies. "Whether we look back favorably or unfavorably is based on what we learn now."

After his speech, the committee voted to ban torture.

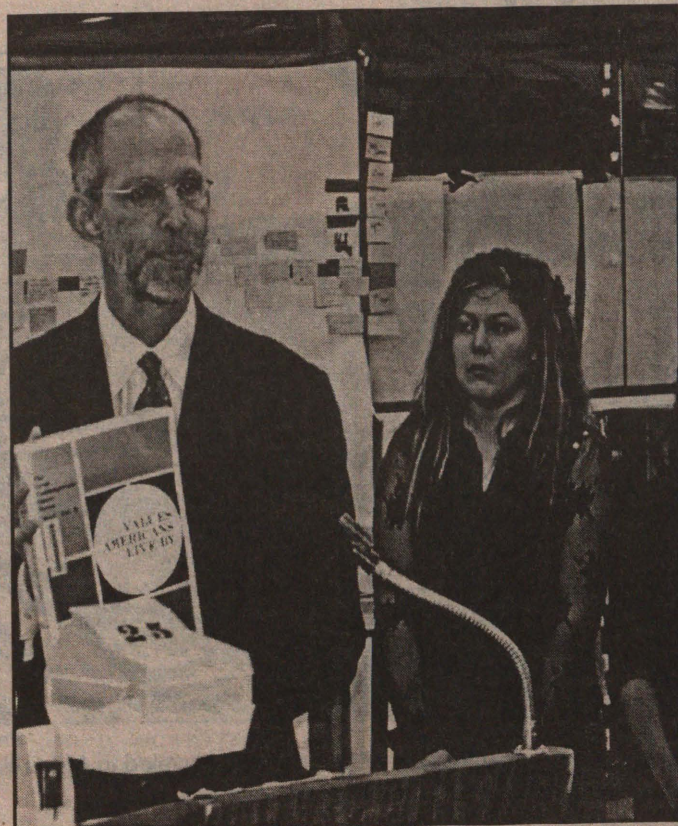


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Law counsel to Guantanamo Bay Joe Margulies spoke about his job and helped seniors to pass their government bill.

Students qualify for music festival

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

Four musically gifted students sang and played their way into the Illinois Music Education Association (IMEA).

IMEA is a large musical festival that features the best musicians in choir, band, and orchestra from schools all

third trombone.

"At the audition I was nervous but at the same time I felt prepared; it was cool to see all the people there. I tried out last year and didn't make it, so I feel like I really improved as a musician," said Pacelli.

This is both Wais' and Pacelli's first year qualifying.

"I'm glad I got in but at the



Photo by Sarah Berger

Pictured from left, Juniors Joe Wais and Danielle Pacelli and seniors Rebekah Babis and Anna Duran qualified for IMEA.

over the western suburbs.

"To get into IMEA you had to have auditioned. The audition included scales and an etude, and the competition can be pretty tough," said band director Steve Gouvertson.

Qualifying for IMEA are seniors Rebekah Babis and Anna Duran; and juniors Danielle Pacelli and Joe Wais. Babis and Pacelli got in for second alto, Duran for second soprano, and Wais for

same time I kind of expected it since I got in last year," said Babis.

Not only is making IMEA an honor, it's also a chance for students from all over the district to perform together.

"It's fun talking to the other trombone players from other schools and comparing our school's music programs with their's," said Wais.

The IMEA music festival is on Saturday at 3 p.m. at Hampshire High School.



Musical takes over school

By Megan Tennis
Entertainment Editor

Have you seen the green?

If you looked around the school you found Audrey II from the fall musical "Little Shop of Horrors" everywhere. She was in the classrooms and in the halls. Audrey made her stage debut on Nov. 12 and stayed there through Nov. 14.

"Little Shop of Horrors" was a laugh out loud, foot tapping show. Just ask anyone who saw it. Or ask a few of the stars of the show like, from left, junior Danielle Pacelli, senior Chelsea Ross, and junior Nadia Pelletier, pictured above. And, from left, sophomore Noah Strayve and juniors Jeff Pierpoint and Emma Roberts, pictured at right.



Photos by Megan Tennis

Building a future for Angola

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

The WeGo to Africa program hopes to raise \$10,000 for a new classroom in Angola this year.

"[We will reach these goals] through creative fundraising ideas and the generosity of students and staff," said social studies teacher Mary Ellen Daneels.

In the '08-'09 school year WeGo to Africa raised \$6,000 with a number of fundraisers which included a teacher sumo wrestling tournament, the turnabout dance, and computer match dating.

West Chicago VFW also donated to WeGo to Africa and raffles were held a Chicago Bears signed football.

A businessman matched the \$6,000, making the total



Photos courtesy of Mary Ellen Daneels

Social studies teacher Mary Ellen Daneels traveled to Africa this past summer, where a new classroom is being built for Angolan students.

\$12,000. The proceeds funded a classroom in a school in Angola, where 3,000 children

are unable to attend school.

"Last year there was a downturn in the economy

so funds were challenging, but we were still able to raise money for classes," said Da-

neels.

Daneels visited the school last year and found that the classroom WeGo to Africa built was productive.

"The children and their parents are grateful for the opportunity to get an education," Daneels said. "[An education] will empower them to get better jobs and participate in their communities."

This year, the classroom will transition from mud and brick to cement and steel, and it will be located in a different part of Angola.

WeGo to Africa week started Monday. Fundraisers will be the turnabout dance, change drives in advisory classes, and t-shirt sales, which started Monday during lunch periods. The new fundraiser will be a battle of the bands.



Photos courtesy of Patti Kozlowski

SkillsUSA members took home the Statesman Award after memorizing the creed, pledge, and setting future goals.

Skillful students

Thirteen SkillsUSA members, new president win the Statesman Award.

By Megan Tennis
Entertainment Editor

SkillsUSA members used their skills to take home the Statesman Award.

To win the award, students are required to memorize the creed, the pledge, to know about the organization and write down and explain their goals for the future.

Skills students have to recite all information to the state officers.

"It's a way for students to be knowledgeable about their club or organization," said SkillsUSA adviser Patti Kozlowski.

Junior Mayuri Parmar is SkillsUSA president due to an officer leaving the position.

"It's an honor [being president] but all of the state of-

ficers don't look at the positions. Everyone is a team and no one is higher than anyone else," said Parmar.

Parmar also took home the the honor of the Statesman Award.

State officer and secretary junior Mehek Damani was happy to receive the award.

Damani also received the award.

"It feels good. It makes me feel like I know a lot more about SkillsUSA than I did when I started out," said Damani.

Winners were Seniors Cynthia Blanco, Stephanie Pauling, Angela Gentile, Marley Perez, Emily Tulipano and Kevin Szul; juniors Maria Barajas, Damani, Parmar, and Jessica Munoz; and sophomores Noe Munoz, Lorena Orizaba, and Aubrie Sole.

No Shave November making a difference in the community

By Yasmyr McGee
Perspectives Editor

Hairiness will haunt the halls this month.

Students submitted \$2 to English teacher Dave Jennings or social studies teacher Mitchell McKenna in order to participate in No Shave November.

"It's a fundraiser for char-

ity that also has a competitive game worked into it," said Jennings.

No Shave November consists of students not shaving for the entire month of November to raise money for a local food bank and themselves if they choose.

"Half [the money] goes to a food bank to provide food for Thanksgiving for families

in the community and the other half goes into a pot that the winner will receive," said Jennings. "They can give it to charity if they want to be super charitable or they can just take the money and be selfish. They could buy a razor because they'll need one at the end of the month."

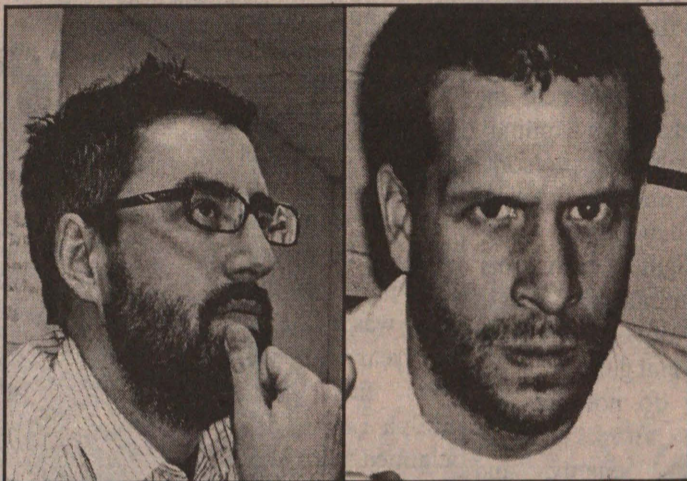
Teachers and students, as well as girls, are welcome to participate in the event.

"There are some girls who are playing," Jennings said. "Basically it's a 'don't shave your legs for the whole month thing' which weirds me out. I don't know how we're going to judge that."

Jennings said that the goal is to raise at least \$50 to donate to charity while doing something fun and different.

For social studies teacher Nick Caltagirone, giving back to the community isn't his only reward.

"I don't have to shave for a month," said Caltagirone.



Photos by Yasmyr McGee

English teacher Dave Jennings, left, and social studies teacher Mitchell McKenna both avoid the razor for a month in order to participate in the competition they created.

Essays reveal students' beliefs

By Helene Sankovitch
Contributing Writer

Juniors had the opportunity to write about their personal beliefs for a chance to win cash.

Teachers required students to write a "This I Believe" essay, on any topic they felt strongly about.

"This I Believe" is a series run by the National Public Radio (NPR) on topics that students personally believe in. Students have submitted essays for the last four years,

but this is the first year with a monetary reward, according to the language arts division head Chris Covino.

"Mr. Larson put it together, started the project, and sent it to NPR, but they stopped funding. We continued the project and the educational foundation funded the essays," said Covino.

The first place winner will receive \$100 and second and third place receive \$50 each.

Junior English teachers selected the best three from each of their classes. They

then sent 35 of these essays to a community panel.

Junior Chrissy Jonas' "This I Believe" essay won second place in her class.

Her essay, "Finding Hope," was based off a girl with special needs to whom she teaches gymnastics classes.

"I believe in hope because of this girl that opened up my mind. It's kind of inspirational," Jonas said.

Jonas said she picked a topic that really inspired her.

Raising issues of concern

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

In an attempt to connect with teenagers, Sen. Dick Durbin's staff held a roundtable discussion with local high school students, including two seniors.

"We were given an invite by Constitutional Rights Chicago to bring two students to meet Senator Dick Durbin's staff to discuss issues of concern for teens today," said social studies teacher Mary Ellen Daneels.

Seniors Steven Duda and Maria Galeana attended the event, each chosen for being leaders in their classes taught by Daneels.

"[I chose Steven because] he is very concerned with the

issue regarding the number of homeless people he's seen growing in West Chicago," said Daneels.

Duda was happy to go as a voice for the homeless people.

"I volunteer at a homeless shelter, and I've gotten to know some people that go there," said Duda. "They've all told me that they'd be happy if someone brought their problem to the forefront."

Daneels chose Galeana, a tutor for bilingual students, because she has demonstrated concern about many issues regarding Hispanic students in government.

Galeana expected the staff to address their issues at the table, but they had another agenda.

"We got a whole big talk on health care reform [from Durbin's staff], and opinions from the other schools," said Galeana.

However once the discussion was over, and food was served, Daneels was surprised to see Duda and Galeana stay behind to talk with the staff.

"Steven and Maria were by far the most articulate and involved of all the students at the round table," said Daneels. "The 20 other students rushed to get food unlike Steven and Maria who stayed behind to talk with Durbin's staff for 15 to 20 minutes."

Galeana agrees, believing that they left an impression with the staff.

"I believe the staff was sur-

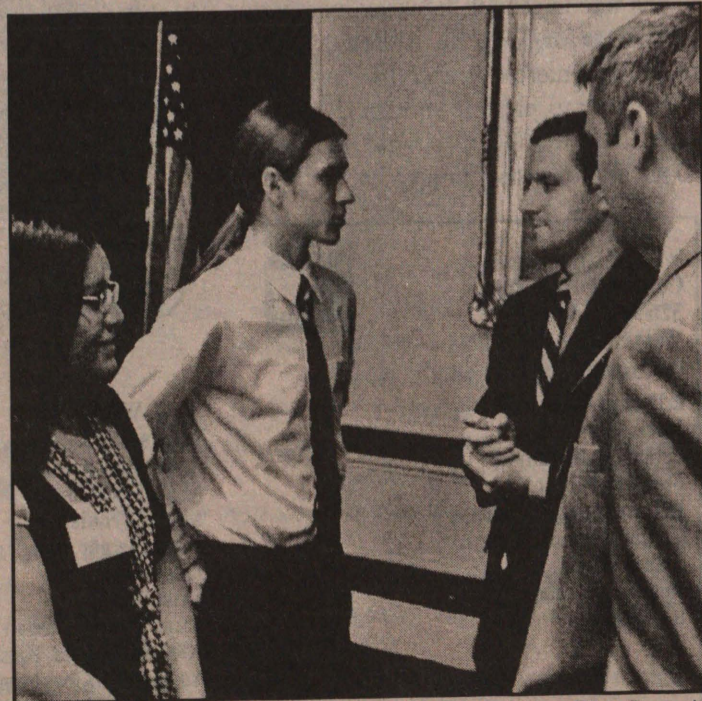


Photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Daneels

Seniors Maria Galeana and Steven Duda discuss current issues with Sen. Dick Durbin's staff members.

prised that Steven and I were so into it, unlike the other students that just agreed with

everything they said. Unlike them, we knew what we were talking about," said Galeana.

Our View

Gun safety applies to all

On Nov. 5, Nidal Malik Hasan killed 13 people and wounded 30 others at the Fort Hood base in Texas with a legally-purchased handgun.

Hasan opened fire at the base at around 1:30 p.m. after going about his morning routine as the base psychiatrist for soldiers returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hasan legally purchased an FN 5.7, which is known as the "cop-killer" for its firepower, according to KSLA News.

Although there was a shooting range near the base, why are there personal handguns on a military base? These men and women have access to some of the most advanced weaponry and practice with it. So why the need for personal handguns?

The Constitution states the right to bear arms, and these men and women are probably the most in favor of this right. But it becomes out of control and reckless for some to carry a personal gun.

Soldiers on a home base do not face the fear of a daily attack from a foreign enemy, and therefore are well-equipped with the guns available on the base.

A shooting such as the one at Fort Hood could have been avoided if personal gun ownership was not allowed to those who are on military bases. Another official may have noticed a military gun missing, and Hasan would have not gotten away with killing 13 people and wounding 30.

Some officials practice shooting at a shooting range near Fort Hood, and this is where the majority use their handguns.

These guns should be available to the soldiers at the range if they truly believe they need more practice with a weapon. They will not be fighting in combat with handguns and other personal guns, so why the need to practice with them?

Military officials are some of the most protected of citizens when it comes to living on a home base; they make the most use out of the right to bear arms.

Just like in school, however, one person can ruin a privilege for everyone. Although it may not be fair, it is in the interest of everyone involved.

In order to prevent another deadly shooting like Fort Hood, handguns should no longer be allowed to military personnel on bases.



Skinny doesn't equal beauty

Open a typical teen magazine and you will be bombarded with products promising the consumer brighter teeth, tanner skin, and shinier hair. Flip on the TV and unhealthy, skinny girls prance around in minimal clothing, showing off their unnatural bodies. The world has always been obsessed with appearance, but in 2009, the fashion industry has finally taken the infatuation with looks too far.

Last month, the fashion company Ralph Lauren released an advertisement that featured an unhealthy, and obviously digitally altered, model whose pelvis was smaller than her head. The model, Filippa Hamilton, was a healthy 23 year old who was fired from Ralph Lauren and claimed it was because the company said she was too large to fit into their clothes. Once the photo surfaced, Hamilton said, "I saw my face on this super-extremely skinny girl; which is not me, it's not healthy, it's not right."

Hamilton's case is just another example of the fashion world taking a healthy, beautiful person and

using technology to make them look "perfect," according to the media's standards.

In reality, though, the fashion industry digitally alters the majority of the people seen in advertisements. People determined to achieve this type of skin-deep "perfection" are only setting themselves up for a battle with eating disorders and depression, and advertisements such as Ralph Lauren's are to blame.

The fashion industry needs to start promoting a healthy lifestyle instead of portraying skinny as sexy. Preaching that size two is the new six, will result in America having hospitals overflowing with desperate young ladies starving themselves to fit the norm.

Instead, the fashion industry should focus on the real beautiful people of this world; the ones who have overcome life-threatening diseases or the ones who have helped change the world. Those are the real beautiful people; no digital alterations required.

Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the skinniest of them all?



You are....



Letter to the Editor

Praise and recognition for inspirational stories last month

This [October issue] has been one of the most inspirational newspapers I have ever read. You covered very difficult articles in this paper with integrity.

There were the controversial articles over the budget and Edu-Care. I appreciated the care you gave to the article about Mayuri [Parmr] and her journey in developing as a leader.

Even the ad for TCD focused on a former student who struggled here to find a place for their future. It was great to see the direction he has taken and to see the success.

I laughed out loud with the Timeless Treats article and the interview with Ms. Hafertepe. I never knew about the trick with the ice cube.

It was great to see the school spirit for the Squad and their views even though we didn't have a winning team. We definitely have a winning spirit.

What a great photo and article about our wonderful volleyball team. They have not only been instrumental to make us aware of their sport but have been leaders in cancer awareness issues.

The articles about the students and how they are dealing with their family members and cancer were especially poignant. Bev Burke, a very special teacher who started here in the 1970's, died recently due to cancer. She was an inspiration to many of us. Her positive attitude as well as those in your articles are heartwarming and give us pause. Make every day special and share it with those you love.

Thanks to all of you on the newspaper staff for a superb paper. This one had me laughing, thinking and even brought me to tears.

Kudos to you all,

Mrs. Kozlowski

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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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One small step for man, one giant debt for mankind

Alexis Hosticka



What would you be willing to spend \$1 million on? I would spend that money on something valuable and worthwhile – nothing that would be destroyed at a moment's notice.

How about \$79 million? What would you use that money for?

Well, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) decided that smashing a rock to pieces on the face of the moon would be a good use of that money.

According to an article on www.timesonline.co.uk, NASA created a new crater 60 feet wide and 13 feet deep on the face of the moon. It called for a rocket traveling 5,600 mph to create this impact.

So why, you ask, did they do this?

Well, according to www.nasa.gov, it was a "search for water ice." And since when is ice worth \$79 million? I'm not really sure.

With all the complaints about a bad economy, joblessness, and a general need for money, we should find something to spend millions on besides smashing rockets.

The study of outer space is interesting to a point. Meteors, planets, stars, and asteroids are all fascinat-

ing to learn about, and exploration of space can be worthwhile. However, there's a difference between exploration and worthless experimentation.

NASA claims that finding water on the moon would "help expedite lunar exploration" because "transporting water and other goods from Earth to the moon's surface is expensive."

Hypothetically, in order to find water on the moon's surface, NASA must smash \$79 million rockets into the moon. So, this method will definitely not be any more cost-effective than just transporting the goods from earth.

Even though NASA did find water, they would have to purify it every time they smashed another rocket, which would just add more spending on to the situation.

What about the cost of this experiment? There goes \$79 million: a few hundred homes, a few hundred college educations, even a few thousand mouths fed in a third-world country.

What if the result of the result experiment is wrong? Quite frankly, I don't understand how someone can decide if there is ice or water on the moon by analyzing "more than 250 metric tons" (www.cnn.com) of dust.

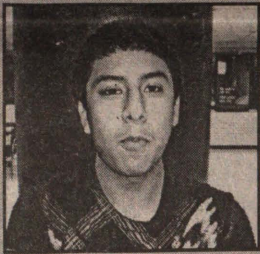
In addition to all of that, the moon's surface, according to www.nasa.gov, is smashed by asteroids, comets, and various-sized objects about four times a month. So why, instead of smashing a man-made object into the moon, didn't NASA just analyze and collect dust from one of the objects that naturally smashes into the moon on a regular basis.

There are plenty of good ways to spend money, but rocket smashing just isn't one of them.

Students Speak

Compiled by Yasmyr McGee and Jacob Wucka

How do you plan on giving back this Thanksgiving?



Senior

Alex Camacho

"I'll give cans from my house to help those that need it."



Junior

Cara Stomper

"My family has a tradition of giving a Thanksgiving dinner to a family in need."



Sophomore

Brenna MacDonald

"By doing community service for people."



Freshman

Samantha Shwoks

"I plan to give back this Thanksgiving by giving food to the homeless."

What the holidays are really all about

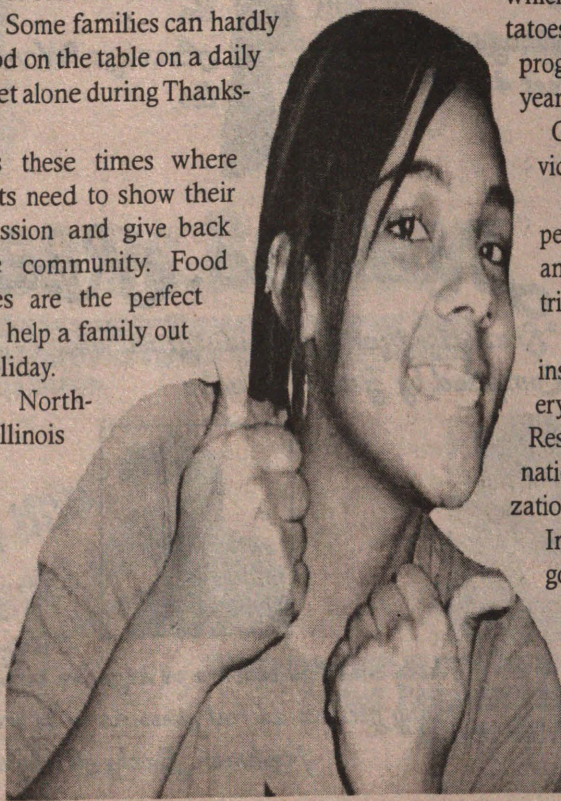
Yasmyr McGee

Thanksgiving is a time where loved ones get together and enjoy a meal.

But for some unfortunate families, food is scarce. Some families can hardly put food on the table on a daily basis, let alone during Thanksgiving.

It is these times where students need to show their compassion and give back to the community. Food pantries are the perfect way to help a family out this holiday.

The Northern Illinois



Food Bank offers many opportunities to give food to struggling families. Yet they are struggling to make sure everyone has a decent Thanksgiving.

Students can sponsor a family of eight by paying only \$30 for them to receive The Holiday Meal Box which includes a 12-14 pound turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, vegetables and dessert. The program helped more than 28,000 families last year alone.

Other money donations are welcome to provide food, too.

According to www.northernillfoodbank.org 96 percent of its budget goes to feeding the hungry and for each dollar eight pounds of food is distributed.

For students who want to give canned goods instead of money, the Food Rescue and Recovery Program will be taking donations. The Food Rescue and Recovery Program collects food donation and redistributes them to non-profit organizations feed people in need.

Instead of those unused and unwanted canned goods collecting dust in your cabinets, give them to someone who actually needs it.

Another way to help feed families this month is to volunteer at the food bank.

Processing over 22 million pounds of food requires a lot of hands and more volunteers help keep down costs.

Students can stop by or call to volunteer at The Northern Illinois Food Bank located in St. Charles. To find out more information you can visit their website.

But there are also opportunities around school that offer students the chance to give back this holiday.

No Shave November, for example, gives students the possibility of donating to charity by not shaving for a month. Half the profits go to a local food pantry.

Another way to raise money for a food party is to donate change to the Change 4 Change program, sponsored by the WeGo-Beyond Committee. All funds will go to the St. Mary's Food Pantry in West Chicago.

Students need to understand that contributions make a huge impact in many families' lives. A simple gesture can make the difference between having nothing on the table at Thanksgiving, to having a nice warm meal.

Even though we are in a recession, it is important for everyone to help others that would want to be helped if they were in a similar situation. It's time for students to unite and give back to the community.

Students may think that one donation or volunteering won't make a difference.

But it's the little things that count.



The media influences teenager's lives on television. Most of the time the media tv glamorous society, and the results

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

Female Intuition

Teenage girls have extreme pressure put on them to be the prettiest and coolest female. Advertising and marketing everywhere bombards girls with persuasive advertisements, disregarding the fact that with every ad featuring a super-skinny model, their self-esteem plummets.

"The advertising sector in the media is very concerned with body image, and that is mainly directed towards an audience of teenage girls," said English and modern media teacher Amanda Cordes.

According to Cordes, the media affects teenage girls indirectly.

"There is one ad for Sketchers sneakers featuring Christina Aguilera in seductive clothes and doing things like working on cars, but all the ad is supposed to do is sell a pair of sneakers. Teenagers and young adults are drawn to these images," said Cordes.

The point of such racy advertisements is to persuade vulnerable teenage girls that if they buy Sketchers sneakers, it will make them more glamorous and gorgeous like Christina Aguilera.

"The media doesn't care how we feel; their main interest is growing consumers," said Cordes.

Most advertisements in the fashion and beauty industries aren't even realistic.

"I watched a YouTube clip and it showed a model before they started putting on all of her makeup, and what they do is not normal. I believe there is a lot more to beauty than what the advertisements show," said division head of counseling Maura Bridges.

A lot of the time, though, teenagers don't realize that the advertisements they're looking at aren't real.

"You see advertisements of perfect girls and you want to buy the product because you think it will make you look perfect, just like them," said junior Tori Snell.

As a teenager, Cordes was just as prone to the media's influence as everybody else.

"The media definitely affected me as a teen. I would watch shows like 'The Real World' and would constantly feel like I needed to buy things, and I felt dissatisfaction with my body. The media definitely got me," said Cordes.

Bridges experienced the same type of pressure as Cordes when she was a teen.

"I remember I couldn't live without a certain type of shoe, I made my mom walk all over the mall to find me these particular shoes. Looking back, it wasn't even important. The older you get the better you understand what's better for you, even if it isn't what everybody else is wearing," said Bridges.

According to Cordes and Bridges, the only way to stop marketing influences is to become a media-conscious individual and consumer.

"The way the media and marketing companies impact people is very subtle; if you're not aware of it you don't even realize it," said Bridges.

Not everybody allows the media to influence them, though.

"The media only influences the people who let it influence them. Teen girls are always trying to be the next big thing and younger and younger girls are trying to be like celebrities when they should just enjoy living life and not worry about all that stuff," said senior Kim Busch.

According to Cordes, the media only has the power they have because consumers give them that power. Once consumers stop letting the media influence them, that power is taken away.

Bridges believes that the media and advertising sectors aren't all to blame, it's the way an individual interprets what they see.

"The impact of the media and advertising depends on the individual and how they process it. If a person can separate what's good and bad on television, then that's simply entertainment. When it's tough to separate those things, that's when a person runs into problems," said Bridges.

The solution to stopping the media and marketing's influence is simple; awareness.

"Awareness is key, if we as consumers are changing and are aware that we are buying things truly for ourselves. The media class is a good place to start; media literacy and knowledge only increases when you talk about it," said Cordes.



Barbie vs. Reality

*Statistics from teenbeautytips.com
Compiled by Jacob Wucka

How do you think the media affects girls?
Compiled by Megan Sternbooth



"I think some insecure girls will look at the TV and be influenced; it can be good or bad."
- junior Jiffany Manzanoll



"There could be positive or negative influence from it; skinny girls could feel pressure to be even skinnier."
- freshman Darby Nichols

e influence

es whether it's in an advertisement or on
twists the facts in order to achieve a more
ts can be damaging to both genders



By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor



GI Joe's Biceps: 27 inches
Average Mans: 13 inches

s Chest: 55
e Mans: 40

e's Height: 5 feet
ches
ge Man:
t 10 inches

GI Joe's Weight: 180 lbs.
Average Man: 160 lbs.

GI Joe vs. Reality

*Statistics from UCLA Center for Women and Men, www. health-discovery.com and Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Compiled by Jacob Wucka

Guys sink into the influence of the media like they would into quicksand: slowly, steadily, and subtly. The effects of the media on teenage guys often go unnoticed, but there are a multitude of negative impacts.

"The media has certain standards for males and a lot of guys feel they have to meet those standards," social worker Bill Bautista said. "They value themselves based on their possessions."

Opposed to girls, where the main impact of the media is in self body image, the impact on guys is much broader.

"For guys many things seem to be related to material things: this car, that house, how much money you make," Bautista said. "Guys are discouraged from showing emotions, especially those perceived to be negative ones."

Crying, fear and stress are all feelings that teenage guys feel that they cannot show.

"Most guys don't feel comfortable showing their emotions because it's a sign of weakness, and guys never want to be seen as weak," Bautista said. "They want to be seen as strong leaders, problem-solvers, but they don't always want to ask for help because this is interpreted as a sign of weakness."

Modern media teacher Brian Turnbaugh also sees the impact of the media through emotions in teenage guys. "The real impact [of the media] is much deeper at the emotional level. Believe it or not, boys don't stop being emotional beings upon entering puberty, yet any sign of showing emotional weakness or confusion is always met with sharp ridicule," Turnbaugh said.

The emotional facet of the media's impact is one that girls do not experience as much.

"Lack of communication is a big issue with guys; they don't always talk things out. Girls appear to not have that problem," Bautista said.

Turnbaugh believes that whereas females feel inadequate due to "commercial images of beauty," guys use the "boys will be boys" excuse for their actions.

"How the media impacts boys is the preoccupation with violence. The 'boys will be boys' rationalization of bullying and violence normalizes the suffering of others and that is never acceptable," Turnbaugh said.

Bautista thinks that the form of media that affects teenage guys the most is music.

Another weighty component of the media is television shows and the fakeness of so-called reality television.

"Everything seems fabricated, shows are fake," Bautista said. "The more drama [the producers] can create the better. It's always one extreme or another."

These extremes lead males to believe that they have nowhere to fit in, which Bautista believes is completely wrong, since reality television is never really reality.

A trip to the movie theater often involves sex, multiple girlfriends, and drama.

"Movies now have to have very strong sexual content and language in order to appeal; everything's sexualized," Bautista said.

Bautista believes that the media's goal is not to make a negative impact, but to sell whatever product they are trying to promote.

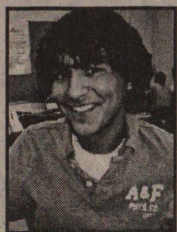
"The media's goal is to sell. Any form of media wants to sell a product to an audience," Bautista said. "They create a fantasy world and set a standard for you as a customer to get you to buy it. They use successful, beautiful people so that people think 'that's who I want to be,' and buy the brand."

To solve the multitude of problems that the media delivers, Bautista thinks that guys need to express themselves as individuals.

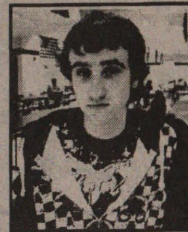
"Think for yourself, don't let other people tell you what your life should be like, produce something positive for the world," Bautista said. "You can be an individual; you don't have to fit into a mold. You can be different and have something positive to give to the world. People in general need to value themselves more as people not for what they have or don't have."

Male Dominance

How do you think the media affects guys?
Compiled by Megan Herbroth



"It affects them by making them feel manly and con-
ceited. Everyone wants to be bulky."
- senior Ricky Lopez



"I don't think it affects guys that much."
-sophomore Bobby Schuler

Eight seasons and still filming

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Few television shows survive for eight seasons. "WeGo Through the Tube" (WTtT) is one of them.

"A perfect show should be a balanced mix of information and entertainment. Essentially, 'info-tainment,'" said broadcast adviser Dave Jennings. "The show should be able to increase your knowledge about the school, but also help you unwind with some elements that are meant to be goofy."

WTtT debuted in the fall of 2001.

"The first episode was 15 straight minutes of a pep assembly, recorded straight to tape. So it was something that people saw in real time, all over again," said Jennings.

In fall 2007, Jennings took

over the broadcast program in hopes of changing it.

"I had a vision, and I wanted to bring some enthusiasm and a unique perspective to the program," said Jennings.

He transformed the class into a fun environment, but also a place where students can learn to make well-edited, artistic films.

"Students should walk away with a deeper understanding of what is involved when you have to conceptualize, film, and edit something television-worthy," said Jennings.

The class is divided up into groups of students who work on films together.

By the end of the semester, the groups should have created a club highlight, a creative short film, a current events news piece, a public service announcement, and a sports showcase segment.

They must also create a film to be submitted for the state film festival. Last year, WTtT won two third place awards, and a total of nine awards altogether.

New to the class this year, students must also study various genres and styles of films and then make short films that reference what they've seen and learned.

"I want them to have an appreciation for the work involved in making artistic films, instead of just [throwing] stuff together," said Jennings.

Senior Mac Beideman joined broadcast so he could allow people to see what he could make.

"I've always liked acting and filming. This is a great class to take in order to get your creativity out and to have fun," said Beideman. "This class is much more than just



Photo by Jacob Wucka

Broadcast teacher Dave Jennings helps senior Mac Beideman with his latest "WeGo Through the Tube" segment.

filming random things."

Over the past two years, Jennings has had a number of students take broadcast classes at the college level. He said that some have thanked him for the skills they learned and say that their time in the program gives them an edge over their classmates.

"This class is a nice primer for students who want to go into broadcast journalism at a college level," said Jennings. "It throws some fundamental tools into their tool box."

Senior Lamar Moore has

taken broadcast for three semesters for just that.

"I plan to go to Columbia for college, and this class gives me more opportunities."

Jennings hopes that more kids continue to join broadcast, although he already teaches two crowded classes.

He hopes that students are not only inspired to join, but to stick with the program, as well.

"If [the class] resonates with a student, and they feel a niche here, the option is there to continue," said Jennings.



By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

What started out as an interest has turned into a potential career for many students in the advanced computer animation and advanced drawing classes.



Photo by Alexis Hosticka

Junior Reid Howington (front) and sophomore Alex Weir experiment with a new animation program in order to create computer-animated explosions.

"Many students who take these classes have a career interest in that field," said teacher Kevin Cleary. "An architect, engineer, graphic designer, to name a few. This class is for the skilled student."

Students are putting these

skills to use by designing, as part of the class, logos, t-shirts, flyers, or whatever else teachers may need for their clubs, sports, or classes.

"This program is brand new this year. Anyone who is interested just needs to contact me and we can get a design started for them," Cleary said.

Cleary enjoys teaching the advanced classes, and can connect with the students' passions for the programs and computer technology.

"I guess I see a little bit of myself in each of the students," Cleary said. "I love teaching them; I want to help them reach their goals."

Senior Brad Cole designed the chamber choir sweatshirts as part of the free designs program. He plans to go into a career field in graphic arts and/or marketing.

Cole has been in the ad-

vanced class for only two semesters, but Cleary claims that he could probably "teach the class."

"It's a very relaxed class; it's also a lot of fun," Cole said. "It's interesting because there's a lot of creativity and you can put yourself into projects."

Cole's initial curiosity in animation started at the movies.

"Originally, I was interested in Pixar, and I guess this [class] is the first step in learning about that kind of stuff," Cole said.

Senior Colin Hale has been on the computer class track since his freshman year and plans to continue to use his computer skills by becoming an architect.

"I really like drafting; I'm in love with the program," Hale said.

Hale designed a tire rim

that he sent to Odyssey, a biking company, and received a response that it was a strong original design.

"They e-mailed me back, but then I never heard from them, but I'm still hoping," Hale said.

Senior Scott Wheeland loves the freedom the advanced classes offer so that he can expand his creativity and branch out to a variety of projects.

"As long as you're doing something, you can basically do whatever you want in this class," Wheeland said.

Junior Reid Howington agrees with Wheeland.

Howington is in the animation portion of the class and his projects of choice include making objects, such as animated heads, explode.

"It's a really fun class," Howington said, and added, "animation is domination!"

The next Bill Gates?

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

The next Bill Gates may be roaming the halls in the form of junior Matt Provenzale.

Provenzale began his business fixing computers when he was 10 years old, and business has been booming ever since.

"I realized I wanted to work with computers right when I was about 10," said Provenzale. "I started fixing my family's computers then I branched out to fixing my friends' computers."

So far, Provenzale has helped 20 students, but plans to gain more customers.

"People hear about me mostly from word of mouth," said Provenzale.

Depending on the work and time required, Provenzale charges \$25 to \$35 an hour.

"I fix and build computers," said Provenzale. "Usually the stuff I deal with takes me two hours; it rarely takes any longer."

His work with computers deals mainly with viruses and old computers.

"Most of the work I do is

getting rid of viruses," said Provenzale. "For viruses I have to scan the computer so I take the computer home with me because I don't want to charge the person for sitting at their house."

Another problem Provenzale faces is old computers that barely run.

"I do a lot of old computers that are running slow," said Provenzale. "People don't realize how fast computers become obsolete."

Even though his business has been successful, Provenzale humbles his Wall Street persona by not keeping

track of his profit.

"I can't even say how much I've made," said Provenzale.

Provenzale does not limit himself to computers; he works on many electronics.

"I can basically do any kind of electronics like home theater systems," said Provenzale.

Even though his business grew out of a childhood hobby, Provenzale sees no other path for his future.

"This is what I want to do after I graduate," said Provenzale. "I wanted to gain experience for my future and help people along the way."



Photo courtesy of Matt Provenzale

Junior Matt Provenzale tinkers with a computer tower.

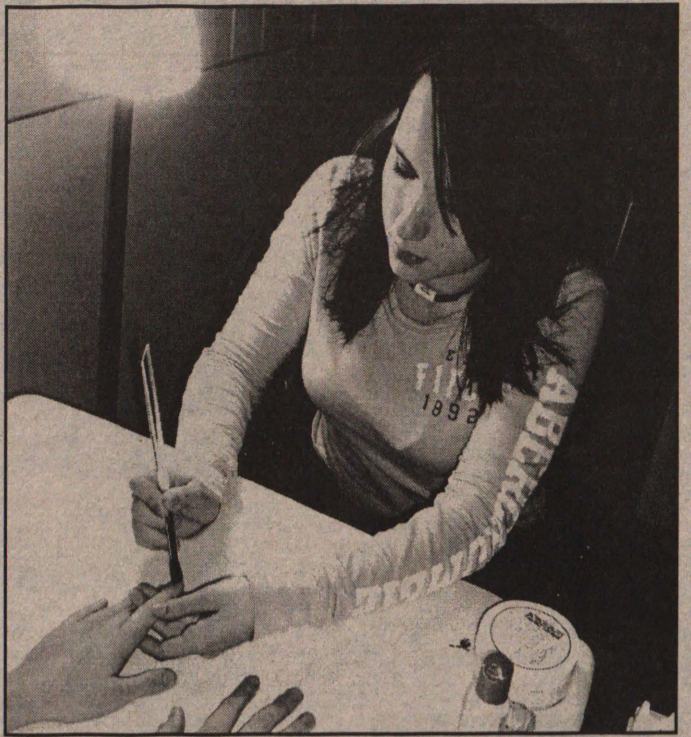


Photo by Megan Hernbroth

In her make-shift workspace in her basement, junior Nici Burlingame uses different acrylic nail tools in order to practice her technique.

Turning primping into instant profit

Love of acrylic nails inspires a student's after-school business

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

After years of watching others paint and design her nails, junior Nici Burlingame decided to take the trade into her own hands.

"I've had acrylic nails for about three years now," said Burlingame, "and my mom said the only way I could keep them and she would pay for them was if I got a job, so I decided it would be cheaper to do it myself."

Burlingame recently began her business, called Underground Acrylic Nails, where she does a variety of services on acrylic nails.

"I do all acrylics," said Burlingame. "I do sets, fills, designs, and colors."

Even though her business is new, Burlingame already has six customers and hopes for more.

"I started reaching out to my friends, family, and neighbors after I started doing my own nails," said Burlingame.

One of Burlingame's most difficult customers was her aunt, who asked Burlingame for an awkward design.

"My aunt wanted seven hearts on each nail," said Burlingame. "That's a lot for one nail and it was very hard to do and was a bit awkward."

Burlingame's prices range from \$20 for a full set, to \$8 for a fill, and \$5 for a color.

With a converted basement space, Burlingame works with customers after they make appointments through her in-person.

"I do all the nails in my basement that we just refinished," said Burlingame. "I work in our bar area."

Working on nails is not Burlingame's dream job, so her business depends on a number of factors.

"I'm going to probably do nails through high school and maybe college," said Burlingame. "It all really depends on how much money I need at the time and the job availability elsewhere."

Although the focus of Underground Acrylics is mainly acrylic nails, Burlingame does not limit herself.

"I've never had to do regular nails before," said Burlingame, "but I guess I could."

Although she puts in a lot of time and effort, Burlingame focuses more on a profit than a good time.

"It's not really something I enjoy doing," said Burlingame, "it's just good money."

Burlingame does not keep track of her earnings, however.

"I don't know [how much I've made]," said Burlingame. "Whatever it is I've already spent it."

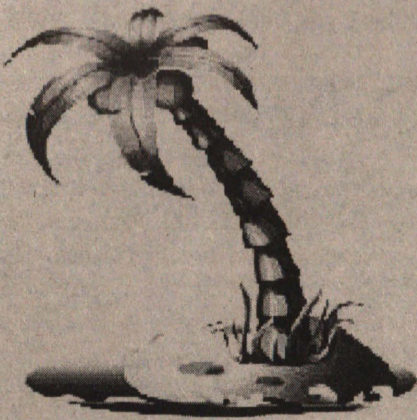
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Shut up and act

It's not like every actor can actually sing, but many of them have popular singles.

As if acting isn't enough to make them famous, these actors gain more fame by singing, and sometimes it's not true talent. Instead of hogging the limelight, these actors should step aside for those with real talent.

Mitchel Musso started out as Oliver Oken, one of main character Miley Stewart's



Kristina Manibo

best friends on the popular television show "Hannah Montana." Things turned out great for the actor, and all of a sudden he's out with an album. Maybe if he had not been famous already, the album may have been less popular.

Miranda Cosgrove, star of the Nickelodeon show "iCarly," portrayed Megan who plays pranks on her older brothers on the show "Drake and Josh."

She is a good actress, doesn't overact and fits her character. Then her singing career started, with "iCarly" following. Cosgrove sang the "iCarly" theme song and "Raining Sunshine" from the movie "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs."

It seems like almost all the young actors these days can't just act, their goal is to sing as well.

Back to "Hannah Montana," Stewart is played by Miley Cyrus. Cyrus acts and sings, but it's for the show's purpose. Cyrus has a background of singing, so it's understandable that she's an actress with albums.

Actors like Cyrus who have talent should have the opportunity to sing and act. However, actors like Musso and Cosgrove became singers out of the blue.

These actors should give up a minute of their fame to let by less known musicians who are just starting out.

Artists like Train or Parachute have talent, but they're buried by the crowd that's rooting for Cosgrove and Musso.

Actor-singers need to step away from the limelight and give that recognition to other singers.



These boots are made for wearing

The season's hottest footwear is warming up toes

By Megan Tennis
Entertainment Editor

If you turn to the girl next to you in class, chances are she's wearing boots. It doesn't have to be snowing to wear these cozy kicks.

Boots can be worn with almost anything, that's what makes them so popular. Throw some boots on, and you're ready to go.

When something is in style, the possibilities are endless. It's no surprise that there are so many styles of boots to choose from.

If you walk into a fancy footwear boutique, you'll most likely find the popular brand of boots called Uggs.

Classic Ugg boots are insulated with genuine sheepskin and come in an 11 inch boot and a 7 inch boot.

The range of colors these boots come in are endless.

Shades run from neutral colors like black and chestnut to flashier colors like terracotta and mulberry.

A popular boot this year is the knit boot, that looks and feels like a sweater on the outside.

Ugg usually pairs their knit footwear with buttons up the side. For example, the "Classic Cardy."

These styles come at a pretty high price. Uggs range from \$140-\$300.

All three pairs of the Ugg boots are extremely comfortable, and the sheepskin keeps your feet warm.

Both the short and tall boots can be worn with anything if they are bought in neutral colors.

Similar to Uggs are a brand of boots called Emu.

The classic Bronte high looks similar to the Ugg classic 11 inch boots. The Bronte

low can be compared to the Ugg 7 inch boots. Both Brontes are filled with 100 percent Australian Merino wool.

Emu carries a boot called the "Hipper," which have a fun, tie detail up the side that make the boots stand out in a crowd.

Hippers are lined with Australian sheepskin.

Emu boots come in colors like chocolate, chestnut, and sand and run from \$80-\$190.

Unlike the Uggs, Emu boots aren't as comfortable and don't provide as much foot support. They can, however, be worn with anything.

Another positive to the Emus is that they keep out the weather. After standing in the rain for 15 minutes, no water seeped through the boot's insulation.

Emus aren't the cheapest boots around and neither are the Uggs, but if you're look-

ing for good quality boots spend the extra money for the Uggs; they will last you much longer.

If you're looking for a cheaper alternative, almost every store that sells clothing sells boots.

Target, Kohls, Walmart, Charlotte Russe, and Forever 21 are just some of the many stores that carry numerous styles of the boots.

These stores carry footwear ranging from \$25-\$70.

Sacrificing the price means sacrificing the quality and comfort.

Most boots at these stores don't last as long, don't keep water out as well, but do have similar looks to more expensive brands.

Uggs win out for style, comfort, and quality. They are worth the price and will have your feet saying thank you.

How are you keeping on your feet toasty this season WeGo?

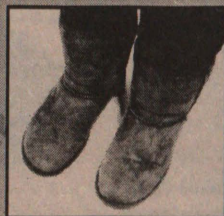
Freshman



Keyuri Parmar

Where: Payless
Price: \$25
"These boots are really warm and they look really cute with skinny jeans."

Sophomore



Cecilia Simon

Where: www.UggAustralia.com
Price: \$140
"They keep me warm, they're comfortable and they look good with everything."

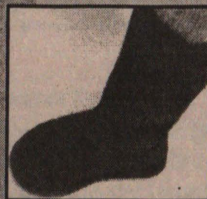
Junior



Julietta Valdez

Where: Kohls
Price: \$30
"They're nice because they're cute and comfortable."

Senior



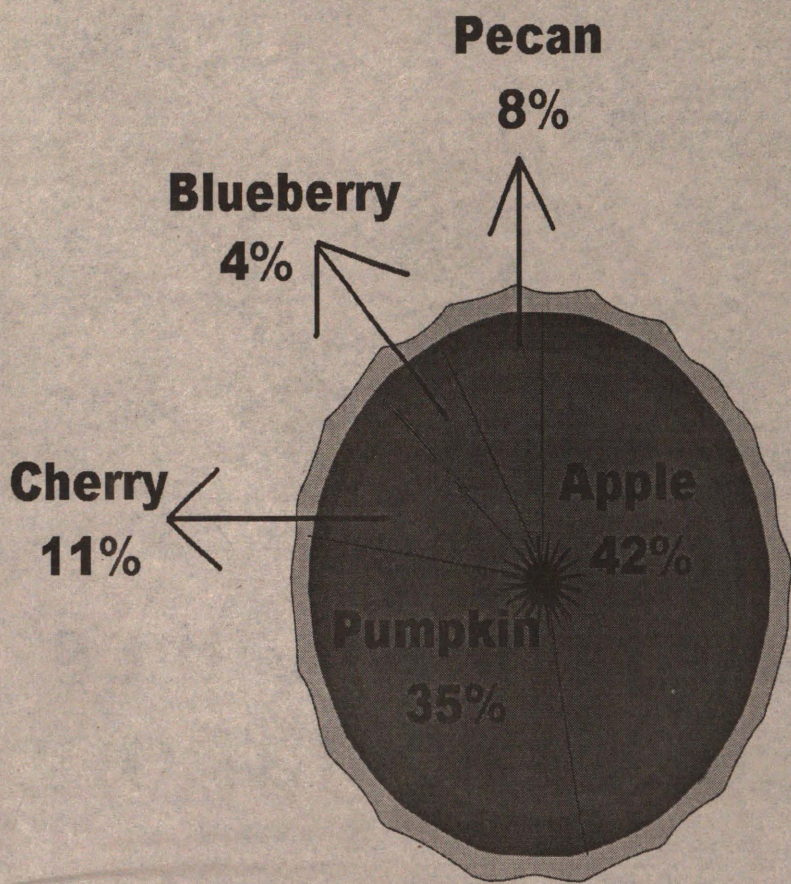
Gaby Villa

Where: Charlotte Russe
Price: \$30
"I go for cheap. I wouldn't spend a lot of money on boots, and these are really comfortable."

Tasty testing: *Editors sound off on where you can get the best Thanksgiving treat*

What pie is most likely served on kitchen tables across the school?

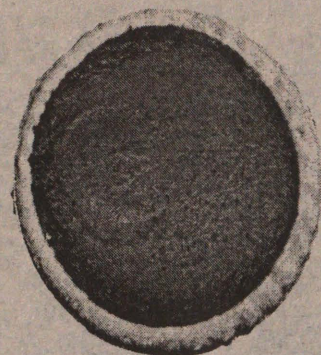
(Based on a poll of 100 students)



Jewel Bakery pumpkin pie

Size: 7 in.

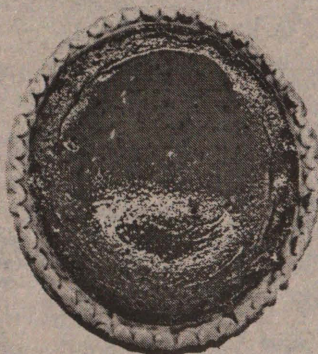
Price: \$3.99



Sara Lee frozen pumpkin pie

Size: 8 in.

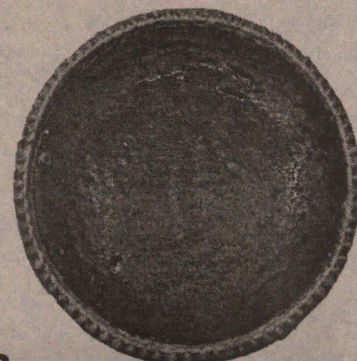
Price: \$3.50



Costco brand pumpkin pie

Size: 11.5 in.

Price: \$5.99



Megan Hernbroth

Features Editor



Costco pumpkin pie

Crust: flavorless

Appearance: water on top of pie. Ewww!

Texture: too creamy, like eating ice cream, very moist

Flavor: not pumpkiny enough

Overall grade: B

Jewel bakery pumpkin pie

Crust: best part of the whole thing

Appearance: orange color reminds me of a fall vegetable, but not a pumpkin. It is more closely related to a squash.

Texture: grainy, disgusting, and incredibly processed

Flavor: cinnamonony, (a lot of it too!)

Overall grade: D-

Sara Lee frozen pumpkin pie

Crust: perfect, right amount of flavor and crunch

Appearance: more brown than orange (but that's okay!)

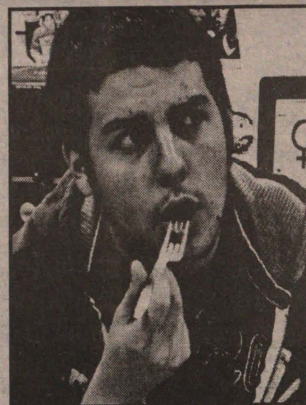
Texture: not too squishy

Flavor: fresh spices, DELICIOUS!

Overall grade: A

Jacob Wucka

Editor in Chief



Costco pumpkin pie

Crust: sour, moist

Appearance: shiny, not pumpkiny enough

Texture: smooth, very easy to swallow... too easy. Tastes like eating ice cream.

Flavor: sweet, moist

Overall grade: A

Jewel bakery pumpkin pie

Crust: hard, very stale tasting

Appearance: small, falling apart

Texture: tastes like sand

Flavor: not pumpkiny enough; needs whipped cream!

Overall grade: F

Sara Lee frozen pumpkin pie

Crust: best of them all, crust complements pumpkin

Appearance: shiny, burned

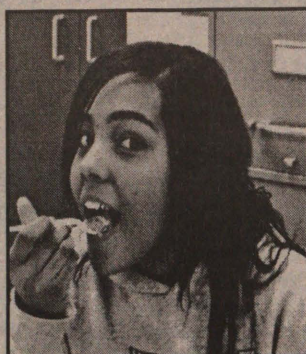
Texture: firmer than the other

Flavor: tastes very fresh... almost too fresh

Overall grade: B

Yasmyn McGee

Perspectives Editor



Costco pumpkin pie

Crust: thin, dry

Appearance: light crust, dark pumpkin color

Texture: flaky

Flavor: heavy pumpkin flavor

Overall grade: B

Jewel bakery pumpkin pie

Crust: thick

Appearance: strange rusty orange color

Texture: fluffy, heavy

Flavor: too much pumpkin flavor!

Overall grade: C

Sara Lee frozen pumpkin pie

Crust: great! Not too flaky, just right

Appearance: overly shiny, sweaty, brown crust

Texture: feels like Jello in my mouth

Flavor: too pumpkiny and strange

Overall grade: D

Sarah Berger

Center Spread Editor



Costco pumpkin pie

Crust: flaky, gross, falls apart

Appearance: golden and clean

Texture: creamy and smooth

Flavor: bursting with pumpkin flavor

Overall grade: A+

Jewel bakery pumpkin pie

Crust: baked to perfection

Appearance: too orange

Texture: not as smooth, sandy

Flavor: too sweet, nasty! Needs whipped cream

Overall grade: D-

Sara Lee frozen pumpkin pie

Crust: really good, well baked

Appearance: smooth, glassy

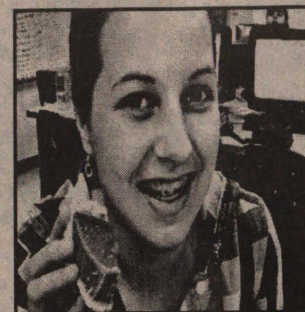
Texture: plain, very pumpkiny

Flavor: not too flavorful

Overall grade: B

Alexis Hosticka

News Editor



Costco pumpkin pie

Crust: soft, bland, dry

Appearance: shiny/glazy

Texture: creamy with little lumps

Flavor: bland

Overall grade: C

Jewel bakery pumpkin pie

Crust: thick, moist

Appearance: thick, moist

Texture: smooth, soft

Flavor: spicy, flavorful

Overall grade: A-

Sara Lee frozen pumpkin pie

Crust: dry, flaky, yucky

Appearance: shiny, crunchy crust, burnt on the edge

Texture: creamiest

Flavor: squash-like, pretty blah

Overall grade: C

Basketball: Season Warm-Ups

New direction for experienced team

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

Boys basketball is looking forward to a new season with a new coach, Kevin Baldus.

Baldus believes this team has a lot of experience.

"This group of boys has a better work ethic and there is a large amount of goals for the team," said Baldus, comparing the team to teams at Willowbrook, and Glenbard West, where he coached for 12 years.

Senior Chad Driscoll, head captain, has a positive mind set about the season and the new coach.

"I think it's going to be a good season. I'm really optimistic," Driscoll said. "I think [the coach] does a great job at preparing us to face the big teams."

Because there are a lot of seniors on the team, Driscoll and Baldus believe they have an experienced team.

"There are no limitations [concerning goals]," said Baldus. "We need to achieve as far as we possibly can."

Baldus will stick with the same strategies the boys already know. Some offenses

and defenses will be different than the past, but concerning strategy, change won't go beyond that.

"As you gain years of experience, you alter [the players]," Baldus said. "[If you're] always trying to make changes to better the group, it should be flexible."

Driscoll thinks the biggest competition will be Naperville North and Glenbard East. To prepare for winning conference and going into sectionals against these two teams, Driscoll expects the team to put hard work into defense.

"I mostly have expectations for the team, [which] would be to work hard everyday. [The players] have to have good communication [between each other] to win," said Driscoll.

Baldus isn't sure what the competition will look like yet, but will prepare the team for a tough competition.

"We need to work on our weaknesses and prepare for any team so we can advance in conference," said Baldus.

The first game will be at 5:30 p.m. on Monday against Geneva at Oswego.



Photo by Yasmyr McGee

Girls basketball practices vigorously before their Nazareth tournament. Sophomore Alli Tapanes (left) and senior Izzy Bruce run drills.

Pushing themselves to meet expectations

By Keyuri Parmar
Contributing Writer

Girls varsity basketball has set their expectations and knows what it will take to win this year.

"Everyone on the team worked a lot harder [to improve] over the summer," said senior Jessica Baidis.

With seven girls returning from last year, the team plans to improve in conference.

"This year we have a big group of girls who have been working well together since seventh grade," said senior Madeline Warkins.

According to head coach Kim Wallner, the team needs

to work on shooting, rebounding, communication, and transition defense.

"There are quite a few players who can put the ball in the basket," said Wallner.

The team has a tough schedule starting with the Nazareth tournament on Tuesday and with the Lyons Township tournament with Prospect, Downers Grove South, and Queen of Peace starting on Friday. Results from the Nazareth tournament were not available as of press time.

"The players will be competitive in the tournament and they have a good offense that is good at shooting," said

Wallner.

Wallner is proud of the offense but the defense has to catch up to them. Senior Katie Staiton agrees.

"We work together well and are good at pushing the ball up the court," said Staiton.

Warkins encourages the team to work together better on the court. However she knows the girls have potential to achieve great success.

"We need to work on our communication skills, work together, and be stronger with the ball," said Warkins. "We have to make the most of our practices to do well this year," said Warkins.

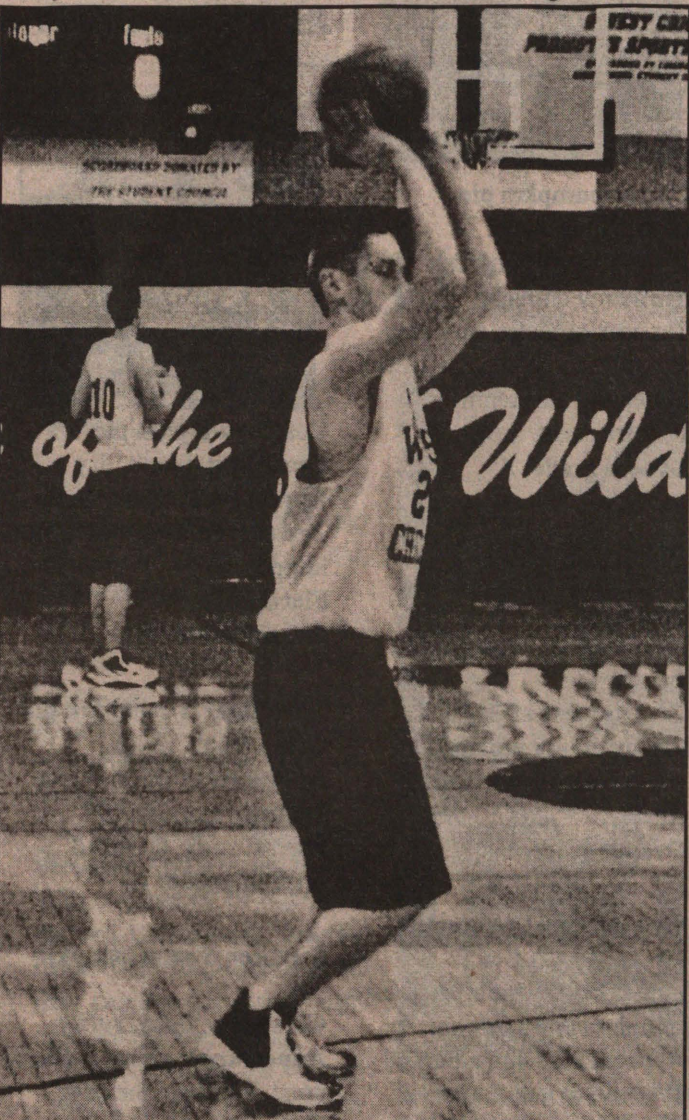


Photo by Kristina Manibo

Practicing before the game against Oswego, senior Kevin Peterson shoots from the three point line.

Six swimmers advance to state

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

Six girls swimmers are headed to the state meet after finishing third place as a team in sectionals.

"I think we're in pretty good shape for state," said head coach Nick Parry. "But you never know if we can place as highly as we think we can."

Senior Caity Madsen broke the school record held for 17 years by science teacher Corrie Stieglitz in the 100 butterfly with a time of 58.46. She came in second place in the meet and qualified for state.

Freshman Yvette Kruk, senior Maria Sedjo, Madsen, and junior Kelly Dunn qualified in the 200 freestyle

relay with a time of 1:37.67, not only taking first place, but also making All American time with 0.15 away from breaking the school record.

The same group qualified in the 400 freestyle relay, again taking first place and this time breaking the school record by 0:02.95 with a time of 3:33.40. Skorupski, Kruk, and seniors Kelly Loftus and Sedjo worked together to take third place in the medley relay with a time of 1:51.63.

Kruk is also going to state for her the 50 freestyle. She took third place with a time of 24.83. Her goal at state is to place in the top 16.

"I was really surprised and really excited, I didn't really expect it," Kruk said. "Through out the year the team really helped to push

me, and I would always try to keep up with them, and I guess it paid off."

Dunn qualified in two individual events. She tied for second place in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:53.19, breaking a personal record. She also took first place in the 100 freestyle with a time of 52.45.

"I'm really happy with where I am and where my teammates are, and I think we're set up to do really well this weekend," Dunn said.

Sedjo is also satisfied. "I wasn't really surprised [about the results]," Sedjo said. "It was more of just a relief to see the quality of all of our practices pay off."

The state meet is Friday and Saturday at New Trier high school.

3-4

On thin ice

Tumultuous season for Wild

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

Wheaton-West Wild varsity hockey is trying to overcome weaknesses to achieve success.

The team's small size is proving to be a dominant weakness, with the record standing at 2-3.

"We are winning a lot of games and have fared well against a bunch of very good competition. We are pushing ourselves this year by playing games against as many of the top tier teams in the area as we can," said hockey coach Dave Dyson.

Working towards success, the guys give their all at practice.

"We work really hard at practices because coach is always yelling at us to work harder," said junior Gunnar Sterne.

Dyson pushes the players to work on their strength.

"We are extraordinarily fast and we work well together. As coaches, we try to build systems around the strengths and bolster the weaknesses

so they are not liabilities. I think by the end of the season we will have many more items in the strength column than we do right now because

the team continues to work hard on all aspects of their game," said Dyson.

Although they are a strong team, the size of the team can hold them back.

"We have the challenge of being a very small hockey team. We make up for it with a lot of team speed, but hockey is a physically demanding sport and sometimes the lack of size and strength can be a detriment," said Dyson.

Despite their winning record, they have had their share of tough games.

"The toughest team we've played so far was Rockford. They were the best team in the state and we got beat 9-0," said Sterne.

Dyson agrees.

"[Rockford] works together really well as a team and dominated us in all aspects of the game. It was a very humbling experience for all of us but it did show us the level we need to play at to reach the goals we have set out for ourselves," said Dyson.

With such an exciting season, support from the school is all the boys need to go far.

"If I could change one thing, it would be to get more fan support at our home games. Hockey is the most exciting sport in the world and we would love to see as many rowdy fans as possible at our home games," said Dyson.

Season ends at regionals

By Yasmyrn McGee
Perspectives Editor

With an impressive season of 22-15, girls volleyball ended with a disappointing loss at regionals.

They played their last two games at regionals on Oct. 29 and Oct. 31 at Glenbard North. The team won their first game against Hoffman Estates 25-23. However, the team struggled with serve receive and lost their second game against York with their first match 25-18 and their last match 25-23.

"We just didn't come out as strong as we could have," said coach Kris Hasty. "We weren't firing on all cylinders. Everyone needed to step up and play and I didn't see that from everybody. I was just disappointed that we didn't go out playing our best match to end the season. [Still] it was a good year compared to last year. [This year] really turned the program around."

Hasty looks forward to next year and hopes that returning players will improve.

"Next season we have to work on our serve receive and overall working together as a team," said junior Emily Paschke.

Photo by Jacob Wucka

Even though the team faced a tough loss against Rockford, senior Anthony Brinkman puts up a fight, taking the puck away from opponents.

Wrestling: Season Warm-Ups

Coaches, varsity guiding young wrestling team

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

From freshmen to varsity, all wrestlers are working towards one common goal: state titles.

"I'm expecting our varsity to be very competitive this year, because we have four to five returning seniors," said head coach Humberto Ayala. "We also have some very talented freshmen that were state qualifiers in middle school."

Ayala is the new head coach. An alumnus of the high school, Ayala currently teaches at West Chicago Middle School and has coached there.

He hopes to bring his experience as a coach, but also as a wrestler at William Penn College to the team.

"I'm bringing experience to these kids from within this community. Being from here, graduating, wrestling, and coaching here allows me to know the needs of the wrestlers," said Ayala.

Senior Nick Carnot is eager to work with Ayala, but also believes that the team has the right mentality this year to

lead to success.

"We'll continue to progress regardless of who's coaching," said Carnot. "As a team, we need to practice hard and stay devoted to the sport."

Senior Jon White agrees with Carnot, believing that the boys are eager to win.

"There's more excitement on the team this year. We're all ready to get our program turned around and have some success," said White.

When last season ended, wrestlers already began preparing for this season, like junior Tito Guillen.

"I started wrestling with people from different schools, working on grappling and freestyle [techniques]," said Guillen. "[Wrestling them] shows me different moves, allows me to have hands on experience with different people, and prepares me for who I wrestle during the season."

Their work in the off-season has already paid off.

White placed seventh at the preseason national championships in Cedar Falls, Iowa, Oct. 31. Although he expected to place third at the match, he was happy with the results.

He believes that the team needs to stay focused for the time being, and not expect results without practice.

"It's too early to tell," said White of his expectations for the team. "You don't know what you really have until you get to that first meet."

However senior Mike Theide knows that the team has improved, and has strong expectations for the year.

"I'm pretty confident in our team," said Theide. "Our varsity wrestlers have been improving every year since freshman year."

With varsity nearly locked in for success, Guillen and White know that the new and younger wrestlers need guidance.

"We'll show them how to wrestle, and show them what mistakes they're making," said Guillen. "We'll also work with the coaches [in order] to work with the players."

White plans to lead by example, but to also be supportive of his fellow wrestlers.

"Wrestling is a hard sport, and it's the hardest thing a lot of these kids ever do. It's easy to quit, so I'll be there as a moral support," said White.

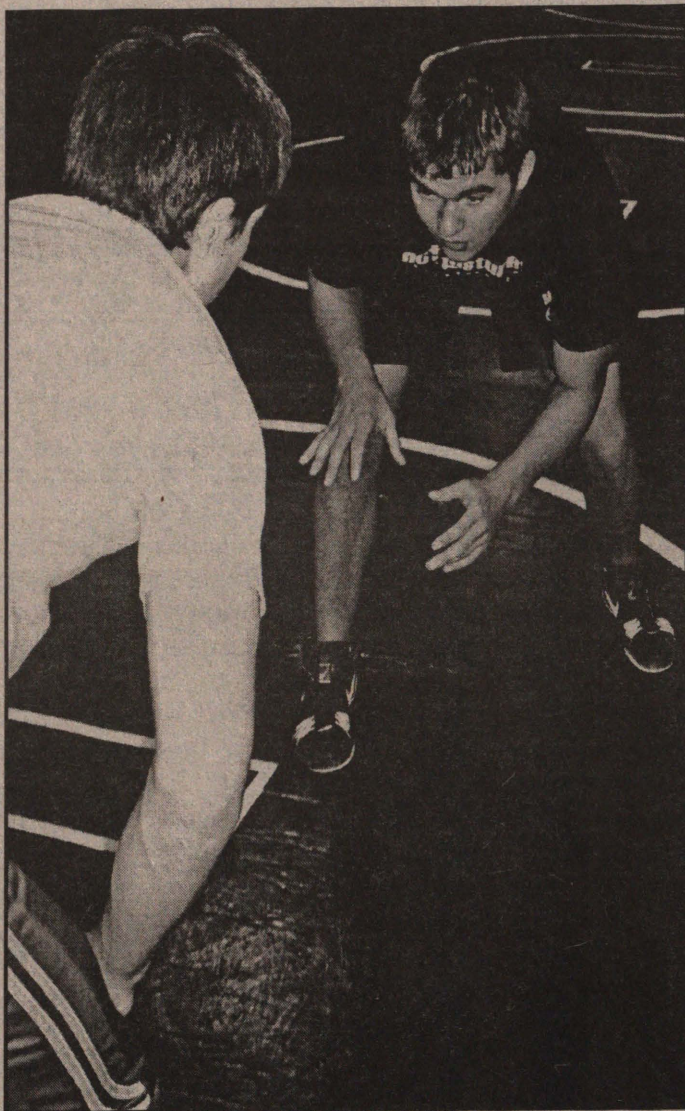


Photo by Jacob Wucka

After placing seventh in the preseason national championships in Cedar Falls, Iowa on Oct. 31, senior Jon White (right) practices with senior Nick Carnot in hopes of getting to the championships at the end of the season.



Photo courtesy of Marcus Delatorre

At the sectionals meet on Oct. 31, junior Gunnar Sterne (far left) pulls ahead from the competition in the last leg of the race.

Difficult practices pay off for teams

Junior places boy's best at state in six years, girls qualify three runners to sectionals race

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

Grueling practices and long meets paid off for cross country, with places in the sectional and state meets.

BOYS

Finishing with the best placing in six years, the boys cross country team raced in the sectional meet, qualifying one runner for state.

At the state meet on Nov. 7, Junior Gunnar Sterne placed 134th with a time of 16:00.

"I was really happy," said head coach Paul McLeland. "This is the first team since 2003 to qualify for sectionals, and they placed fifth, so this has been the best season since 1999."

Even though Sterne had an injured knee the week before, he placed 8th with a time of 16:43.

"That whole week before my knee hurt," said Sterne, "so I took it easy and just tried to get a top 10 placing so we could make it to sectionals."

time of 20:43 and Starkey finished 110th with a time of 21:40. Sayner did not complete the race.

At the regional meet on Oct. 24, Eichenberger, Starkey, and Sayner advanced to the sectional meet individually while the rest of the team was 6 points off of qualifying for sectionals as a team.

"I was very happy for the three of them," said head coach Bob Maxson. "They qualified last year and ran the best times of their lives, so it would be nice to repeat."

'This is the first team since 2003 to qualify for sectionals, and they placed fifth, so this has been the best season since 1999.'

-- Head coach Paul McClelland

"It wasn't my best race," said Sterne. "It was hot compared to the previous meets and my legs really hurt after the first mile."

At the sectional meet on Oct. 31, the boys ran well, with Sterne advancing to the state meet.

With a time of 16:30, Sterne placed 10th, earning his place at the state meet.

"Sectionals was a lot better [than regionals]," said Sterne. "The course was muddy because it rained the three days before but I really surprised myself."

On Oct. 24, the boys raced in the regional meet and qualified as a team to race at sectionals with a third place finish.

GIRLS

After qualifying three runners for the sectional meet, girls cross country looks towards next season instead of back to a disappointing finish.

At the sectionals meet on Oct. 31, seniors Annette Eichenberger, Tanya Starkey, and sophomore Kelsey Sayner gave the race their all, but came up short.

"I was sick for four days," said Eichenberger, "so I was just happy to run. I put my heart into that race but it was a tough course because of the weather. If I wasn't sick I could've easily qualified for state."

Out of 156 runners, Eichenberger finished 56th with a

time of 19:46, Sayner placed 13th with a time of 19:50, and Starkey placed 27th with a time of 20:43 on a 3 mile course.

As the coach, Maxson believes the best proof of a successful season is in the athletes themselves and their personal attitudes.

"My hope for all the athletes that I coach is for them to be proud of their effort," said Maxson. "It takes a certain kind of dedication to be a distance runner. They all have worked hard throughout the year."

Where is the love?

Love of the game being overshadowed by hostility

Where has the civility in sports gone?

It's been noticeably absent in recent games, whether at the college or professional levels.

There have been punches thrown, and hair pulled. ESPN has had lots to cover this month, and judgment from the public has been overwhelming.

Nonetheless, these displays of violence, aggression, and plain stupidity are proving one obvious fact about sports and the athletes that play them. These people are stressed out.

Instead of writing about how these people need to be punished and fined for their stupendously idiotic actions, I'm going to address the obvious: They're human beings.

On Nov. 5, New Mexico University soccer defender Elizabeth Lambert made headlines for her forceful defending on the field.

The University of New Mexico was playing Brigham Young University [BYU] in the Mountain West Conference semi-finals. Clearly Lambert was having a bad day.

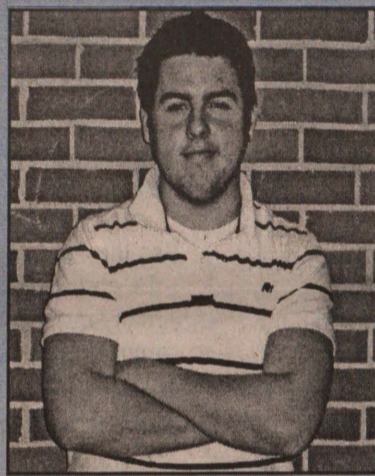
Lambert committed a series of extremely rough plays, including kicking opponents, tackling them, punching them, and tripping them.

Although some of Lambert's jabs were not completely

premeditated [she was jabbed in the side by a BYU player which led to Lambert punching her in the back], she did commit an unwarranted heinous act on the field.

When BYU forward Cassidy Shumway was in front of Lambert, Lambert swiftly yanked the girl's ponytail, and powerfully flung her to the ground.

Lambert is now indefinitely suspended,



Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

and Facebook groups established in her dishonor are gaining popularity fast.

Lambert has sincerely apologized, but her apology has been dissected and ridiculed by every commentator from ESPN to Fox News.

In no way am I excusing Lambert's choices on the field. But let's be reasonable.

Obviously she deserves to be punished, and her suspension is fair. Still, she doesn't deserve to have a Facebook group called "Elizabeth Lambert is a *****."

She's human, and like the rest of us, she makes mistakes. They may be completely out of line, and completely stupid, but at the end of the day, it was a mistake.

The same can be said for Chicago Bears defensive tackle Tommie Harris.

Harris was embarrassingly ejected 45 seconds into the Nov. 8 game for punching Arizona's Deuce Lutui in the head.

These unprovoked incidents raise concern about these players' mental stability on the field, but in all honesty, when they're in the heat of the moment, it's hard to stay calm.

The semi-finals were on the line for Lambert, and the Bears' season is on the line for Harris.

Still, they threw it all away (BYU won the game, and the Bears had a humiliating 41-21 loss) because they let their emotions take control.

Feel free to criticize these people for failing their teams, but we need to stop criticizing them for letting their darker sides become visible.

These athletes are placed on such a high pedestal, the slightest slip-up and they fall hard. But they are like the rest of us, and, like us, cannot be perfect all the time.

Athletes need to let their love of the game overpower their hostile natures, and fans need to let the love of their teams overpower their disappointment. This may sound cheesy, but doesn't love conquer all?