

Wildcat Chronicle

Community High School 326 Joliet St. West Chicago, IL 60185
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What's for lunch? Check the floor.

Cleanliness of commons called into question

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor
and Giuliana LaMantia
Contributing Writer

By 6B lunch, the floors are covered with garbage, ketchup is smeared on tables and chairs, and garbage cans are overflowing.

Senior Madeline Urban decided to voice her disgust with the condition of the lunchroom by contacting Principal Moses Cheng.

"I e-mailed Dr. Cheng and I told him it was a shame that the custodians had to pick up bottles and bags that can be

easily picked up and thrown away [by students]," Urban said. "Teachers have to pick stuff up and it's ridiculous."

Business teacher Donna Durbin, who supervises 6B lunch, agrees with Urban.

"Kids don't know how to clean up after themselves. It's just gross," said Durbin. "Students need to think of [their] fellow peers. It's just human decency."

However, dean Whitney Rusin who supervises 4A lunch does not notice much mess and has not heard any complaints.

"Between each lunch hour,

people come through with trash cans and wipe down the tables," Rusin said. "We do leave some responsibility on the students, so it would get [cleaner] if students were more responsible."

Urban first noticed the dirty lunchroom last year, but thinks that it has gotten worse.

"Students need to pick up after themselves so that the custodians don't have to do more work than they already have to do," Urban said.

Senior Joe Ramos, who has 4th hour lunch, says that the

See Commons, page 4



Photo by Ricardo Castellanos
Recently students in 6B lunch have voiced complaints to administration in regards to the pile-up of trash left behind by earlier lunch hours.

Hero's welcome for wounded soldier

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

After serving three months in Afghanistan, soldier Josh Kerber arrived home on Nov. 22, to streets filled with people waiting to congratulate and support him.

Kerber, who attended CHS, sustained injuries to his arm, eyes, and the rest of his body because he was shot by two rocket-propelled grenades, and was no longer able to serve the rest of his tour.

"On the Sunday after homecoming when my family was out, my aunt called asking for my mom, and she was just bawling," said Kerber's cousin, junior Jerrick Habecker. "I knew what had happened by her crying."

The following week, Habecker decided to stay at his aunt's house to support her.

"That week I was at my aunt's house every night to spend time with them," said



Photo by Jacob Wucka

On Nov. 22, veteran Josh Kerber was treated to a parade and party at the American Legion Hall in West Chicago. After giving a speech, Kerber shakes hands with a well-wisher.

Habecker, "and we were really just trying to keep our minds off of the negative."

Because of the extent of his injuries, his left arm was amputated up to his bicep and the

shrapnel that caused most of his injuries was not removed.

"He still has metal under his skin," said Habecker, "but the doctor said it should come out over time."

After seeing the turnout for the parade, Habecker was in shock for the support Kerber received from his hometown.

"It was sheer happiness," said Habecker. "It was crazy

that the American Legion wanted to do that for us; no one expected it. I felt really amazed that so many people came out and it was heartwarming to see so many come out and support everything he went through."

The parade began at 1:30 p.m., in Warrenville, and preceded down Route 59, Joliet Street past the high school, Spencer Street, Wilson Street, and finished on Main Street near the American Legion building.

Kerber returned to a rehabilitation hospital in Washington, D.C., in order to get used to his new prosthetic limb. Habecker hopes that his cousin will be able to return home for Christmas.

"After the big party we had, he knows we all appreciate what he did, but now we want him to feel as normal as possible," said Habecker. "We are just lucky to spend Christmas and time with him."

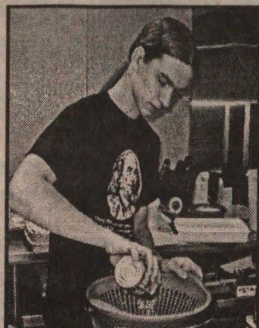
INSIDE

Conference

After years of searching, CHS athletics may soon find suitable competition in the Metro-Suburban Conference -- see NEWS, page 4.

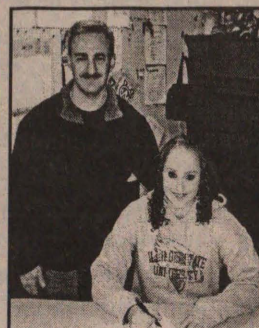
ABC's

Helping ease your workload for finals, the Chronicle has compiled an A-to-Z list of how to pass your finals -- see CENTER SPREAD, pages 8-9.



Homeless

Although many enjoy the comforts of home for the holidays, there are plenty of people that do not share such fortune. Read about the struggles these people face -- see FEATURES, page 10.



College

As their high school careers come to an end, these athletes' college careers are just beginning. Read about their experiences as it unfolds -- see SPORTS, page 16.

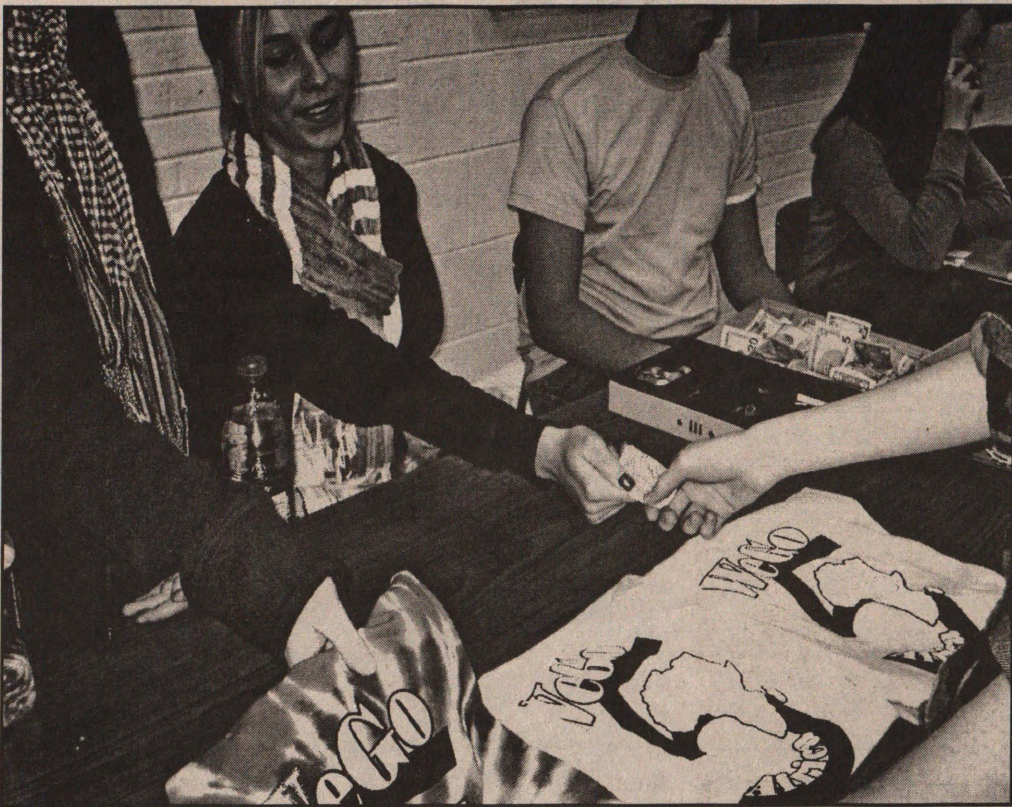


Photo by Kristina Manibo

Junior Stephanie Porter sells t-shirts for WeGo to Africa, including this year's new tie-dye version and a variety of bright colors.

Fundraisers in store for WeGo to Africa

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

By the end of the school year, WeGo to Africa expects to reach their goal of \$10,000 for a new classroom in Angola.

"The kids want to raise \$10,000, but that's going to take time," said social studies teacher Mary Ellen Daneels. "We have a good start with the clothing sales and the change drives."

So far, close to 200 t-shirts have been sold, making the t-shirt sales the fundraiser with the most profit.

Overall, WeGo to Africa has raised \$1,500 in just a few weeks, and things are looking

bright with the rest of the year to earn money.

"[We will] absolutely [meet our goals], it will take until the end of the year but with the events we have planned, we're hopeful we'll meet our goals," said Daneels.

During lunch periods, community leadership students sold lollipops and change drives were held in advisory.

The change drives have earned close to \$500, and Spanish teacher Susan Junkroski matched the \$115 6B advisory total.

Daneels is optimistic this year because the turnabout dance and the battle of the bands will rake in extra money to help build the classroom

of cement and steel.

The turnabout dance will be in February, and the battle of the bands is scheduled in March.

In the 2010-11 school year, WeGo to Africa will continue the same fundraisers.

A new community leadership class will brainstorm ideas for new fundraising.

Daneels has received e-mails and updates from Matala, where the previous classroom was built through fundraising in the '08 - '09 school year.

"The school is close to finishing, and kids are excited for having an education and finishing the school," said Daneels.

What's Happening?

Warming up for the winter

Kaitlyn Sladek
Contributing Writer

Beginning in February, Club Green will begin selling hot chocolate every Wednesday morning at Entrance A.

This is the third year Club Green will be selling hot chocolate for \$1.

The idea of selling hot chocolate in the morning came from Club Green members three years ago.

"It was winter and we wanted something easy to do," said adviser Suzanne Burchaki. "The kids also thought it was ironic how it was 'hot chocolate' and 'global warming.'"

In past years, Club Green

has raised about \$160 from the hot chocolate sales.

"All the money goes to the organization at www.stop-globalwarming.com, which encourages awareness about global warming," said Burchaki.

In order to be green, the club will sell their hot cocoa in cups made of recycled products. Also, the cups will feature a label with a fact about global warming on it.

Freshman and Club Green member Tuyetmai Chau is fond of the idea.

"I like [selling hot chocolate] because when people just come out of the bus they will be freezing cold," Chau said.

Hard work equals great results

By Megan Tennis
Entertainment Editor

Great personalities and hard work have paid off for the speech team for yet another year.

At the Glenbard East meet on Saturday, competitors did not have to compete in a final round, and results were tabulated off of combined scores from the past three rounds.

Among the members that placed were seniors David Garcia, Carrie Liszka, juniors John Heinze, Thalia Fernandez, and Ben Vanderlei.

Vanderlei and Garcia took fourth and third places, respectively, in impromptu speaking, an event where competitors are given a topic

a few minutes before they perform.

"[Speech team] is its own unique category. We work really hard and we have a lot of drive," said Vanderlei.

Fernandez has been on the team since freshman year, and took fifth in the meet for oratorical declamation, where competitors take a speech that was written by someone else and perform it.

"We support each other and we're like a family," said Fernandez.

Taking fourth in original comedy was Heinze, who has been participating since freshmen year. Liszka also placed fifth in prose reading. The team will compete again on Jan. 9 at Glenbard West.

Unique chance for disabled students

Special Olympics basketball team could play at the United Center

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

With an opportunity to play at a Chicago Bulls game, the Special Olympics team kicked into high-gear practicing their skills and selling tickets.

The game is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 10 at the United Center, and the team needs to sell 150 tickets to the game at a discounted price of \$25 in order to play.

"If we sell 150, our team gets to play Algonquin District 128's Special Olympics team for 15 minutes on the floor of the United Center.

We also get recognized at half time," said guidance counselor and Special Olympics athletic director Gavin Engel.

The team can't sell the tickets to the general school population because the event isn't school sponsored, but WeGo Buddies may be given the opportunity to buy them.

Not only is the Special Olympics team preparing for the Bulls game, but the rest of the season as well.

"The Special Olympics is a huge organization with many schools involved, so it's been really cool to be on board with it as well as having the



Photo by Sarah Berger

Freshman Taylor Myers cheers on her team at the first Special Olympics basketball game held at the school.

gym space to be able to host a few basketball games," said Engel.

The team plays five home

games, one away game, and one tournament.

"If we do well at the tournament at the end of Janu-

ary, we qualify to go to the state basketball tournament at Illinois State University," said Engel.

The school's Special Olympics team consists of nine players and is still growing.

"I love playing basketball and I'm so glad our school has a Special Olympics team now. The main goal of our team is to support each other," said junior and player Kyle Garramone.

Engel believes that having a Special Olympics team is great for the school and the community.

"It's great for our kids to have a Special Olympics team; it builds team camaraderie, social skills, and it's a great thing to be involved in a team with a common goal," said Engel.

Senior honored for dedication, grades

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

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.

Being president of SkillsUSA as well as doing community service has helped senior Kevin Szul to become November's Student of the Month.

What do you get out of being Student of the Month?

I get a feeling of self-accomplishment, knowing that all I put forth will be able to be used in the future.

How do you value your academics?

Academics are important to my growth as a learner because education allows me to learn new information and gives me the ability to respond and see information in different ways.

What clubs are you in?

I am the president of SkillsUSA.

Why did you decide to join SkillsUSA?

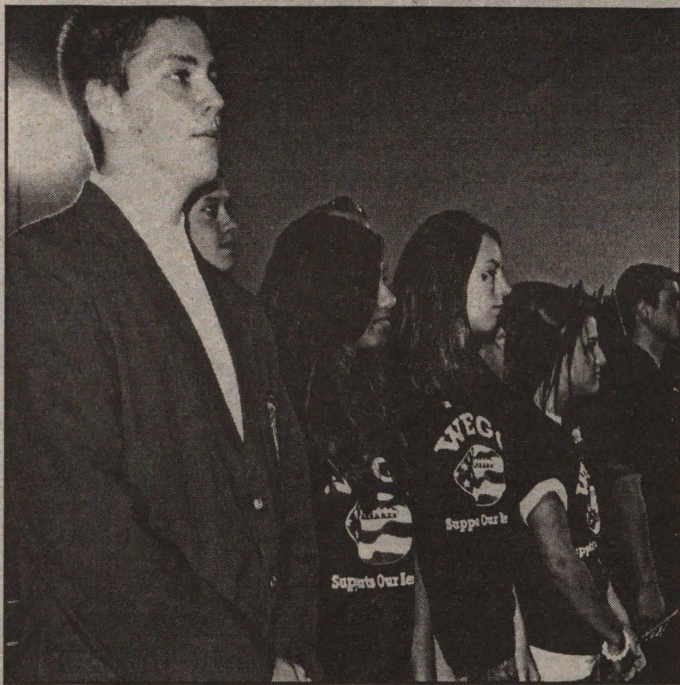


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Senior Kevin Szul is November Student of the Month, president of SkillsUSA, and helped to run the 9/11 football game, pictured here.

I thought it would be a great opportunity to suit who I am and help others, and be able to compete in things I'm interested in.

What do you want to do in your future?

I hope to become an aerospace engineer.

Why do you want to be an aerospace engineer?

I've always had interest in flight and it's just one of my interests in life.

Who influences you the

most?

Both teachers and parents. They influence me on how to succeed and how education is important.

They tell me to follow my interests and do what [I] want to do.

What do you value the most in life?

[I want] to become the best person possible and to keep and maintain my own beliefs without influence. I want to be able to help others.

Help is coming

New peer tutor program to start

By Yasmyrn McGee
Perspectives Editor

Students seeking help in classes will be able to get the assistance they need outside of class next semester.

"The intent is to help students with their writing and math," said language arts division head Chris Covino.

During every period students can seek peer help in the conference room outside of commons. Two to three tutors will assist students who need help.

"We asked all English and math teachers to send us a list of students they would recommend to be tutors," said Covino. "[These students] are good in their subject area and get along with their peers. We took all these names and invited them to a lunch sponsored by Student Council and gave them application forms."

Covino feels this program has been long-awaited by students and teachers alike.

"Students have expressed a need that they need somewhere to go and get help, outside their teacher because their teacher is really busy or they can't coordinate the time," Covino said. "And our teachers have said they

wished there was a place they could send their students who just need that extra 10 or 15 minutes to work on their math, writing or reading."

Covino also feels that the program will also have an impact on tutors.

"This would provide an opportunity to not only help those students who need help but also provide opportunities for the tutors to learn something about what it means to be in education," said Covino.

Students will also be able to make their college applications better.

"A lot of them use this experience to both pad a resume and be a larger part of the school community," said Covino.

However, Covino is not quite sure when the program will be up and running.

"Our intent is for the whole program to start the first week of second semester," said Covino. "But that's based on us getting the application forms back, having enough people to actually fill those spots and changing some schedules to get tutors available for all hours of the day. If we can make all that work, we'll initiate it second semester. At the very least we'll start some version of it second semester, with an eye towards full implementation by the beginning of 2010."

From a bus ride to a \$100 check

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

Junior Jordan Nickelson put her daily experiences on the school bus to paper and took first place and \$100 in the "This I Believe" essay competition.

"I took a circumstance that people would usually look at negatively and made it positive," Nickelson said. "Most people would think I was crazy if I said I enjoyed the school bus."

Second place and \$50 went to junior Karena Lundquist and third place and another \$50 to junior Monica Terrazas.

"This I Believe" is the first annual essay competition for all juniors run by the school and funded by the Education Foundation.

"We got a very positive response [from the judges]," said language arts division head Chris Covino. "They

said that our students had very good ideas."

Four community members judged the essays.

Nickelson said that she thought of her topic when she had an epiphany while on the bus.

"When I was writing it, I didn't think about the money, but it was something I was passionate about," Nickelson said.

Writing has never been a passion for Nickelson, but she does enjoy English more than math, science, or any other subject.

"My teacher said that he liked it, but I was still really surprised when I found out that I won," Nickelson said.

She hasn't decided what to spend \$100 on yet, but shares her award-winning strategy with next year's entrants.

"Write something that you feel confident about and try a new, original perspective," Nickelson said.

Suited for fun



Photo by Alexis Hosticka



Photo by Jacob Wucka

Language arts division head Chris Covino (left) and English teacher Nick Kempksi don turkey costumes on Nov. 20. This was the first year that there were two costumes for the Student Council competition. Students could donate money to the teacher of their choice, and the \$320 was then given to the West Chicago Food Pantry.

Exploring new options

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

After four years and two failed attempts to leave the DuPage Valley Conference (DVC), West Chicago may soon find a competitive edge in the Metro Suburban Conference (MSC).

"We took a look at demographics and size, and one shining name was Metro Suburban," said a representative from the Conference Advisory Board (CAB), who asked not to be identified. "The schools of Metro Suburban are parallel with our school in racial demographics, size, and competitive nature. Metro Suburban isn't a pushover conference."

MSC is currently made up of six schools: Fenton, Ridge-wood, Riverside-Brookfield, Elmwood, Illiana Christian, and Timothy Christian.

Joining MSC would make West Chicago the eighth school in the conference, following Glenbard South which will join MSC in 2011.

Since taking over in 2007, Principal Moses Cheng has been searching potential conferences that West Chicago could join.

"One of my goals was to take a look at our conference, and see if there was a better

fit in an existing conference or see if we would fit better in a new conference," said Cheng. "The main reason we are looking for a new conference is to provide a positive and competitive experience for all of our programs."

Although Cheng believes that MSC has both positive and negatives, he is confident the board will examine the conference thoroughly.

"Right now we're still in the investigative stage. The board wants to review the data, and after the reviewing, we'll see what happens," said Cheng.

As of press time, CAB has obtained 58 signatures from parents in support of leaving the DVC.

Board of Education member Ruben Campos is monitoring the conference change ideas for the board.

Campos and the board are looking for a conference that is suitable for activities and athletics.

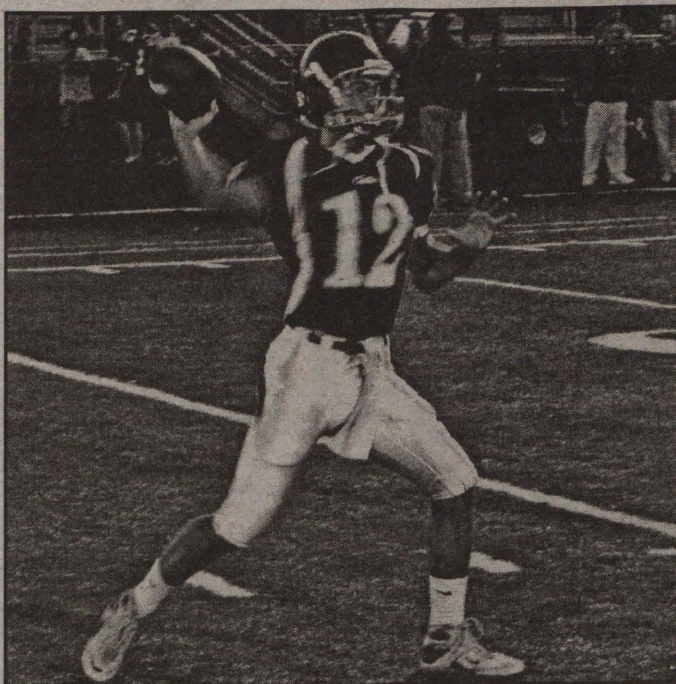


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Football is only one of the many sports and activities being considered as the administration discusses a possible conference change. Junior Evan Bernard's successors may play not play in the DVC.

chess team. We empathize with parents and students that don't do just athletics," said Campos.

He also says the board has

have enrollments of 397 and 690 students respectively.

Currently, the school board is investigating the cost each school spends per athlete.

Regardless the conference decision is not one that will be made hastily or without much discussion.

"To me, being an alumni and a West Chicagoan, athletics are important but not for just one sport," said Campos. "If we're going to be competitive, we should be competitive in every sport."

If we're going to be competitive, we should be competitive in every sport.

--Board of Education member Ruben Campos

"We have lots of activities that also compete in the DVC, like SkillsUSA, math team, scholastic bowl, poms, cheerleaders, steppers, and

found some discrepancies in the comparison of the DVC and MSC schools.

For example, Timothy and Illiana Christian high schools

Commons: lack of student responsibility evident

Continued from page 1

cafeteria is fairly well-maintained and clean.

"I think that for the most part it's clean," Ramos said. "I think that it's good that the teachers are going around with garbage cans and collecting the garbage

and making sure that the garbage actually gets in the garbage, and that makes for a better lunchroom."

However, freshman Christina Phan, who has 5th hour lunch, thinks differently.

"I think that the commons are really dirty. Sometimes when I go to lunch, my table

is full of food," said Phan. "Sometimes my backpack is soaked with water that was on the floor."

Urban believes that students who have 4th hour lunch don't realize or experience how filthy the cafeteria gets.

"Obviously, 4th hour stu-

dents don't think it's dirty because they're the first lunch hour," said Urban. "By 6th hour, it's 100 times worse."

As Urban continues to do her part to clean up after herself and other students, Durbin hopes that students will "help the cause" rather than "cause the cause."

Snowball effect

Students and staff ready for winter retreat

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

As students prepare for winter break, many are looking to the New Year for one main reason: Snowball.

Snowball is a weekend retreat for students and staff at Camp Taft held from Jan. 15-17.

"Snowball is a student and teacher co-led program that talks about healthy choices involving alcohol, drugs, sex, and tobacco," said math

teacher and Snowball supervisor Joy Tanimura-Winquist.

Students pick seminars to attend on different topics, and participate in team-building activities and games.

"[Snowball] is a positive place to build relationships with the students without talking about math," joked Tanimura-Winquist.

Junior Jeff Foreman attended Snowball as a sophomore and decided to be a leader this year.

"I had a lot of fun last year and I wanted to help out to make it better for this year," said Foreman. "[Snowball] was just a really fun time last

year."

Tanimura-Winquist acknowledges the positive impact Snowball can have on the students after her own experiences in high school.

"In high school, I didn't have a hard time [with peer pressure] but I had friends that did," said Tanimura-Winquist. "I wanted to have a place where I could go and talk, and it would have been nice for my friends."

Most aspects of Snowball remain the same, including breakfasts.

"We still have cinnamon rolls the size of your head to eat on Saturday morning," said Tanimura-Winquist. "It's all the same."

Permission slips are due Thursday, and the slots are almost filled.

Evening of talent

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

Cafe Express YoSelf is a celebration of the open word on the last Thursday of each month in the library.

Rappers, poets, lyricists, musicians, as well as anyone who celebrates the spoken word are invited to attend.

Sign up is first come, first served and there are usually 15 to 20 spots available.

"We know it's going so well because we usually expect to be there an hour but each time I've been there for two hours or more," said coordinator Tara Deleon.

About 150 students, teachers, parents, and siblings attended the first Cafe Express YoSelf on Nov. 18.

"There was an amazingly unexpected number. We planned 30 to 35 [people] but people were coming out of nowhere," said Deleon.

According to Deleon one of the most popular acts are the hip-hop performances because they draw peoples' attention, come from the heart, and are very expressive. There were an endless range of opportunities for the students.

Overall students have enjoyed Cafe Express YoSelf.

"I think it's great. It's a place that people can truly express themselves and have an audience that is attentive to listen to them. It's like being a superstar," said junior Nicole Clark, a performer of her own poetry.

The next Cafe Express YoSelf is Thursday at 7 p.m. Students who plan on attending should go through entrance H.

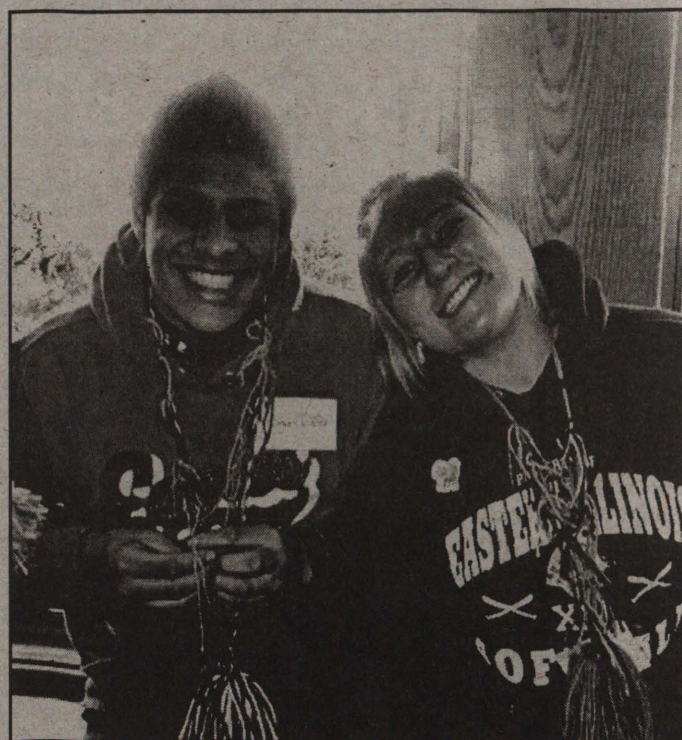


Photo courtesy of Kaity Olson

Seniors Deven Lopez and Kaity Olson enjoy a winter weekend full of seminars and team activities at Snowball 2009.



Photo by David Garcia

Senior Bridget Henley helps underprivileged children in the community by donating to Key Club's annual toy drive.

Basketball teams shoot for Haiti

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

On Friday and Saturday, the basketball teams are shooting hoops for the Hoops for Haiti project so that kids in Haiti can do the same.

Former college soccer player Sarah Aubry and her husband, Mark, a Bloomington-Normal financial adviser and former Division I basketball player founded Hoops for Haiti in August to send a positive message to children in Haiti through basketball with donated basketballs, jerseys, and shoes.

Connecting people in

America to less fortunate people in Haiti is one of their goals. The donated items will go to a camp in Pillatre, Haiti.

"My wife, Sarah, was really the one who was instrumental in the start of Hoops for Haiti," said Mark.

Sarah was included in a group of people that traveled to Pillatre in March. While team members helped build a church and a basketball court at the school where the basketball camp will be held, Sarah led a soccer camp. Mano, the leader of the school, wanted the children to learn American basketball.

"Sarah suggested that I would be the one who should lead the basketball camp," said Mark. "The name of Hoops for Haiti was Sarah's ideas as well."

In Pillatre, there are about six basketballs for the 1,000 kids, and business education teacher and coordinator Dan McCarthy wants to help.

"There's no goal in mind, we just want to collect whatever we possibly can," said McCarthy.

Students can drop off used basketball items in a box by the food checkouts in commons. The teams are collecting more equipment when the boys basketball team plays against Glenbard North Friday, and the girls basketball team plays against Bartlett on Saturday. A bin will be available to drop off equipment.

A little gifting goes a long way

Delivering joy to kids this season

By David Garcia
Contributing Writer

Key Club's annual toy drive is collecting gifts for families in need, and the club is asking for everyone to help.

"It has been hard for us to collect enough toys for us in the past," said Key Club sponsor Ward Rau.

This is due mostly to the multistep process kids go through when buying a toy.

"They have to remember to buy a toy, and then they have to remember to bring it in," said Rau.

Key Club is pairing with the Humanitarian Service Project (HSP) to help reach the HSP's goal of supplying at least one toy to each child

in the DuPage area whose family is on or below the poverty line. According to www.dupagehomeless.org, there were 11,242 children under the poverty line in DuPage county in 2008.

Key Club does set aside some of the funds that it receives from its other programs, such as the blood drive, to pay for toys, but that may not be enough to meet the one toy per child goal.

"I think the [toy drive] is something Key Club kids will continue to want to do: it's tangible, it's local, and I think it's something we're going to continue to want to support," said Rau.

The Toy drive started Nov. 1 and will continue until Friday. To support the toy drive, bring an unwrapped toy to the station in commons, or to Rau in the counseling office.

Students make an impact

By Yasmyn McGee
Perspectives Editor

SkillsUSA food drive had good intentions with disappointing results, falling short of the 5,000 item goal set by adviser Patti Kozlowski.

The organization successfully raised around \$550 in canned goods and monetary donations from students for the St. Mary's Food Pantry.

According to Kozlowski, \$1 can buy three cans of food from the warehouse. Even though this was extremely under their goal of 5,000, she is still proud of the contributions made by students.

"I talked to the pantry and the food is really needed for January and February because of the cold weather [during those] months," said Kozlowski.

Kozlowski thought that the goal wasn't reached because of all the other charity events around the school.

"It was difficult for stu-

dents this year because of all the other fund raisers," Kozlowski said. "But most of our donations were money instead of can goods."

Kozlowski credited most of the canned goods donated to the conditions of bringing in three items for a detention make-up or PE make-up and 20 items in for one Saturday School make-up.

"There were a lot of kids who donated in order to make-up a detention or Saturday school which is great," said Kozlowski.

Illinois SkillsUSA president junior Mayuri Parmar also supports the cause.

"It's important because it really helps out families have decent, warm meals during the holidays," said Parmar.

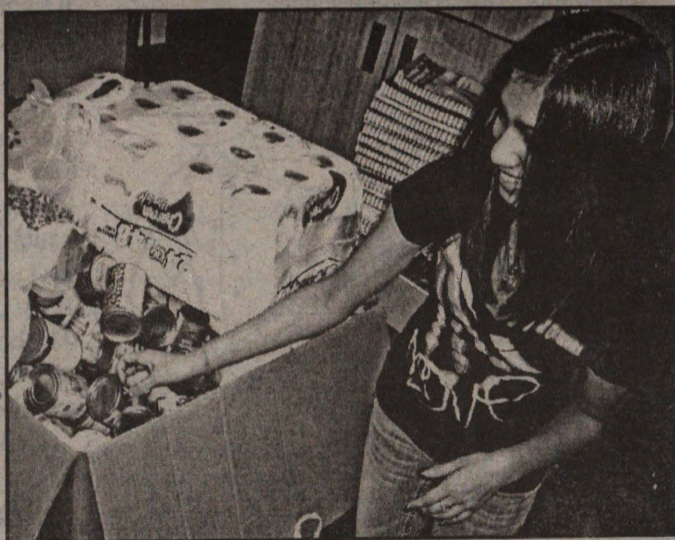


Photo by Yasmyn McGee

Illinois SkillsUSA president junior Mayuri Parmar sorts through items donated for St. Mary's Food Pantry.

School organizations help needy families

By Jake Hageman
Contributing Writer
and Helene Sankovitch
Contributing Writer

Poms and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) spread the holiday cheer by "adopting" families and helping those in need.

Each year around Christmas there is a program coordinated with families who don't have a lot.

This is the poms' second year participating in adopt-a-family.

"[The families] have a list of stuff that they need. We try to get stuff they need, like

pajamas," said captain and senior Kelsey Skogsberg.

A banquet will be held on Saturday at West Chicago Middle School where they give families their gifts and play with the kids.

"The kids think the gifts are from Santa," said Skogsberg.

Squad member junior Chrissy Jonas had fun last year talking to all the families and helping out the many poor and disabled children.

"It feels good to know you're doing something for someone else," Jonas said.

But poms aren't the only one participating in adopt-a-family.



Photo by Alexis Hosticka

From left, FBLA members sophomores Tarah Rayos, Payton Bayless, and Alex Marano wrap a gift for a child in a poverty-stricken family.

FBLA also take part in the annual event, which is run through the Winfield Township.

"[The family] gives us a list of what they need. It's what they need, not what they want," said FBLA adviser Maria Wirth.

This is the 11th year that FBLA is participating in adopt-a-family, this year they are supporting a family of six. Students picked out and wrapped gifts for each of the children as well as helping provide the necessities.

"We do this completely out of gratitude, as a way to give back," Wirth said.

Our View

Cheaters never win

Still guarded by countless million dollar endorsements, Tiger Woods' once squeaky clean and impenetrable reputation is now, and rightfully, under fire.

"Sport's first billionaire," as he has been called, has been heavily criticized since his car accident outside his Florida mansion, at 2 a.m., on Nov. 27.

At first, the public was confused.

Why was Woods driving around at 2 a.m.?

Let alone how could he crash into a fire hydrant coming out of his driveway unless he was drunk, high, etc?

Well, he wasn't any of those.

But what we were told at first though is that Woods' wife, Elin, broke open the back window of Woods' Escalade with a golf club to get him out.

What a pair, these two are; his adoring wife saving his life.

And the irony of her use of a golf club? Elin and Tiger, a match made in golfer's heaven.

Or so we thought.

Weeks later we've learned that the actions of that night were a whole lot different.

According to, well let's be frank, everyone, Elin was chasing after Tiger, hitting the Escalade with the club after an argument surrounding Tiger's now admitted sexual trysts with another woman.

Since Tiger was distracted by the enraged woman with the nine iron, he then crashed, and this whole saga of sexual promiscuity and lies were born.

We can blame Elin or Tiger in this situation for what happened that night.

But instead let's focus on this whole image of the Tiger Woods "brand."

Well for starters, it's definitely going to take a beating.

Especially after every woman that's ever been in the same room as Tiger is now coming forward claiming an affair with the megastar.

Also, this "brand" is going to take beating because Tiger simply wasn't upfront with his fans.

He demanded privacy and didn't say a word for weeks.

But of all people, Tiger should realize there's no such thing as a private life when your face is plastered on everything from Wheaties boxes to video-game covers to commercials for Buicks.

But if one thing is for certain about this "brand," it's these companies that have invested millions in Tiger, can't expect him to be both a human being and a brand.

It's impossible.

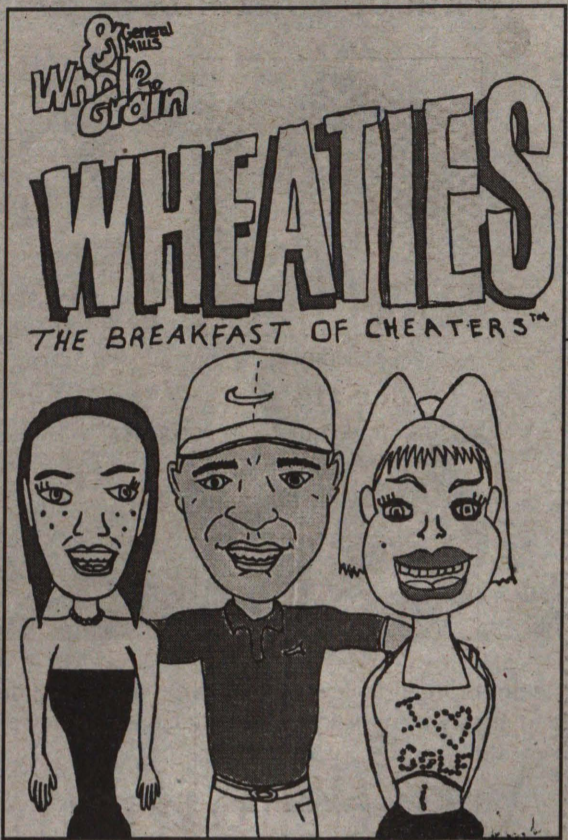
No one can be expected to maintain this perfect image for their whole life.

Everyone has flaws, faults, and demons that they'd rather not publicize.

Then again, everyone loves money and is willing to put themselves out there for a cut of the cash.

According to Esquire "Tiger Woods' skirt-chasing woman thing was one of the worst-kept secrets on the PGA Tour way back in 1997."

It may have taken some time (12 years time in fact), but these demons eventually came to light,



despite how much marketing money was spent to cover them up.

This "brand" deserves to falter for the time being.

Tiger should continue to get criticized for his affairs, and other actions.

He has to come clean now, because his marketing bubble has burst.

He has nothing else to hide behind.

Trash goes in the garbage, not on the floors

Who wants to eat in a school cafeteria? No one.

But since most students don't have a choice, can't the students make it the least painful experience?

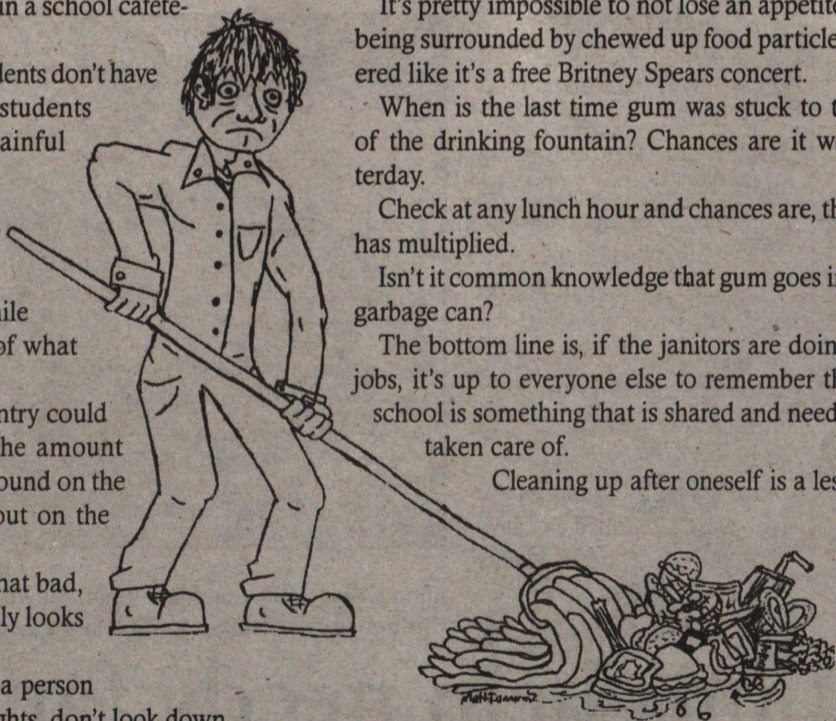
Or least grotesque experience?

No one wants to enjoy their lunch while seeing a sneak peek of what the kid last hour ate.

A third world country could easily be fed with the amount of unmentionables found on the chairs or sprawled out on the tables.

The floors aren't that bad, until someone actually looks at them.

It's like talking to a person who is scared of heights, don't look down.



It's pretty impossible to not lose an appetite when being surrounded by chewed up food particles gathered like it's a free Britney Spears concert.

When is the last time gum was stuck to the top of the drinking fountain? Chances are it was yesterday.

Check at any lunch hour and chances are, the gum has multiplied.

Isn't it common knowledge that gum goes into the garbage can?

The bottom line is, if the janitors are doing their jobs, it's up to everyone else to remember that the school is something that is shared and needs to be taken care of.

Cleaning up after oneself is a lesson

high school students should know already. It's a life lesson.

It's not too much to expect from young adults at all.

That's hardly a demand.

The janitors, who would eventually like to go home too, are stuck cleaning up after everyone else's mess.

Life's not fair, and neither is picking up everyone else's slack.

The ketchup dispensers are covered in dried, red glop. Ketchup goes on the burger, not the dispenser.

Food goes in the mouth, not the tables and floors. It is no one's fault but those who don't clean up after themselves.

People's mindset is that any mess they make will be cleaned up by janitors, so they are careless.

No one is asking anyone to clean up after other people's messes, just their own.

The school will be a better, cleaner place the day everyone realizes that this task is not hard.

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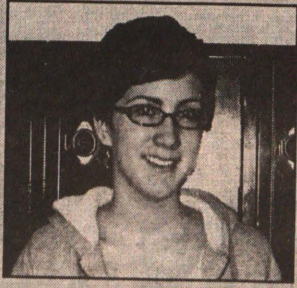
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Students Speak

Compiled by Yasmyn McGee

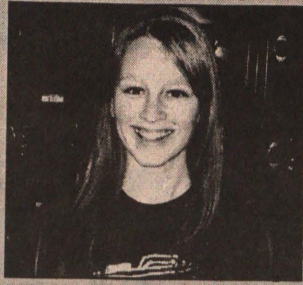
What do you think of the Tiger Woods controversy?



Senior

Carrie Liszka

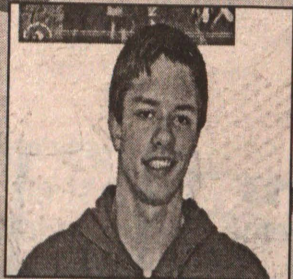
"It's being blown out of proportion and most people coming forward are just seeking attention."



Junior

Jennifer Kalbach

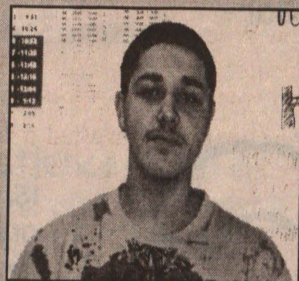
"I think cheating is disgusting and anyone who cheats on anyone else is a scumbag."



Sophomore

Elliot Slonek

"I think they should cut him some slack."



Freshman

Isreal Malave

"[Tiger Woods and his wife] could still work it out."

Smart decisions need to be made for budget situation



Alexis Hosticka

Within the coming months, students and staff will find out what budget cuts will be made to accommodate for the approximately \$800,000 budget deficit in the 2010-11 school year.

There has been much debate about whether or not the school should use part of the \$6.6 million in the High Lake fund, with the Teachers' Association highly in favor of spending it while the Board of Education stands firm on its former decision to use the money for capital improvement.

I can see where both sides' arguments are coming from, and I think the answer lies somewhere in between the two opinions.

As of now, the school needs to make \$800,000 in cuts. I think, that instead of not using any of the High Lake money, the school should take \$400,000 from the fund, reducing the deficit by half.

Not only would this leave less for the board to cut, it would also leave \$6.2 million in High Lake money.

Using the High Lake money this year is not going to prevent all of our problems. We will eventually

run out of money, leaving us a deficit and no 'rainy day money.'

So, the best solution to this problem is to cut some and spend some.

But the question still remains: what should be cut?

Parents, students, and teachers have all provided suggestions to the administration proposing what they think should be cut.

The Teachers' Association provided a "top 10 list" of how they would like to see the budget deficit handled.

The list includes a wide range of items that could save the school money.

I see some of the suggestions as more logical and feasible than others, but see the value in each of the suggestions.

For example, the number-two item on the list is to "go paperless." On paper, this sounds like an environmentally-friendly, cost-effective suggestion.

However, in each of my classes, I use, and the teachers use, a multitude of paper handouts every day. It just doesn't seem possible for that to actually work.

One of the suggestions that I liked was to reduce the student planners.

Many students do not even use their planners and it goes in the trash or stuffed in the back of a locker the day they get it.

Another item that we could cut is the calendar that each student receives at orientation every year. I've never used mine, and I'm sure there are many students who feel the same way.

I don't want to see any classes, teachers, or extra-curricular activities cut, and hopefully that won't need to happen.

There is a lot to consider when making cuts, and the board and administration have difficult work ahead of them.

I have a feeling that there are many arguments in the near future, but for the sake of the school population, hopefully those will be resolved quickly, peacefully, and both parties will agree with the final decisions.

Setting date is bad idea



Yasmyn McGee

President Barack Obama announced his plan for the current situation in Afghanistan on Dec. 2.

Obama decided to send 30,000 more troops into the country with hopes of withdrawing those troops by July 2011.

And even though many are on the fence as to whether or not this is a step in the right direction, I must say this seems like the best option at this point.

My reasoning is simple.

We have been in Afghanistan for eight years and have yet to achieve our goal of demolishing al Qaeda and the Taliban. Pulling out now would only show weakness.

It's important that we finish what we started.

Obama did not start this war, but he needs to do his job and finish it.

However, even though we must help get al Qaeda and the Taliban out of Afghanistan, I strongly disagree with the date set for hopefully withdrawing out troops.

Yes, the date does send a wave of relief to troops and their families but it's sending a different kind of message to al Qaeda and the Taliban.

To them it sends a message to just wait until American troops leave before starting up even deadlier actions.

Afghanistan citizens, who have been protected by American troops, will find themselves in a worse situation than before we entered the country.

If this happens, all efforts in previous years would be for nothing.

I want our troops home just as badly as everyone else, but not at the cost of reversing all progress made in Afghanistan.

Not to mention the billions of dollars that have been spent.

Also, the date seems entirely too near for us to actually end the problems in Afghanistan. If we have been trying to end this war for eight years, the chances of it finally coming to a close in less than two years is unrealistic.

I, like others, do not want this war to take another eight years to finish but instilling unobtainable promises into the minds of Americans is not a good decision either.

It is essential that we finish this fight but our goals must be realistic.

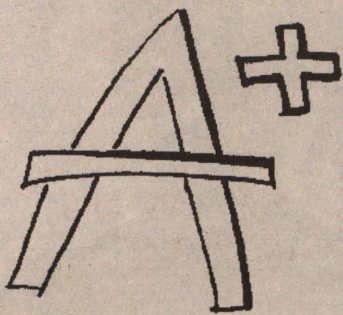
It won't be easy, and I doubt it will be quick but we can do this.

As Obama said, "The message that we send in the midst of these storms must be clear: that our cause is just, our resolve unwavering."

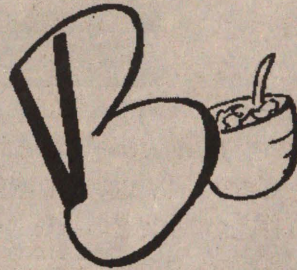
A-Z guide to

Compiled by Sarah Berger, Alexis Hosticka, and Jacob Wucka
Art by Helene Sankovitch

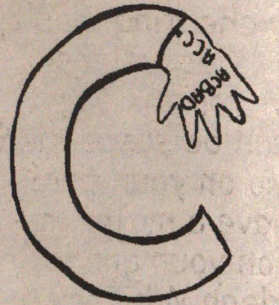
This holiday break, it's about more than just s it's about preparing to ace the biggest test of finals, though, stud



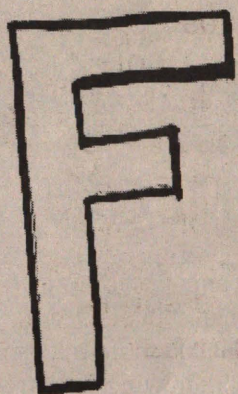
is for ace it. If you go in with the right mindset, your score will be higher. "If you go in confident, you will raise your abilities by 10 percent, of course this is backed by effort," said psychology teacher Barbara Laimins.



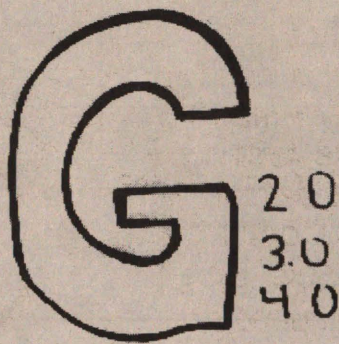
is for breakfast; eat a big one. "Test scores tend to be higher if a student eats breakfast," said health teacher Amy Gibson.



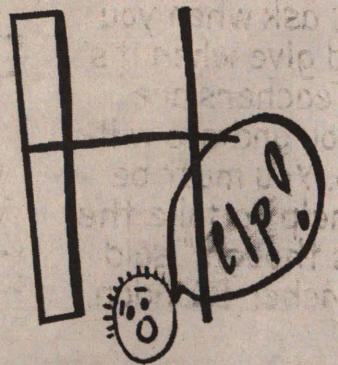
is for do it. credi and c A zer can h pact said c Rusin



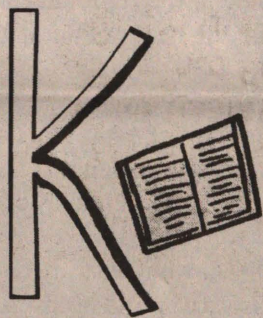
is for failure; avoid it! "I don't fail finals because I choose to study," said junior Chris Phan.



is for GPA; final scores greatly affect it. "Some teachers weigh final exams more heavily than others. There's no blanket policy," said counselor Jill Holubetz.



is for he need it needed. here for ing to he willing to first ste science Pederso



is for knowledge; it's time to show what you've learned. "Ideally the students have reviewed over the semester. A good idea is to review old tests and quizzes as review notes," said math teacher Kristina Mallon.



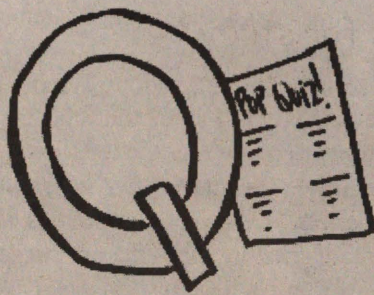
is for lucky, if you don't know the answer take a guess. "I try to narrow down answers by eliminating the ones I don't know and then choosing the longest answer," said junior Maggie Tikka.



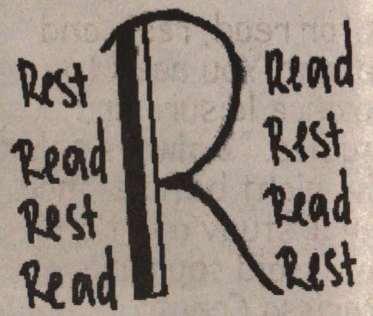
is for minty of chewing v ing increases three to five studying will grade by mo percent too, teacher Han



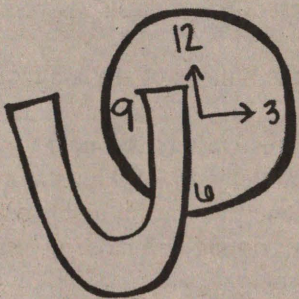
is for preparation. Make sure you're ready to go on finals day. "I always prepare for finals by getting a good night's sleep and reviewing my notes in the morning," said junior Sami Lauf.



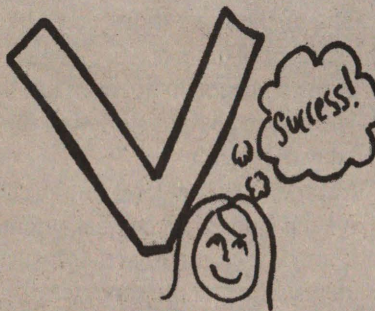
is for quiz yourself; you don't have to be with people to study. "If a man does not study, how does he plan to succeed?" said freshman Luke Jacobnis.



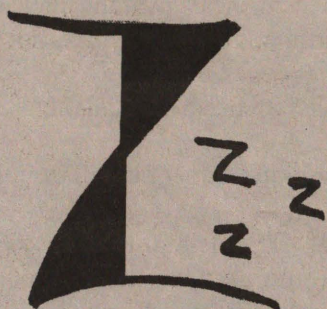
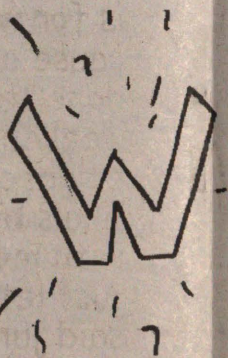
is f rep balo stu the but too Mar



is for use your time wisely, don't waste time and stay focused. "When I'm taking a long test I use all of my energy to stay focused," said freshman Jacob Seeman.



is for visualize. If you visualize yourself being successful, you will be. "I always tell my students to start with a plan. I tell them when they take the test to take a breath, organize and create a plan, and then go," said English teacher Amanda Cordes.



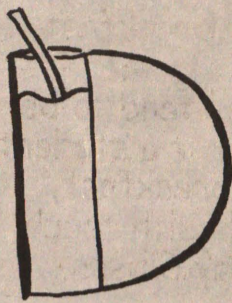
is for zzzzz's, be sure to catch some! "Studies show that 9.25 hours [of sleep a night] are necessary to fully recuperate and it is especially important for teenagers," said nurse Beth Jones.

No matter how many hours basic tip: Know the mater acing finals, you'll be gold

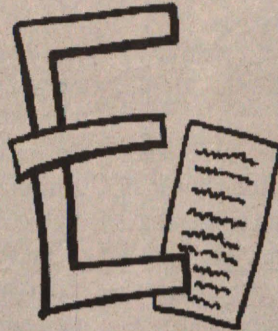
to acing finals

st sipping hot chocolate and epic snowball fights, st of the year: finals. With our A-Z guide to acing studying will be a snap.

is for cheating, don't do it. "Kids will lose credit for the work and can be suspended. A zero on your final can have a major impact on your grade," said dean Whitney Rusin.

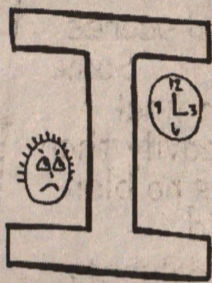


is for drink. Be sure to avoid soda, and grab juice, milk, or water instead. "With caffeine you won't be able to sleep as well, and it interferes with the thinking process," said nurse Beth Jones.

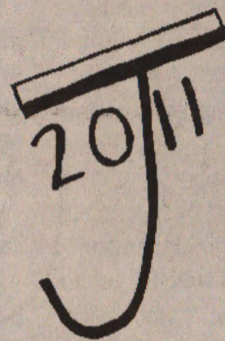


is for extra credit; get it in before you take your finals. "I give my students many opportunities throughout the year for extra credit," said English teacher Andrea Cobbett.

For help; ask when you need it and give when it's needed. "Teachers are here for you and are willing to help. You must be willing to help to take the next steps though," said science teacher Brandon Anderson.

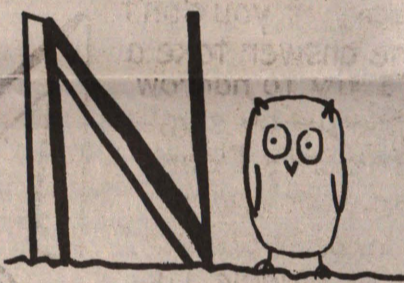


is for impatience; take a deep breath and don't worry about it. "I'm impatient because I hate testing. I feel like tests determine your life, and I don't think they should," said junior Justin Malandrucolo.

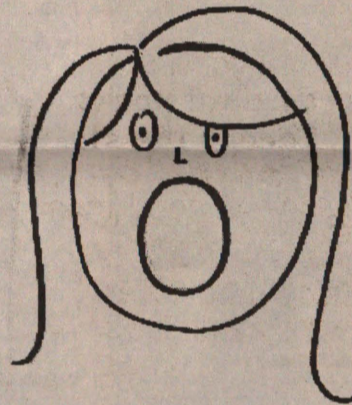


is for juniors. This is the year to boost up your GPA before college. "Colleges look at GPA only through the end of junior year. Decisions come before first semester senior year is even over," said counselor Jill Holubetz.

minty gum. "The act of chewing while learning increases retention by up to five percent. Just chewing will increase your focus by more than three percent too," said science teacher Hank Murphy.

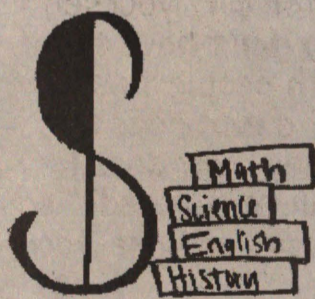


is for night owl. Avoid late-night cramming by studying over break. "When you sleep, your brain turns short term memory into long term," said nurse Beth Jones.

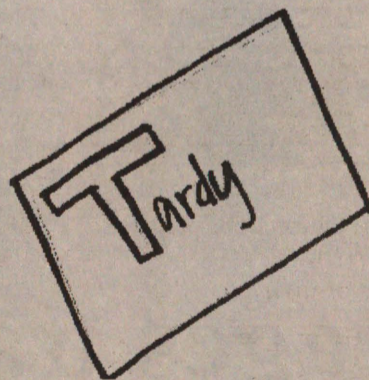


is for OMG, don't get caught txtng. "Texting could be perceived as cheating and students could lose credit for their final exam," said dean Whitney Rusin.

is for read, rest, and repeat. You need to balance leisure and studies. "I always relax the night before finals but I study a little bit too," said sophomore Marissa Caputo.



is for study tips. "I always look back at all of my notes, even the ones from the beginning of the year because I forget a lot of material," said junior Megan Gossen.



is for tardy. Don't be late because you can fall behind fast. "After 15 minutes you can't go into class and take the final," said dean's assistant Edie Freund.

is for weekend, because once you're done testing it's the weekend. "I always celebrate after finals by hanging out with my friends and just letting loose," said junior Dani Keller.



is for $x+y=z$ and x-axis; know your math! "I tell my students the y-axis is a yo-yo, yo-yo's go up and down. X goes the other way," said math teacher Joy Tanimura-Winquist.



is for yapping. Don't talk during the test! "I've ripped up a test before for a student who was talking. Test time is not talk time," said English teacher Dave Jennings.

hours you study or the amount of gum you chew, finals boil down to one material! As long as you pay attention in class and use our A-Z guide to golden. And let's face it: there really is no better present this season than a big, fat A on your finals.

Learning what 'giving back' actually means

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

During the season full of shining presents and warm houses, two students realize the meaning of giving back cannot be found under a tree.

Junior Joanna Wierenga has been volunteering at Public Action to Deliver Shelter [PADS], an organization that provides shelter and a meal to the homeless, once a month for the past four years.

"I started four years ago because [PADS] was affiliated with my church," said Wierenga. "I thought it was a good way to help in the community."

Out of all the people that

Wierenga serves, the younger kids are the ones that are the hardest for her to see.

"If there are little kids, we play with them or talk to them," said Wierenga. "There is a family that comes in with a little boy who is so sweet and so nice, and it always hits me hard to see them not being able to provide for their family. This is this boy's childhood and he is living it in a shelter."

Senior Steven Duda volunteers for PADS every Thursday after school.

"I chose PADS specifically because my friend mentioned it as a good way to get involved in the community," said Duda, "and you really

see things you don't see in everyday life. You don't really see the homeless or recognize the problem until you are confronted with it."

One man that has stuck a chord with Duda was Mr. Olson, a homeless man battling melanoma and constant pain from a twisted spine.

After finding Mr. Olson a ways from the shelter one night, Duda and another man were able to help get Mr. Olson to the shelter safely, but not without a few speed bumps.

"We essentially had to carry him," said Duda. "We were flagging cars to help us get him to the shelter, and not one out of the 15 cars that we flagged stopped. Eventually we got some to help move him, but it was the very last person we talked to."

After the situation, Duda has realized how little most people care about others, especially during a time that is supposed to be about caring.

"Here was a visibly ailed in the rain and no one would stop to help them," said Duda. "It was disillusioning and inspiring at the same time. It inspired me to keep helping and doing good for people."

Duda began volunteering for PADS as part of the community leadership class, but has realized that there is more to volunteering than just hours.

"I've always wanted to make a difference in my life and in others' lives," said

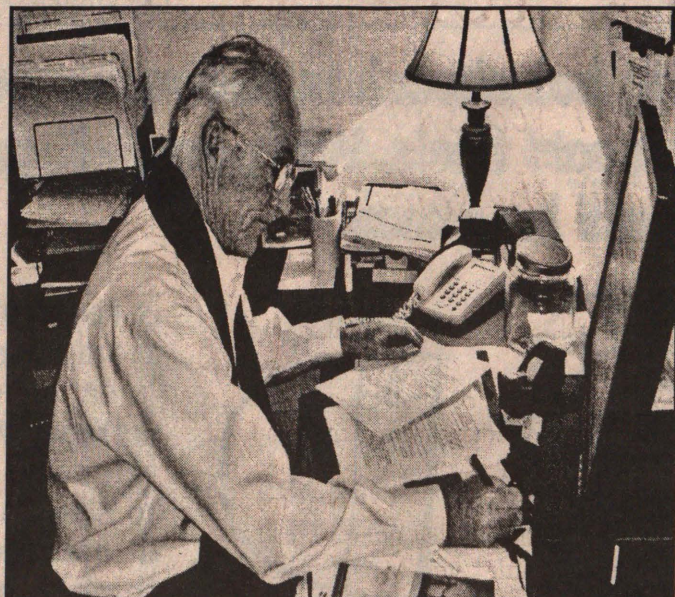


Photo by Beth Berg

Robert Adams tries to find permanent homes for the veterans staying at the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans.

A veteran's call to action

By Beth Berg
Contributing Writer

Winfield resident Robert Adams has no visible scars, no missing limbs, and no outward signs of his past experiences as a Vietnam War soldier. He looks like a doting grandfather, which indeed he is.

But beneath the kind looks and white hair is a strong will and determination to help fellow veterans.

Adams came up with the idea of a homeless veterans' shelter in the 1980s because he had served with the Marine Corp in 1968-'69.

"Some years after the war ended, we began to see homeless veterans on the streets everywhere in America and I had come home with some of my own problems, which I got a lot of help with. In the middle to the late '80s, I began to think if there something I could do for my fel-

low veterans who had fallen on such hard times," said Adams.

So began the long struggle to help his fellow veterans by starting up a not-for-profit shelter for veterans.

"In 2000 we incorporated and began to raise money, but after 9/11, all the funds dried up. And so it took about three years from that point till my friend Dirk Enger, who was also a Marine Corp veteran, got together and said 'well, let's do this thing, let's start a homeless shelter for veterans'; a place where they can come from the street to get back into society," said Adams. "So we started in early 2005 and I think we've probably gone through a lot of banks to get the place we wanted, to get the place up and running."

The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans opened

See Shelter, page 11

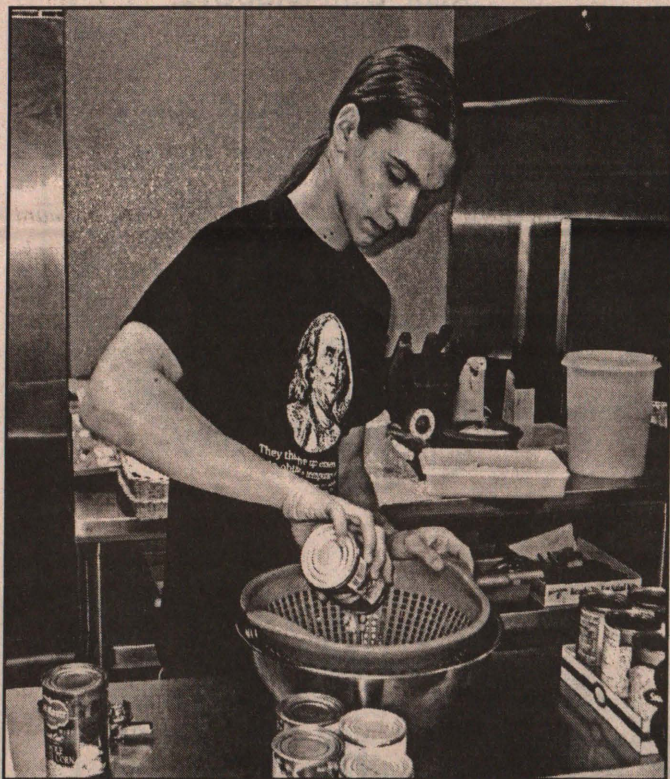


Photo by Megan Hernbroth

As part of his duties for PADS, senior Steven Duda prepares dinner for the homeless.

Lonely cages traded for real homes

By Sam Young
Contributing Writer

Upon entering the DuPage County Animal Care and Control (DCACC) center, the first thing the eye catches is the stack of full cages sitting in the lobby.

Thousands of animals each year are brought to the DCACC center because they are lost, stray or given up by their owners.

"It's overwhelming how many animals are put up for adoption," said the facility's humane educator and events coordinator, Dina Zaccaria. "DCACC does their best to

send out as many animals as possible to rescue programs, foster homes, or to people that can best care for them."

Summer at DCACC is typically the busiest time of the year because animals are outside more and tend to run away or breed. There is also a surge in animal arrivals after holidays like Easter and Christmas.

Zaccaria explained that the reason some people surrender animals they've received as gifts is because they aren't up to the work or the commitment involved in owning the pet.

"A family is required to



Photo by Sam Young

Dina Zaccaria works throughout the year to make sure all animals, including ferrets, have homes for the holidays.

complete an adoption application and the entire family is encouraged to meet the animal before making the decision to adopt," said Zaccaria. "Animals aren't gifts: they're a family commitment."

A typical day for Zaccaria can include updating the shelter's website and taking pictures of the animals for an online pet adoption service.

Workers must also transfer animals from one lonely cage to another.

The last thing heard and seen as one exits DCACC is the howl of lonely dogs and the still-full stack of cages by the door.

Letters from a fallen soldier, brother

After years of correspondence, Mary Roley meets the soldier who fought beside her brother

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

When guidance counselor Mary Roley's brother died in the Vietnam War, a void was created in her life.

"Everyone else treated me like the pesky little sister. [My brother] Tom treated me like his little sister," said Roley. "My dad used to say we had similar personalities."

Roley, the youngest of five kids, was 7 years old when Tom Smoczynski was drafted to Vietnam in 1967.

"I remember when he left for Fort Leonard Wood for basic training. I remember my mother sobbing uncontrollably at Union Station," said Roley.

With her brother off to war, Roley recalls writing to and drawing pictures for him, as her mom would also write and make care packages.

She also vividly remembers the "very difficult day" she learned Tom died.

"[My brother] Mike walked me home from school everyday, and one day I walked to the corner and didn't see him, and I was ticked. But

my dad drove me home, and I said 'Where's Mike?' and my dad said he was home. And I was so mad; I was like 'Why couldn't I stay home?' And my dad started crying, and told me Tommy had died. It was the first time I had seen my dad cry," said Roley.

After the heart-wrenching funeral, the family received a letter from a soldier who fought beside Tom. His name is Jim White.

"Jim wrote to all five families that lost loved ones on that day. The letter said that Tommy didn't suffer, and a few details of that day," said Roley. "My family was the only family to respond to him."

Roley and her mother began writing to White on a regular basis. As Roley says, they "picked up where they left off with Tommy."

Even when White returned to California after the war, Roley still communicated with him.

At one point, White met with Roley's parents and told them the full story of how Tommy died.

"[My parents] never told us how he died. It was a mute

topic for our family, and it was very hard for my mother to talk about," said Roley.

It was 13 years ago when she finally learned the truth.

She invited White to the surprise 50th anniversary party for her parents; an invite she thought was "a shot in the dark." However, White attended.

Following the party, White gathered Roley and her siblings to finally tell them the grim details of Sept. 24, 1968.

Tom and Jim were in a battalion canvassing a hill. Tom was point man and had to make sure it was safe to proceed when he was shot in the chest.

The battalion returned fire as Jim tried to get to Tom, but could not due to enemy fire.

When the shooting cleared up and Jim went to assist Tom, a bullet struck an explosive on the back of an American soldier, causing a violent blast.

The remaining soldiers made a makeshift bed and carried Tom away, but air support could not come. They waited as Tom died hours after the initial shot. He was 20.

The void in Roley's life began to close, but she had yet to discover why. She planned to talk to White about her brother again when she met with him three years after the anniversary party. But even then, she could not find the words she wanted to say.

It was in October 2009, when Roley received an invite to White's 60th birthday party. She flew to Laguna Beach, California, and surprised her longtime friend, who welcomed her with open arms.

"He took me around and

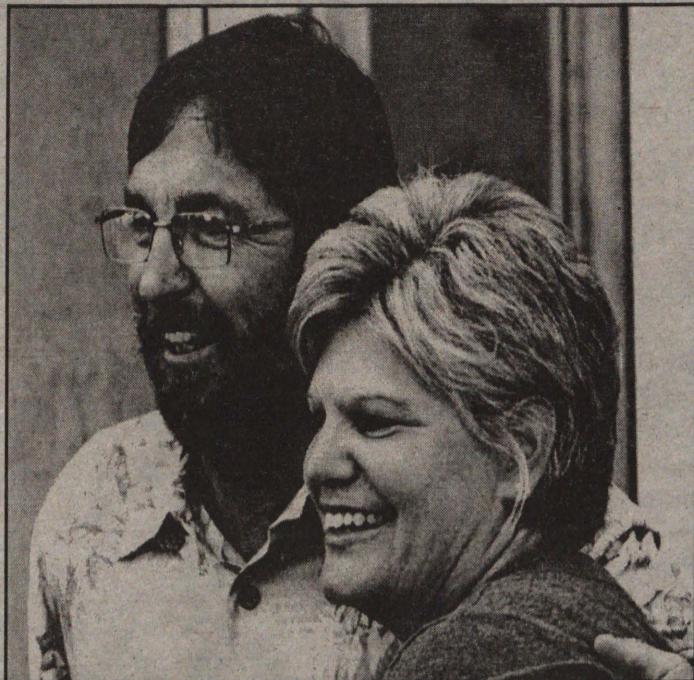


Photo courtesy of Mary Roley

After inviting Jim White to her parents' 50th anniversary party, Mary Roley finally meets the man she has been writing letters to since her brother's death.

showed me pictures of my brother and him. He's so proud of his service to the military," said Roley. "He has continually kept the memory of my brother alive. There were over a hundred people at the birthday party and everyone there knew who I was."

As the night was winding down, White asked Roley if they had kept any of his or Tom's letters.

"I said no, we're not the family that keeps sentimental things," said Roley. "[When I was home] I went to the basement [at my father's house] and opened my father's old footlocker and inside was this shoebox. In that shoebox, was every letter lined up neatly with a letter that says 'Tom's Last Letter' on it. From there, the letters continued with all of Jim's letters."

Roley sat awake all night reading the letters, laughing, crying, and learning who her brother really was.

"I feel like the letters let me know my big brother all over again, but as an adult," said Roley. "I was amazed by how mature he was; amazed at the hell he went through."

One undated letter from May 1968 remains her favorite:

"Today I thought of Thanksgiving Day. I remembered all the times when on Thanksgiving I tried to think of everything I had to be thankful for. I thought I had life rough, and at times I thought everyone was against me because I never had a new car or I never could do what I wanted. Well I guess I had to learn the hard way. Now I know I can be thankful for the greatest parents in the world... And I know when I get home there will be a soft bed and three meals a day waiting for me, that is besides two brothers and two sisters who I know will be glad to see me," wrote Tom.

Roley's life had come full circle, and the void was now gone. By meeting Jim, Roley was led to Tommy's letters and her own self-discovery.

She had also finally found what she had wanted to say to White all along: Thank you, brother.

"I tell Jim that this whole thing is just because a girl decided to come to an old man's birthday party," said Roley. "Jim says it's just because an 18-year-old soldier wrote a letter."



Photo courtesy of Mary Roley

From left, Jim White, Tom Smoczynski, and fellow soldiers relax during some of their limited down-time during the Vietnam War days before the attack that killed Tom.

Shelter: Vietnam veterans use previous war experiences to open homeless shelter

Continued from page 10

mid-January 2007 in Wheaton, blocks away from the downtown area. It has a warm, cozy home feeling with American memorabilia decorating the house.

Five veterans can stay at the shelter at any one time. The veterans are only allowed to stay at the Midwest Shelter for the Homeless for two years, but the average stay is

around nine to 12 months.

Adams is the president, co-founder, and clinical director of the shelter. He volunteers constantly and helps the men deal with their problems.

The shelter treats a variety of issues ranging from legal issues to life lessons, but mainly focuses on two.

"It's two things we treat here specifically; post traumatic stress disorder, which affects everything from someone's life, [to] family relation-

ships to work relationships," said Adams.

The other main problem is substance abuse, such as alcohol or drugs, which Adams has seen lead to domestic violence and other issues.

Adams believes that the men "come here often not because they want to or because they planned on it or they're lazy, but because somehow or another, they have fallen through the cracks of society."

The shelter has a 77 percent success rate overall and 66 percent after a year, which includes the men having a place to live, savings, a job, and in some cases, being sober.

"From homelessness back to independent living, that's really our goal. They come for a variety of reasons," Adams said. "We treat them all."

Mostly the men come from the Vietnam War but the shelter has seen at least two Gulf War veterans and two Iraq War veterans. He expects to see more Iraq veterans soon.

"We're starting to see

younger men and women, we'll see more of them as time goes along. They're falling through the cracks faster than even Vietnam veterans did," Adams said.

But Adams takes no credit for his role in helping the men reform their lives.

"We're working for a power greater than ourselves. We're just instruments, but it feels gratifying," Adams said. "It's really nice to see people come here in the state that they're in and leave here completely different. For all of us, it's gratifying and we all feel that way."

Choosing sides

With the release of 'The Twilight Saga: New Moon,' student rivalries are beginning

Team Edward Vs. Team Jacob

By Beth Berg
Contributing Writer

With the release of the newest movie installment of "The Twilight Saga: New Moon," student rivalries are coming out in the hallways and classrooms. When "Twilight" fans meet, there is only one question on their minds: Team Edward or Team Jacob?

Many students answer with Team Edward.

Sophomore Devynn Markle "didn't think much of 'Twilight'" when she first heard of it, but curiosity got the better of her after she saw the movie.

"I saw the movie and read the book, and I'm like, 'I'm in love with this book, I'm addicted,'" said Markle.

She instantly preferred Edward Cullen over Jacob Black.

"I'm really fond of the book Edward better just because of his personality and his attributes. And he's supposed to be smoking hot in the book," said Markle.



Photos by Beth Berg

Life-size posters of Edward Cullen and Jacob Black (right) hang in the windows at Burger King restaurants.

Markle is willing to admit that she is the crazed "Twilight" fan often portrayed on television.

Junior Alma Ortiz got hooked on the book because the recent fad grabbed her attention.

"Everyone was talking about it so I decided to see what the big deal was about and I fell in love with it," said

Ortiz.

Ortiz favors Edward "because he's like the present-day Romeo with a bad boy spin."

Junior Krysta Youngberg claims her preference for Edward is because of his chivalry.

"Keeping chivalry alive since 1901," said Youngberg.

Youngberg became a fan because a couple of friends wanted her to "read the book a couple of summers ago and I couldn't put it down."

Youngberg also finds Edward better than Jacob "because his mystic is intriguing. He's just very mysterious."

Senior Katie Siembieda was almost forced into loving the "Twilight" series by a few friends.

"I was totally against them until I was conned into seeing the movie. My friends told me we were going to see 'Role Models' but bought tickets for 'Twilight' and forced me in against my will."

No matter what the team is, "Twilight" has its grip on West Chicago.

By Carly Tubridy
Contributing Writer

The vampire-werewolf battle continues.

"Werewolves are cooler and they kill vampires," said sophomore Brandon Jackson.

Fans usually agreed the biggest reason they liked Jacob better is because they thought Edward was too sensitive; they like Jake's rough-around-the-edges vibe.

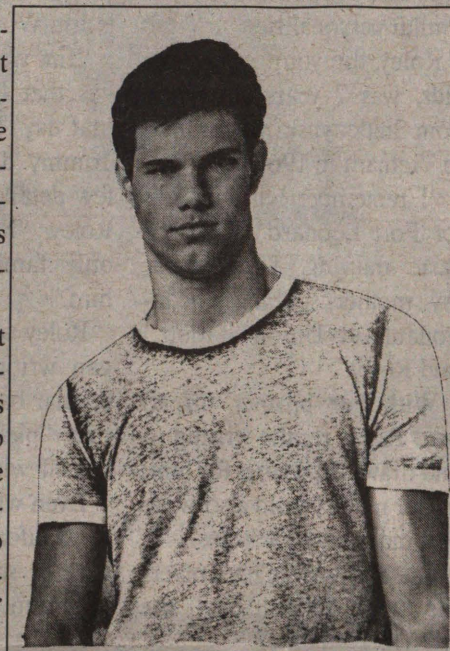
Throughout "New Moon" Edward is presented as 'perfect' and Jacob is presented as more young and rebellious. Fans seem to like the more adventurous side of Jacob.

The other main idea was they can never forgive Edward for when he left in "New Moon." Team Jacob tends to agree that what Edward did was unnecessary and hurtful to Bella.

Of course, there are also the fans that are Team Jacob/

Taylor Lautner; these fans like the character because of 'how hot' Lautner is.

This has drawn in a lot of fans for the "New Moon" movie because Lautner reportedly gained 30 pounds of muscles to play this part.



Junior Natalie Lopez said "[I like Jacob] because he's hot and I like his body."

Whether the reason for the Team Jacob support is from the book or from the actor, the Jacob trend is rising and Edward should watch out.

Want vampire attire?

The 'Twilight' craze has continued to grow and retail stores are catching on. Nordstrom has a huge selection that will make any 'New Moon' fan go crazy. Both Edward and Jacob fans will be pleased with the line of clothes and accessories.

Taking a bite out of Christmas shopping

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

It's hard thinking of stocking stuffers for Christmas, but if you're planning to buy for a vampire fan, Amazon.com features many different gifts to pack stockings with a bite.

Vampire fans will love the vampire bite fangs which sell for \$9.98.

With these fangs, vampire fans can sink them into a cup of hot chocolate when you purchase the "I Kissed a Vampire and I Liked It" mug for \$9.99.

Families get together during the holidays, and a great item to bring a family of vampire fans together is a "Scene It? Twilight Deluxe Edition."

Families can have fun answering trivia questions while watching movie

clips. And, bonus activities like "What Cullen Are You?" complete the deal at \$19.99.

Maniac drivers need some stickers to decorate their cars. If they've gotten a number of speeding tickets, the "I Drive Like a Cullen" sticker decal flawlessly describes their driving skills. The decals start at \$1.99 depending on different types.

Team Edward hoodies sell at different styles starting from \$27.99. They dispel Edward's icy cold and keep the vampire lover warm. There's no need to worry about unavailable sizes; they sell from small to XX-large.

These vampire presents are bound to show your love for the person your gift is for. And if they don't like your present, they just have to suck it up. Love bites.

- Team Jacob scoop neck burnout tee \$28
- New Moon stamp scoop neck burnout tee \$30
- Cullen Crest v-neck burnout tee \$28
- Team Edward scoop neck burnout tee \$30
- Bella chunky charm bracelet \$36
- Cullen Crest long pendant necklace \$28

All students want for Christmas is...

By Yasmyn McGee
Perspectives Editor

With the holidays around the corner, most students are more focused on what they want under the tree than what's on their homework.

Of the hundreds of possible gifts on the market, five stood out the most to students.

The iPod touch; a music player that enables users to control it with a simple touch of their finger. It includes features such as voice controls, music, movies, TV shows, app store, iTunes, photos, safari web browser, maps, YouTube and much more.

"My last iPod is broken so I need a replacement. The touch [element] is a cool feature," senior Jesse Frasco.

The iPhone 3G, which is even faster version of the previous iPhone that allows users, at a flick of their finger, to use features like video, 3-megapixel camera, voice control, compass, landscape keyboard, voice memo, YouTube and many more.

"I want it because all the different apps it has on it. It's so convenient," junior Brian Bennett.

A laptop such as Dell, HP and Mac are in high demand with even faster speeds and

in-depth features.

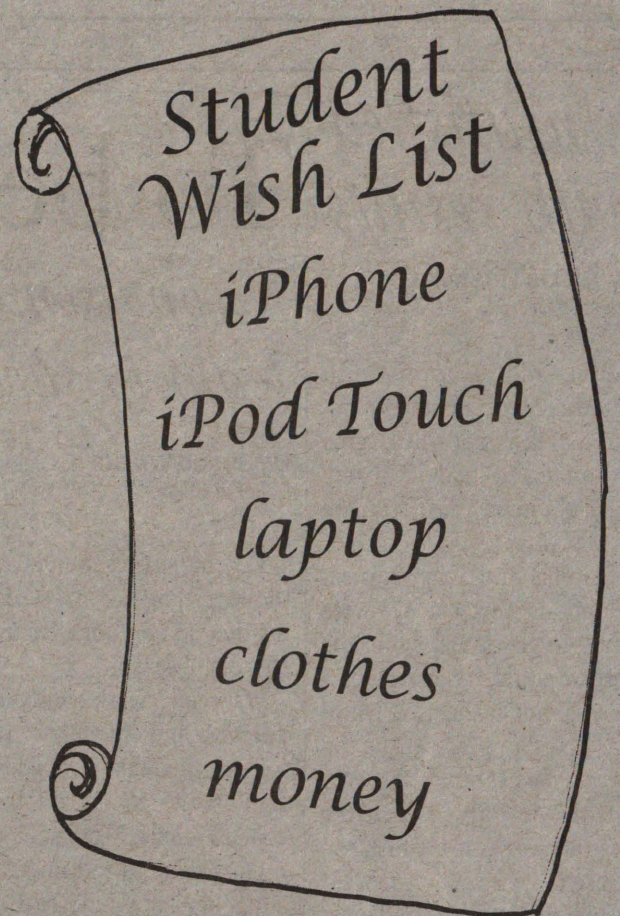
"I want a Macbook. I like taking the funny pictures on it [at Best Buy]," said junior Christin LaCour.

Clothing, from Ugg boots to skinny jeans, are in big demand for all teens this year.

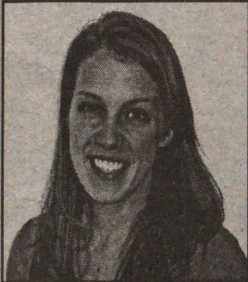
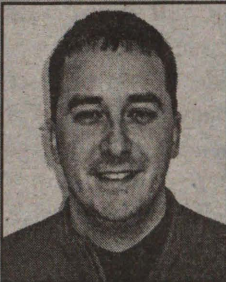

"I want clothes from Forever21 because that's the style that's in," said sophomore Alexis Virgen.


Most students want at least over \$100 to buy their most coveted gifts that are not always remembered by friends and family.

"I want at least \$120 so I can buy a camera," said sophomore Jeremy Soto.




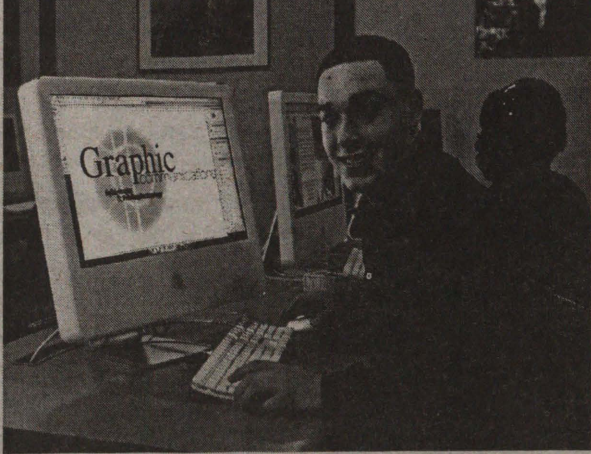
Teacher wish lists

 <p>Spanish Teacher Beth Govertson "I would like a new fence or a new roof for our new house. It's an old house and doesn't have many of the amenities of our old house."</p>	 <p>Gym Teacher Nick Parry "I want a dog; an Alaskan Malamute. It's one of the big sled dogs. I'm not going to get it but..."</p>	 <p>Business Teacher Donna Durbin "The only thing I'm asking for is a SpringBok puzzle. Every year they put out a new 1,000-piece puzzle and I get one every Christmas and do it over break."</p>
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"Going to TCD was the best decision I made in high school!"
—Brett, 2005
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Best of the best

In the last decade, five movies have left their mark

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Through the decade, moviegoers have seen revivals of series, remakes, and plain flops. However these six films of different genres have changed cinema for the better.

Fantasy: Lord of the Rings Trilogy (2001, 2002, 2003)

Director Peter Jackson's identical adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's books about hobbits, beasts, and the "one ring to rule them all" is the best adaptation in history.

The battles were intense and well-directed, and the story and acting were flawless. This series set the standard for every movie about medieval style warfare since.

Comedy: Superbad (2007)

"Superbad" depicted teen life as real as real can get while still being raunchy.

Simply, the film is quotable, funny, and changed the idea that teen comedies can only be about the quarterback on the football team, and not the lovable loners of high school.

Superhero: Spider-Man 2 (2004)

Although "The Dark

Knight" was the best superhero film of the new millennium thus far, "Spider-Man 2" established the how-to guide of making a superhero movie.

Moviegoers now expect to see darker plots, interlocking stories, and well choreographed fight scenes all because of director Sam Raimi's vision for the friendly neighborhood Spider-Man.

Horror: 28 Days Later (2002)

Before "28 Days Later," zombies were slow-walking, dim creatures. Because of "28 Days Later," moviegoers now fear the running, intelligent zombie, whose thirst for blood is endless.

Director David Boyle's re-imagination of the typical zombie movie renewed the genre, and gave horror film fans something new to look forward to.

Action: The Bourne Series (2002, 2004, 2007)

Jason Bourne revolutionized the shaky-camera technique.

The series, starring Matt Damon, also created now-common clichés like rooftop chase scenes, and large-scale car chases.

Even the legendary James Bond series has stolen techniques from the Bourne series in its latest action-filled romp, "Quantum of Solace."

Unsatisfied with results

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

Even with a team finish of 16th place in state compared to last year's 43rd, girls swimming coach Nick Parry wasn't quite satisfied with the results.

"Going into state, my expectations were that we were going to go in and swim the best we could," Parry said. "I was confident that [the team] was going to place in the top 15, maybe even top 10."

However, Parry blamed the less-than-expected finish on himself.

For girls state, which was held Nov. 20-21, swimmers had to first qualify on Friday (Nov. 20) before moving on to Saturday (Nov. 21), and how well or poorly they did on Friday directly impacted their results on Saturday.

"I didn't prepare our swimmers as well as they could've been prepared for Friday," said Parry. "The focus was on the wrong things: who we can beat and how we can beat them, instead of just swimming our best."

For example, junior Kelly Dunn took 10th place in the 200 freestyle on Friday, and swam again on Saturday setting a school record with a time of 1:52.09 and taking 7th place. Because she took 10th place on Friday, 7th place was the highest place she could receive, even though her time put her in 3rd place.

She also took 7th place in the 100 freestyle with a time of 52.11, which was technically the 5th-fastest time at the meet.

"I expected a little better than I did," Dunn said. "I wanted to be in top six and come back [the second day] in both relays. I think it's because on Friday, we were really uptight and not relaxed. We needed to concentrate on doing it for ourselves."

The relay team of Dunn, seniors Caity Madsen, Maria Sedjo, and freshman Yvette Kruk also qualified for Saturday, taking 8th place with a time of 1:37.67, falling short of breaking a school record.

Parry thinks next year will be a tougher season because of the graduating seniors and he's not expecting any stellar new freshmen.

"We're pretty much running on what we've got for next year," said Parry.

Dunn hopes to place top six in her individual events.

Winter Sports: Player Bios

To be reckoned

Strong seniors lead wrestling team to successful season

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Led by strong individuals, the wrestling team is keeping the momentum alive for a successful season.

"Our guys work hard to begin with and we've got great captains that take strong leadership roles too," said head coach Humberto Ayala.

On Friday, the team faced a loss against Glenbard East. However, at the Quad tournament at Maine East on Saturday the wrestling team went undefeated in all three of their matches that day.

Despite the loss on Friday, senior captain Jon White believes the team is proving themselves to be tough competition.

"Everyone wrestled real well, everyone was real crisp," said White. "I think having too many forfeits and being down 18 points hurt us [against Glenbard East]. But compared to other DVC matches, this one was a step in the right direction."

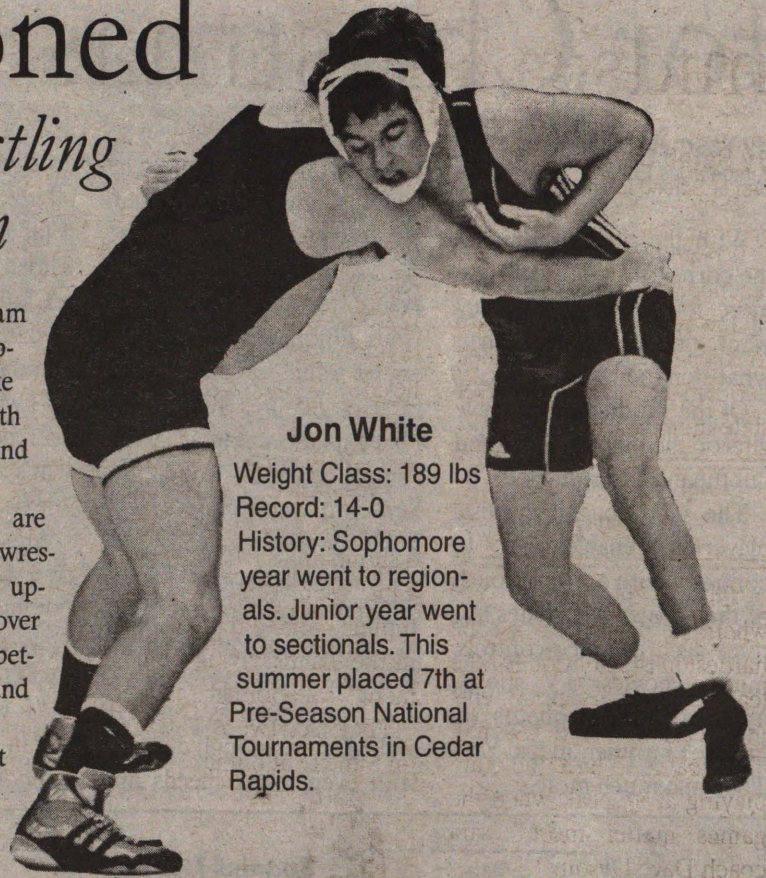
Leading the program in wins are senior captains Nick Carnot, Mike Theide, and White with records of 13-1, 12-2, and 14-0 respectively.

The three captains are working with younger wrestlers in hopes that with upcoming tournaments over winter break, they will better their techniques, and build stamina.

"[They need to] just keep going hard and shouldn't stop fighting until you hear that whistle blow," said Theide. "Once they see the other guy getting tired, it boosts their mentality to go only harder."

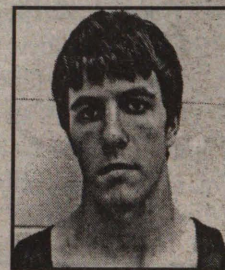
On Friday and Saturday, the wrestlers will face off at the Rex Whitlach tournament at Hinsdale Central. White is confident he will sustain his winning streak.

"[I will] work as hard as I can in practice," said White. "Doing the little stuff, and putting in that extra work will pay off in the long run."



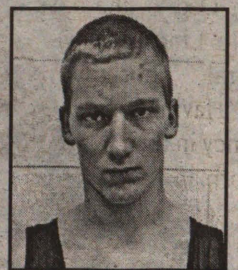
Jon White

Weight Class: 189 lbs
Record: 14-0
History: Sophomore year went to regionals. Junior year went to sectionals. This summer placed 7th at Pre-Season National Tournaments in Cedar Rapids.



Nick Carnot

Weight Class: 152 lbs
Record: 13-1
History: Sophomore, junior year went to regionals. Participated in off-season tournaments this summer.



Mike Theide

Weight Class: 171 lbs
Record: 12-2
History: Freshman year went to sectionals.

Looking towards the long-run

By Keyuri Parmar
Contributing Writer

Starting off the season strong, girls basketball is motivated to go far this season.

"Sometimes at the beginning of a game we are stressed but we stay competitive and focused," said senior Izzy Bruce.

On Saturday, the girls lost to Geneva, 45-37. Although they lost, the team was excited that they had improved over last year when they lost by a larger margin.

"The whole game we were within two points, but by the end of the third, we let them get in and run. If we would have guarded the outside better, they wouldn't have found a way around our defense," said senior Katie Staiton.

Head coach Kim Wallner believes the girls have to work on their skills to succeed.

"We needed to be more positive on defensive transition and

rebounding. But we have started to execute better with our half court offense," said Wallner.

6-3

On Dec. 10, the girls beat Glenbard East at home, 50-46.

According to Wallner, it is too early in the season to figure out the weaknesses, but the girls can still work on half court offense and lay-ups by transitioning.

The team is very fortunate to not have lost any players on the team, but there is a

player who is struggling with an injury.

"We need to improve at being together as a team defense by holding the other team to low court because we have a good defense," said Staiton.

Wallner expects the team to be competitive and work hard in every game.

"I would like to zero in on the important fundamentals and keep it simple which will help them [the team] more," said Wallner. "I want to focus on what we are doing more than what other schools are doing."

Tonight, the girls face off at Glenbard North at 7:15 p.m.



Jess Baidis
#42

Position: Forward
Height: 5'10"
History: 8 years



Madeline Warkins
#50

Position: Forward
Height: 5'9"
History: 9 years



Katie Staiton
#11

Position: Point Guard
Height: 5'4"
History: 12 years



Izzy Bruce
#21

Position: Guard
Height: 5'5"
History: 8 years

Winter Sports: Player Bios

Emerging from a midseason slump

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

Wheaton-West hockey has reached their half-way point of the season, working hard to keep consistency in their performance with a goal of state in mind.

10-10

"This is the time of year where we begin to work the hardest in preparation for the league and state tournaments in February and March. The goal is to have the team playing at its peak when the games matter most," said coach Dave Dyson.

On Dec. 6, the boys lost to Lincoln-Way Central hockey club. Having consistency in their performance is one skill the boys struggle with most.

"When we are at our best, we are among the best teams in the state. We have

struggled to play at that level with consistency, so our goal is to get everyone playing at their peak regularly towards the end of the season," said Dyson.

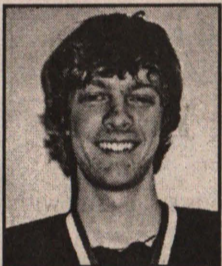
Junior Luke Somen believes the team has climbed out of a midseason slump and can make it to state.

"We started off doing really well, but we kind of got into a slump and started losing by a lot. We picked up the slack, though, and did really well in the Thanksgiving Tournament," said Somen.

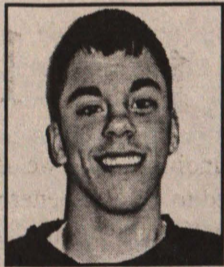
They face Lyons Township on Sunday at home.



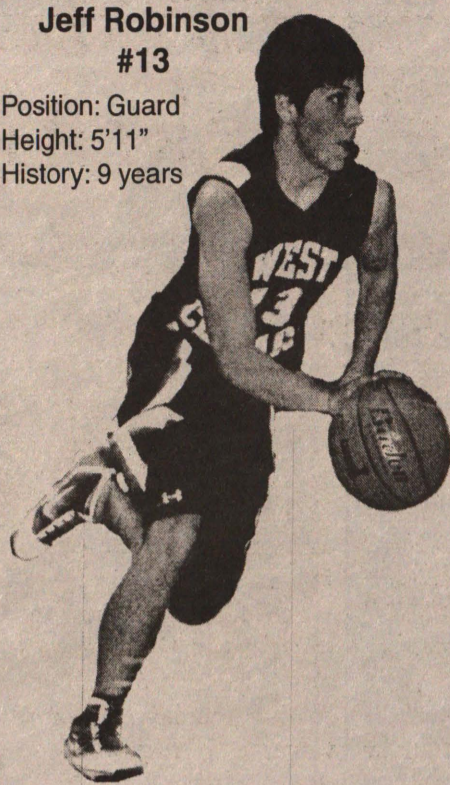
Jordan Rehak
#23
Position: Center
History: 14 years
Injuries: Broken collar bone



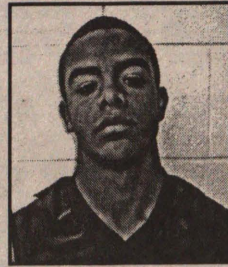
Ben Orr
#88
Position: Center
History: 6 years
Injuries: 3 concussions, eyebrow stitches



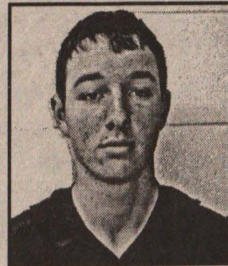
Anthony Brinkman
#14
Position: Defenceman
History: 12 years
Injuries: 4 concussions



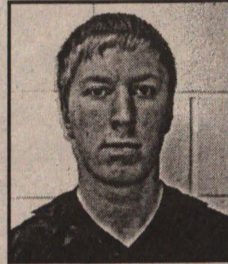
Jeff Robinson
#13
Position: Guard
Height: 5'11"
History: 9 years



John Wehr
#2
Position: Point Guard
Height: 5'7"
History: 7 years



Al Robbins
#12
Position: Guard
Height: 5'11"
History: 9 years



Ryan Karg
#25
Position: Forward
Height: 6'5"
History: 11 years

Against many obstacles

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

Plagued with early injuries, and mistakes on the court, boys basketball is struggling to succeed in the DVC.

"[The season has] been kind of rough so far, but we're going to change things around. We're going to practice harder," said senior Jeff Robinson.

On Tuesday, the Wildcats held their first home game against Addison Trail. Although the Wildcats and Addison Trail never had a definite lead over each other, it was in the fourth quarter when the game was decided. With six seconds to go, the Wildcats were up by one when Addison Trail scored, ending the game 49-48.

The boys also lost on Friday to Glenbard East, 64-36. Senior head captains Chad

Driscoll and Charles Jacques also were injured on Nov. 24 at Oswego. Driscoll cracked his knee and Jacques injured his ankle. Head coach Kevin Baldus focused on the bright side of the injuries, since it would allow other players the opportunity to fill key roles.

0-8

"When one player gets hurt, it gives somebody else the opportunity to step up to the role and gain experience for the season," Baldus said.

The game was close, with Oswego winning 54-52.

"I think Oswego was our best game so far," said Baldus. "[We were] against the second team that won state. I'd expect that score from a healthy team."

Still, Baldus is disappointed with the season so far, but he

expects it to pull through.

"Some kids were hurt, but the record will take care of itself when the team is healthy," Baldus said. "I just never want to see kids who work so hard to be in the position where they can't compete."

Toughening up on the defense is what Driscoll believes the team should work on.

"I think we should have the attitude to win, but I'm not doubting the effort. The effort was there," said Driscoll.

The key to winning conference is to overcome the competition, which is not another school, but themselves.

"[Our toughest competition is] ourselves right now," said Driscoll. "We have to get the right mind set and believe in ourselves."

The boys play Glenbard North on Friday at home at 7:30 p.m.

Sports Bios by Jacob Wucka

Doubts linger over boys swimming season

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

Last year, the boys swim team placed right in the middle of DVC, and will struggle to do the same again this year.

"Last year, we weren't great, but we weren't bad either," said head coach Nick Parry. "Our goal is the same every year: to place as high as we can in conference."

Parry believes that the team has two chances at state: juniors Anthony Nolzco and Neil Hummer. Both train during the off-season, which, according to Parry, is a big advantage

compared to the rest of the team.

"Swimming is a sport that you can just pick up for a few months and get better at it," said Parry.

Nolzco would make the state cut by losing 2 seconds off of his backstroke time, and Hummer is also close to state qualification times.

Team captains are seniors Kyle Hunter and Evan Morgan. With about 10 fewer swimmers on the team this year compared to last, Hunter believes that there is a tough season ahead, but also looks at the positives.

"It's going to be hard, but we get more individual attention and impact each other

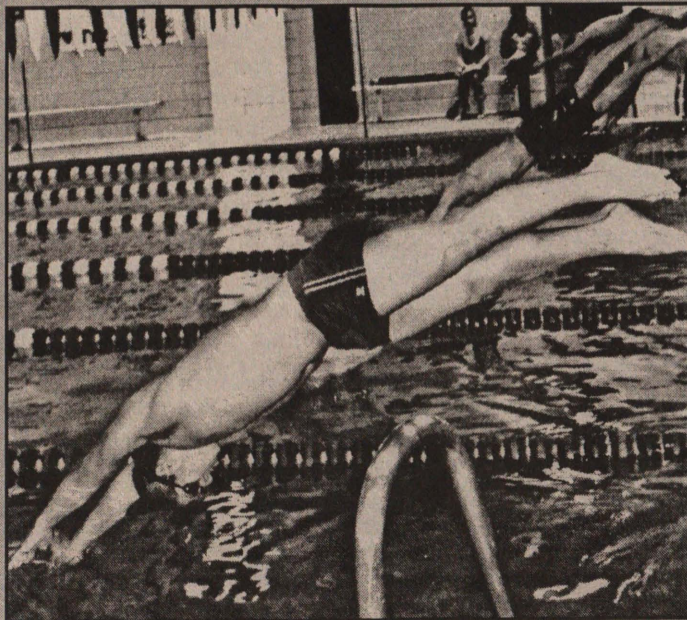


Photo by Alexis Hosticka

After placing in the middle of the DVC last year, the boys swim team is working to be more successful. Junior Anthony Nolzco dives off the block at a pre-season practice.

more than we did last year," Hunter said. "Hopefully, some of our swimmers will make state this year."

Nolzco believes the season will be challenging.

"We lost a few key swimmers, but we're going to hopefully overcome [those challenges], come together as a team, and make it to state," said Nolzco.

Morgan would also like to send as many swimmers as possible to state.

"Having only about 15 swimmers makes it harder to compete against bigger schools, but I think that, with commitment, we can have a lot of success," Morgan said.

My biggest regret

Join a sport and participate while you still have the chance

I have a laundry list of regrets.

And, six months prior to the day I graduate high school, I already know what I'm going to regret the most when I leave: I never did a sport.

Saying that pushes me into this whirlwind of anger and sadness. I definitely had the potential to participate: I could have done football, or maybe even basketball.

Maybe I could have been a three-sport athlete, and could have used that to be my excuse as to why I never did my homework freshman and sophomore years.

Also, participating in a sport would have boosted my self-confidence, and I probably would appreciate being called "Big Guy." Currently, I'm not a fan of this nickname.

Regardless of what I wish, I can't change the past. But current athletes can avoid a fate similar to mine.

I was approached by football coach Paul Reinke during my advanced strength class, and he gave me the idea for this column; talking about how he feels when athletes quit.

This conversation got me thinking.

You always hear about athletes quitting their sport mid-season or at the start, and we understand that everyone has their reasons as to why.

Some quit because of the coach, others because of a teammate, and others because they've become bored of what once was their passion.

Still, quitting isn't worth it, and these athletes need to tough it out for the sake of not only the team or the fans, but for themselves.

The saying goes that quitters never win.

As much as I'd like to believe this, the truth is they do win in the short run.

Slouching around at home and not going to practice is enjoyable for a while, and removing something time-consuming off your schedule is always fun to do.

Still, in the long term, you're going to grow to regret it.

Last year, I remember when a friend quit basketball.

At first he was empowered that he dropped the one thing that had consumed his life for three years.

Then, after attending his first game after quitting, he cried because he dropped the one thing that had consumed his life for three years.

See the connection?

As I've already stated, everyone has their reasons to quit. However, the majority that do, do it for poor reasons, and act too hastily.

If they thought it out, they'd realize that when it comes down to it, it's their high school years, and when they look back, they'll remember more than just the wins and losses.

No one wants to look back and remember the time they approached their coach and turned in their jersey for the last time.

It takes a lot of guts to go to your coach and quit. But it also takes a lot of guts to stick it out for the entire season. The latter is the memory worth making.

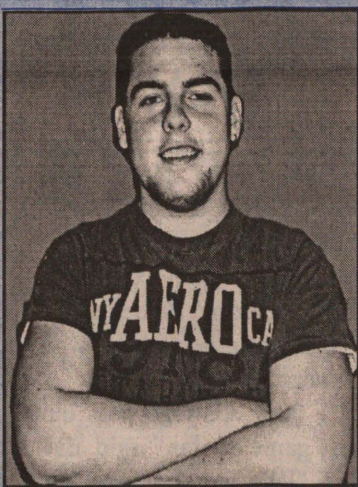
This column is also a warning to all underclassmen that don't even want to consider sports.

When I was a freshman, I was told to seize every opportunity that came my way. I passed many up and now I'm a senior with a blank slate.

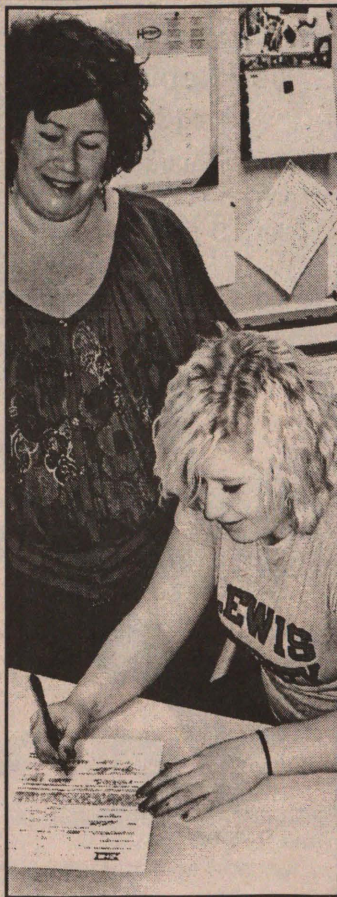
Go to that first practice, watch, and learn. As cliché as it sounds, you never know what you'll like if you don't try.

But if you do like it, stick with it. Don't quit midseason or take two years off and come back your senior year. Just do it.

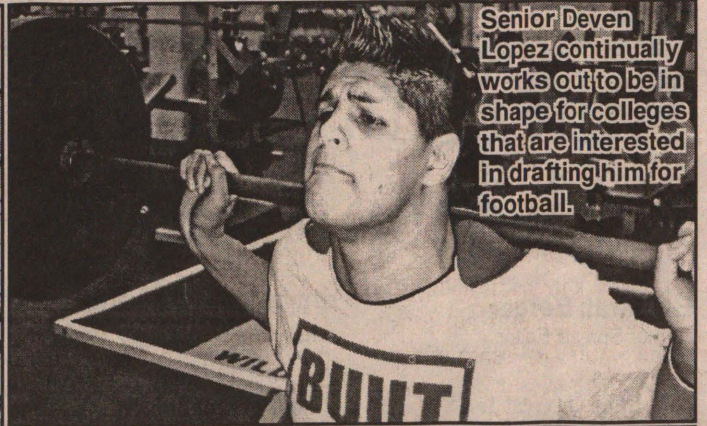
You'll finish up your high school an accomplished student and athlete, and that's more than a lot of students, including myself, can say.



Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief



With her mom by her side, senior Kaity Olson signs the contract to play softball at Lewis University.



Senior Deven Lopez continually works out to be in shape for colleges that are interested in drafting him for football.

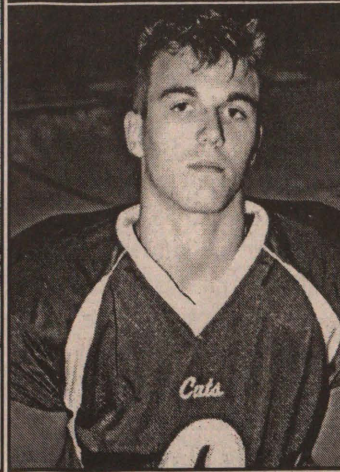


Photo courtesy of Rose Campos

To college recruiters, being an All-Conference athlete for football gives senior Blake Zumpano an advantage.



Photos by Jacob Wucka

Signing to Illinois State University, senior Jenna Bossle plans to participate on the school's gymnastics team.

College-bound

Athletes preparing for the next level

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

On Friday, seniors Kenny Levey, Matt Matson, and Blake Zumpano toured the University of Wisconsin-Platteville; an invite from the university that allowed the seniors an inside look of the school's football program.

It was there, two months after the Wildcat's football season ended, where Levey realized the importance of this visit.

"It still doesn't feel like [the high school season's] ended," said Levey. "My last football game could have already passed, or it could still come."

It's a realization that comes with many questions that all high school athletes face someday: Is this my last touchdown? Is this the last pitch I'll throw? Where do I go from here? If these athletes have played their cards right, they will make the steep transition to collegiate athletics.

"College is like high school minus the support you receive. But when in college athletics, you receive support from the program you play for, and the teammates that will tell you what's right and wrong," said athletic director Doug Mullaney. "There's a transition, but it's made much easier when there's more than just the academic aspect of college."

Scouts from a range of

schools including Wesleyan, Aurora, and Concordia Universities have been scouting West Chicago's football program looking for students to take to their programs.

"They take time out to see us play so they must see something in us," said Zumpano, an All-Conference athlete for this past season.

With the title, Zumpano has an advantage over his fellow football players in the eyes of the recruiters.

It's an advantage that pressures senior Deven Lopez, who has also been scouted for football, to work twice as hard and stay in shape for recruiters.

"I usually work out every day, and lift weights. You got to keep in shape, and doing a sport is committing year round at the high school or college level," said Lopez.

With many on the football team caught in the whirlwind of college recruiting, two seniors have already committed to universities and their athletic programs.

On Nov. 18, Mullaney held a small ceremony for seniors Jenna Bossle and Kaity Olson in the athletic office. Olson, with her mom, and Bossle, with her dad, signed their contracts, committing themselves.

Bossle, a gymnast, signed to Illinois State University.

"It was really exciting," said Bossle. "It's a big relief knowing that [I'm signed].

I know that I can help their team all around go on and do great things."

Olson signed to Lewis University, where she plans to play softball.

"I think Lewis saw my versatility, passion, and competitiveness for softball," said Olson. "There were so many options for college, and concerns like how far, and what I want to major in, but it was the coach that brought me in for that school."

Although these athletes are ready for the excitement and challenges ahead of them, this transition begins with many endings.

"It's sad that I won't be playing with the girls I've been playing with for the past four years. I will never have this again," said Olson.

Zumpano feels the same.

"I will never get to play another Friday night game at the college level," said Zumpano. "Nothing's like high school."

Regardless of how emotional the transition may be, Mullaney feels it's essential for West Chicago to not only show its athletes all of their options, but to celebrate their choices.

"It's important to recognize the kids that are moving on to play sports in college," said Mullaney. "If you've been accepted to a college, and decide to go into athletic endeavors, that's great. We wish you the best."