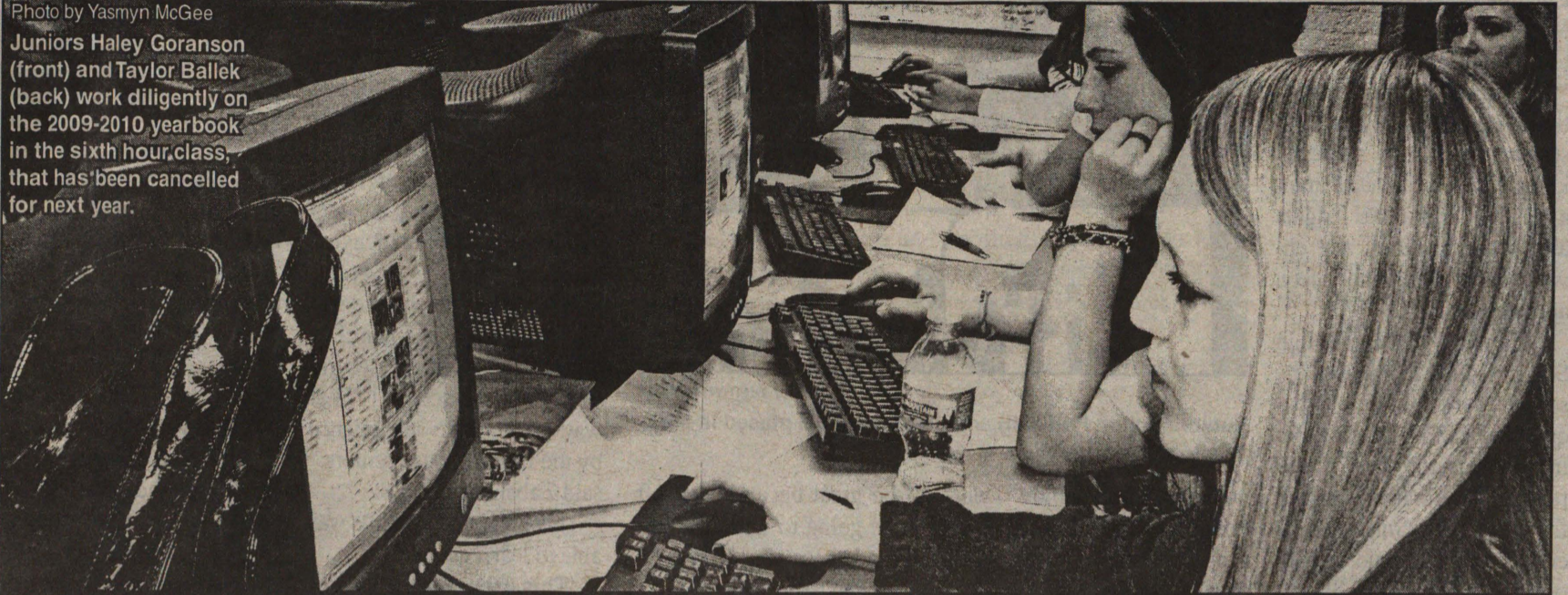


Photo by Yasmyr McGee

Juniors Haley Goranson (front) and Taylor Ballek (back) work diligently on the 2009-2010 yearbook in the sixth hour class, that has been cancelled for next year.



Challenge arises for yearbook

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

"Challenge," the yearbook, is one book students actually look forward to reading. But with a shortage of students registered next year, the future of the book is in jeopardy, as it is switched from a class to an extracurricular.

"Because of the school's current financial situation, we cannot afford to assume that more kids are going to

register for the class," said language arts division head Chris Covino.

Not only could the yearbook lose staff, but also an adviser.

"If yearbook is an extracurricular next year, I will not be the adviser," said yearbook adviser Brad Larson. "I think it's going to be more difficult if it's an extracurricular. Most students on the staff are involved in extracurricular activities and sports that will make it difficult for them to

participate in yearbook. We have always looked to make the staff as broad and inclusive as possible, and that's going to be difficult to find if it only meets after school."

The school posted the position inviting teachers to apply.

The staff is also against yearbook as an extracurricular.

"I don't think it's a good idea because kids won't be motivated to do a good job, and the yearbook will suffer," said senior and editor Quin

Gable.

The number of students participating in the yearbook next year is also a major concern.

"I don't think making yearbook an extracurricular is going to work because not that many people took it as a class so not that many will take it outside of school," said junior Meghan Putnam.

Covino believes the quality of the yearbook will decline.

"As an after-school activity, we shouldn't expect such a

high-quality yearbook. Students have less time, so we should expect more pictures and less text," said Covino.

Despite the concerns, there is hope the class will be reinstated.

"During difficult times, programs get squeezed... I hope sometime in the future yearbook will be a class again. That's the best way to make it succeed," said Board of Education president Katherine Doremus.

Stepping to their own beat

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor
and Carly Tubridy
Reporter

One step at a time, six teachers rivaled the step team at the spring pep assembly Tuesday.

Twenty teachers were nominated to compete, but only six were officially chosen to step on Tuesday.

English teachers Ronnie deVries, Tara DeLeon, Amanda Cordes, and Nick Kempster; science teacher Corrie Stieglitz; and math teacher Lynne Peto were the teachers selected.

"If by stepping you mean elevating, that's what we do," said deVries. "You bring the

form, we bring the content."

During lunch hours, steppers held a fundraiser for students to vote for the teacher they wanted to see compete.

Half of the proceeds went to steppers and half to Haiti relief.

"We don't have any funding of our own," said Cordes, who is also the steppers' adviser. According to Cordes, all she does is approve the routines, but has never stepped before.

Teachers

learned a routine from the steppers to perform. They had just two practices to learn and perfect their routine.

"The faculty step team is a spiritual experience; it's redemptive," said deVries.

At the assembly, the steppers performed a different routine than the teachers.

Before the event, sophomore Ariel Berumen was nervous about

the teachers routine.

"Overall, we know what we're doing, but we're going to have to keep practicing," said Berumen.

But before the assembly, the steppers had their own competition to worry about. They performed against other schools at Unity High School in Tolono on Feb. 20, placing first.

"This is our second year as a team and this is the first year competing," said Cordes.

Berumen had faith in the amount of practice they had heading into the competition.

"I knew we were going to do well because we practiced a lot, and I hoped to get a good score," said Berumen. "So I was a little surprised [that we won] but

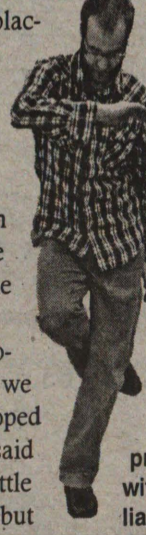
I wasn't jumping up and down and freaking out; I was just happy."

The competition was a major victory for the steppers, proving they have come a long way since their first steps.

"We have improved a lot, big time. Last year things weren't going that well because there was a lot of drama and people wouldn't be focused. Performing would fall apart. Now we're like a family and that helped us improve," said Berumen.

Photos by Carly Tubridy and Kristina Manibo

English teachers Tara DeLeon (left) and Ronnie deVries (right) practice their step routine with junior Bria McWilliams (center).



INSIDE Miami

Three LifeSmarts teams took the top three spots in competition, and now one team is heading to Miami. To read about their triumphs -- see **NEWS**, page 2.



Military

Two seniors have taken the bold initiative to enlist in the Army and the Navy to enhance not only their lives, but the lives of countless others. Read of their sacrifices -- see **FEATURES**, page 10.

Food for Thought

When your stomach rumbles for something delicious this spring break, try these local restaurants for your favorite meal. Check out the reviews -- see **ENTERTAINMENT**, page 12.



Coaches

You walk past these coaches everyday in the halls, but you may not notice them. That's because these three coaches and their sports legacies are hanging on the walls of the athletic hallways -- see **SPORTS**, page 16.

LifeSmarts champions head to Miami

By Yasmyr McGee
Perspectives Editor

Fourteen students placed in the top three spots for the LifeSmarts competition on March 2, and five are headed to Miami for nationals.

The LifeSmarts competition is open to all high school students and tests students' knowledge on financial management, consumer rights and responsibilities, the environment, health and safety, and technology.

"Whitney Young High School from Chicago and the school were the teams that qualified to meet each other in the finals and [one of] our [teams] was fortunate to win first place," LifeSmarts adviser Don Zabelin said. "With our first place win we'll continue the competition in Miami Beach in late April."

The first place state cham-



Photo by Yasmyr McGee

Juniors Colton Reif (left) and Jordan Gabriel placed in the LifeSmarts competition.

pions included seniors Tyler Austgen, Pete Ciolino, Tom Kaczmarczyk, Devan Patel and Matt Kuly.

"We did really well in the competition," said Austgen. "Going to Miami is going

to be great because first off, we're going to nationals and second, because it's Miami. It's going to be warm."

Other students who placed included seniors Rino Loio- tile, Ron Obdin, Kyle Hunter,

Nathan Gorski, Emily Tulipano, Madeline Urban, Alex Schreiber-Deam, and juniors Colton Reif and Jordan Gabriel.

"I usually end up mostly with seniors because it's the students that I have in my consumer education class who are studying many of these topics," said Zabelin.

However, he appreciates when younger students get involved in the challenging competitions.

"It's nice when I have students get involved when they are [in their first or second year of high school.] That way, they have experience by the time they are seniors," said Zabelin.

This group of students was able to learn quickly.

"This particular group is very strong and most of them have just played this year," said Zabelin.

Initially eight schools took the online test in order to earn the opportunity to compete in person against one other school and compete in the LifeSmarts competition.

Zabelin feels that the competition is a useful experience and encourages students to join in the future.

"The wonderful thing about LifeSmarts is that it gets students motivated to want to learn more," said Zabelin.

However, this will be the last year Zabelin will be involved with the competition. He retires at the end of this school year and will miss working with LifeSmarts.

"I've been doing this for 14 years and the reason I continued to do it is because it inspires students to continue their expansion of knowledge on consumer-related topics," Zabelin said. "I'm going to miss it."

What's Happening?

Skating around town

By Sam Young
Reporter

The Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) took a trip to Carol Stream Ice Rink for an hour and a half of fun on March 13.

"It was nice because some of the students who went were better skaters, and they helped the others skate," said OLAS adviser Lucinda

Sanders.

While at the rink, the club had competitions for the students.

OLAS plans to go ice-skating again on Saturday. Admission and skates are \$5, and anyone who wants to go is invited.

Permission slips are outside room 140.

Plans for April include a trip to Lincoln Park Zoo.

Bonding opportunity

By Sam Young
Reporter

WeGo Buddies went to Enchanted Castle for their March activity.

"Students and staff had a blast," said co-adviser Abby Lynch.

The club is for students with disabilities to form one-on-one relationships with other students for a more enjoyable high school experience. This is accomplished

through monthly activities.

The 20 students and staff went on March 11 from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

"When we went [to Enchanted Castle], we had pizza, and then played two games of laser tag. After that, we rode go-karts and played video games," said Lynch.

Though WeGo Buddies does not have any other plans for March, they will be bowling some time in April.

Chance to express themselves

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

MarchMadness, shamrock shakes, and spring break-itis were the three themes for the slam in students' performances at the Café Express Yo'Self on March 18.

"I think the slam is a great new element," said coordinator Amanda Cordes. "A slam gets the audience involved."

Three randomly picked judges picked two students

to compete in a final poem.

A crowd of about 50 people showed up to each Café Express Yo'Self.

"It's doing fantastic. We're going into our fourth show, which is wonderful," said Cordes.

Beforehand, a writing activity was held for people who wanted to prepare for the show. It was open mic for an hour and then the slam.

The next Café Express Yo'Self is on April 22 at 7 p.m.

Staff puts on dancing shoes

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Members of the faculty and Board of Education strapped on their dancing shoes on March 13 and raised \$1,300 for All Night Long, the annual after-prom activity.

Booster Club hosted the fundraiser called Dancing with the Staff, based on "Dancing with the Stars."

Booster Club chose six

married couples to compete against each other on the dance floor. The winners were Rose and Ruben Campos, who competed against Board of Education member Dirk Gunderson and wife Diana; Supt. Lalo and Linda Ponce; counselor Ward and Marlene Rau; dean Whitney and Brian Rusin; and business education teacher Don and Barb Zabelin.

"[I didn't expect to win]

because I was doing this for fun. It was for the fundraising," Rose Campos said. "But [when we won,] I was really happy. My husband was laughing at me because I was jumping up and down."

The Camposes have danced since they met, but not professionally.

"I thought really hard about [saying no to the event] and I thought, 'Well, why not, this can't be too hard,'" said Rose Campos, who danced to the fox trot. "But it was difficult; this is the type of dance that we don't normally do."

Don Zabelin, who performed the tango, initially thought, "I'm happy to help out, but I hope I don't embarrass anybody."

Whitney Rusin was looking for a good time.

"I didn't think my husband would agree to this, but I asked him and he said yes, and I thought, 'This could be fun,'" said Whitney Rusin, who danced the cha-cha.

Each couple had 10 one-hour private dance lessons with an instructor who choreographed a different dance for each pair.

"I have found training to be challenging," said Don Zabelin. "Dancing in a formal manner is very new to my wife and me. We [were] happy to be doing this because [we supported] an excellent cause."

The approximate 200 attendees voted by paying \$1 per vote.

"This has been a wonderful experience. We had a lot of fun doing it," said Rose



Photo courtesy of Kathy Iannacco

Dancing duo Rose and Ruben Campos won the Dancing with the Staff competition.

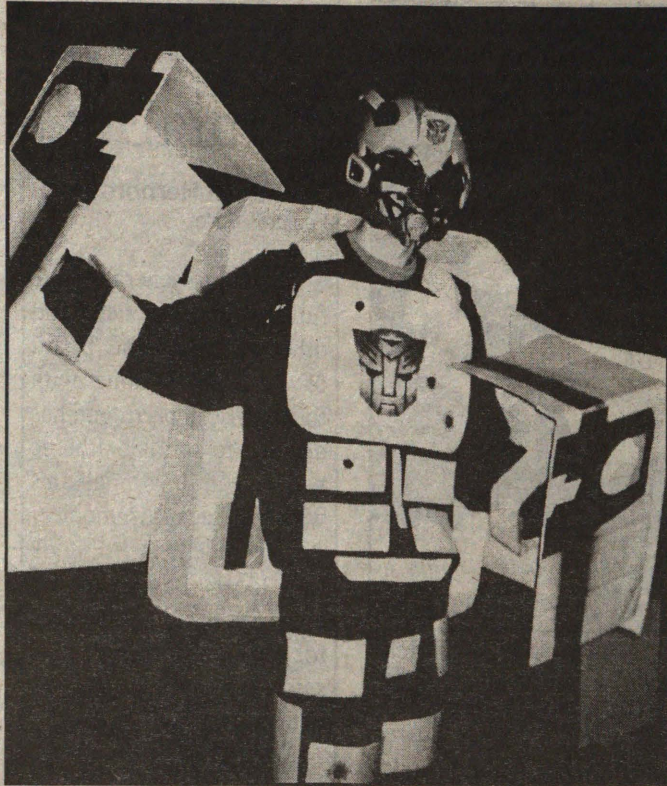


Photo by David Garcia

Senior Brett Adams plays the part of Bumble Bee from "Transformers" in a costume created by senior Kevin Szul for the German Variety Show.

Variety show filled with imagination

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

Imagination got the best of students taking German on March 12 in the annual German Variety Show.

"Das Einbildungsvermögen," which means "imagination," was the word for this year's show.

"The skits were completely creative and innovative," said German teacher Jane Rodziewicz. "Everyone is taking a lot of pride in it."

Students performed first through fourth hour, and each level performed part of one big skit.

Rodziewicz believes that the plays went well, and that all the students hard work paid off.

"I think that [the plays] rocked," said Rodziewicz.

German 4 did "Where in the World is Frau Strohm," German 3 did day dreams in class, German 2 did a "Clue"

meets "Candyland" mystery, and German 1 performed commercials between skits.

Being part of an overall daydream, junior Neil Hummer put a skit together with his group about a "funky robot" that takes on the "dance king."

"I'm the mad scientist who created the robot," said Hummer.

As a part of the regular theater productions by running the tech crew, Rodziewicz is glad to be able to bring parts of theater to her students.

"It's really cool to bring acting techniques to class," said Rodziewicz. "I'm no expert, but it's still fun."

Hummer feels like the German Variety Show gives him the opportunity to learn words or phrases he might not have otherwise learned.

"It's a fun way to learn new German vocabulary," said Hummer.

Flinging back to olden times

By Helene Sankovitch
Reporter

Tennis balls were launched throughout the field house as sophomores maneuvered their medieval siege weapons.

Western civ. students had an extra credit opportunity to build their own trebuchets as a closure to the Middle Ages unit.

"[Trebuchets] are like catapults and work with counterweight," said western civ. teacher Nick Caltagirone.

The sophomore history class has created trebuchets for five years and competed to see whose could shoot the farthest.

"We fire [the trebuchets] in the field house and there haven't been any bad injuries yet," said Caltagirone.

But building the trebuchets was far from any old boring project.

"It was fun to make, and I liked painting it pink," said Diana Serio.

Carly Tubridy's trebuchet shot the farthest out of all the

sophomores.

Her trebuchet fired 96 feet and beat out her second hour class, as well as seventh hour, where it hit the wall of the field house, at a total of 116 feet.

"It took three weekends to make. My brother helped me, and we took his trebuchet from when he did it a few years ago, and we doubled everything, so it was huge," said Tubridy.

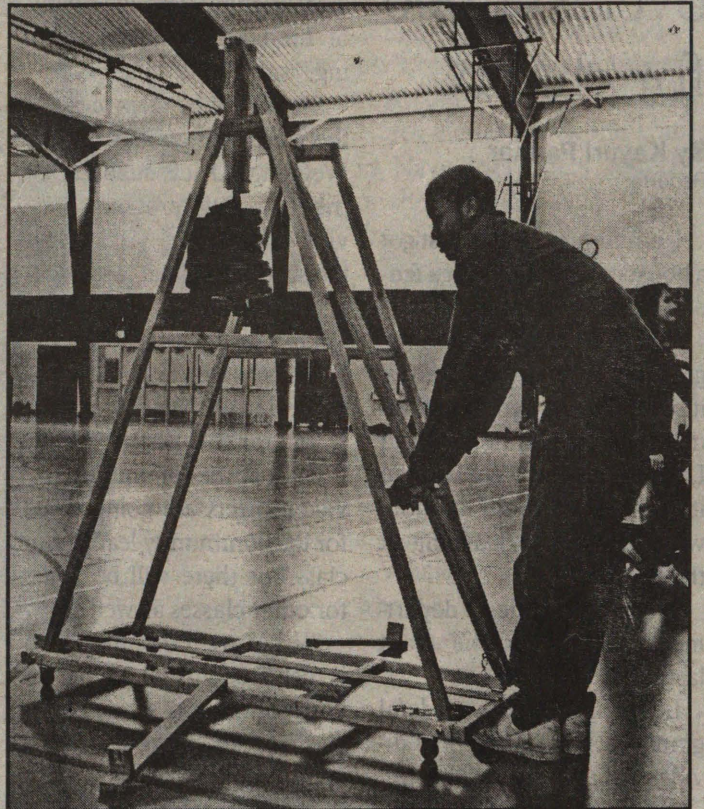


Photo by Helene Sankovitch

Sophomore Brandon Jackson tinkers with a homemade trebuchet during the annual competition.

Split classes replace advisory

By Jake Hageman
Reporter

Whether you like it or not, advisory won't be coming back next year.

The Board of Education cut the advisory program at its Jan. 26 meeting to save \$118,000.

Not all students or teacher, including freshman Maya Skuropski wanted to see it go.

"I would like to keep advisory next year," said Skorupski, "because so far this year my class has been really fun, plus it gives [us] a good break from the school day to relax."

But some students are glad

to see advisory gone.

"I'm glad advisory is getting cut. I think it's really lame and a waste of time," said junior Stella Larson.

The cutting of advisory will result in split classes.

Split classes will occur during two of the five 25 minute lunch periods fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth, depending on one's lunch schedule.

For example, if a student were to have lunch fifth period, then fourth and sixth periods would be the same class, just split up.

Assistant Supt. Kim Chambers said advisory didn't really have enough time to flourish, because it was only in effect

for three years.

"I believe that the goals of advisory were important," said Chambers, "but it just wasn't given enough time to be tweaked or changed."

Creators of advisory, language arts division head Christopher Covino and support services division head Maura Bridges, expressed disappointment for the advisory's end.

"I wouldn't say I was sad," said Covino, "more like disappointed. All the work that we put into advisory will be lost."

Bridges had similar ideas. "Advisory had some definite ideas behind it as a way to help kids," said Bridges.

Involved senior chosen to be Student of the Month

By Sam Young
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.

A key student in many clubs, Angela Gentile was named February Student of the Month.

What was your reaction

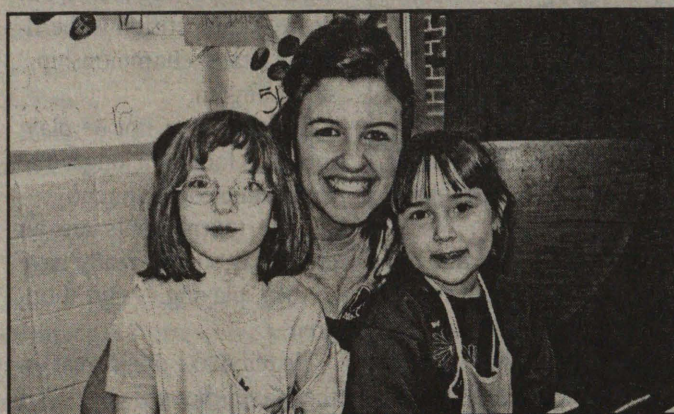


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Student of the Month Angela Gentile hugs preschoolers Natalie Risoff (left) and Nina Comonecki at a lemonade sale.

when you found out that you were Student of the Month?

It was early in the morning,

so I wasn't expecting it. I became very excited because I looked up to the seniors who

had achieved this goal for my entire high school career.

Are you involved in any sports or extracurricular activities?

I am in Skills USA, Student Council, National Honors Society, Foreign Language National Honors Society, Habitat for Humanity, Pep Club, and Honor Guard.

What do you value most in life?

I value my family and friends because they are the ones who support me the most; education because it will get me far in life; and

health.

Who influences you the most?

I am influenced by my older sister. I have seen my sister grow up and go through the same things in high school that I am. She has been really successful, so my decisions and actions are based upon what she would do.

What do you want to do in your future?

I plan to attend Illinois State University to become a high school teacher in math or family and consumer sciences.

Grant funds service work

School earns over \$11,000 for charity

By Keyuri Parmar
Reporter

Community service just got a boost of \$11,454 from a federal Learn and Serve grant.

"We were familiar with the grant because we had received it several years ago," said humanities department head Lisa Willuweit. "We wanted it again so we could do more with the service learning at the school."

The humanities department applied for the grant last fall.

Learn and Serve is a federal grant that the government divides up between the 50 states. The federal government gives the money to each state and then the state chooses which schools get the grant.

This year the school received all of the money that was asked for. The school will collect a different amount of money each year, of the three-year grant, depending on what community service projects the school plans to have.

The grant is going to be used for several service learning projects. The humanities department is trying to think of ways to integrate commu-

nity service into classes.

"We got the grant because we already do a lot with service learning through many of the teachers in the building," said Willuweit.

Some of the others projects the grant will go towards are WeGo to Africa, supplies for the recycling program, service conferences, and allow the school to make care packages for soldiers.

The goal of getting the grant is to get students more involved with their community and make it a better place.

Most of the community service projects are going to be for the community leadership class but there will be some for other classes as well.

"What we're hoping to do is get students to come up with community service projects corresponding with their class," said Willuweit.

The humanities department is planning to do a freshman activity project. Students will take a survey on what sports and activities they are involved with and why.

Then the surveys will be passed on to the coaches and sponsors.

Next year's freshmen will fill out a survey about what sports and activities they plan on getting involved with.

Other humanities teachers that helped with the grant were Mary Ellen Daneels, Margaret Haas, and Barbara Laimins.



Photo by Jacob Wucka

Preschoolers Nina Komaniacki (left) and Natalie Risoff work the toy register at the lemonade sales for Relay for Life.

Lemonade sales benefitting Relay

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Little kids can be quite the marketing tool. Just ask the child development classes.

In honor of Relay for Life, students in the child development classes decided to sell lemonade and cookies, with the help of some preschoolers.

Preschoolers Zachary Merchant, Natalie Risoff, and Nina Komaniacki sat at table at the far end of commons with a toy cash register.

For \$1 dollar, students could purchase both a lemonade and bag of cookies.

"They caught on really fast," said family and con-

sumer science teacher Patti Kozlowski. "People would come up and they'd say \$1 dollar please. And then they would ask if this was real money and I would say 'yeah.' They were very impressed."

Seniors Angela Gentile and Molly Monroe helped the preschoolers collect the money and distribute the food.

"The kids were so adorable that no one could really resist them. I enjoyed helping them count the money and put it in our toy cash register. Overall, the lemonade stand was a huge hit and the preschoolers had a blast," said Gentile.

In total, the event raised \$50.90.

Checkmate at DVC *Senior wins DVC and is sole player to place at state*

By David Garcia
Reporter

Senior John Lungren checkmated his way to the DVC championship and a 10th place at the state chess tournament.

Although the chess season started in September and ended in February, Lungren's trip toward the DVC championship started at age 4.

During the season players are assigned a spot on the team ranging from boards one through eight depending on skill level. The best player is given number one.

"I've been first this year, and I was first board off and on with another guy for the last three years," said Lungren.

The board that a student has is important to the overall DVC title. In order for a player to win the tournament he

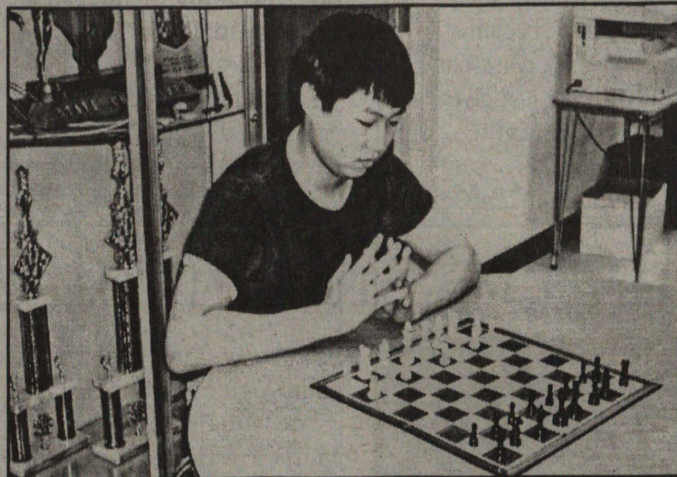


Photo by David Garcia

Senior John Lungren was the only student from the school to place at the state chess tournament

has to be on his team's highest board, and accumulate as many wins as possible during the season.

"The best player is determined by who has the most wins on the highest board, throughout the season," said Lungren.

The DVC chess competition is scheduled around

seven matches, and one tournament. Each match consists of every board playing three games against the opponent school's respective board. After all those points are accumulated, a final three games are played at the DVC tournament.

Lungren's official record was 8-0-1 in DVC, and 6-1 in

state, but Lungren estimates that he had a 60-2 record, including matches outside the DVC. The record is impressive, but Lungren stated that he did not find it terribly difficult.

"The DVC in terms of club events is almost as challenging as the sporting events, but the real competition is the Illinois state championship," said Lungren.

Lungren may not be playing chess for much longer due to the time commitment.

"The tournaments are an entire day so you really have to like playing," said Lungren.

He did make one caveat on the matter though.

"If the college I go to has [a chess team] I'll participate," said Lungren.

Lungren has had one of the more successful seasons in recent years.

Ad space available

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

In order to generate more funds for athletics and other activities, the Board of Education, along with the athletic department, has decided to sprinkle athletic venues and gymnasiums with local advertisements.

"The idea is to look for local businesses to advertise in athletic venues for an advertising fee," said athletic director Doug Mullaney.

Advertisers will have to meet requirements set by the board and the athletic department, but future advertisers are not yet determined.

"Right now it's anyone that is willing to advertise," said Mullaney. "Obviously the ads need to be school-appropriate or school-related. We would like to incorporate local businesses because we have a lot of large businesses in town."

Ads will be incorporated in the football field, the baseball field, the softball field, and possibly the Bishop gym and the hallway between commons and the Bishop gym.

"We could have college advertising as well," said Mullaney. "Schools such as College of DuPage or Elmhurst College may want to advertise with us."

Board member Dirk Gunderson thought of the "banner advertising campaign" as a solution to a falling economy and a government that cannot fund schools as it has in the past. He also believes the funding from the ads may save jobs and activities.

Funds raised by the ads will benefit different activities on top of athletics.

"We are supplying kids and coaches with financial support they need to participate in an activity or sport," said Mullaney. "It must be something without a funding base and must be equitable in its distribution."

Prices for ads will depend on the space it is in, the size of the ad, and the amount of people that will see the ad, but the specifics are unknown.

"We are not looking to take anyone or anything and slap it up on the wall," said Mullaney. "We don't want to lose the integrity of the building."

Spicing up class

By Jake Hageman
Reporter

Looks like the situation got a little spicy during the chili tasting contest on March 5.

Seven groups created and displayed their works during foods classes, whether they were altered recipes or copied family concoctions, and 20 minutes later the judges were ready to choose the winner.

The winners of the chili contest for second hour were sophomore Dan King, junior Christin LaCour and sophomore Brian Turnquist.

"It was pretty fun to get to make your own chili," said

Turnquist. "To work with a group and make some pretty [awesome] food."

Judges were family/consumer science teachers Patricia Clifford and Patti Kozlowski, social studies teacher Sharon Ramey, foreign language teacher Susan Junkroski, counselor Mary Roley, and division head for P.E. Dan Johnson.

Clifford thinks that despite the victors, the "...hottest, spiciest chili was made by [junior] Jeremy Garret, [senior] Dan Gilbert, [senior] Molly Monroe and [senior] Brandon Rhodes."

Some of the featured chilis

were the flamin' hot chili, the Hollywood chili and the mid-night chili.

"Our chili was the flame on chili," said Garret, "and we won second place. They said it was really hot."

Students' chilis were judged in different categories, like taste or spiciness.

Before the contest begins, the students learn the history behind chili.

Then, they pick a recipe and change it to try and make it better.

"I am the one who originated the contest over 15 years ago," said Kozlowski. "I wanted the students to have a hand at creating their own recipe. They learn there is a foundation and philosophy around it."

Ramey was impressed by the chili, but even more when the students showed their ingenuity.

"It took about 20 delicious minutes to judge the eight groups," said Ramey. "They all did such a great job setting up their tables to a particular theme. One used the recent Olympics, one had a family recipe and one even had ants leading you to their picnic. They all showed such creativity."



Photo courtesy of Patricia Clifford

Counselor Mary Roley judges "Chillin' Chili" during the contest on March 5.

Students enact a real-life experience

By Yasmyne McGee
Perspectives Editor

It's time to ring the wedding bells.

Contemporary life will host a mock wedding on April 8 as an end to their relationship unit and as a part of Family/Consumer Science Night showcasing all the different activities within the department.

Seniors Amanda Winters and Carlos Perez will be the bride and groom.

"My students learn to put on a wedding, not that they necessarily have to get married themselves," said family/consumer science teacher Patricia Clifford. "But if one day if they want to be a party planner or go into a career that has to do with a wedding, they have a lot of knowledge."

The same activities that occur at a real wedding will also take place at the mock wedding.

"In the whole process they hopefully learn that this is a big step," Clifford said. "This is a lot of work. And you

have to be ready; don't just jump into this life."

Clifford feels this showcase is not only important for her students but for other students who may not have known these classes even existed.

"Many people if they haven't been down this hallway would never know we exist," said Clifford.

Five classes will take part in the showcase: contempo-

rary life, child development, foods 1, foods 2 and fashion technology. Fashion technology will perform two fashion shows with the students' own clothing designs.

Foods teacher Judy Harwood hopes that the showcase will generate interest among students.

"The enrollment in the classes has increased and as more people find out what we do, hopefully they will want to become a part of it too," said Harwood.

The showcase is from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in commons.



Photo courtesy of Patti Kozlowski

Senior Marisol Aburto works on clothes for the fashion show, which is part of Family/Consumer Science Night.

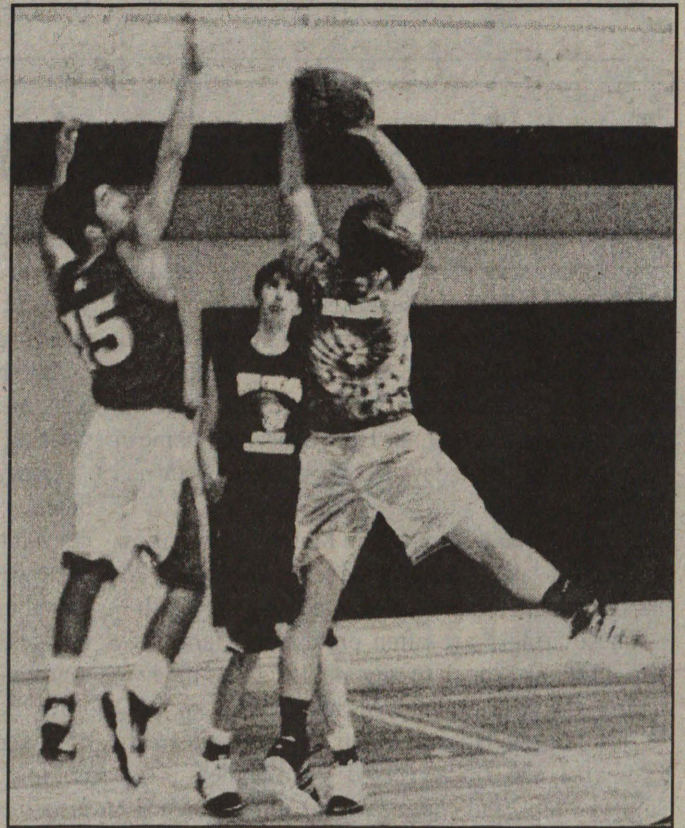


Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

Sophomore Alex Weier (left) tries to block senior Jess Baidis (center) at the 3-on-3 Wildcat Classic Basketball Tournament.

Slam dunk for charity

By Giuliana LaMantia
Reporter

Kids had fun and got competitive during the 4th annual 3-on-3 Wildcat Classic Basketball Tournament fundraiser on March 13.

Twenty-five teams competed in the tournament, and raised \$6,000 for the Education Foundation.

Quest Food Management sponsored the event.

"I think it's all about all the teams coming together," said senior Jess Baidis. "It also shows what our school's all about."

The games consisted of three man teams playing half court, split up into age groups beginning with fifth and sixth grade boys and girls, and going up to twelfth grade. The winners were determined by either who got to 15 points

first, or who had the most points after 15 minutes.

"Since the season's over, I kind of miss playing basketball, and these are my teammates so I like playing with them," said Baidis.

Students from different schools were allowed to play, however the money went towards activities and field trips, such as WeGo to Africa.

"We all play on a team together, so we came here to get better," said sophomore Brandon Motzl from Carmel Catholic High School, and a participant in the activity.

Trophies were rewarded to the winning team of each division, and participants received t-shirts. "It's a fun activity," said Butch Hansen, an Education Foundation member. "I anticipate we'll continue to do it. It's been a pretty good fundraiser."

Strong show for FBLA

By Ahmad Zaidi
Reporter

Seventeen Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members will be heading to the state conference on Friday in Decatur after the Northern Area Conference on Jan. 30.

"I feel really good about going to state. It will be a good time hanging out with friends while making new ones," said sophomore and FBLA member Anthony Venen, who placed second in computer applications. "I'm excited to go, I've talked to other people that went before and they all said that it was a really fun time. I think I'll do good in the competition."

The members picked an event to compete in at regionals against over 700 other students.

Placement doesn't matter at the regional level; anyone who attended the regional conference can attend the State Conference, however, only one competitor per event per school is allowed.

The Northern Area conference was held at Lincolnway High School. FBLA advisers Maria Wirth and Donna Durbin along with all the FBLA members were pumped for the conference.

"We've had years where 50 to 60 members have attended the state conference, and other years, like this year. Either way, we always do our best," said Wirth.

Our View

Justice for the innocent, punish the guilty

Another teenage girl, another honor student, another innocent person is raped and murdered by a previously convicted sex offender. As tragic as it is, these crimes that are reported on the news today seem too common.

The most recent victim, 17-year-old Chelsea King, went for a jog around Lake Hodges near her home in San Diego on Thursday, Feb. 26, but never returned home.

Her body was discovered on March 2 in a shallow grave in the lake, and convicted sex offender John Albert Gardner III has been charged with her death.

These attacks are often preventable, and they should never happen to anyone. It's about time we change our laws, and it needs to happen now.

According to Human Rights Watch, there are an estimated 674,000 registered sex offenders in the United States, and countless more unregistered.

Sexual offenses include rape, molestation, indecent exposure, and possessing or distributing child pornography.

For committing any of these crimes, offenders may find themselves on the sex offender registry for the rest of their lives, a title they deserve for committing these acts. Most of these crimes are committed against minors.

However registering their names on a list that is hardly seen by the general public, and all the loopholes that sex offenders find are disturbing, and need to be fixed.

Gardner, for example, served five years of a six-year sentence after beating and molesting a 13-year-old neighbor he lured to his house, in hopes of watching the movie "Patch Adams."

After being released, Gardner was allowed to move back into his mother's suburban home, while also wearing an ankle-monitoring bracelet.

Two years ago he was allowed to take off the bracelet, allowing him to go about his life without constant supervision.

However, it was this past December when he was the suspect in an attack of a jogger at Lake Hodges, the same area where King was raped and murdered.

It's hard to believe that even though he was considered responsible for the December attack, nothing was done to ensure he would be taken off the street.

All sex offenders, no matter the offense, should serve a minimum of 10 years in jail, not 10 years of talking about their feelings and why they feel the urge to abuse someone.

Therapy didn't work for Gardner, as well as the other 90 percent of sexual offenders that repeat their crimes after being released from therapy, according to the New York Times.

Once they are out, they should not be allowed to go back to life as though their crime never happened.

They should not be allowed to live anywhere near minors, and should be under constant observation.

Enough is enough when it comes to trying to rehabilitate and "save" these sex offenders. It's about time we put the innocent before the guilty, and save lives that matter.



Time to redeem yourselves seniors

Being a senior is an achievement. It means you worked hard (or at least tried), and made it to the last leg of the high school race without getting expelled or dropping out.

Being a senior also grants the right to leave behind a legacy that future classes can admire and attempt to live up to.

However the Class of 2010 has left this year feeling rather "blah." So much for starting off the new decade with a bang.

The apathy of the seniors was especially evident recently, with the cancellation of Mr. Wildcat.

Really guys? Only one senior boy expressed interest.



That's pathetic. Sure, now that it's cancelled you can talk about how you actually wanted to do it, and what you would have done, but this is all being said after the fact.

Mr. Wildcat is supposed to be a fun way to end the school year and leave a mark by doing something funny, or creative. People will remember for years what you performed: the exception being this year

of course.

This year's class has not shown any interest.

Spirit days have become populated by eager freshmen, athletics have been dominated by sophomores, and parties are being held by more juniors than all classes combined.

The senior class can't even take responsibility for creating the unintentionally awesome Squad shirts. The entire grade has sat back and done nothing.

Starting every Wednesday, the class planned to hold themed days. On March 3, the seniors circulated a message to wear flannel.

Although everyone talked about it, only a handful wore the style, while everyone else talked about why they didn't, and how they regretted it.

Unless the seniors do something noticeable, or at least look like they care that this is their last year here and want to have some sort of fun, this year will be one of the most boring in recent memory.

When entering the halls during freshman year, the then-freshmen declared "Say it loud, say it again: We're the Class of 2010!" Now when entering the halls, you hear mixed grumbles and moans.

Still, who knows: there's a chance to redeem the Class of 2010 with an awesome senior mural...if anyone's willing to do that.

Wildcat Chronicle
Community High School
326 Joliet Street
West Chicago, IL 60185
(630) 876-6360



Editor in Chief:
News Editor:
Perspectives Editor:
Features Editor:
Entertainment Editor:
Center Spread Editor:
Sports Editor:
Business Manager:
Reporters:

Jacob Wucka
Alexis Hosticka
Yasmy McGee
Megan Hembroth
Kristina Manibo
Sarah Berger
Jacob Wucka
Kristina Manibo
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Artists:
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THE WILDCAT CHRONICLE is the student newspaper at Community High School. It is a public forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views. The Chronicle publishes eight times a year, with the student editorial board making the decisions concerning paper's content. Unsigned editorials represent the views of the majority of the staff.

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

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Students Speak

Compiled by Yasmyn McGee

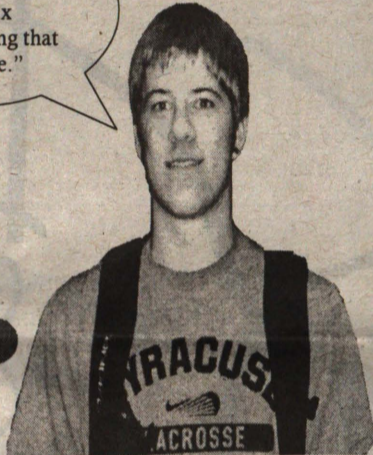
What do you think the punishment should be for sex offenders?



Senior
Julia Dimas

"Well, they should definitely serve time in prison so they won't [commit the crime] again."

"I think they should put signs in the front yard of the sex offender saying that they live there."



Junior
Tyler Zanoni

"They should be put in prison for the rest of their lives for what they've done."



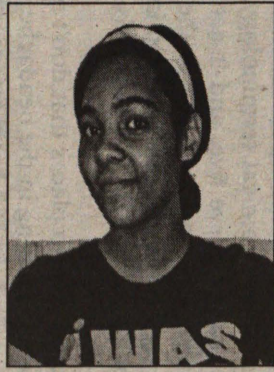
Sophomore
Carolina Osorio

"The punishment should be jail for one year and probation for 10 years."



Freshman
Daniel Stomper

Unnecessary controversy surrounds the passing of the health care bill



Yasmyn McGee
Perspectives Editor

On Tuesday President Barack Obama signed the final health care bill and Americans everywhere (mostly Democrats) rejoiced.

And while some (mostly Republicans) still deeply disagree with the health care bill, I feel it is our best option at this point.

Obama has done his best to include the ideas of Republicans and Democrats into the compromised plan that has been debated over for almost a year. But let's be realistic; you can't please everyone.

This was extremely apparent considering the bill passed the House of Representatives Sunday

with no Republican support whatsoever.

That very same day Texas Rep. Randy Neugebauer yelled out "It's a baby killer" referring to the agreement reached by Michigan Democratic Rep. Bart Stupak and the White House that secured the support of Stupak and other anti-abortion Democrats for the health care bill during the chamber's debate, according to CNN.com.

Although Neugebauer apologized Monday for his actions, it's still no excuse for a government official who should know he has to remain professional at all times.

Another inexcusable act that has happened recently is the controversy regarding House Majority James Clyburn who received racist remarks Monday following a string of offensive, threatening and destructive incidents directed at Democratic supporters of the health reform legislation according to the Huffington Post. Other representatives who suffered racial slurs in the midst of the health care

reform were Democratic Reps. John Lewis, Emanuel Cleaver and Ciro Rodriguez while Democratic Rep. Barney Frank experienced a derogatory term regarding his sexual orientation.

Although the representatives handled it well, it is ridiculous that it happened at all. The issue at hand is health care so why are people bringing race and sexual orientation into it?

Some may find that Obama's health care plan is too costly since it has been estimated to be nearly \$1 trillion.

Yes, this is a lot of money but let's be honest; it's going to take some major cash to fix the insurance problem. And it's not as if it's going to be spent on some trivial, frivolous matter.

It's our health care. The decision we make will not only affect us but our grandparents, parents, and our future children. In short, it's worth the cost.

Obama's plan will extend coverage to roughly 32 million Americans and be the biggest expan-

sion of federal health care in four decades since Medicare and Medicaid were enacted, according to CNN.com.

The plan would also expand Medicare prescription drug coverage, increase federal subsidies to help Americans buy insurance and give the federal government new authority to block excessive rate increases by health insurance companies. Significant reductions in Medicare spending would be included in the plan too.

This health care plan may have its benefits and faults, as most government policies do, but there will never be a plan that everyone wholly agrees on. Obama's plan is the best bet we have to getting better health care reform quickly.

As our president said, "We are not a nation that does what's easy. It's not who we are. It's not how we got here. We are a nation that faces its challenges and accepts its responsibilities."

It's time to accept this bill, whether you fully agree with it or not.

One less essay

Students find creative ways to showcase themselves to colleges through videos



Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

One college is making the stressful application process a little more enjoyable for students, giving them the option of writing one less essay.

Tufts University, near Boston, Mass., requires three short-response essays as part of students' applications, and then gives applicants a chance to show their creative sides.

This year, for the class

of 2014, they began allowing students to post a minute-long video on YouTube as part of their applications.

According to Tufts' official website, "What you do or say [in the video] is totally up to you."

After watching a few of these videos, I decided that many of them are pointless and probably didn't help the admissions office. An overwhelming majority of the videos were slideshows put to music: not very creative.

In an ABC news article, an admissions dean from another college expressed worry that "students they see in the application videos may not be acting like their true selves." I'd have to agree with him there.

We've all seen the ridiculous, somewhat comi-

cal episodes of "WeGo through the Tube," and the majority of the time, the students don't act the same when they're in front of a camera.

One could argue that students could just as easily lie in an essay as in a video, but I think that lies and acting are much more believable on YouTube than on paper.

But I have to admit that some of the videos were pretty amazing. One was a minute-long clip of a student playing an advanced piano solo.

Another was titled "In My Shoes" and had received over 17,000 views. It was a slide show put to music that included pictures of shoes put next to where the student was when she wore those shoes.

These videos allow students' creativity to

sparkle, and give the admissions office something new to look at.

One student summed it up well in her description of her video on YouTube: "According to the cliché, 'a picture is worth a thousand words,' this one minute long video is equal to thousands of words, while if I wrote an essay, I would be limited to 400 words."

These videos are a great opportunity for students who may struggle at writing essays, and can give the admissions office a deeper look into who each student is.

All in all, this is an opportunity that, as evidenced by the over 1,000 videos Tufts received, has been and should be taken advantage of by students.

I mean really, what would you rather be doing your senior year: writing an essay or putting together a creative video?

I know what I would choose.

After an in-depth autopsy, the Wildcat Chronicle has uncovered the truth behind some of the most famous medical mysteries

Compiled by Sarah Berger, David Garcia, Alexis Hosticka, Helene Sankovitch, Kaitlyn Sladek, and Sam Young
Art by Helene Sankovitch

Case of hiccups

In 1922, Charles Olson got the hiccups. Sixty-eight years later they stopped, and Guinness World Records cataloged him as the longest bout of hiccups ever recorded.

Olson suffered from singultus (hiccups), a condition in which diaphragm at the base of the lungs begins to involuntarily spasm causing a shutting of vocal chords and creating the distinctive "hic" sound.

There is no one cause for a hiccup attack. Serious bouts can be attributed to nerve damage, strokes or tumors, while less serious cases can be caused by drinking, eating too much, or nothing at all. Hiccups are usually caused by irritations of the vagus or phrenic nerves serving the diaphragm at the base of the lungs, according to www.mayoclinic.com

Even though the causes of hiccups are a little obscure, it seems as if everybody has their own cure for hiccups.

Conventional methods include: breathe repeatedly into a paper bag, drinking a glass of cold water, eating a teaspoon of sugar and holding your breath.

If a case of hiccups ever to lasts beyond 48 hours, www.howstuffworks.com, a general information site, suggests that a medical professional be contacted.

Nurse Beth Jones has her own ideas on how to cure hiccups.

"When you treat something intractable you have to find the underlying cause," said Jones.

Unlike home-brewed concoctions; medical personnel take great care in making sure that serious bouts of hiccups are treated properly.

"Generally it's not until after a month that doctors get worried, two days is just very annoying," said Jones.

Unless someone has had hiccups for a long period of time, there is no real reason to worry about them. They're just hiccups.

Funny bone

OUCH! The weird tingling sensation runs up the arm, and pain spreads quickly. This is the common effect of hurting the funny bone.

"The funny bone actually is not a bone; it's the ulnar nerve. [The ulnar nerve] is on the interior of the elbow and is close to the skin," said nurse Beth Jones.

So what's so funny about this nerve?

"The ulnar nerve is called the funny bone because it causes a funny tingling sensation in the elbow," said Jones.

Hurting a funny bone can be quite simple; all someone would need to do is hit it in the right spot.

"You can't really do anything to treat hurting your funny bone," said Jones. "Ice helps numb the pain, but it will go away on its own in a few minutes."

Butterflies

Beep! Beep! Two more minutes until classes begin. Along with all of the students rushing to their classes, one couple can be seen strolling hand-in-hand as if they have all the time in the world. Every time they look into each other's eyes you can practically see the butterflies in their stomachs, a whole swarm of them.

As everybody knows, there aren't really butterflies in their stomachs.

"Butterflies in the stomach is an increased sensation of what is going on (in your life) in your stomach," according to science teacher Dr. Hank Murphy.

So, if a student is stressed out over a big test, or is worried about if they made the team, the situation may feel 10 times more stressful if he or she lets their nerves take over.

"Some people's nerves make their stomachs overactive," said Murphy.

Although people are able to get butterflies in any high stress-situation, there are times when a person is more likely to get that fluttery feeling.

"It is generally easier to get butterflies on an empty stomach. When there is nothing in there, it feels like air," said Murphy, "like there is something moving around."

Sometimes butterflies can come from new situations.

Freshman Katie Yackey can testify to this.

Yackey had butterflies in her stomach when "she first walked out onstage as concert mistress."

Charley horse

Running, running, running, almost to the finish line, BAM! On the floor, pain shooting up the leg. Somebody just got a charley horse.

"A charley horse is an injury to the hamstrings and quadriceps in the leg, causing muscle fibers to tear," said nurse Beth Jones. "Charley horses come with pain, stiffness, and bruising."

Charley horses are usually the effect of a sports injury, but anyone can get one. They just have to overuse or strain a muscle in their leg.

"You can treat a charley horse with rest, a cycle of applying ice and heat, and giving the muscle gentle massages," said Jones.

Brain freeze

In the midst of slurping a smoothie or licking an ice cream cone a sensation hits you: pain. Searing, sharp pain similar to a severe headache or migraine commonly called a brain freeze. Although a brain freeze only lasts a few minutes, the pain is still mystifying. So what really is a brain freeze?

"When you touch the back roof of the mouth with something cold a nerve senses the cold and tells all the areas the nerve goes to dilate the blood vessels, and this produces something like a quick migraine headache," said science teacher Dr. Hank Murphy.

According to Murphy, in more anatomical terminology, the nerve on the roof of the mouth is cranial nerve five, and it acts as both a sensory nerve and a motor nerve. The nerve, which is the trigeminal nerve, senses the cold on the roof of the mouth and then immediately tries to warm up the cold spot by dilating the blood vessels in the roof of the mouth.

The problem is, blood is being sent to places that don't need it, like the upper region of the forehead, resulting in the headache.

"The easiest and fastest way to get rid of a brain freeze is to press the top of your tongue to the roof of your mouth; it warms-up that area faster since warmth cancels out the cold so the nerve signal is stopped. Another obvious way is to keep cold foods away from the roof of your mouth," said Murphy.

Heartbreaker

A broken heart can lead to many used tissues, half-eaten tubs of ice cream, and all-nighters watching chick flicks.

But a trip to the hospital could be added to this list, due to Broken-heart syndrome.

"Broken-heart syndrome is a rare medical syndrome that causes symptoms very similar to a heart attack," said psychology teacher Barbara Laimins.

According to Laimins, the heart enlarges and causes physical symptoms. The ventricle of the heart stops working, due to stress.

"It feels like a heart attack, but most people physically recover in a week," said Laimins.

Fortunately for men, broken-heart syndrome affects mainly women in their 50's and 60's.

But psychologically, people can feel like they have a broken heart whenever they suffer a loss.

"Breaking up is hard, but feelings of sadness, feeling alone, and emptiness are normal. Cry, talk to friends, remember what's good about you, keep busy, and remember it takes time. If you don't feel better after a couple of weeks, talk with an adult," said Laimins.

Thankfully, it can be mended easily, but in some cases, the phrase "broken-heart" should be taken literally.

Cracking knuckles

Some mysteries about cracking joints are still unsolved, and doctors continue to investigate why they pop when someone moves them in the right direction.

"Theoretically, you can crack any movable joint, but typically people think of cracking their knuckles and their back," said science teacher Dr. Hank Murphy.

Two theories exist regarding why joints crack.

"It could be the noise of a loose ligament, like plucking a rubber band," said Murphy. "Essentially, the joints you crack have looser ligaments."

The other speculation is that the cracking is caused by gas bubbles.

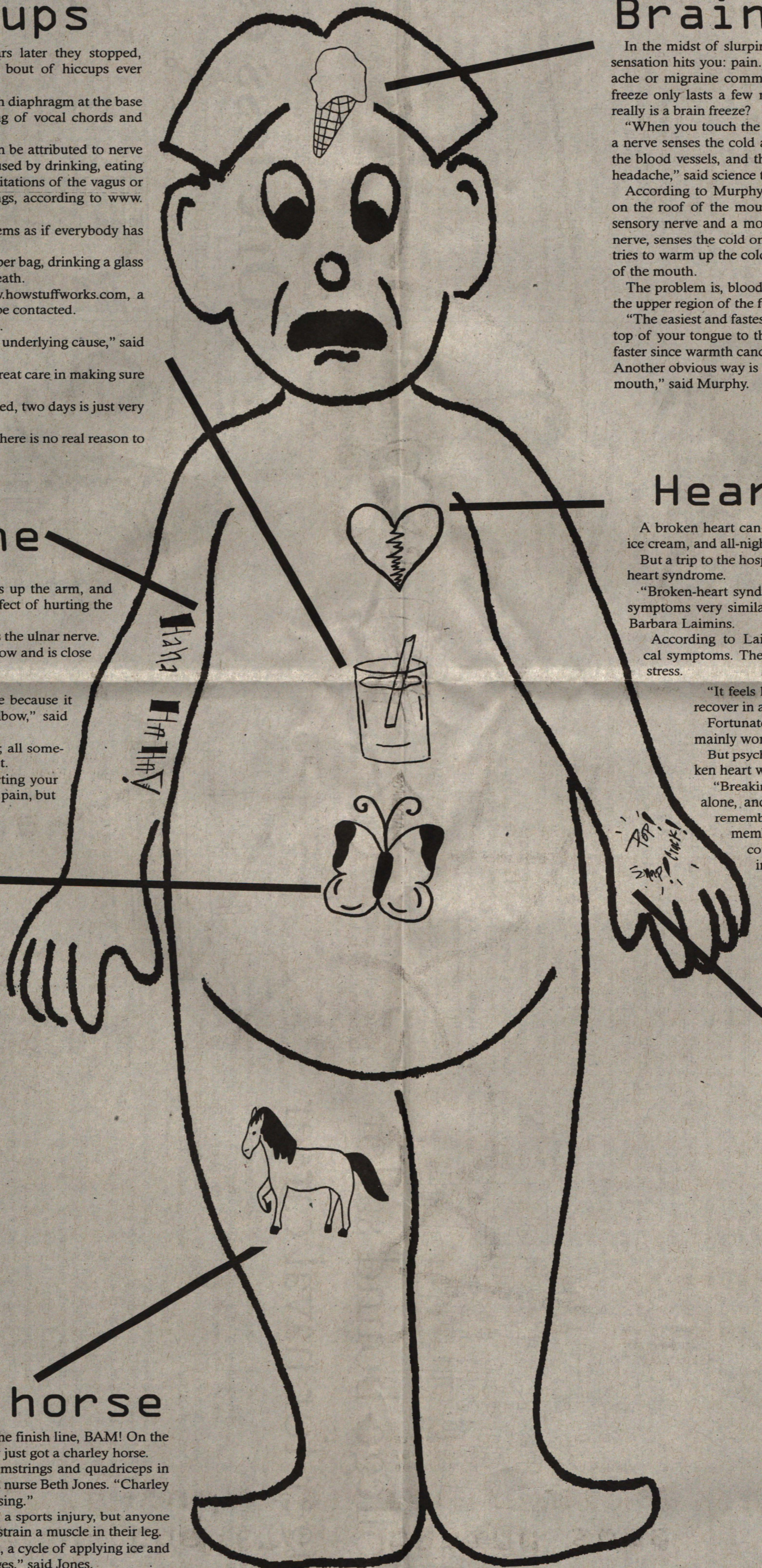
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The belief that cracking knuckles causes arthritis is only a myth.

"The only thing that they've found is that hands are prone to be swollen and stiff, but only if you're a chronic knuckle-cracker," Murphy said.

People crack their knuckles because it feels good and stretches them out.

"Our joints are meant to move, and I assume that when ligaments are sitting still and you move them, it feels good," said Murphy.



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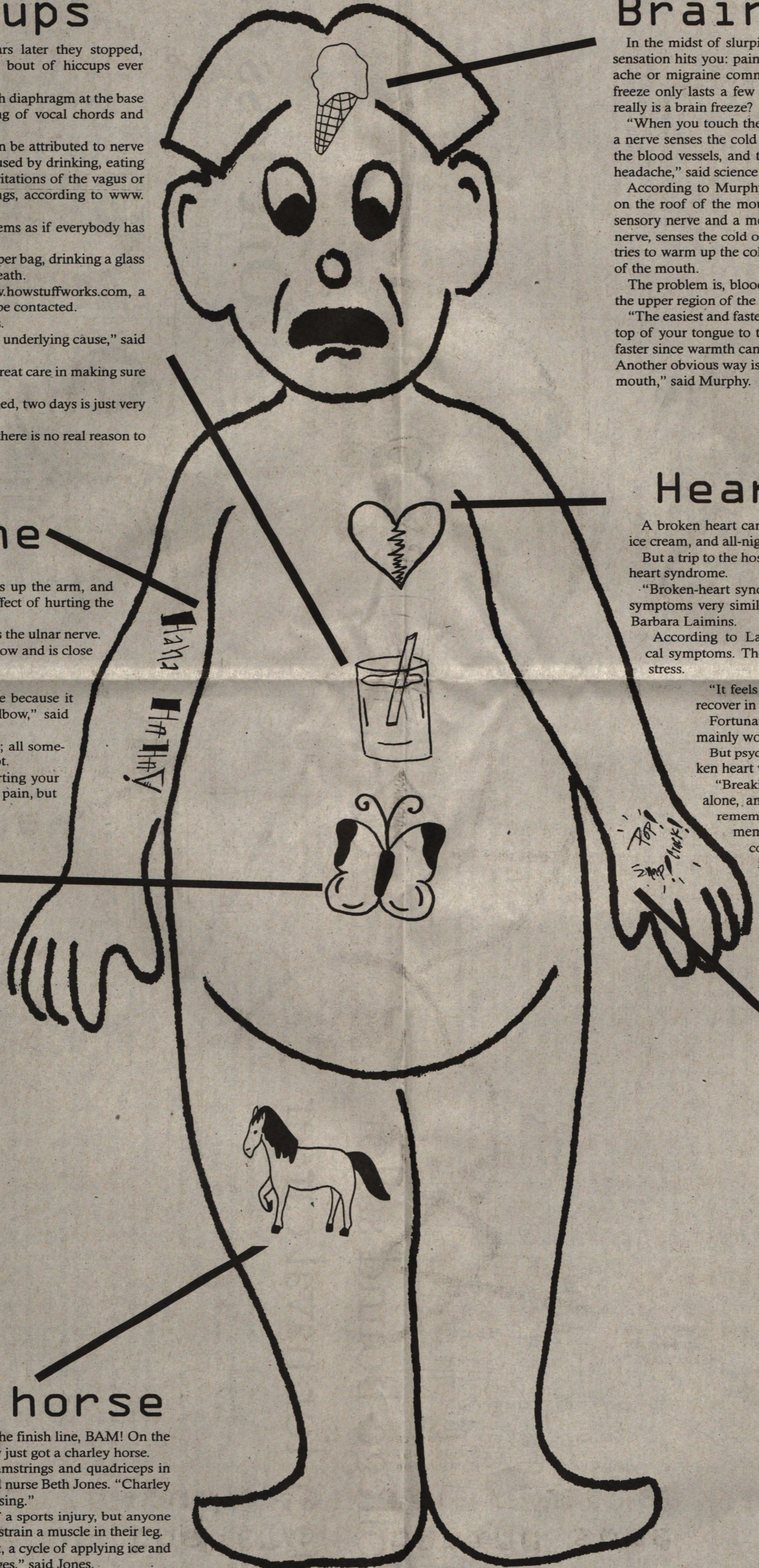
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Trading his books for boots

Weeks after graduation, one senior is joining the fight against terrorism

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Senior Alex Tirabasso's childhood dream of joining the Army will soon be his reality.

"We are graduating and going to be legal adults. Kids our age will be going off to an uncertain place to fight an uncertain enemy. It's war, and it's not the same thing to be thought of as when we were kids," said Tirabasso.

In less than a year, Tirabasso will be in Afghani-

stan fighting the War on Terror.

"I will be deployed to Afghanistan to do the ground work. Basically I'm the first line of defense, and I will be in the most direct combat with the Taliban," said Tirabasso.

Tirabasso has always been drawn to the military, and has constantly given his unwavering support for the war.

"I've never wanted to sit around during a time of war. Growing up through 9/11, I wanted to go out and do something with my life," said Tirabasso.

Although considering the Navy, he decided to enlist in the Army in July.

"I didn't have to think too much about enlisting," said Tirabasso, who was inspired by his cousin, an Army ranger, and the book "Black Hawk Down." "I talked with Sergeant Moldovan, and he sat down with my parents and me, and after we all

talked I just said 'give me the papers.'"

After a long process of paperwork and exams, Tirabasso officially joined. Since he was 17 years old at the time

rabasso.

With basic training coming two weeks after graduation, Tirabasso has recently felt withdrawn from school.

"Since I am leaving to fight

I just want to do my job...If that ends up costing my life, it's part of the contract I signed.

-- Senior Alex Tirabasso

of his enlistment though, he had to have his parents sign with him.

"Since I am an only child they were proud of me, but definitely concerned and wary about it," said Tirabasso. "But they know it is what I have always wanted to do and they support me."

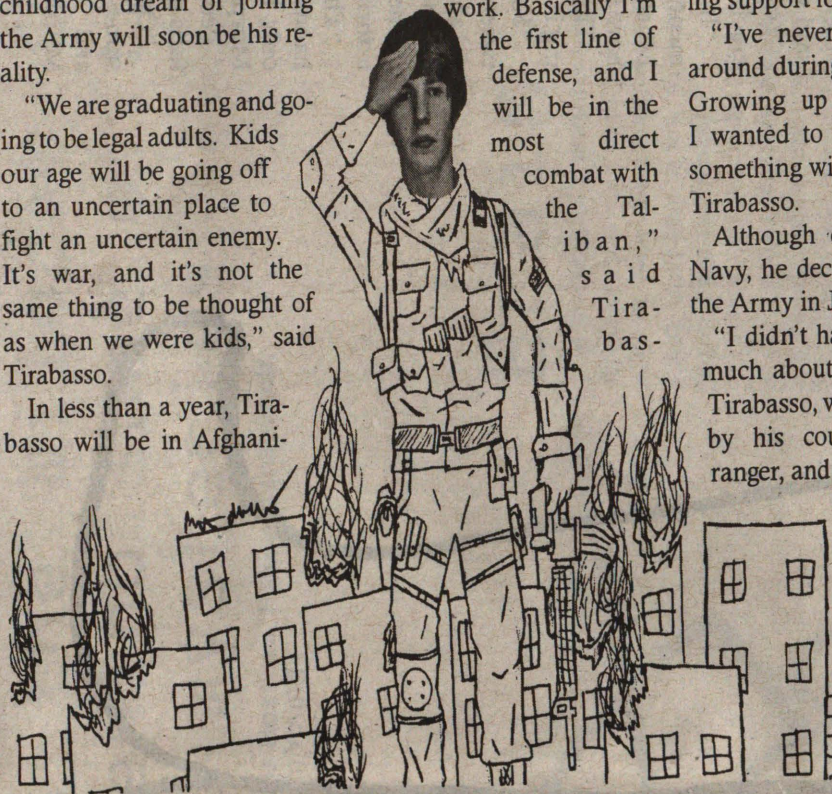
Although Tirabasso will start off as infantry, he hopes to become an airborne ranger, an elite unit of the Army.

"I'm looking forward to the overall experience. Since I chose the military instead of college, I am conscious in what I want to do," said Ti-

a war in a few months, school is less important to me now. Personal time, family time, and time with my friends is what I'm cherishing the most now," said Tirabasso.

When his duty ends, Tirabasso plans on attending college and pursuing law enforcement. However, while in active duty, he promises to always put his service and his country first.

"I just want to do my job and do what I signed up to do, and do it well. If that ends up costing my life, it's part of the contract I signed," said Tirabasso.



College-bound sailor eager for naval career

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

Most kids dream of being a fireman or a doctor when they grow up, but not everyone stays with their childhood dream. Senior Brett Adams plans to live out his childhood dream by joining the military.

Adams is joining the Navy after completing college at Marquette University and being part of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) program.

"NROTC gives me the chance to go into the Navy as an officer," said Adams. "I can get an NROTC scholarship that will pay for all my college."

Specifically, Adams is looking to join special ops, which is a portion of special forces that deals with special warfare.

"I see [special warfare] as what I'm most interested in within the military," said Adams. "Some people think people who go into special warfare just want to kill people, but I see it differently. I

see them as smart people who still see the need for warriors in our society, especially with threats like the Taliban and al-Qaida."

Another aspect that draws Adams to special forces is the behind-the-scenes work that he will be a big part of after he graduates college.

"Special forces deals with stuff that most people will never hear about," said Adams. "That's probably what I admire most about them; how elite it is."

Adams' decision to go to college before entering the military is different. Most high school graduates don't plan on attending college before joining the military.

"The military has a lot of respect for college graduates," said Adams. "I'll also be more apt to be promoted after I join."

Although Adams has dreamt of joining the military for most of his life, some of his family and friends still don't completely stand behind his choice.

"A lot of people have tried to discourage me," said Adams. "For a lot of my family, it's a safety concern. For my friends that have showed signs of not wanting me to go, don't see the situation how I do."

Adams believes there will still be a safety concern once he joins because of how the war is going.

"I defend the job the military is doing and how the war is going," said Adams, "but I think the government is not letting the military do its job. The situation is very similar

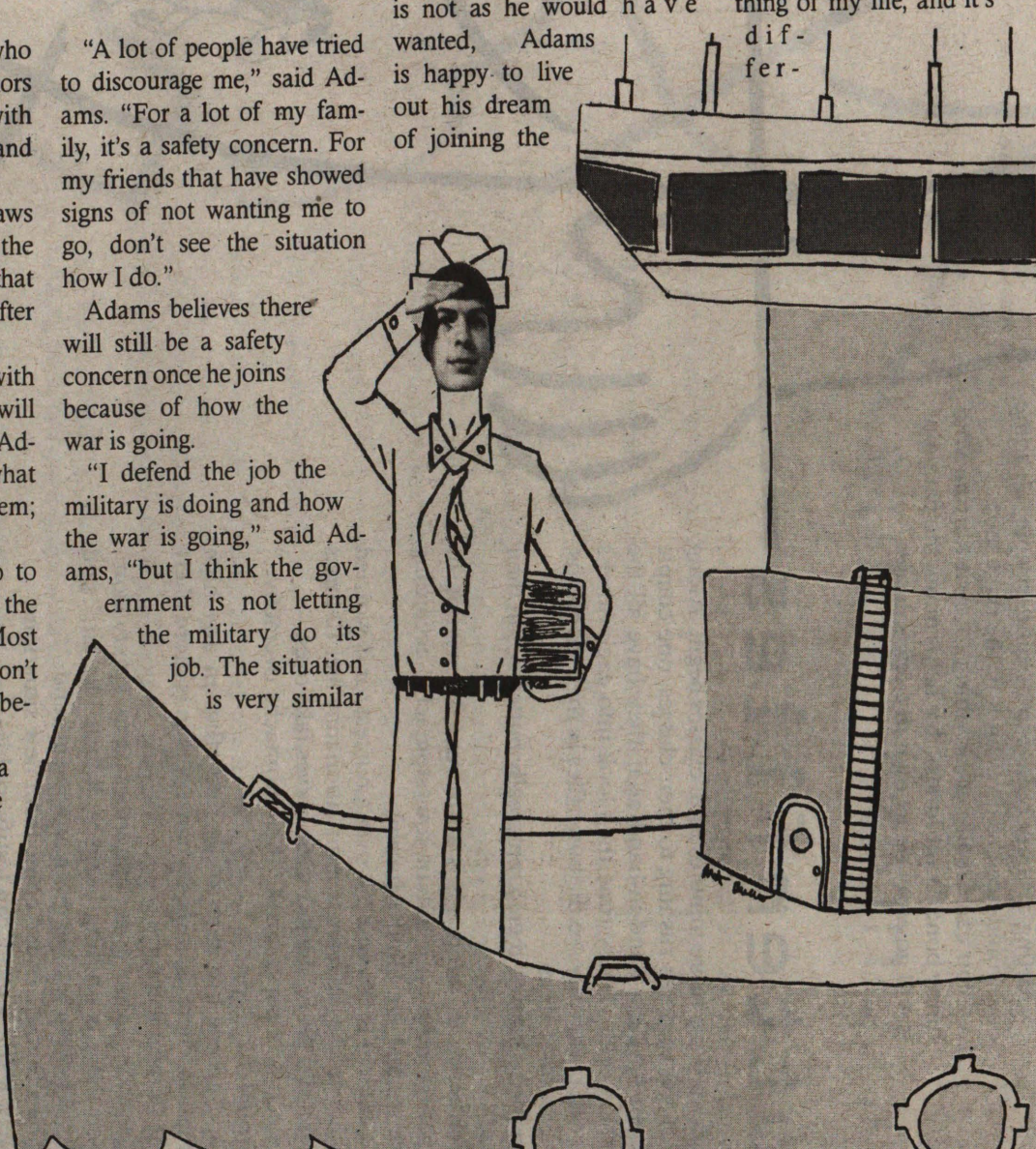
to the situation in Vietnam. From what I've read, either negotiations will have to be made or something big will have to happen [to end the war]."

Even though the situation is not as he would have wanted, Adams is happy to live out his dream of joining the

military.

"I've always wanted to serve my country and make some sort of difference in the world," said Adams. "I wanted to make a direct impact in the world. I'm making something of my life, and it's

different.



Tools of the trade

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

What began as an interest has become how senior Maria Sedjo and junior Devon Tuma spend four periods of each school day.

At the Technology Center of DuPage (TCD), Sedjo is enrolled in the automotive technology program and Tuma is a student in the culinary, pastry arts, and hospitality management program.

"During my sophomore year, my advisory teacher, Mrs. Clifford, talked a lot about TCD," said Tuma, who will attend TCD again her se-

nior year. "I had wanted to be a chef since I was 7, and I just like to cook, so I decided to go to TCD."

Tuma plans to pursue a career in the culinary field and attend culinary school after she graduates. Sedjo, on the other hand, attends TCD because she finds it interesting and does not plan to major in any automotive-related field when she begins at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich. in the fall.

"We got the brochure in the mail, and I thought it would be really cool to get out of regular classes to do something interesting that I like,"

said Sedjo.

As one of only five girls in the automotive technology program, one might think that Sedjo could feel out of place, but that's not the case.

"It doesn't really bother me, it doesn't make a difference," said Sedjo.

Compared to regular classes at the high school, Tuma thinks that TCD is very different.

"They give you a lot more freedom; it's like actual culinary school," said Tuma. "In high school, everything's really structured and there's all this specific stuff that you have to learn, but it's not like that at TCD. Also, [the teachers] aren't always over your shoulder making sure you get stuff done."

Due to TCD taking up half of their schedules, neither Sedjo nor Tuma have room in their schedules for a lunch.

"If I miss anything important in the announcements, my friends will just tell me about it," said Sedjo.

During her freshman and sophomore year, Tuma took the foods classes offered at the school, but believes that



Photo illustration by Alexis Hosticka

Junior Devon Tuma spends half of the school day learning cooking techniques and working in a kitchen.

TCD has much more to offer.

"At our school, the classes are really simple," said Tuma. "At TCD we learn things like knife skills, and things that you actually need to know in culinary school."

A typical day at TCD includes an outfit-change before class starts.

"We have to wear jumpsuits when we work on the cars.

They're not very attractive," laughed Sedjo, "but they keep your clothes clean!"

Tuma is grateful for the opportunity she has to attend TCD. Besides receiving a variety of different certifications, she'll also earn high school credit at the end her senior year.

"We're one step ahead of all the other high school students," said Tuma



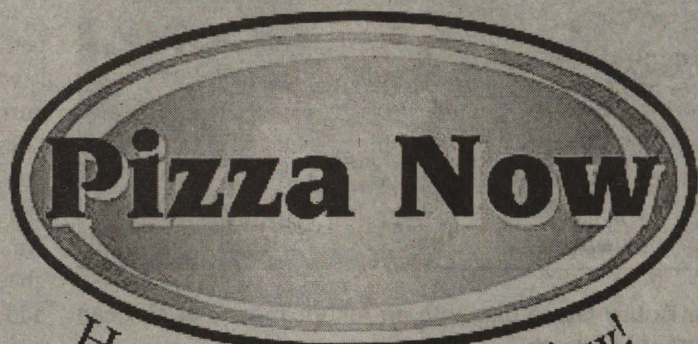
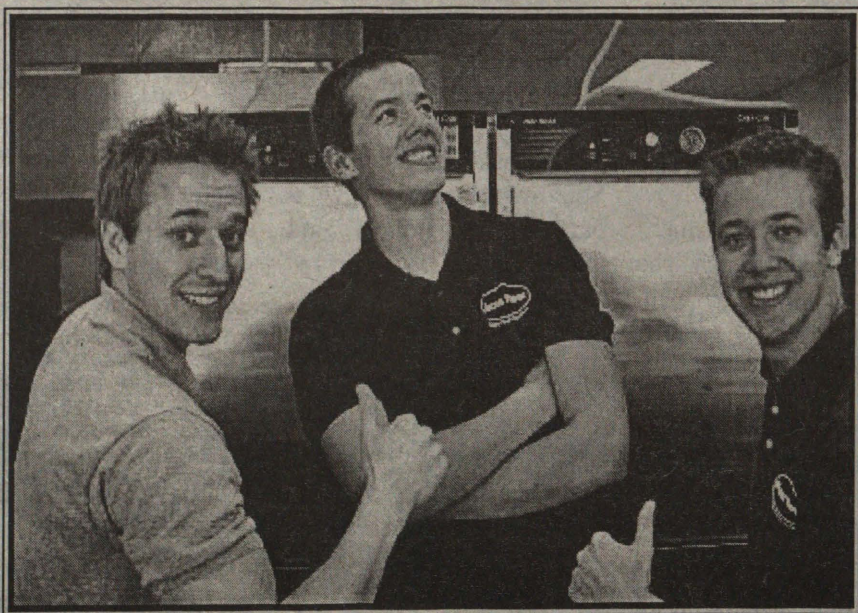
Photo illustration by Alexis Hosticka

After attending TCD, senior Maria Sedjo tinkers with her car.

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Breakfast, lunch, dinner on a small budget

Most important meal of the day at Olde North

By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Reporter

When in need for a home-cooked meal in an inviting atmosphere, Olde North Pancake House delivers. Olde North has good food and service, creating an enjoyable breakfast experience.

The menu is dedicated to breakfast choices, including over 20 different types of pancakes and crepes, so customers can find a favorite.

It's the kind of place a family may stop to eat with framed family pictures on the walls and a toasty fireplace.

"It's a cozy, country-style restaurant," said freshman

and customer Sonja Novitzki. "The food looked good and tasted good."

Novitzki ordered the country breakfast for \$6.95, which consisted of two pancakes, scrambled eggs, crispy bacon, and toast. The meal was not only flavorful according to Novitzki, the service was up to par as well.

"I really liked our server," Novitzki said. "She was really nice."

The ice cream for dessert was also satisfying.

"It was cold, delicious, and refreshing," said Novitzki of her vanilla shake.

Although breakfast is recommended, it was pricey

considering the portion sizes.

"I thought they kind of overcharged," said Novitzki. "Most restaurants pile on the food, and they didn't."

Despite this, it was a worthwhile, not-too-crowded spot to eat.

"Overall, the food was delicious, but the water was horrible because it was well water," said Novitzki.

Novitzki claimed she would come back especially for the bacon.

Olde North is located on 27W751 North Ave. in West Chicago; it is open at 6:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. on weekdays and until 4 p.m. on weekends.



Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

Freshman Sonja Novitzki enjoys her refreshing ice cream for dessert with breakfast at Olde North Pancake House.

Local authentic Mexican cuisine is made for every kind of taste

By **Megan Hernbroth**
Features

When walking into El Tesoro Mexican restaurant, it is easy to imagine the dining



Photo by Megan Hernbroth

Junior Bobby Giese digs into an American taco at Mexican restaurant El Tesoro.

experience that awaits.

The restaurant is complete with an aquarium on one side and a wall of mirrors on the other. Junior Bobby Giese enjoyed a late lunch.

"The atmosphere was very authentic," said Giese.

After sitting down in one of the many booths, a waiter promptly took orders for drinks and the meal.

"I thought the service was really quick and good," said Giese. "I hardly had to wait at all."

Instead of bread and butter, a free appetizer in many restaurants, El Tesoro provides a full bowl of chips and homemade salsa.

"The chips were thick and crunchy, and the salsa was a perfect blend of hot and mild; it wasn't boring but it wasn't burning my tongue off," said Giese.

Giese ordered three American tacos for \$1.65 each. The American taco comes with cheese, lettuce and tomato, and the Mexican tacos have

cilantro and onion.

The menu consists of a wide variety of choices, from seven types of burritos for \$4.49 to the tamale, cheese enchilada, and taco combination meal for \$6.99. There are also a few American choices, from a \$4.49 hamburger to a \$2.99 hot dog.

"I thought there was a good variety of food," said Giese. "There was something for everyone."

Giese could not wait to dive into the mound of tacos in front of him.

"The [tacos are] kind of small, but they're perfectly proportional for the price. You can order a bunch without a lot of money," said Giese.

With a full stomach and still-full wallet, Giese ordered more chips and salsa to bring home.

"It's cool that they have a take-out feature," said Giese. "It makes it easier when you don't feel like eating out."

As Giese paid, the owner smiled and said "Have a nice day," something many chains leave out.

When looking for a cheap Mexican meal, do not pass up the small restaurant in the strip mall, because El Tesoro is truly a hidden gem.

El Tesoro is located at 129 West Roosevelt Rd. in West Chicago and is open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends.

A downtown taste of Italy

By **David Garcia**
Reporter

Short of going to Italy, downtown West Chicago's Santo Maria's offers as authentic an Italian dinner as one can get.

The trip starts right at the door: the entrance leads to the private deli, with a side entrance bringing you into the dining area.

A dimly lit room is presented with soft music, a quietly conversing clientele, and a decor of fine art.

"It was nice and fancy. I

felt so out of place because the people were dressed nice, and the place was nice," said junior Stella Larson.

Within minutes of walking in the dining area, the host presented the house menu and accommodated Larson's party of eight.

Drinks were on hand upon request and the waiter was ready to take the order once he was called.

"There were no severe or obvious flaws I can recall in their waiting abilities or our food, so I was satisfied," said Larson.

Warm bread and plenty of olive oil were at hand at all times, and were enjoyed at leisure.

A brief look at the menu reveals a large selection of well known Italian favorites, like Caesar salads for \$6.95, pizzas ranging from \$10.00 to \$23.00, and cannolis for \$3.00.

For the more daring eater, Santo Maria's offered shrimp diablo for \$18.50, and veal marsala for \$17.95.

Larson decided to go with the \$23 18-inch supreme pizza to share with friends.

The mushrooms were scrumptious; the crust per-

fectly flaky and the pepperoni tasted like real meat.

"The food was scrumptious and filling," said Larson, "but there was too much cheese, it could have tasted better if there was less."

Santo Maria's is made for a great dinner out with friends, and is located at 145 W. Washington St. in West Chicago.

Santo Maria's is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. from Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Fridays, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays and 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays.



Photo by David Garcia

Junior Stella Larson bites into a slice of supreme pizza.

Can't get away?

If you're stuck in Illinois, your break can still be fun

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Everybody loves spring break; tanning and swimming at the beach, and having a fun, relaxing week off from the pressures of school.

Unfortunately, not everyone can travel, and staying at home pretty much kills the spring break mood.

Fortunately, there are a couple of fun activities you can do to make spring break feel less like home and more like spring.

It's spring weather, so you can put on the shades, take a drive with the windows rolled down, and drive to a park or an outlet mall with a couple of friends.

A great outlet mall is Chicago Premium Outlets in Aurora, with stores like American Eagle, Forever 21, and Zumiez, who all have great spring break deals. That way you can be out in the sun, shop, and eat some food.

Craving the beach? Don't bring it to you by dumping loads of sand and water into your living room.

Instead, if you want the beach feel, go tanning, but not too much, to get you onto "Jersey Shore."

Cardinal Fitness offers a tanning service at \$9.95 per month.

You must be a member to use this option, but if you join, you can be tan and be fit at the same time.

If you don't want a membership to the gym, try tanning at Executive Tans in Algonquin.

Their spring break special is for students only and gives five tans for \$25.



After that, take a couple of friends, find an indoor water park, and have some

fun.

It's not the same as the beach, but look on the bright side: water parks have water slides and diving boards. An indoor water park to go to is Mayan Adventure Indoor Water Park at the Elmhurst Holiday Inn.

It's a great park for anyone: for thrill-seekers, go with the tube and body slides but for the more laid-back, try the lazy river. But don't feel limited to go to just an indoor water park or an outlet mall.

You can also drive to downtown Chicago and relax.

Spring brings out the flowers, so the Lincoln Park Observatory and Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago are hosting the Spring Flower Shows through May. Chicago is also a great place to spend some time on April 4, where you can pig out at many different restaurants for Easter brunch.

The House of Blues Gospel Brunch takes a southern twist on your meal at 329 North Dearborn, while Cite in Navy Pier offers brunch on the 70th floor at 505 Lake Shore Dr.

The Morton Arboretum in Lisle offers a variety of events like tours of their many trees and gardens.

Anyone can see that spring is in the air when they walk through the arboretum's walking trails; wildlife and lakes are scattered everywhere.

Whatever you want to do, whether it be at the arboretum or heading to Chicago, make this a memorable spring break.

Don't expect true life from reality TV

As the TV glows to life, commercials for hundreds of different shows flash by, but the ones that stick out the most intend to portray "reality" in the most glamorized ways imaginable.

Shows like "The Real World" and "Jersey Shore" give off false perceptions of how life really is. Nights filled with hot tubs and booze isn't the game plan for every 20 year old.

These shows deliberately leave out the true realities of

condition in front of the country, belting out almost-perfect versions of classic songs, or screeching out some ridiculous song they made up, they are finally getting that quick moment of fame they have been waiting for.

For the majority of these people, their priority isn't succeeding in the music industry; it's getting in front of the camera and being noticed.

But why is the urge to be seen by the whole world so strong? Whether it is by some special talent, or just humiliating themselves, people want to be seen.

Teenagers, college students, even teachers can't resist the urge to be on TV.

There's something about being on a reality show that kind of makes me want to audition.

I think this is why a lot of people are so drawn into the shows. There's something there that keeps pulling them back in.

Reality, whether it be middle-class suburban life, or poor inner-city life, won't ever show on TV.

Instead, America sits in front of glowing televisions, absorbing evenings filled with hours of pointless drama, unaware of life going on around them.

Although the fun, party-filled lifestyles portrayed on TV seem like the ultimate American dream, they are really nothing more than just

Don't forget this movie

'Remember Me' puts the tears in the tissues

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Although best known for portraying vampire Edward Cullen, Robert Pattinson breaks away from the "Twilight" saga in the incredibly moving romance "Remember Me."

Beginning with a literal bang, the movie starts with a random act of urban violence in 1991.

A girl and her mother wait for the subway on the platform when they are robbed. Then, before they can get away the woman is shot dead.

This act sets the tone for the movie.

Jumping to 2001, Tyler (Pattinson) is a 21-year-old student attending New York University.

He looks scruffy, downtrodden, and is repeatedly likely to smell of "beer and cigarettes."

Tyler is the mysterious boy next door struggling with daddy issues (Pierce Brosnan portrays his father), while retaining no relationships except with his impressionable young sister Caroline (Ruby Jerins) and his roommate Aidan (Tate Ellington).

Tyler remains this way until he and Aidan are ar-

rested for fighting in public by Officer Neil Craig (Chris Cooper).

Days later Aidan encounters Officer Neil again; this time though, seeing him drop off his daughter Ally (Emilie de Ravin) at the campus. It is learned that Ally is the girl from the beginning at the subway.

Aidan then spins the idea to get back at the police officer, Tyler should seduce Ally. After some careful hesitation, Tyler agrees, and soon Ally and he are dating.

Following a night of drunken idiocy in which Ally spends the night at Tyler's apartment, she returns home to her distraught father.

After an argument in which Ally insults her deceased mother, he strikes her. Angered, Ally leaves and returns to Tyler's where she and Tyler only grow closer.

Entering this movie, the audience may expect the typical romance, bad-things-only-happen-to-beautiful-people, generic plots.

This movie is so much more than stereotypical plot lines.

Not only is it well-acted from veterans like Cooper and Brosnan, as well as newcomers Pattinson and

de Ravin, but the relationships forged in this movie seemed so real.

There could have been some character development, but all-in-all, the acting was phenomenal.

Of course this movie is not for the "Twilight" crazed pre-teens that will be crying everytime they see Pattinson smoking a cigarette, drinking a beer, or having sex.

This movie has mature content, and nothing is more annoying than trying to listen to the film while these kids whine about Edward.

One of the best parts of the film is the twist ending. As one might predict, things have finally come full circle for all the characters.

But, of course, tragedy ensues once more in one of the most powerful, and tear-jerking finales in recent cinematic memory.

Although some critics have deemed the ending shameless, the approach used to handle this ending was done so that it wouldn't offend, but more or less make the audience think.

It's hard to find a realistic romance nowadays in cinema. However, from the first shot to the last sequence, "Remember Me" is a movie that deserves so much more recognition than it's received.



Helene Sankovitch
Reporter

life: going to school, getting a job, and dealing with the consequences of partying too much. But those elements of life are real, and reality television doesn't show that at all.

Sure, these aren't subjects any teen wants to watch on TV. They could probably care less about how "The Situation" pays his bills every month.

What really matters is how many girls he brings home, right?

As thousands of hopeful "American Idol" winners au-

Season Warm-Ups

Preseason swing

By Kaitlyn Sladek
Reporter

Baseball season has officially begun with 23 players, practices in full swing, and the first game Thursday at St. Francis High School.

"I expect us to be competitive this year," said head coach Dan McCarthy. "I believe we can compete with the DVC powers if our pitching comes around. I think we will be very good both defensively and offensively."

Nobody was cut after tryouts and all of the seniors are returning players.

According to McCarthy, the conference is very strong.

"I think the Napervilles, Naperville Central and Naperville North, are the pre-

season conference favorites," said McCarthy.

The team has been working hard with early practices six days a week.

"For the first few weeks, we are practicing in the morning from 5:30-7 a.m.," said McCarthy. "By practicing in the morning, we are allowed to utilize the entire field house. If we were to practice later in the day, we would have to share it with our lower levels."

This year's captains are seniors Matt Ackerman, Charles Jacques, and Al Robbins. The captains are just as optimistic as McCarthy.

"We should be in the top half. It all depends on our pitching," said Robbins.

Ackerman agrees.

"We're getting done what needs to be done," said Ackerman. "We'll be ready for the season."

The younger varsity players are doing well.

"We've got a good junior class and they're really going to help us out," said Jacques.

The team's first home game is Monday with a double-header against Tinley Park High School. Whatever the outcome of the game, McCarthy will be proud of his boys.

"I enjoy the relationships you develop with your players over time," said McCarthy. "It is extremely gratifying to see former players of mine enter the field of education and become successful coaches."

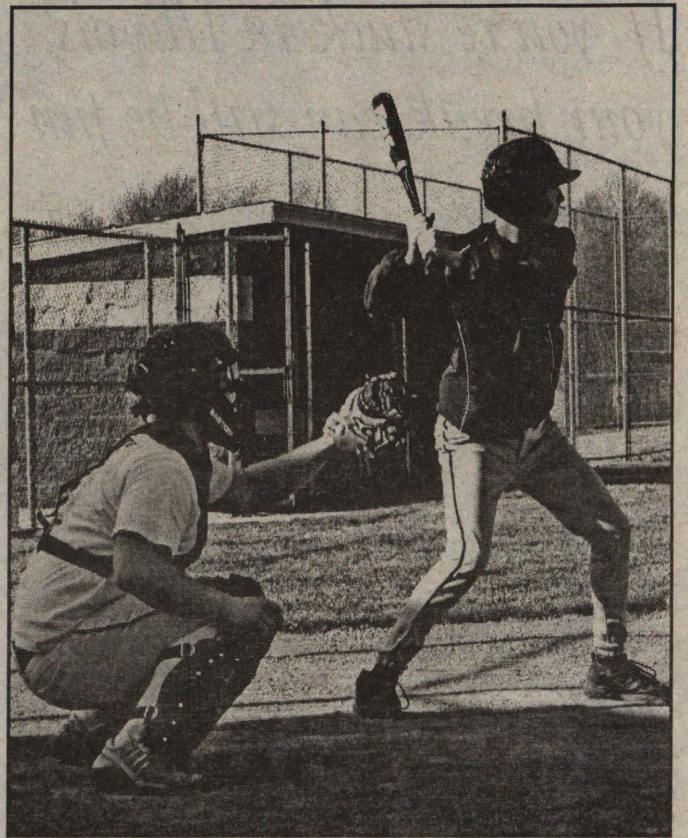


Photo by Jacob Wucka

With a team of 23 players, boys baseball is practicing hard to achieve success this season. Senior Ben Orr (right) prepares to swing as senior Matt Matson readies for a catch.



Photo by David Garcia

Senior Karan Panchal practices his swing.

Crippled by loss of experienced seniors

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Although they have a small team of 12 to 15 members, boys tennis believes they can overcome the challenges and be successful this season.

"There is a lot of talent, and there is a lot of effort put in by this team," said senior Roman Kopytko. "If we continue to put in this good work, we will get far."

Kopytko considers the factor that the team has many "new faces" a strength.

However not having many seniors prevents these new members from honing their skills.

"We don't have any experienced coaches student-wise. We don't have a lot of seniors [in general]," said Kopytko. "It's [also] a negative because we have to play against teams with around 22 or 25 members. We won't match up."

Head coach Sione Moeaki, who has been coaching for 24 years, believes that there were many factors that led to the decrease in players this year.

"I run the summer program and the off-season winter program to help and motivate kids to play tennis more," said Moeaki. "There are a lot of kids that have jobs, or one of our seniors is joining the Navy and is training, and there are others that play other sports so that doesn't help our team's size."

Regardless of their size, Moeaki believes that the team has the potential to be successful.

"We expect to win most of our non-conference matches, and then win a few in the DVC with what we have now," said Moeaki.

Kopytko believes the team can be very successful if they grow in experience by practicing more.

Headed towards a championship title

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Highly regarded as one of the school's few hopes for athletic success, softball's season has started as the team is focused on obtaining a championship title.

"We've definitely been working really hard," said senior Taylor Kutilek. "We're paying more attention to detail, so that will take us farther than last year."

With more attention on hitting, along with the harder preseason to prepare for conference, junior Mary Connolly believes the team is feeling overwhelmed. However she thinks the team is coming together for the greater good.

"There's more pressure to push ourselves as a team, and this can transfer into positive encouragement to work together," said Connolly. "Our team is more than one player."

Since they have a slightly smaller team than last year, senior Aly Taddeucci believes everyone will gel together better.

"I feel like having a smaller team will help us a lot with staying together. And this year there is a lot less drama," said Taddeucci.

Also, with a stable coaching staff now in its second year, the team is positive they will be led in a stronger direction by head coach Emily

Johnson.

"Coach is doing things that are necessary to make sure that we go further," said Kutilek.

Johnson feels that she now knows what makes the team perform better as well.

"Now that I have the logistics of being a varsity coach, I can focus on the coaching aspect and the girls because now I know the girls for who they really are," said Johnson.

Amid preseason dreams about a state title, Johnson is thankful that with this team, these dreams may become a reality.

"It's nice to be looked up to, but we've been lucky with the girls we have in this program," said Johnson.

Connolly is looking forward to the season, because she believes the team is in a position to achieve success.

"We have a lot of motivation because we weren't as successful as we should have been last year. If we work hard we can have DVC and go all the way," said Connolly.

Taddeucci has a little more confidence than Connolly.

"We're going to take state," said Taddeucci. "We've been practicing like we're in the Army, so if we stay focused and positive, nothing can go wrong."

The girls have their first game on Saturday at Willowbrook.

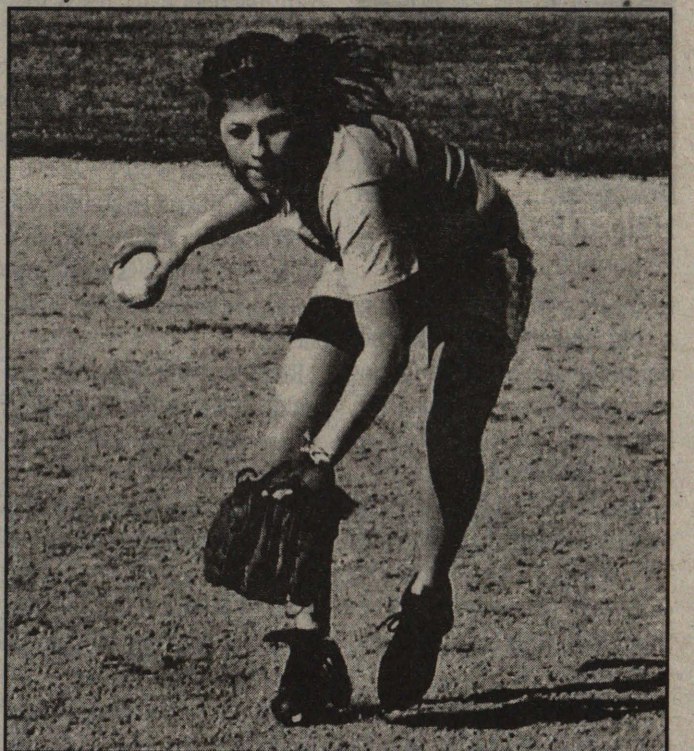


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Working hard to get to the state championship, junior Brittany Parisi prepares to throw the ball to first base.

Season Warm-Ups

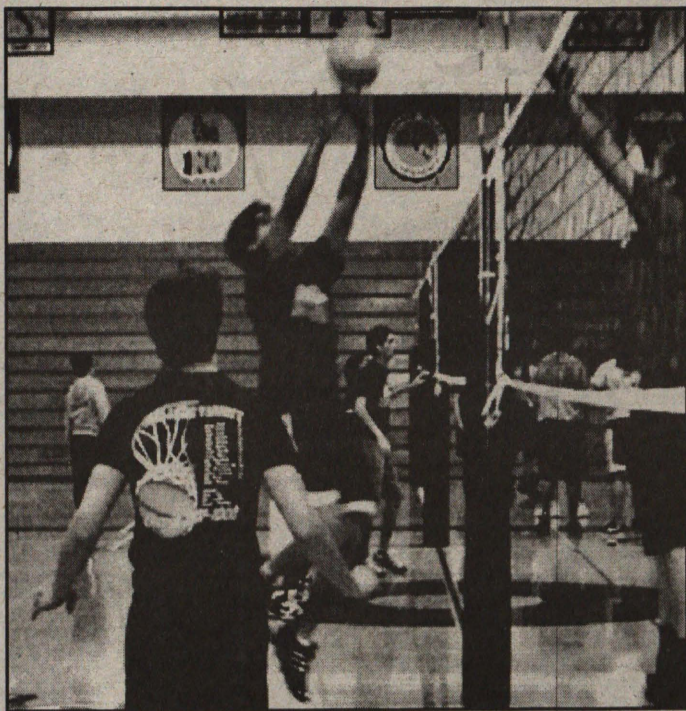


Photo by Carly Tubridy

Junior Cesar Gonzales tips the ball over the net.

Challenges abound

By Carly Tubridy
Reporter

Being competitive in the DVC is the main goal for most coaches and there is no exception with boys volleyball coach Kris Hasty.

"It will be a challenge to step up and play at a high level because of seniors we lost last year," said Hasty.

Only three seniors returned from last year's varsity: Anthony Hasbun, Eric Letzer, and Gordo Tirado. The team lost seven seniors, five of which were starters.

One returning starter is junior Leo Bartyzel.

"I'm looking to Leo to be a leader. He is an all-around player," said Hasty.

Hasty looked to junior Adrian Porcayo to be the setter with the assistance of sophomore Joey Martin, but Martin broke his finger, so

Bartyzel will be setting until he returns.

Hasty would like to use players who have shown dedication on and off the court.

"It's about who's worked hard during the off-season," said Hasty.

With only a few players who played club during the off-season, schools like Naperville Central, that have the majority of their team playing club, will be tough.

"Not only does [club] strengthen your love for the game, it makes you a better over-all player," said sophomore Liam Flaherty.

According to Hasty, their biggest weakness is the lack of varsity experience.

"Just gaining experience from match play will help us," said Hasty.

Varsity's first match is over spring break in Hoffman Estates.

Focused on fixes

Girls soccer working to correct past mistakes

By Keyuri Parmar
Reporter

Girls soccer has started knowing what it will take to meet their expectations.

"I hope we do better, in conference, than last year winning more than half of the games," said senior Anna Mercaldo. "I think we have a really good shot at reaching and accomplishing our goals for this season."

Head coach Cesar Gomez thinks the team will be more successful in the DVC. He also hopes they build more confidence.

"As a coach I believe that the players believing in them-

selves is more important and different than what the coaches and other teammates believe," said Gomez.

Their first game was supposed to be against St. Francis on Saturday but it was canceled.

The toughest teams will be Wheaton North, Wheaton Warrenville South, Naperville North, and Naperville Central because they are the teams the girls usually have a problem with.

"They have more talent to pull from and have a feeder program," said Gomez.

Gomez's goal for the team is to beat one of the Wheaton teams and one of the Naperville teams.

New coaches, players teeming with potential

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

With two new coaches and a new season, badminton is at a fresh start.

The team's first match was against Plainfield Central on Wednesday. Results were unavailable as of press time.

Humanities teacher Nick Caltagirone and science teacher Jill Serling are the new coaches this season, with a returning coach Kathy Ochomowicz. This is Caltagirone's first time coaching badminton since he was assistant coach in 2002 and 2003.

According to Caltagirone, all three coaches coach the three levels as one large coaching staff.

"We want to get better, regardless of what level [the girls] start at," said Caltagirone. "We want this to be a positive experience in terms of being competitive and an overall high school experience."

The team lost against Oswego 5-10 on March 18, but on the March 16 game versus Streamwood, all levels won, with varsity's victory at 15-0.

"It was amazing," said sophomore varsity player Natalia Macias. "[The game

was] challenging, but it's an honor to play."

Although all levels have been playing extremely well, Caltagirone knows they have to keep working.

The levels that the girls have started at are very high.

"We have girls that have a lot of potential in all levels," said Macias.

The team's goal to place in DVC and go to state will only be met by practice.

"We condition, we push each other in practice, and focus on improving everything that we do," said Macias. "Everyone in a way has stepped it up."

Entering the outdoor season

By David Garcia
Reporter

Indoor track season is wrapping up with successes and state qualifications for boys and girls.

BOYS

Boys track is prepared to take its indoor success outside. On Saturday, the indoor DVC competition suggested that this may be possible.

Seniors Nick Hawco, Matt Kubik, and juniors Derrik Pietrobon, and Alex Perez received first place at DVC for the 1600 relay. Kubik also received second place in conference and qualified for indoor state, and the team as a whole re-

ceived sixth place and scored 38 points.

This kind of success has made junior captain Jeff Foreman look towards greater goals.

"We'd like to get a few relays and individual events down to state," said Foreman.

The next meet will be April 13 at Naperville North.

GIRLS

Although at the Saturday DVC competition, girls track placed last, head coach Bob Maxson was impressed with the 36 points they received.

"Last year we only scored 14 points," said Maxson. The points only added to the pride he felt for the 4x8 team that qualified for the state Illinois

prep top times indoor classic.

Maxson partly attributes the team's success to the wider variety of talent that team has.

"Now we have more depth in the talent across the board," said Maxson.

The teams promise has not been lost on the individual athletes. Senior captain Annette Eichenberger is pushing the girls to meet their potential, especially, freshmen Carla Dannug, Lauren Stanton, and sophomore Lali Valdivia.

"We stepped up our training trying to make it to state," said Eichenberger.

The next meet is at Plainfield on April 10.



Photo by Jacob Wucka

Junior Sara Opel sneaks the ball through senior Anna Mercaldo's legs during practice.

ville teams.

"The girls know what they want and are going to do what it takes to make that happen," said Gomez.

There are 11 returning players and eight new team

members.

"We are a young team but eager to play and respond to the challenges," said Gomez.

The team's strengths are playing one-on-one, attacking, foot skills, and looking

for open people. Some of their weaknesses are possession, running, and being able to move the ball. However, one strength is that the team gets along.

"Everyone on the team cares for each other, which is what you need in a team aspect," said Gomez. "They are willing to help each other."

Junior Megan Radloff agrees.

"I'm looking forward to practices and bonding with the team," said junior Megan Radloff.

The strongest players on the team right now are junior Kelsey Myers, senior Stephanie Salinas, junior Rachel Thomas, junior Mary Rojas, sophomore Bianca Navejas, and Radloff.

"I like how a lot of the team members are my friends. We're like a family and we like to have fun," said Mercaldo.

Too much clutter

Selling ad space at baseball and football fields is bad for business

I have a perfect, assured money-making pitch for this school.

Since they've been looking for ways to generate some income recently, I started thinking about advertising. Ads are everywhere; on billboards down Route 59, on park benches, and even within the pages of this publication.

Recently, the Board of Education approved a measure that will allow businesses to advertise at Pioneer Park during baseball and softball seasons, as well as Memorial Stadium during football season.

The school is also considering allowing ads to be displayed in hallway from commons to the Bishop Gym, and within the gym too.

Well, it's a brilliant idea. Or is it?

I mean countless people, whether they are from the school, or parents, or community members, come to these fields and the gym to watch our teams play.

Let's put these ads someplace where everyone will see them. And hey, where is a better place than on me! I already have it all planned out: I'll buy a white t-shirt and sell ad space wherever there is any white space. And since I'm a big boy, there will be lots of white space. I could have an ad for Gatorade on the upper chest, a Nike logo on one of my love handles, and I could be branded with a realtor's face on my lower back. It's fool-proof!

However walking around wearing all these logos, I'd feel weird. Sure I'd get a lot of attention as I made my way from math to science, and maybe my sponsors would see a rise in sales. But I would look like a sellout.

Who was once a dignified senior wearing an argyle sweater, is now someone who is willing to stoop down so low as to do whatever he can to make a buck.

Advertising at high schools is a weak attempt that districts take when they're desperate to make money. Simply put, advertising here at West Chicago is not a good idea.

When it comes down to it, showering our fields with ads will look plain trashy. It has been said that the placement of these ads will not affect the atmosphere and esteem of this school.

All I know is that if I were walking from commons to the Bishop Gym with ads hanging in the hallway, I would feel surrounded by yet another additional layer of unnecessary and distracting tackiness.

And punting a football in front of "We Buy Ugly Homes," or diving for a ball in the outfield while "Visit the Waffle House" lingers in the backdrop takes away from the respective sport's atmosphere.

It's not that we are not proud of our community, and don't want to advertise it. We are proud of West Chicago, but would like to find other ways to promote it. Selling ad space is not the right way to show our pride.

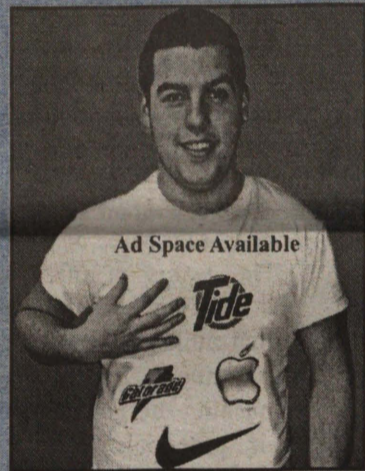
Also, I am considering the impression our rival schools will get when they play here. Other schools in the DVC have fields free of clutter, thus looking more pristine. Meanwhile West Chicago will have ads lining the walls, looking desperate.

Obviously people will not be fixated on the ads while watching the games, but no matter what, they would negatively affect these events.

Our school already has a bad reputation, as we are all well aware of our school's lovely nickname, "West Chighetto." What better way to reinforce this than by showing that we have to rely on others to support ourselves.

I'm not saying that other schools do not use alternate sources of revenue because they do. However, they hide it well. We cannot showcase our flaws.

But still, if the school is looking for revenue, my t-shirt option remains open.



Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Recognize these faces?

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

As students walk through the halls near the field house and the athletic locker rooms, the pictures of athletes who have qualified for state or gone all-conference look down, telling a story.

For two teachers, however, these pictures tell their own stories. Gym teacher Jamie Phillips, and Spanish teacher Michael Schneider are graduates, and both went all-conference in their respective sports.

Phillips graduated with the class of '96, and went all-conference for wrestling in '96 as well.

"It felt good [to go all conference]," said Phillips. "The conference back then was really tough and it was good to stand out in that competition."

Phillips also participated in football and soccer along with wrestling throughout his four years of high school. Now, Phillips coaches wrestling as well as teaching P.E. classes.

"I always wanted to come back and coach at my school," said Phillips. "It's nice to help out and give back."

Phillips does not get a lot of feedback from students that see his picture.

"Sometimes they'll say they're surprised to see that," said Phillips. "And usually that's how they find out my first name."

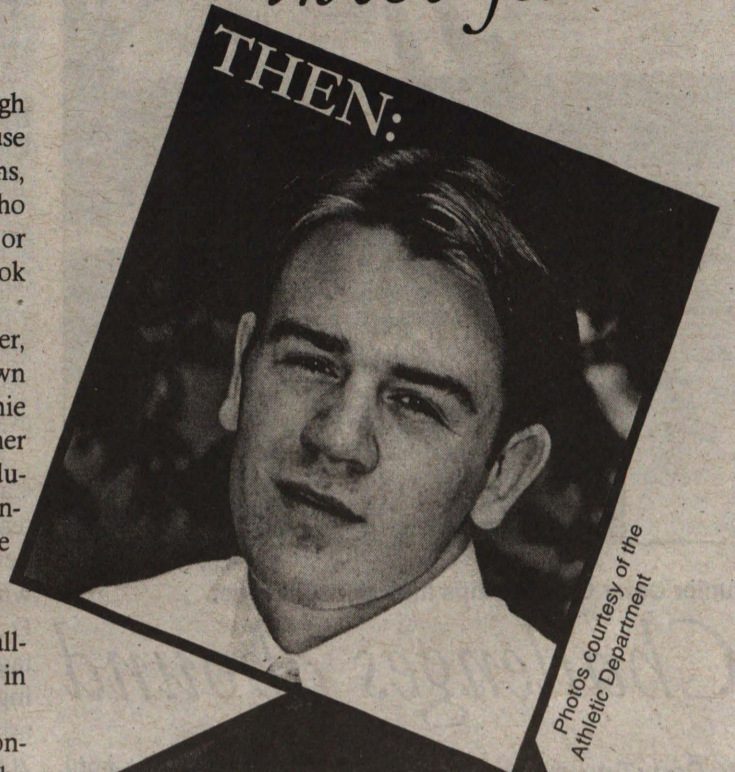
With 20 years of wrestling under his belt, Phillips knows what makes a good season.

"I like to see the kids improving," said Phillips. "I've been coaching for seven years, and I still have the pride for my school and the rivalries I had as a kid, and I try to push it onto the next generations. A lot of it is just hard work that pays off."

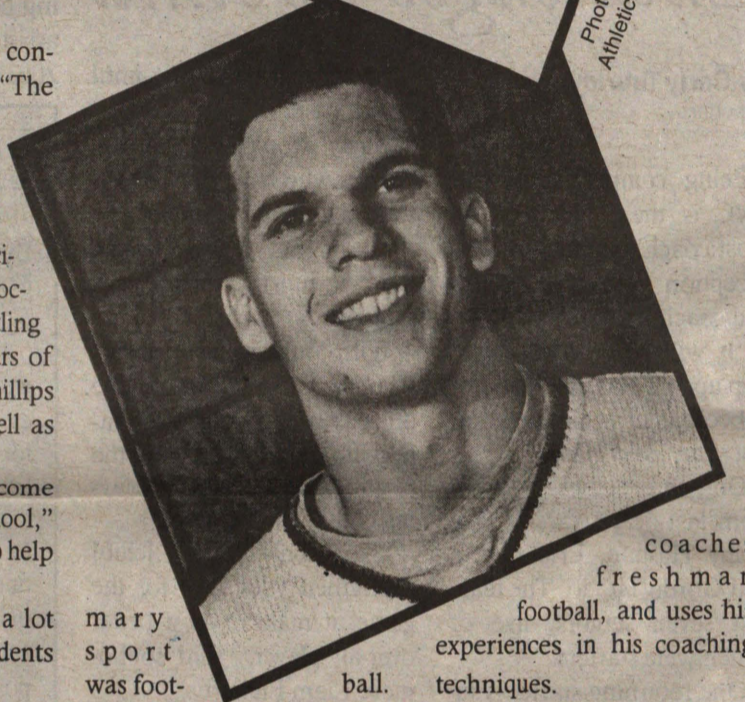
Schneider graduated in '99, and went all-conference for football in '98 for his line-backer position.

"Bob Stone was the head coach and he came and pulled me aside at lunch to tell me. But no one heard about it until my picture went up," said Schneider.

Schneider also played basketball and baseball, but his pri-



Photos courtesy of the Athletic Department



coaches freshman

football, and uses his experiences in his coaching techniques.

"I think [the conference] is just as hard now," said Schneider, "and the teams in the conference are still at a hard level of play. There are many kids here who are capable of being all-conference, and it's really an honor."

Another teacher, special education teacher Kevin Baldus, graduated in '93 and went all-conference in basketball the same year. Unfortunately, the all-conference tradition of placing the pictures on the wall started the year after Baldus graduated.

"I'm not that upset about it," said Baldus. "My ego is not that big."

mary sport was foot-

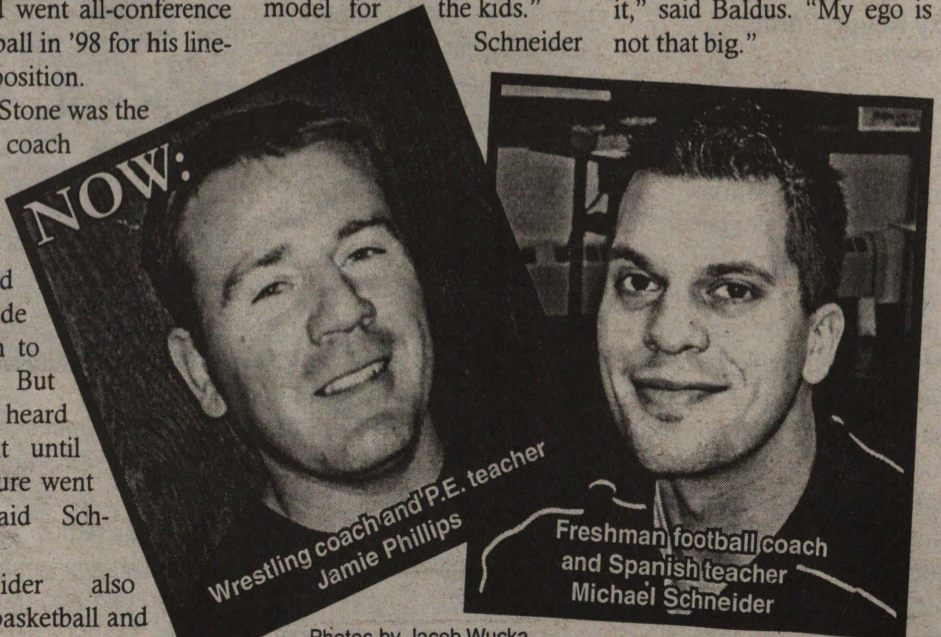
As a Spanish teacher, Schneider does not see his picture everyday, but his students do.

"If they see my picture up, they'll come and say 'I saw your picture,' but then it passes," said Schneider.

Schneider believes that part of the reason he wanted to teach at his alma mater was because of his success here.

"A big part of the reason I wanted to teach here was because I already knew I'd like it here," said Schneider. "It feels good to be here and I try to be something of a role model for the kids."

Schneider



Photos by Jacob Wucka and Alexis Hosticka