

Wildcat Chronicle

Community High School 326 Joliet St. West Chicago, IL 60185
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First girls champion

By Kaitlyn Sladek
Reporter
and Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

There's never been a girls track state champion, nor a track state champion since 1962. Senior Annette Eichenberger ended that streak.

"All this hard work was worth it. There were hard times with injuries, but I pushed through and was able to see what I could do," said Eichenberger.

Eichenberger placed first in the open 800 meter with a time of 2:12 at the state competition on May 20-22. Eichenberger felt some pressure was lifted this time around as she ran her last race.

"I did this for my family, my school, and my team," said Eichenberger.

All season, Eichenberger worked to build up her younger teammates for greater success.

"I told the girls that I started at the same point they are at, I built confidence, and I put in that extra work. You have to get to that point where you can't go anymore and you just have to keep going. That's the only way to get better," said Eichenberger.

Head coach Bob Maxson is grateful for everything Eichenberger has done for the girls track program.

"It is incredibly exciting to see Annette's hard work awarded, and goal fulfilled as she's ending her high school career," said Maxson. "After some individual success these years, it was equally exciting to

See Track, page 14



Photo by Liz Ramos
Before winning the state title, senior Annette Eichenberger captures the lead at sectionals.

English classes adopt reading over summer

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

Summer isn't all fun and games anymore for honors English 1 and 2 classes.

Students in advanced classes like honors English 1 and 2 are required to read one book over the summer.

"We have a team of teachers who teach advanced placement (AP) and honors, and they thought it would be a good idea to have students continue to improve their reading skills all year long," said language arts division head Chris Covino.

AP junior and senior classes have been required to read over the summer for many years, but now summer reading spans all AP and honors classes. Students must read and visit Ning, an online discussion board and post comments about their books.

According to Covino, at the beginning of the 2010-11 school year students must have completed the summer posts and be prepared to write an essay during the first week

of school.

English teacher Jen Culbertson believes that summer reading will help students.

"I think it's a great addition to the AP track," said Culbertson. "It encourages students to become independent thinkers which will then eventually help them become more effective readers, writers, and conversationalists."

Student opinions differ.

"It's really pointless. Most kids will probably leave it until the end of the summer," said freshman Abram Fernandez.

Freshman Amy Tedeschi disagrees.

"Over the summer people tend to lose what they learn and reading would help keep it in their mind. Personally, when I read over the summer it helped me retain information better and do better in school," said Tedeschi.

Honors English 1 students are required to read H.G. Wells' novel "The Island of Dr. Moreau." Honors English 2 students are required to read James McBride's novel "The Color of Water."

National spotlight on SkillsUSA students

By Keyuri Parmar
Reporter

Five students are experiencing a chance of a lifetime in Kansas City at SkillsUSA nationals from June 24-26.

Juniors Mayuri Parmar, Mehak Damani, and sophomore Steven Celmer are going to nationals as voting delegates on the state officer team. Sophomore Chelsea Madsen won second place in the Courtesy Corps contest at state and is going to nationals to help. Sophomore Jeff Pekosh will be competing in the related technical math contest.

"We've never had five people go to nationals before so

we've achieved a lot," said adviser Patti Kozlowski.

The students will go through extensive leadership training workshops, team building, delegate sessions, and be taught elevator speeches.

"It will be a great opportunity to get involved in the program and see highly intelligent people in their contests," said Celmer.

The students will get a chance to see presentations and learn from professionals in career fields they are interested in. Nationals will be a new experience for most of the students. Only Parmar has been to nationals before.

"I've never been to nation-



Photo courtesy of Patti Kozlowski

Five students will head to SkillsUSA nationals this summer including (first row, from left) sophomore Chelsea Madsen, juniors Mayuri Parmar, Mehak Damani, and (back row, from left) sophomores Steven Celmer, and Jeff Pekosh.

als but expect it to be fun and a lot less stressful than state," said Damani. "I'm looking forward to meeting all the state officers."

Even though Kozlowski is retiring this year she will still be involved in the organization. She is a member of the SkillsUSA state executive board. Technology education teacher Nick Crosse is the new SkillsUSA adviser.

"I really get inspired when I see all the talent we have, it's remarkable to see how smart they are," said Kozlowski. "And being with the state officers is great because they become like a family after a while."

INSIDE

Relay

Although moved from the airport to the fieldhouse, Relay for Life had a large turnout for yet another memorable night -- see NEWS, page 2.

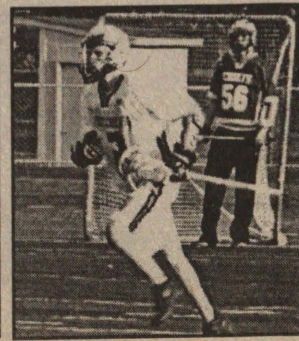


Go Green

Do you want to leave less of a carbon footprint, and be more environmentally friendly? Read about ways to go green -- see CENTER SPREAD, pages 8-9.

Retirees

250 years of combined teaching experience and seven teachers are about to leave the school with the class of 2010. Read about the other class of 2010 -- see FEATURES, page 11.



Lacrosse

Boys lacrosse emerged from last year's disappointing season, and instead become the comeback team to watch this year -- see SPORTS, page 16.

Chance to participate

Seniors observe session at House of Representatives

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

For the first time in over 10 years, students in government classes got a chance to see the House of Representatives session live.

The Learn and Serve America grant money helped fund the field trip to Springfield on May 7.

Social studies teachers Barbara Laimins, Sharon Ramey, and humanities division head Lisa Willuweit organized the trip.

"The field trip was successful even though our plans changed," said Willuweit. "When we got there, the Democrats went into a closed-door caucus so we rescheduled all our morning plans. However, students were able to hear legislators and they



Photo courtesy of Lisa Willuweit

Senior Annette Eichenberger (center) meets Rep. Randy Ramey (left) and Rep. Mike Fortner.

had a chance to spend time looking at the desks the legislators sat in. Because of the caucus, the floor was open."

In addition to viewing the legislator desks on the floor, some students visited the Senate gallery and watched

the Senate debate.

"It was really neat to see the actual government in action, because I teach how the government works and then I actually see it happening," said Willuweit. "I liked seeing students make connections of what is similar and different from our government program."

Senior Alex Tirabasso enjoyed the field trip, but not fully.

"Seeing the House was really cool. I liked seeing full session," said Tirabasso. "[I didn't like] talking to the Senate and the discussion sessions. It was very Republican; the people we talked to were a bit heavy on the Republican side and I'm more Democratic."

During first semester, Sens. Randy Hultgren, Peter Ros-

kam, and John Millner talked to government classes.

At the field trip, Hultgren and Millner spoke to students in addition to Reps. Randy Ramey, Mike Fortner, Ken Dunkin and Dennis Reboletti.

"We got lucky enough to put this field trip together because of the money from the service grant," said Ramey.

Because of the fund, Willuweit plans on doing this field trip every year.

"The grant gives us the money to pay for buses and teacher substitutes so we're hoping that we can go every spring," said Willuweit.

Willuweit is not the only one who would like to repeat the field trip.

"I thought this was a good experience," said Tirabasso. "I would do this again."

What's Happening?

Profiting from talent

By Ahmad Zaidi
Reporter

Students displayed their art for sale at the annual art show from May 18-20.

"We are always proud to show what our students have accomplished," said art teacher David Exner. "They spend countless hours on very challenging, complex pieces of work."

The art and photography classes showed off almost 200 pieces of art.

Student magazine publishes

By David Garcia
Reporter

Young illustrators, photographers, and writers are showcased in the new Mind's Eye literary magazine.

"[Mind's Eye is] for students to express what they feel and publish what they have," said freshman Arely Flores, a photography submitter. "Students can show what they like to do in their

Broad range of style

By Ahmad Zaidi
Reporter

The audience will get a taste of rock double-dipped with classical music in the final concert of the year on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

"The orchestra will be playing a wide variety of classical music to Led Zepelin, so there will be an assortment of styles," said orchestra director Steve Go-

Students did not have to be enrolled in an art class in order to participate," said Exner. "However, space was very limited in the administrative conference room; we usually limit it to one piece of artwork per student, so the greatest number of students can participate."

If students sold their work, 50 percent of the price went to the student; the other 50 percent went to the West Chicago Food Pantry.

spare time."

Junior Jennifer Keilhack, editor in chief, along with sophomore Uriel Rodelo, made sure that the students' work made it to print.

"I help with the submission process, like what art goes into the literary magazine. I edit it and I make sure it looks nice," said Keilhack.

Mind's Eye will be available in commons during finals week before and after school for \$2.

vertsen. "I picked diverse styles of music because I have a group of students with various tastes."

Daily rehearsals helped the students practice their music until it reached perfection.

"I think this last concert of the year will be really solid, and show great improvement for us," said Govertsen. "There'll be a broad range of experience."



Photos by Megan Hernbroth

Junior Lea Molina and her mother, a cancer survivor (left) after the survivor lap, and honorary survivor Zoeie Kreiner and husband Paul Kreiner at Relay for Life.

Defeating cancer

Relay for Life raises thousands to fund research

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

Step by step, lap by lap, West Chicago-Warrenville Relay for Life participants raised \$52,000 to help fund cancer research through the American Cancer Society.

The yearly event, which lasted from 6 p.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Saturday, was emotional for many.

For junior Andrea Siefert, the event was more meaningful than ever this year because Siefert's mother was diagnosed with cancer a few weeks ago.

"Cancer became really personal these past couple weeks. It stressed out my family and made everyday things more difficult," said Siefert. "So, if I could do anything to prevent another family from going through the same thing, I

would. That's why I relay."

The Relay for Life kicked off with the survivor lap at 7:30 p.m. and was followed by hours of food, camping, games, and contests.

"My mom walked the survivor lap and it helped her to feel that she wasn't alone and to see that other people are surviving proved that it is possible," said Siefert.

New this year at Relay was Battle of the Bands, which went from 6 p.m. until the survivor lap.

Senior Brendan McCormack participated in the battle with his band, "Business Casual."

"Before Relay, we sold special edition acoustic CDs for \$5 apiece and made about \$350," McCormack. "To be in the battle, you had to raise \$250."

Adding to the total from the

battle and other participants, the team "WeGo Teachers" raised the most money, with a total of \$3,295.

Other events throughout relay included themed laps, a newspaper and duct-tape dress contest, and presentations by Central DuPage Hospital.

Despite all the things that are going on, junior Kelly Nguyen took away a few key things from the event.

"Relay is a time for us to get together and remember those who lost their fight to cancer and celebrate those who are still with us," Nguyen said.

Although Relay was moved to inside the school from the DuPage Airport due to weather, it still ran smoothly. All space was utilized from the gyms that were used for campsites and the halls for food vendors.



Photo by Keyuri Parmar

The Jets and the Sharks dance during one of the many rehearsals that led up to three nights of captivating performances, director Mary Hafertepe's last.

By Keyuri Parmar
Reporter

As director Mary Hafertepe welcomed the sold-out audience to "West Side Story" on its last night, her voice broke as she tried to hold back tears. After dozens of productions Hafertepe was welcoming her last audience.

All three performances were sold out to the popular modernized version of "Romeo and Juliet," where Tony and Maria fall in love, causing violence and tragedies.

"I'm happy it ended on a high note," said Hafertepe, who is retiring after 37 years. "I'm very grateful to have the experience of directing here. It was rewarding, and I will miss it."

Hafertepe was satisfied with her last production at the school, which ran May 13-15.

"The musical went very well: the audience enjoyed it and the performers did their absolute best," said Hafertepe.

Hafertepe chose the musi-

cal because it would involve more diverse student backgrounds.

"West Side Story" also provided exciting fighting scenes

dancing, all the scenes that made my blood boil," said sophomore Anthony Soliven, who played Bernardo.

Senior Jackie Salgado, who

bunch of talented actors and singers and bringing it all together," said Salgado.

The musical involved a large pit consisting of students from both band and orchestra.

"I thought it was amazing and everyone from the cast and pit did amazing," said freshman Katie Yackey.

After the show, staff, parents, and Hafertepe's former and current students gathered in the LRC for a reception for Hafertepe; bringing down the final curtain on her career.

I'm very grateful to have the experience of directing here. It was rewarding, and I will miss it.'

-- Director Mary Hafertepe

between the rival gangs, the Jets and the Sharks.

"My favorite part was the intense fighting and intense

played Anita, thought participating in a musical was a new and different experience.

"I liked working with a

Healing through poetry

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Students who perform at Cafe Express YoSelf can leave their mark on poetry for the final time at Show Me Watchu Got on Friday at 7 p.m.

"This is the big show of our [Cafe Express YoSelf] performers. It's the best of our best," said English teacher and coordinator Amanda Cordes.

Students will perform poetry, hip hop, and speeches followed by a poetry slam.

According to Cordes, any student can join the staff and work backstage at the show, but "preference is given to students who perform regularly at [Cafe Express YoSelf]."

Before the students perform, there will be music, a slideshow of staff members' photos, and a video of students being interviewed



Photo courtesy of Tara Deleon

Senior Edgar Lomeli performs at a past Cafe Express YoSelf.

about writing and poetry. A professional slam poet will also perform.

"The speaker who was here last year, Mike Whitfield, is coming back this year. He's awesome and he's a really talented slam poet," said Cordes.

After Whitfield, students will perform in a poetry slam where the audience will select the best performers.

"There will be really weird prizes; the more weird the better," said English teacher and coordinator Tara Deleon.

Junior Nicole Clark will perform free-verse poetry.

"I perform my own poetry," said Clark. "I feel more confident in my writing and public speaking because of this."

Deleon admits to being anxious for the show.

"Last year over 100 people came, and this year we're hoping to double that," said Deleon.

If 300 people come, Deleon will do a walking handstand.

The event is in the auditorium; admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for students.

Chance of a lifetime

Scholarship paves the way to Germany

By Giuliana LaMantia
Reporter

In late July, senior Tom Harms and junior Soli Page are taking an all expenses paid, year-long trip to Germany on scholarships.

Youth for Understanding is sponsoring the scholarships which sends 250 American students to Germany.

Page applied since her family hosted an exchange student who came on the scholarship.

"I thought it would be cool to go back to Germany, so I applied for the scholarship," said Page.

According to Harms, applying was basically a personality test to see if you can live and get along in another country, besides having decent grades.

"You have to submit a ton of information about yourself," said Harms.

While on the trip, Harms and Page will attend school

and live in the German culture.

"I was kind of nervous before, and I didn't really want to go, but now I'm really excited," said Page.

Since he is a senior, Harms will not receive credit for attending an extra year of high school in Germany.

Before leaving the country, all the students traveling to Germany stop at Washington D.C. for a few days for an orientation.

After D.C., the students go overseas to a month-long camp to brush up on German skills. When the month is over, they are placed with a German family.

"I'm excited," said Harms. "I'm a little anxious about leaving everyone, but then again, it's only a year."

The scholarship pays for all travel expenses, so students only need to have spending money.

Harms believes right after high school is the best time to travel, since there is no school work to worry about, and you are free to experience life.

"This is definitely my first choice for after high school," said Harms.

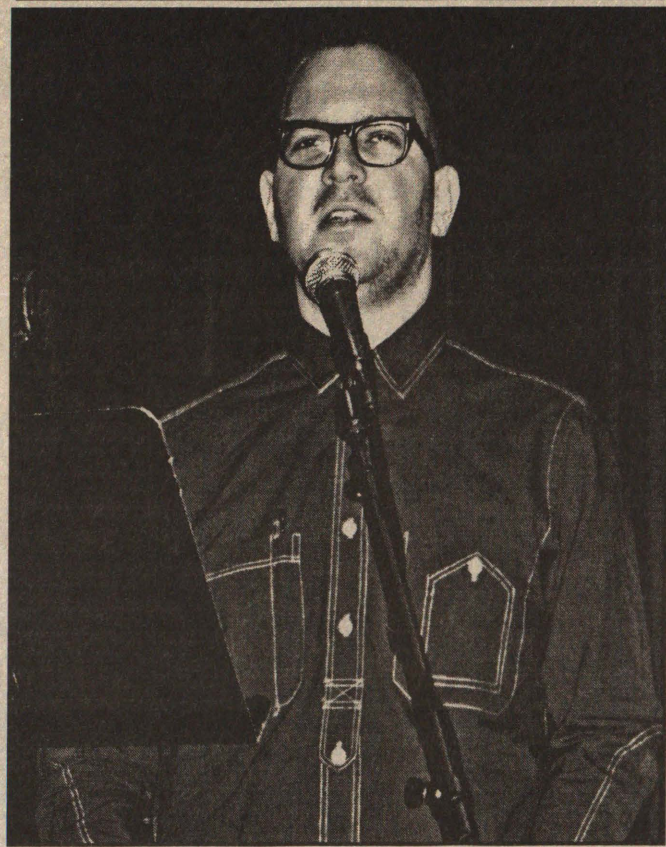


Photo courtesy of Eric Bodwell

Author Cory Doctorow speaks about his new book.

Visiting author shares stories

By Jake Hageman
Reporter

Author Cory Doctorow shared his writing secrets while promoting his new book "For the Win" at a stop here May 12.

"[Essentially], it's about these gold farmers who form a union under the surveillance of their bosses and who make loads of money," said Doctorow, explaining his book to about 40 students during each of his two presentations.

Gold farming is where an individual gamer will spend large intervals of time collecting whatever currency their respective game has, then sells it to others for actual money.

"In the book, there are gold farming unions that communicate with each other internationally," said Doctorow, "such as in China, America, Cambodia, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia and India."

He spent a lot of time talking to gamers and game creators to research economics and the science of gold farming.

Due to the illegal nature of gold farming, farmers must go under the radar of their companies and spread their gold farming business when jobs are outsourced to other countries, mainly China and India, which just makes their groups' income boom.

Of course, there are some drawbacks.

"The problem with some companies and outsourcing is how [intolerant] people re-

act to it. For example, when an auto company had transferred jobs to Mexico, racist people responded harshly," said Doctorow.

Like gold farming, illegal activities can surround the publishing business. He avoids people stealing books online by offering his books for free.

"We live in the 21st century. You copy, I copy, everybody copies. You can't create something and expect it not to be copied by somebody else, and it's also hypocritical if you say you don't copy when everyone does. So I sell my books online for free," said Doctorow.

He believes that by giving them away online and pricing it on paper, he will make a profit. He thinks that it will prompt people who have downloaded it online to buy a hard copy.

Doctorow was initially invited to Anderson's bookstore in Naperville for a signing and later was invited here by LRC director Eric Bodwell.

"I think the presentations went very well, better than I expected, in fact," said Bodwell.

Students, teachers and administrators have given Bodwell positive feedback.

"At the very least, I thought he would provide a thoughtful, interesting reading of his new novel and have some more interesting things to say," said Bodwell. "I have been a fan of his writing for a few years and I thought students would benefit from seeing him."

Topping off the year

By Sam Young
Reporter

The Wildcat Chronicle rounded out its year with top honors from three scholastic journalism associations.

For the fourth year in a row the Wildcat Chronicle earned the Golden Eagle trophy, a gold certificate, and several personal awards from the Northern Illinois School Press Association.

Senior Jacob Wucka, editor in chief, won a blue ribbon for reviews, and honorable mentions for feature writing, news writing, and editorial cartooning. Junior Alexis Hosticka won an honorable mention for photography. Junior Sarah Berger, Wucka, Hosticka and sophomore Kristina Manibo won an honorable mention for

team in-depth reporting on hazing.

"When I was a freshman, that was when the Wildcat Chronicle had first won the Golden Eagle trophy. And every year since, we have continued this streak of winning the Golden Eagle," Wucka said. "This year I felt the pressure to win this award again and keep the tradition going. So when we won, I was ecstatic. Winning the Golden Eagle is the cherry on top of a year filled with lots of stress and deadlines."

The American Society of Newspaper Editors: Quill and Scroll also recognized the in-depth articles on hazing with an International Writing Award for Team In-Depth Reporting.

This is Berger's first award for her section.

"I was excited [to win an award] because it's nice to know that your hard work is being recognized by a higher level other than kids reading the section," Berger said.

The American Scholastic Press Association awarded the paper first place with special merits.

Also, an Outstanding Investigative Reporting award went to Hosticka and Greg Vodicka ('09), former editor in chief, for a story on teacher resignations.

"The facets of newspaper work are varied and difficult to master," said the judge in a letter to the Chronicle staff. "Your staff, however, has been able to overcome the difficulties and produce a publication of which your administration and colleagues should be proud."

Seniors honored

By Giuliana LaMantia
Reporter

Fifteen seniors will be awarded the Outstanding Individual Merit award during Senior Honors Night on June 4.

"The award was created by the Teachers' Association to recognize students who have accomplished really notable things in their high school careers, but who wouldn't otherwise be recognized," said Brad Larson,

who chairs the selection committee.

The teacher-sponsored award was first given in 2007.

Any employee in the school can nominate a senior.

In the past, students have been honored for ways they responded to a serious injury or illness, or things they said or did to help in the school.

Receiving the award this year are Matt Ackerman, Erik Anderson, Alyssa Baermann, Erika Carrillo, Vivi-

ana Cuautle, Lisa Fayfar, Eric Hernandez, Matt Kubik, Manuel Lomeli, Gwendolyn Mitchell, Jessica Munoz, Maritza Perez, Katy Pusateri, Michael Soria, and Jacob Wucka.

Recipients receive a medal, a certificate, a letter from the nominating staff member which explains reasons for the student's nomination and selection, and a gift certificate.

"While academic performance is important, other parts of life are just as important, and we recognize that too," said Larson.

Accounting for success

By Jake Hageman
Reporter

The Illinois Personal Finance Challenge (IPFC) team received a fourth place finish during the National Personal Finance Challenge in Kansas City on May 20.

"We tried our best," said senior and team member Matt Kuly. "It's [unfortunate] we didn't win though."

Adviser, business education teacher and previous IPFC winner Don Zabelin's team included seniors Kuly, Pete Ciolino, Tom Kaczmarczyk and Tyler Austgen.

"Tyler was pretty impressive during the competition," said Zabelin. "During the first two individual tests, he came in third out of 48 students, so it's pretty impressive."

Even though they didn't claim first at nationals, Zabelin's team won at state on April 21, with an 11-10 score against Waubonsie Valley.



Photo courtesy of Econ Illinois

One of two Personal Finance teams (from left) senior Ron Obdin, coach Candace Fikis, senior Rino Loiotile, and coach Don Zabelin, prepare for the state competition in Chicago.

The state competition in Chicago tested their skills in banking, credit, taxes, insurance and investments, among other skills.

"The contestants from Community High School volunteer to participate after taking classes such as consumer education, business law, economics and investments," said Zabelin.

The competitions were

sponsored by Econ Illinois.

"[Econ Illinois] looks at the best teams to advance," said Zabelin.

The second team was advised by social studies teacher Candace Fikis.

Fikis' team included seniors Rino Loiotile, Ron Obdin, Devan Patel and Alexandra Schreiber-Deam. They finished fourth at state out of 20 teams.

Veterans share wartime stories

By Giuliana LaMantia
Reporter

Sitting side by side on a long table across the auditorium stage, eight veterans sharing their stories and experiences agreed that during war, one should "sleep with one eye open."

"You never knew what was coming at you or what you were getting into," said maintenance mechanic instructor Carl Dublo, who fought in the First Persian Gulf War.

American history teacher Sharon Ramey invited the veterans to talk to the American history classes on May 19.

Hearing stories from U.S. Army Air Corps Master Sergeant Ken Richardt, who fought in World War II, and stories from Brian Salkeld,

who was involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom, students were able to see the differences between technology and communication in the wars over the years.

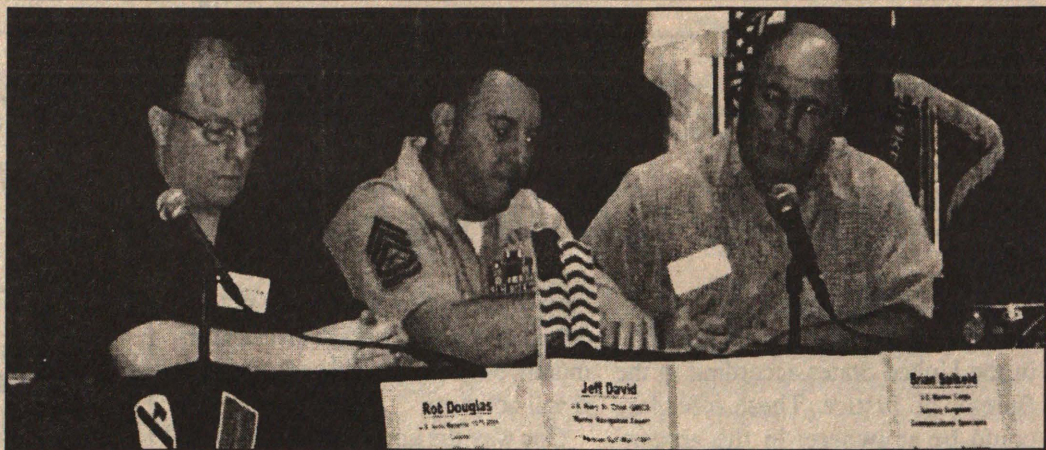
According to Salkeld, it's not like in the movies where troops carry large boxes on their backs.

"When you're out in the streets kicking down doors, a lot of the men are wearing little microphones," said Salkeld.

Rob Douglas, who specialized in the Civil Affairs Unit in Operation Iraqi Freedom, retired last June, leaving behind 30 years in the Army.

"Our job was to help them do things like rewrite their constitution and establish relations with other countries," Douglas explained.

U.S. Army Infantry man



Veterans (from left) Rob Douglas, Jeff David, and Brian Salkeld speak to American history classes about their wartime experiences.

Photo courtesy of Sharon Ramey

William Sharpness pointed to the back of the auditorium, commenting that was where he usually sat before he graduated in 1965. Richardt graduated from the school 72 years ago.

Sharpness, who fought in the Vietnam War, explained how the most important item for an infantry soldier besides weapons and water is a towel, since it is used for everything from a pillow to a mosquito net to keeping cool.

Richardt described how

working in the Air Force was different than combat.

"You don't really see what you've done to the area and the people," said Richardt.

Besides telling their stories, the visiting veterans got the chance to explain what they thought the students should know about war, and take away from the seminar.

"There are a lot of good things happening out there that aren't shown to the people, that people need to know," said Salkeld.

U.S. Army Full Colonel Paratrooper Dominic Ruggerio, who fought in the Vietnam War, agreed that movies and television don't show a true picture of what war is like.

Bringing a better understanding of war is important to Douglas.

"I think it's really important to get a perspective on why people volunteer for the military and what they do there," said Douglas in an interview after the presentation.

Off to college after busy high school careers

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.

April

By Ahmad Zaidi
Reporter

Softball captain, cheerleader, and NHS member Kaity Olson was selected Student of the Month for April.

How did you feel when you were selected Student of the Month?

I was honestly surprised. By looking at the other Student of the Months, I was totally caught off guard.

Why do you think you won this award?

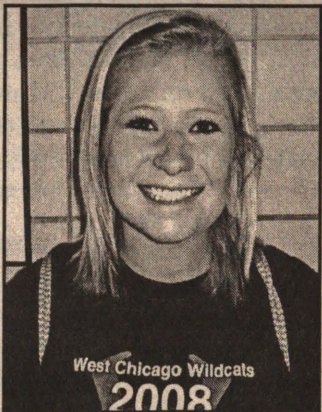
I think I won this award because I am very involved and a good leader. I also think I got it because I have an optimistic attitude with everything I do.

How did your parents react?

My parents were also surprised. They were really proud of my achievement and definitely thought I deserved it.

What sports or clubs are you a part of?

I am in softball, cheerleading, and I'm a member of the National Honor's Society. I have been in softball for four years and I am captain for the varsity team this year. I have also been in cheerleading for all four years and was captain. I have been in NHS since my junior year.



Who has influenced you the most in your life?

Definitely my parents because they have worked so hard to become really successful and it drives me to do the same.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I want to be a pilot because it's something outrageous and something females don't usually go into.

What's your favorite class?

My favorite class would definitely be English because when I write, I can say what's on my mind and create my own piece, rather than math and science where I have to follow rules and directions and not alter it due to my imagination.

What college do you plan on attending next year?

I am going to Lewis University because I get to play softball and it's not too far away from home. It also has a great aviation program.

May

By David Garcia
Reporter

Due to his hard work throughout high school and participation in activities, Devan Patel was selected Student of the Month for the month of May.

Why do you think you received student of the month?

I think it was based off my excellent academic record extracurricular participation and stellar character. I try to be modest.

What activities do you participate in?

I'm varsity player on the tennis team as well as scholastic bowl. Also, I played on the personal finance team and the state winning LifeSmarts



team. I volunteer for the National Honor Society, and am in the Spanish National Language Honor Society. Most importantly, I am a leader for my Hindu youth group.

Why do you participate in these activities?

Each of them has a certain characteristic that really makes want to participate. For example in tennis I lost most of my matches, but I learned about good sportsmanship as well as self discipline. In scholastic bowl Mr. C's humor really livens the serious mood during competitions.

What are your plans after high school?

I plan on going to Loyola University Chicago as a pre-med student majoring anthropology, and maybe economics. Afterwards I want to go to medical school, and pursue a career in neurology. One day I hope to go another country and help people gain access to food, clean water, and medicine.

Did you expect to win Student of the Month?

Not really, because I know a lot of my friends were expecting to win, and they are really hard working, but I really appreciate that the school is acknowledging my academic record and dedication.

June

By Jake Hageman
Reporter

Anna Duran was selected as the June Student of the Month.

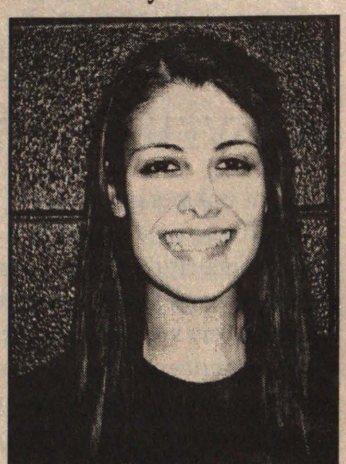
How did you feel when you were selected Student of the Month?

I was really honored and excited because I always wanted to get Student of the Month.

Why do you think you won this award?

I think it's because I'm very active and involved in a lot of activities. I wasn't expecting to get it because it was so late in the school year.

Who has influenced you the most in your life?



My family. They've always been there to support me and they're good role models.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

A music teacher. I don't want to be cliché but I love music and it's the most influential thing and I want to share it with others.

What is your favorite class?

Choir because I love getting new music, perfecting it and working together with others. I love to learn the music, sing it and I enjoy doing it with friends.

What are your hobbies?

Dancing, playing piano, reading, hanging out with my sisters, and scrapbooking.

What college do you plan on attending next year?

Valparaiso University in Indiana.

Our View

Time to protect residents, not criminals

About 600,000 registered sex offenders, who are not in prison, are currently in the United States according to the Bureau of Justice. These offenders could be anywhere: in the grocery store, at the mall, or even at the school playground.

But on May 12, the Supreme Court ruled the federal government can keep some sex offenders in prison indefinitely even after they have served their sentences if officials deem them "sexually dangerous" in the future. The law comes from the 2006 Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act which included a provision allowing indefinite confinement of sex offenders.

While some argue that this law completely takes away the rights of sex offenders, it has the potential to save more lives than hurt them.

According to studies by the U.S. Dept. of Justice and the Canadian government, after long follow-up periods pedophiles who molest boys are 52 percent more likely to repeat the offense, and rapists of adult women are 39 percent more likely to repeat the offense. And these numbers are only the sex offenders who are registered. Think about those who haven't been caught.

The new law would help keep these potential re-offenders off the streets and behind bars where they belong. It also protects residents and sends a message to any future sex offenders that their behavior will not be tolerated.

However, like any law, this one has its flaws. The law says that officials will

have to determine whether or not sex offenders are still a hazard to their community, but how this will be determined is still not clear.

One way the government can establish this is to talk to their therapists about their sessions and get their opinion on whether or not the offender is ready for release.

For instance, a sex offender who shows absolutely no remorse about his crime and hints at the fact that he may do it again after being released probably should not be given the opportunity to return to society.

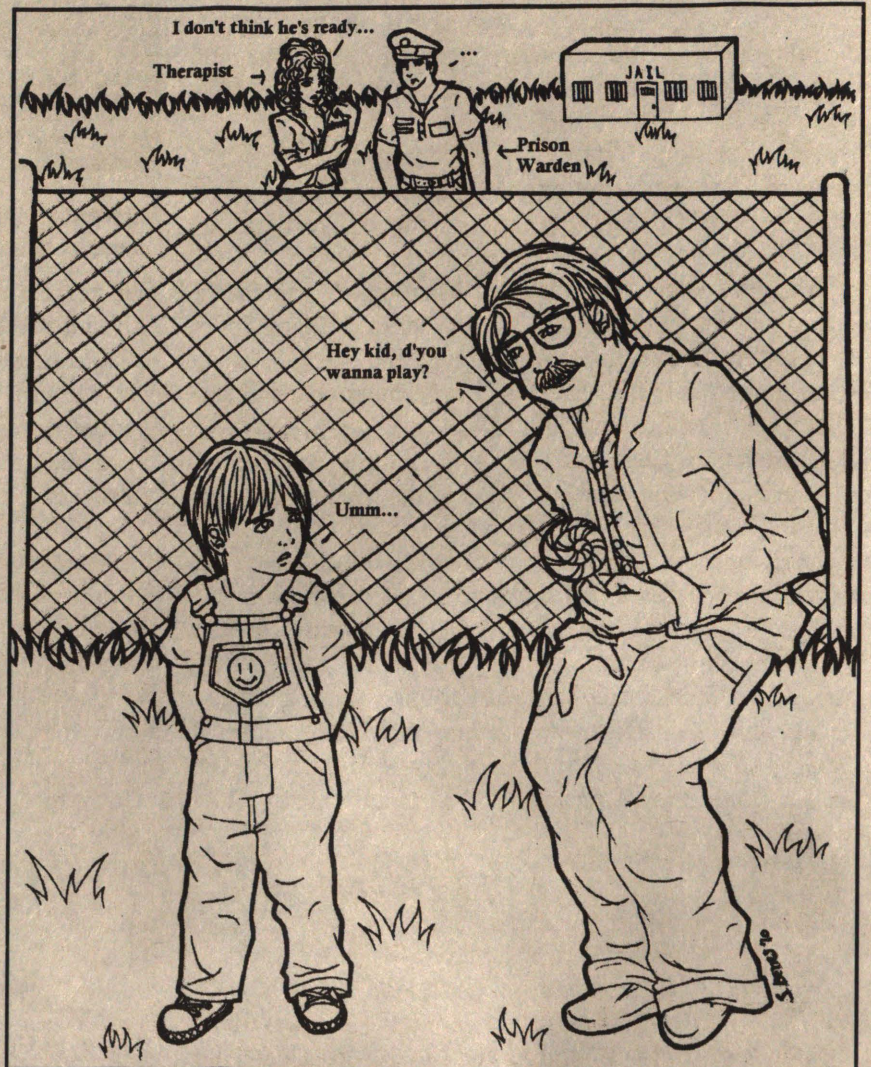
And those who claim that therapists may abuse their power, should know that anyone in any type of position can accomplish this. That is why the offenders should be evaluated by more than one therapist and their findings closely inspected by other officials.

The law also sheds light on the fact that sex offenders need more than 10 years in prison and probation time for their crimes.

If they were sentenced to longer prison time to begin with there would be no need to further extend it.

So while this law may need altering before true change can happen, it is a step in the right direction.

The death of 17-year-old Chelsea King in February should show everyone what happens when sexual offenders complete an outrageously short prison time and are released without a second thought. Convicted sex offender John Albert Gardner III was charged



with the teen's death after previously serving five years out of a six year sentence for beating and molesting a 13-year-old neighbor.

Gardner had been issued an ankle-monitoring bracelet after his release and after two years without the brace-

let, he raped and murdered King. If the law had been in effect when Gardner was in jail, King's death could have been avoided.

Laws should make protecting innocent residents first priority, not dangerous sex offenders.

Rewriting history Texas-style

What is American history?

Besides being a class that a handful of indolent students fail because it is deemed uninteresting, American history is a very significant topic.

As Americans, we continually re-evaluate history to learn from previous mistakes made in the economy, during warfare, or during social movements of the past two centuries.

This country has a lot to be proud of, but it also has a lot of faults, and moments in time where we look back and shudder at these shameful actions.

Students should be able to learn

about this country's mistakes. There should be no picking-and-choosing when it comes to history.

With that said, Texas has taken the initiative to block education and promote intolerance of the truth. The Texas State Board of Education has adopted a new textbook and whole new curriculum for their history classes.

According to Frost Illustrated, such new lessons include the notion that the Civil Rights Era and suffrage were not accomplished because of the heroic struggles of African Americans and women, but by the sacrifices made by

Caucasian men. Also, the products of the Civil Rights Era, like affirmative action, yielded failed results and only damaged the country.

Next, the former Confederacy should be celebrated and Confederate leaders honored for standing up for their ideals. You know, their ideals like slavery.

Former President Thomas Jefferson will be written to no longer believe in separation of church and state, a change of beliefs for the third president. And finally, many native Texan African American and Latino leaders have been omitted, and former President Lyndon Johnson, a Texas

native and Democrat himself, has been downplayed.

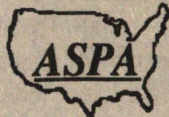
Granted, it's not that surprising that this came from Texas, a state highly regarded for having ultra conservative values. But this is a big deal because the effects of this curriculum stretch nationwide.

Since Texas is the biggest consumer of textbooks, whatever textbook they choose sets the standard for which textbook is adopted by schools nationwide.

Who knows, we may read about this interpretation of history someday as just another mistake America made in a history book.

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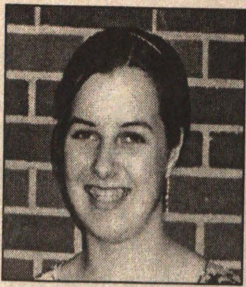
THE WILDCAT CHRONICLE is the student newspaper at Community High School. It is a public forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views. The Chronicle publishes eight times a year, with the student editorial board making the decisions concerning paper's content. Unsigned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

Law will crack down on illegal immigration



Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

After dealing with murders, drug cartels, and vandalized property, the state of Arizona took a step in the right direction when it passed SB1070.

Although much of the media has publicized this bill in a bad light, it actually makes a lot of sense when one learns about the many troubles that Arizona has dealt with due to illegal aliens.

According to Arizona Sen. Sylvia Allen in her article for the San Francisco Chronicle, many ranchers who live on the U.S.-Mexico border have testified regarding illegal immigrants (who have crossed the border via their ranch) vandalizing their property, drug smuggling and cartels, and even finding dead bodies on their farms.

Theoretically, the border

patrol should be taking these criminals back over the border before they could even start lives in the U.S. However, that is not the case.

So, as Allen says, "With a \$3.5 billion state budget deficit, [Arizona] has many difficult decisions to make, and one of those decisions is that we don't have the money to care for people who are not here legally."

By passing SB1070, according to www.CNN.com, it is now a state crime in Arizona to be in the U.S. illegally.

The state can implement immigration laws instead of having to wait for the border patrol or federal government agencies to remove illegal immigrants.

This doesn't mean that police officers can just pull over whomever they want and ask them for their papers.

According to Kris Kobach, the primary author of the Arizona legislation, the "law only kicks in when a police officer already has made a lawful contact with the person such as stopping him from breaking another law. They can't randomly stop people because of their race or ethnicity and say, 'Give

me your papers.'"

However, there will almost certainly be more Mexicans arrested than any other ethnicity because out of the estimated 22,769,458 illegal immigrants in the country, 22,189,943 are from Mexico, according to www.immigrationcounters.com, so it only makes sense that police officers would be more suspicious of Latinos than Caucasians.

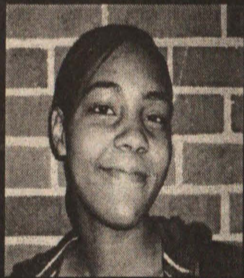
When police officers do pull people over, they don't ask for a visa or papers, according to CNM news network, they only ask to see "a state issued photo ID card or driver's license, which suffices for proof enough that you are legal."

Opponents of the bill argue that it will be up to the discretion of the police officer, and that this is bad because they can make wrong decisions. However, police officers are there to enforce the law, and I trust them to do just that.

I'm in no way saying that we shouldn't allow immigrants into the U.S. - they just need to do it the legal way.

Yes, this may mean paperwork and waiting a few years, but it's the right thing to do.

New law will lead to racial profiling



Yasmyn McGee
Perspectives Editor

In the past three years, 3,805 immigration bills have been introduced in the U.S. according to www.CNN.com. But of all the bills that have been brought up, it is the passing of the immigration bill known as SB1070 in Arizona that has many Americans in an uproar.

On April 23 Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed the bill into law despite the criticism of President Barack Obama and many residents. The death of a rancher in southern Arizona by a suspected smuggler from Mexico invoked the law.

The law originally allowed police to stop people without a valid reason and question their legal status in the country. However, after criticism, Brewer altered the law so that police can stop suspected illegal immigrants only while enforcing some

other law or ordinance such as speeding or loitering.

Arizona is the first state to have such a law and while, it might crack down on illegal immigration problems, it will create another: racial profiling.

An officer could say that he is pulling a suspect over for some bogus charge just to harass people because of their race.

According to www.CNN.com, Brewer said she would work to ensure that the police have proper training to carry out the law and racial profiling would not be tolerated.

"We have to trust our law enforcement," Brewer said.

But with recent footage of police brutalities and stories of policemen abusing their power, how can we trust them to make fair decisions with this new law?

Federal and state laws already prohibit stopping a person solely based on their race, yet it still happens. Even Obama warned that it could lead to police abusing their power and asked the Justice Department to complete a review of the law's implications before deciding how to proceed.

The law not only allows

policemen to abuse their power and mistreat residents but it's a slap in the face to the Hispanic community.

Hispanic residents who have been legal citizens for years or from birth, could be subjected to police interrogation on a daily basis.

Legal citizens shouldn't have to deal with the racial profiling because of their skin color.

"If you look or sound foreign, you are going to be subjected to never-ending requests for police to confirm your identity and to confirm your citizenship," said executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona, Alessandra Meetze.

Anyone who has ever been discriminated against knows that this law isn't a step in the right direction.

Put yourselves in the shoes of a legal immigrant or American of Hispanic descent in Arizona and ask yourselves if you would like your legal status challenged every day. Many of you wouldn't.

Yes, I do think that illegal immigration is an issue that needs to be dealt with, but this new law does nothing but cause even more problems.

Students Speak

Compiled by David Garcia

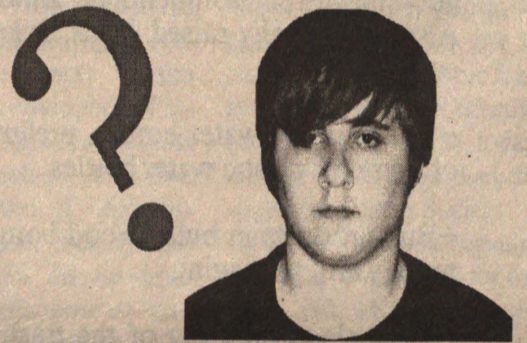
What do you think of the Arizona immigration law?



Freshman

Julia Caithamer

"I think it's dumb because they are making a racial assumption."



Sophomore

Andrew Sunde

"I think police will discriminate against minorities."



Junior

Mayuri Parmar

"Police should have the right to ask people for their papers if they suspect they are illegal."



Senior

Patrick Quaal

"It's utterly unacceptable. It's impossible to enforce the law without some sort of racial profiling."

Easy ways to be eco-conscience

Compiled by Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

Going green doesn't mean having to shell out big bucks for a hybrid car; there are numerous, simple ways you can help the planet.

~Unplug electronic devices when you're not using them. Another idea is to use a "smart" power strip that can sense when appliances are turned off and cuts the "phantom" or "vampire" energy use.

~Take shorter showers in order to save water. Also, install a low-flow showerhead that cuts back on water.

~Try to go meatless at least one day a week. Not only is this good for the environment, but good for your health as well. Also, buy locally raised foods. It keeps money in the local economy.

~Use reusable water bottles, preferably aluminum, instead of wasteful plastic water bottles.

~Buy products in bulk. Food bought from bulk bins saves money and packaging.

~Keep electronics out of the trash. E-waste contains mercury, which is a growing environmental problem.

~Borrow books and movies from the library instead of wasting money as well as ink and paper that goes into printing books.

~Simple cleaning supplies like vinegar, soap, lemon, and baking soda clean just as well as cleaning supplies, which contain toxic chemicals.

*Source: www.worldwatch.org

Achieving natural beauty

By Helene Sankovitch
Reporter

With green quickly becoming the new black, keeping up with the organic trend is a must.

Not only is it healthier for the body, it's healthier for the environment as well.

Who could resist that?

Stores like Ulta and Sephora offer a wide variety of organic cosmetic and hair-care brands.

Examples are Hempz, Organix, Physicians Formula, and Bare Escentuals.

"These cosmetics are 100 percent natural, and the hair products are sulfate free, which means it's gentler on hair," according to Ulta consultant Maggie Fox.

And another bonus, according to Fox, is that people have fewer reactions to the organic products, so no more breaking out and turning red

from a new bronzer.

But don't go thinking that these beauty products are going to look gross or smell weird.

Bare Escentuals foundation covers really well and looks completely natural, and Pacifica perfumes smell amazing.

Along with organic cosmetics, there are organic clothes.

Wild Roots, located in downtown Geneva, sells organic clothing, hemp bags, earth shoes, and plenty of other unique clothes and accessories for guys and girls who want to help out the environment and look good.

"We try to do everything free-trade, like no child labor. We have a lot of meaningful products, as well as organic and vegan products," said Wild Roots employee Cassidy Burk.

Earth Friendly zip hoodies are available for \$35, hemp T-shirts for around \$25, and hemp bags for around \$30.

"It's a lot more expensive for organic products, because it hasn't become as popular and it takes more [money] to produce them," said Burk.

According to Organic Trade Association, it takes about one-third of a pound of pesticides to make a single cotton T-shirt. A drawer full of these T-shirts is a lot of pesticides, but now being environmentally friendly is much easier and more fashionable.

Organic cotton and hemp garments are a fantastic alternative to regular cotton.

Low-impact dyes and clay dying are more environmentally friendly. They eliminate chemicals that are used to dye fabrics.

So make a fashion statement and go green.

Club Green saves the world

By Keyuri Parmar
Reporter

Locker clean-out is going green, thanks to Club Green's year-long effort to spread environmental awareness.

The students can donate lightly used school supplies on Thursday to recycling bins placed in the halls.

"The supplies donated go to students at West Chicago, so it's going to affect students here and help them out," said adviser Suzanne Burchacki.

During the year Club Green held various fundraisers to help environmental organizations, donating some of the money to a rainforest organization through hot chocolate sales, and they adopted a pallas cat at the Lincoln Park Zoo.

Adopting an animal at the zoo provides the funds to feed and care for the animal. It also helps the zoo in general to provide the animals with everything they need.

"It's an interesting way to create a bond with the zoo and help conservation efforts," said Lincoln Park Zoo employee Caitlyn Harrington.

Outside the club, members still stay green.

"Personally I recycle at home. A lot of people do, but I get things from the garbage can and recycle it," said senior Katy Pusateri. "I also help out with STEP (Student Transition Education Program)."

STEP has expanded the club to more students by incorporating special education students in the school's recycling program.

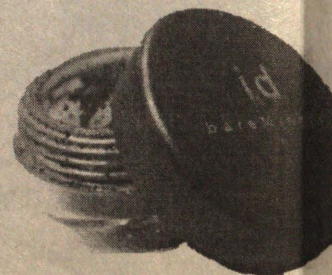
"You can join to help out the school and if you're interested in solving environmental issues," said Burchacki.

To help raise environmental awareness in the school, Club Green created signs for bathroom stalls and planned an advisory lesson.



**Organic Root
Olive Oil Creamy
Aloe Shampoo:
\$6.99 at
Walgreen's**

**Bare Escentuals
eyeshadow by
bareMinerals:
\$13 at Sephora**



Organic foods healthy for the Earth and body

By Kaitlyn Sladek
Reporter

In the past few years, organic food has become increasingly popular. But is it really worth it to pay the extra money for the organic label?

"It's good for you, has a lot of nutrients, but it's expensive," said freshman Christina Phan.

Junior Lucy Fuentes has a similar opinion.

"I think it has a different taste, but it is still healthier," said Fuentes.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), organic food is defined as, "Food [that] is produced by farmers who emphasize the use of renewable resources and the conservation of soil and water

to enhance environmental quality for future generations."

USDA also states organic meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy products come from animals that are given no antibiotics or growth hormones.

Organic food is produced without using most conven-

tional pesticides; fertilizers made with synthetic ingredients or sewage sludge; bioengineering; or ionizing radiation. Before a product

restaurant must be certified, too.

Whole Foods supervisor Becky Wilkensling believes these pesticides and artificial



can be labeled organic, a government-approved certifier inspects the farm where the food is grown to make sure the farmer is following all the rules necessary to meet USDA organic standards. Companies that handle or process organic food before it gets to a local supermarket or

fertilizers, along with other inorganic ingredients, are items people must avoid for their health.

"Our bodies are not made to eat genetically modified products," said Wilkensling. "It is not healthy... to be eating those chemicals."

These products can take a

toll on the human body.

An example of these harmful products are antibiotics. Farmers give antibiotics to their animals to make them grow faster or produce more milk or eggs. They are also used to prevent disease. In Britain, these antibiotics have been banned.

According to British newspaper The Guardian, antibiotics stay in the animal's system and move into the human body once we have consumed the animal or its product.

Human bodies then develop a resistance to drugs meant to cure human infections.

According to the USDA, other consequences from consumption of inorganic ingredients include increased rates of heart disease, cancer, and skin disease from hydrogenated fats.

Tartrazine (the yellow food coloring E102) and other additives are linked to allergic reactions, headaches, growth retardation, asthma, and hyperactivity in children.

Pesticides are linked with conditions such as cancer, decreasing male fertility, fetal abnormalities, chronic

fatigue syndrome in children and Parkinson's disease.

The USDA has ranked pesticide residues among the top three environmental cancer risks.

But knowing that organic products are healthier for you does not mean people are willing to pay the higher price.

At Target, a 3-pound bag of apples is \$3.99, but 3 pounds of organic apples are \$4.49.

Organic yogurt costs \$0.87 while the non-organic yogurt costs \$0.67.

Author David Steinman wants people to forget the price difference.

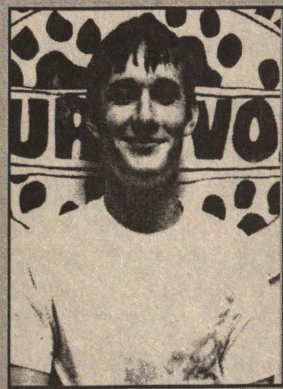
In Steinman's book, "Safe Trip to Eden," he states, "If you worry about some of the added costs of purchasing organic foods, but you give to charity, think of organic food as giving to the most effective environmental charity today, more powerful even than the American Cancer Society."

The wise organic consumer should always look for the green and white USDA organic label.

Products stamped with the words "pure" or "natural" mean absolutely nothing. The term "enriched" just means the product's genetic makeup has been tampered with, according to environmentalist Sophie Uliano. So keep the Earth, and your body, clean by eating organic.

"What do you do to be green?"

Compiled by Kaitlyn Sladek
Reporter
and Carly Tubridy
Reporter



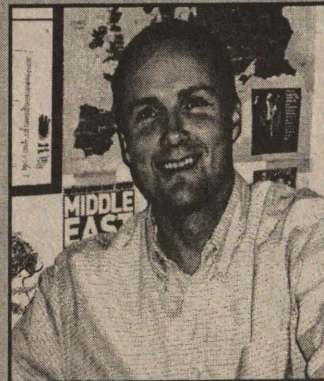
Freshman

Hunter Cerny
"I recycle all the papers and things I don't use, and plastic bottles."



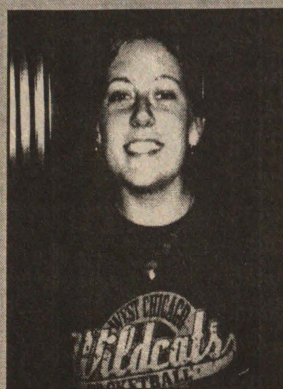
Sophomore

Alex Theodosis
"I use reusable water bottles."



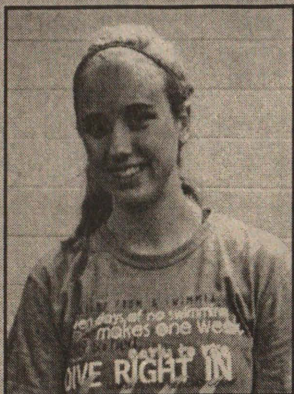
Social studies teacher

Chris Lukas
"[In Student Council], for example, our elections go paperless as much as possible."



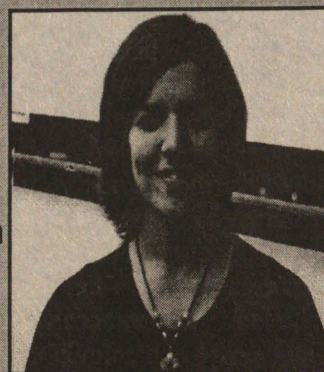
Junior

Catie Vance
"I recycle and I also buy notebooks made with recycled paper in them."



Senior

Caitlyn Madsen
"I turn off the water when I'm not using it."



French teacher

Lindsay Evans
"I carpool with a bunch of other teachers and I take the train a lot. I also use a lot of organic cleaning products."

Say it loud, say it again, they're the class of...?

Early graduation adds three students to the senior class

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

After deciding high school wasn't as fun as it had sounded, senior Kim Mengel made the choice to graduate early.



Kim Mengel

"The whole high school thing wasn't for me," said Mengel. "It was boring and there was too much drama."

Mengel decided to graduate in September, and had to take classes through American School to finish her credits.

"I'm going to go to COD to finish my general education, and then I'm going to apply to pharmaceutical school," said Mengel. "I wanted to be a pharmacist because I really liked chemistry."

Even though Mengel didn't enjoy high school, she sees the downside to graduating early.

"I'm going to miss out on being a senior with all my friends," said Mengel, "and I won't see any of them graduate, and these are people that I have grown up with. I also won't get to have a locker in senior hall."

Mengel still considers herself a senior because of her senior I.D., even if she doesn't have a senior locker.

Although both parents support Mengel's choice, their reactions were very different.

"My mom was shocked and my stepdad thought it was a good idea because he didn't like high school," said Mengel.

When she was younger, Mengel was able to skip grades, but never took the opportunities.

"I was able to skip before twice, but I never did," said Mengel.

Because she is going out into the world a year before she had planned, Mengel is nervous.

"I'm terrified; I feel like I'm not ready at all," said Mengel.

Mengel does recognize, however, that graduating early may provide an edge over other students applying to pharmaceutical school.

"[By graduating early], they might think that I am smarter," said Mengel, "but then again, it might not give me any advantage."

Mengel believes, however, that she will not regret her decision.

"I know one of my friend's mom graduated early and she didn't like it," said Mengel, "but I think it is positive for me because high school was just not for me."

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Senior Nate Leffler's wardrobe has undergone a change recently.

Roaming the halls of West Chicago, Leffler has been seen decked out in T-shirts and pants embossed with the insignia of Illinois State University on them; a change from his typical fashion.

Why the sudden change? Since deciding to graduate early, Leffler has grown into the epitome of an eager soon-to-be college freshman.

"I'm as excited as I could be," said Leffler.

Induced by boredom following a knee injury, Leffler took the initiative to graduate early.

"I got bored with high school. I didn't play football this past year due to tearing my ACL last year, so I decided to give it a rest, and I decided to graduate a year early," said Leffler.

At first, Leffler was deemed an outcast by his junior friends, and was not recognized as a "true senior" by his peers.

"I do consider myself a senior: I have a senior I.D., and I am considered a senior by the school. That is all I need. Other than that, think what you want about me. I guess I'm going to have to call myself a 'jenior,'" said Leffler.

Although knowing his workload would increase, Leffler still went ahead with early graduation. He had to complete a junior research paper, enroll in government and consumer education classes, and take PSAE tests, along with online credits. His last year of physical education was waived.

Instead of focussing on papers and high school classes, Leffler has set his focus on the future.

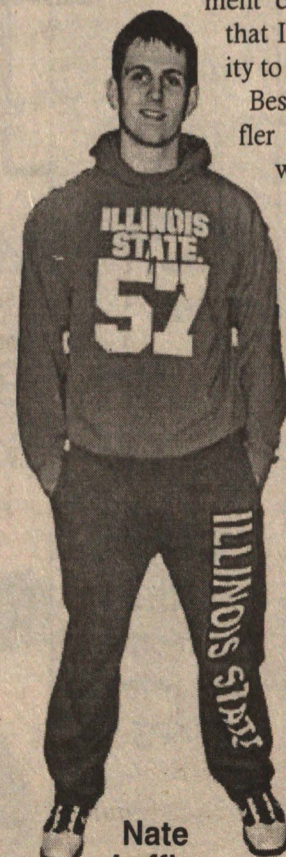
"I'm thinking of being a pre-law major, with either a history or English minor," said Leffler. "Mr. Caltigerone, and the western civ. and the government classes made me realize that I have a magnificent ability to debate."

Besides the classroom, Leffler has plans for what he wants to do between classes and study sessions.

"I would like to participate in intramural football, or maybe soccer, and maybe coach little league football," said Leffler.

With dreams of college coming true much earlier than many peers, Leffler wants the junior class to know that they will experience graduation sooner than they may realize.

"Most of us won't see each other again, and it's a sad but real truth. So just stay happy," said Leffler.



Nate Leffler

By Helene Sankovitch
Reporter

Spending time traveling the world and helping others is something senior Kelsey Whitaker found much more worthwhile than sitting at a desk in school.

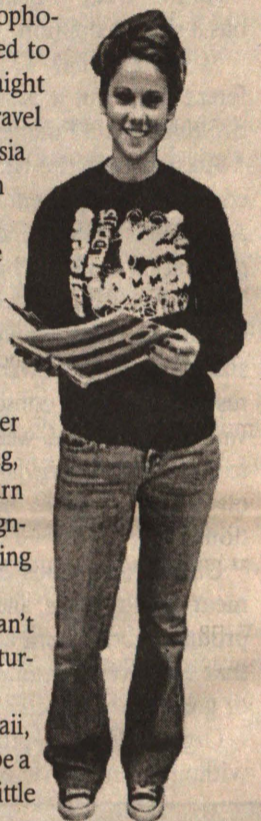
Towards the end of her sophomore year, Whitaker decided to skip junior year and go straight to senior year, in order to travel to Hawaii and Southeast Asia with the group Youth with a Mission to possibly work in an orphanage after she graduates.

"Hawaii will be like survival training for Southeast Asia," said Whitaker.

With her group, Whitaker will learn survival training, take Bible classes, and learn about outreaching to foreigners, as well as some exciting activities, like cliff diving.

"I'm really excited. I can't wait to do something adventurous," Whitaker said.

During the trip to Hawaii, Whitaker will learn how to be a missionary, but she knows little about traveling to Southeast Asia.



Kelsey Whitaker

"They can't tell you where you're going until you get to Asia, because it's really dangerous. You can't go into a foreign country saying that you're a missionary," said Whitaker.

Although skipping past junior year may have been easy for Whitaker, the pressures of being a senior started to build.

"I've had to quickly look at a lot of colleges and try to think about what I want to study. It's jamming a lot of growing up into a very small and quick part of your life," Whitaker said.

But the benefits of growing up have quickly paid off.

"I think I've gotten a lot of respect from people and I've been given great opportunities to do unusual things," said Whitaker.

In June, she will travel with the Leadership and Growth program for a week in Washington, D.C. to observe Texas Congressman Pete Sessions.

The Leadership and Growth program is for people going to college to see if they want to get involved with politics, and Whitaker is hoping to study either law or elementary education.

"I'm really excited, and I already know Pete Sessions pretty well. I'll be staying at a college in a dorm room, get tours of the White House, and see behind the scenes of everything," said Whitaker.

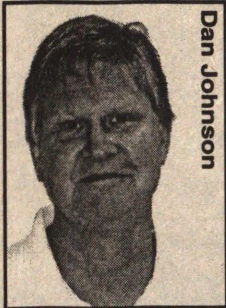
With plenty of support from her family and friends, Whitaker will spend a life-changing year traveling and helping others, rather than taking tests and doing homework.

Lesser-known class of 2010

School loses over 250 years of teaching experience with 7 teachers' retirements

Carly Tubridy
Reporter

Over 250 years of experience is walking out the door in June.



Dan Johnson

Physical development division head **Dan Johnson** has been teaching since 1975. He began his career at Boone High School in Iowa. He came here in 1978.

Johnson's dream was to be a swimming coach. He succeeded by helping develop the swim team and the aquatics program used today.

Johnson has many good memories from the years.

"The craziest thing that has happened was one of our teachers was teaching a swimming class and he had all the boys wear girls' swimming suits. There was also a principal meeting that day; they were taking a tour of the school. Luckily I got [to the pool] before the principals did," laughed Johnson.



Gail Aronoff

Assistant Principal **Gail**

Aronoff began teaching in 1973 in Pennsylvania as a primary special education teacher and came here in 1984. She became an intermediate special education teacher in New Jersey, ran the tutoring program here, and then became assistant principal.

"I loved school. The day I walked into kindergarten it was my favorite place to be," said Aronoff.

The connection to the students made Aronoff love teaching.

"I think when you're surrounded by young people, it keeps you thinking young," said Aronoff.

The one lesson that Aronoff wants everyone to learn is to "have faith in your abilities. Take an active part in your life."



Mary Hafertepe

English teacher **Mary Hafertepe** started teaching in 1973 in Magnolia, Minn. and in 1982 she came here.

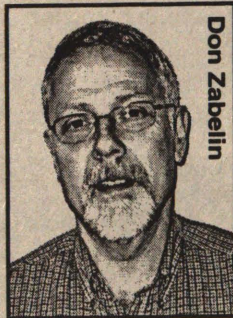
At first Hafertepe enjoyed the activities associated with English: writing, drama, reading, but as time went on she began to just love English.

"[My favorite part], believe it or not, is the kids. I also love a great deal of the material that I teach," said Hafertepe.

Despite the challenges, Hafertepe enjoyed her teaching career and is sad to see it

come to an end.

"I'll miss it; I'll miss this life," Hafertepe said with teary eyes.



Don Zabelin

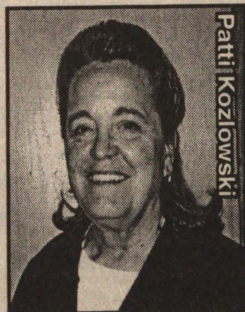
Business education teacher **Don Zabelin** began teaching in 1976 in Galesburg, Ill., arriving here in 1977.

Coming from a family that owned its own business, Zabelin always liked business.

"I thought teaching business would be interesting and I would always have my business background to fall back on," said Zabelin.

Zabelin's harmonica performances that the school has come to expect at pep assemblies started as a small performance for one of his consumer education classes.

"They said I should do it at the pep assembly that day and so I was added to the program last minute. Now I've been doing it at pep assemblies for the past 30 years," Zabelin laughed.



Patti Kozlowski

Family and consumer science teacher **Patti Kozlowski**

started teaching here in 1973 after graduating college. Kozlowski's first love was dance. She wished to become a choreographer on Broadway but she also wished to have a family. That is why she chose teaching.

Kozlowski enjoys keeping in touch with her students.

"One year in contemporary life we had our mock wedding. The shyest boy and girl put their names in to be the bride and groom," Kozlowski said. "I met the bride about 15 years later at a restaurant. I didn't recognize her. She told me about her schooling and the other things she had gone on to do. Then she told me that the mock wedding had given her confidence to do all this."

The connections Kozlowski has formed with the staff and students is something she plans to keep.

"I'm really looking forward to keeping in touch with my students, as soon as they teach me how to text," laughed Kozlowski.



Helen Zmrhal

PE teacher **Helen Zmrhal** began teaching here in 1972.

"I like to see the creativity when students choreograph their dances," said Zmrhal.

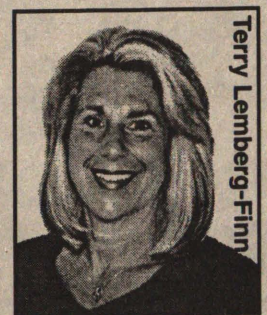
Zmrhal remembers the craziest moment of her career as an incident from just four years ago.

"We had just handed out dance sweats and T-shirts and this particular student was

tiny and petite and for some unknown reason she was standing in one of the large empty boxes. At the time I was talking to the dancers about some serious information that was necessary about the show. The freshman jumps right in the conversation with something totally irrelevant and I don't know why I did it, but I stuffed her in the box," recalled Zmrhal.

With retirement approaching Zmrhal wants to get a season pass to go skiing in Colorado.

"[I might] even be a ski instructor there," said Zmrhal.



Terry Lemberg-Finn

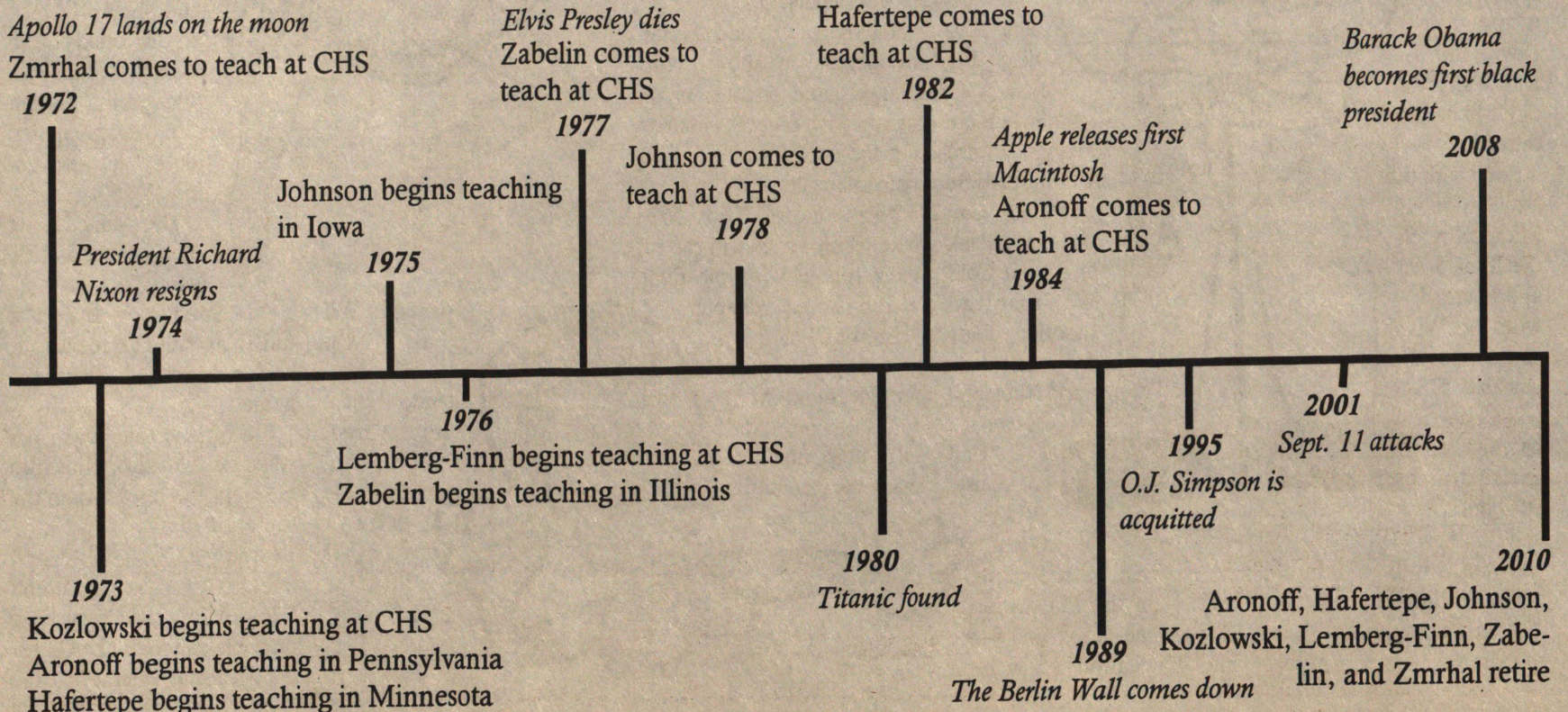
Special education teacher **Terry Lemberg-Finn** has been teaching here since 1976. Originally, Lemberg-Finn went to college for speech pathology but, while doing an internship at the hospital, she worked with students that had speech problems and realized she wanted to teach.

"[My favorite part is] when you're working with students and you see the light bulb go on," said Lemberg-Finn.

Lemberg-Finn is looking forward to not having any plans for retirement.

"I want to see what it is like not having a set schedule, at least for a while," said Lemberg-Finn.

Lemberg-Finn thinks all students should know "that they can learn, that they are capable of learning. I want them to know how to learn."



Endless options for summer nights

Swimming, paintballing, moshing can make the summer months memorable

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

After those long winter months, everyone can say they can't wait for summer. Three months of break is

not much, so make this summer worthwhile by having as much fun as you can.

Say you want to go to Turtle Splash, but everyone's there. You can still have fun and cool off in your backyard

with these goofy products from www.Amazon.com.

If you have a backyard pool, consider buying the Comfy Cool Lounge for \$25.49. Relax in the pool while tanning or sit back and

listen to music.

For nostalgic fans of Slip N' Slides, try out the Banzai Skim Board Surfer Set. It's a Slip N' Slide where you surf-board instead of body slide. It costs \$51.95 and comes with a skim board.

Summer also means concerts.

Rock and alternative bands will play in the Vans Warped Tour at the First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre in Tinley Park on July 31.

All-American Rejects, We the Kings, and The Summer Set are some of the bands playing. Tickets are \$44.25.

Lollapalooza is a music festival at Grant Park in Chicago from Aug. 6-8. Lady Gaga, MGMT, B.o.B., Green Day, and more will perform.

A three-day pass costs \$215. Single-day passes will go on sale once the three-day passes sell out. No price has been set yet.

For active summer fun, try paintballing.

Area 52 has indoor and outdoor staging areas, three fields and a pro shop to upgrade weapons, masks, and

jerseys.

Area 52 is located at 702 Smith St. in Mackinaw, about 130 miles south from West Chicago.

An all-day rental, which includes a Tippmann 98, a mask, and air costs \$10, and the field fee is \$5.

Rental packages have 20 to 1,000 paintballs and range from \$20 to \$50. If you wear Area 52 gear, you receive \$2 off.

Fox Paintball is open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from June 11-Aug. 20, it is open Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is located in Millington, about 40 miles west of West Chicago.

Fox Paintball has many themed fields for paintball and speedball tournaments or group games.

One themed field is Stonehenge, which looks like a military base.

Non-members and teams play for \$30, members play for \$15, and gun rental fees range from \$10 to \$20.

Whether it be swimming, going to a concert, or paintballing, three months of fun can make your summer worthwhile.

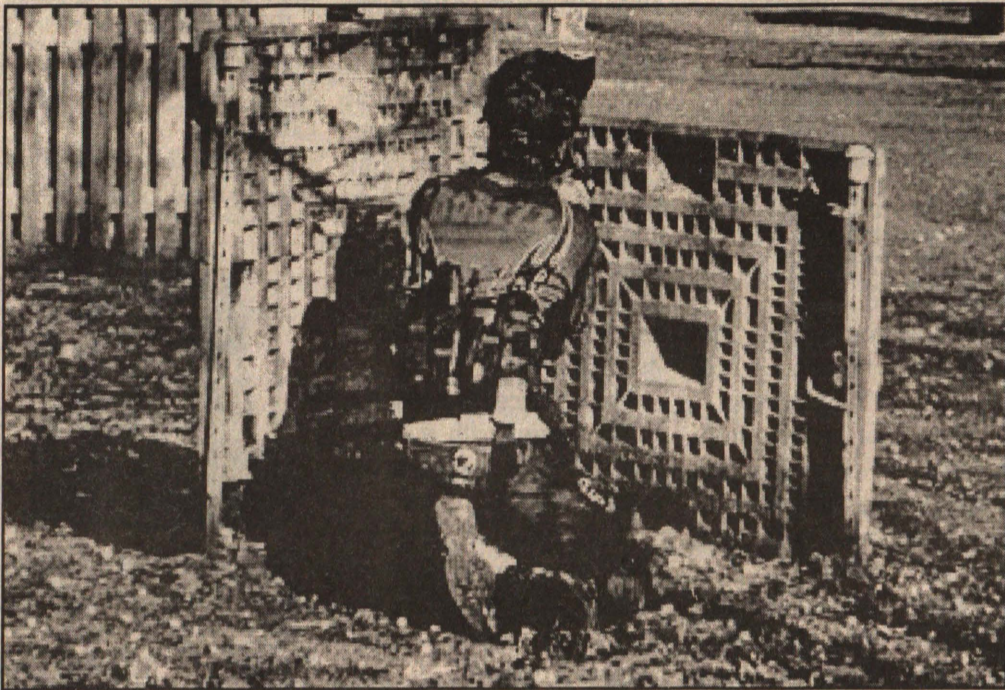


Photo courtesy of Bobby Giese

Junior Bobby Giese enjoys paintballing throughout the year. At Fox Paintball, Giese plays a round with friends in one of the themed playing fields.

Rumors, anticipation swirl over video games

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

For those that prefer playing video games over frolicking in the summer sun, the biggest names in the industry are converging in Los Angeles on June 15-17 at the annual Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3), where their new titles and technology will be introduced.

Sony with the PlayStation 3, Microsoft with the Xbox 360, and Nintendo with the Wii console and portable DS, will all debut highly anticipated titles, and new software as well.

PlayStation 3

After an impressive showing last year, Sony is expect-

ed to be the least exciting this time around.

With only one highly anticipated game, "Little Big Planet 2," fans are left wondering what else to expect from the system besides a game designed for younger audiences like "Little Big Planet."

So fans are looking forward to multi-console games like "Call of Duty: Black Ops," the Cold War-inspired shooting game for computers and Xbox 360 as well.

"Call of Duty: Black Ops"

is expected to sell more copies on the PlayStation 3 over the Xbox 360 since the PlayStation 3 has been

dubbed the system with better graphics and a more fluid gameplay.

Sony has listed "Little Big Planet 2" for a late 2010 release, while "Call of Duty: Black Ops" hits shelves Nov. 9.

Xbox 360

Leading the pack again with high anticipation is Microsoft, which plans to debut "Project Natal."

"Project Natal" looks like a projector, displayed in front of your television.

In short, "Project Natal" is operated by spoken commands, hand gestures, or the use of other objects, eliminating the need for one or multiple controllers.

Next, one of Xbox 360's best selling series will cap off their trilogy with the final action-packed chapter "Gears of War 3."

"Gears" is slated for release on April 5, 2011, and "Natal" may not be ready for sale until

the next generation Microsoft system is released (The expected date for that: 2015).

however, expect a much different Nintendo.

Leading up to the convention, the company has been very private, not announcing any titles that will be formally introduced at the convention.

Many speculate that Nintendo will announce the 17th addition to their highly regarded "Legend of Zelda" franchise, and if so, Nintendo will steal the show.

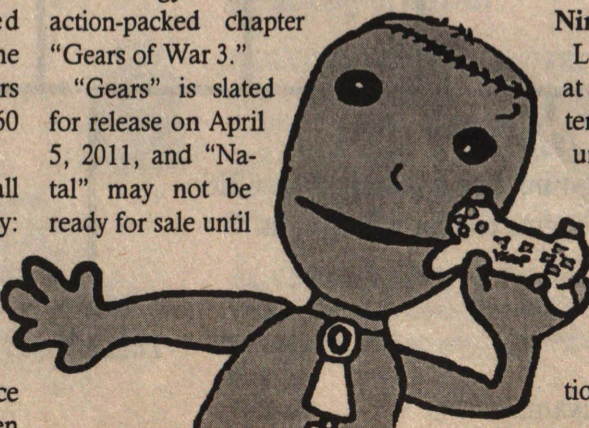
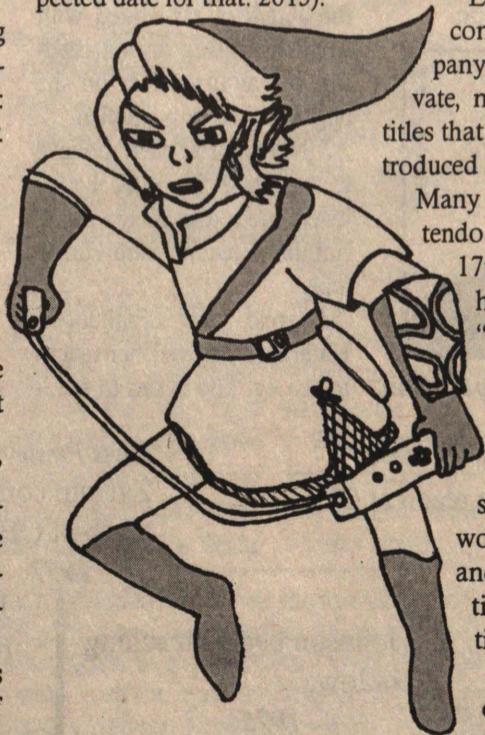
Shrouded in secrecy, "Zelda" would be the biggest and most anticipated title at the convention.

The game doesn't even have a title yet.

Speculators expect a trailer, as well as screenshots, and more details from the game.

Since the game began development in 2005, Nintendo has kept the release date the same: 2010.

And, although the general public is not allowed to attend E3, look forward to watching on cable channels like G4, or via streaming Internet.



Nintendo Wii

Last year at E3, Nintendo came unprepared, putting on the worst exhibit at the convention. This year,

Iron Man remains strong

By Carly Tubridy
Reporter

An intriguing, somewhat confusing (in a good way), beginning sets up another hit for the "Iron Man" series.

In this sequel the government is requesting Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) to hand over his Iron Man suit.

Of course, he refuses and of course, that blows up in his face (literally).

Stark is also fighting the battle to stay alive. The device that was keeping him alive is no longer strong enough.

To find the cure, Stark will have to get help from some unexpected places.

Pepper Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow) returns as the perfect assistant and Rhodey (Don Cheadle replacing Terrence Howard) takes on the role of sidekick as well his best friend. Both characters attempt to keep the scatterbrained Stark under control.

Natalie Rushman (Scarlett Johansson) is the new

associate from legal who is also looking to keep an eye on Stark.

Ivan Vanko (Mickey Rourke) and Justin Hammer (Sam Rockwell) become the new antagonists and eventually join ranks to show the world that Iron Man is not invincible.

Vanko seeks revenge on Stark by recreating the Iron Man suit, with some enhancements. When his plan fails, Hammer joins forces to create a newer, stronger, and better suit to take down Stark.

The casting directors did a fantastic job for this movie. Paltrow plays the organized yet pushed aside assistant with an authority that sets her apart from normal assistants, while Rourke blows away the audience with a sarcastic, intelligent, and powerful performance.

Unfortunately, Cheadle and Johansson do not live up to expectations. Cheadle was just there, nothing special from him, and Johansson was beautiful, as always, but that's about where her performance stopped.

She over-acted during fight scenes and wasn't very believable.

"Iron Man 2" is trying something not many superhero films attempt: humor. Downey portrays his cocky, eccentric character perfectly.

Throughout the movie Stark's funny quips keep the movie from becoming another movie that is just fight scene after fight scene. However, the fight scenes were impressive. Unnecessarily dramatic, yes, but impressive.

The special effects used to create the explosions, suits, and fight scenes pull the audience in and give the movie a more believable feeling. The movie never hits a dull point.

An interesting plot keeps you wondering until the end. The scientific aspect adds a certain level of sophistication that movies lately have been lacking.

Overall this movie was a great addition to the superhero movie genre. The killer cast and fantastic plot made this movie a complete hit.

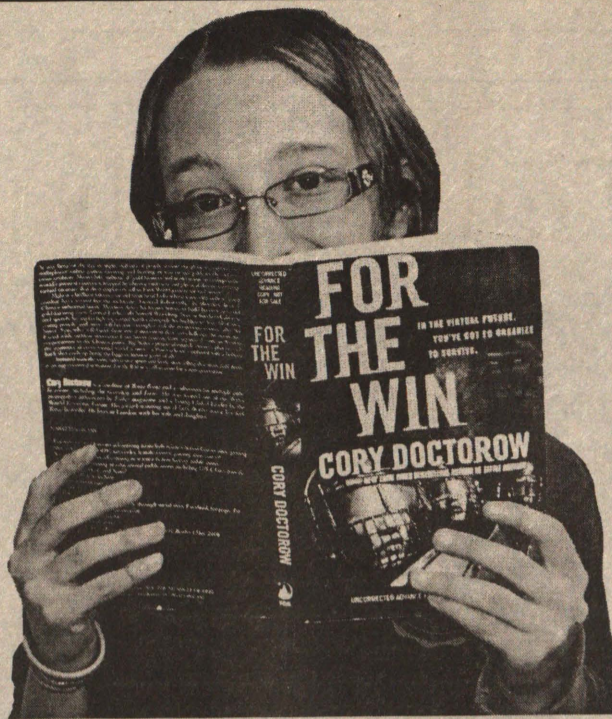


Photo by Kristina Manibo

Reporter Sam Young reads Cory Doctorow's science fiction novel dealing with multi-player online gaming.

Must-read for gamers

'For the Win' takes video game fanatics on a scientific adventure

By Sam Young
Reporter

"For the Win," the new science-fiction novel by Cory Doctorow, is 475 pages of complete confusion to anyone unfamiliar with multi-player online gaming. But, putting aside the gaming aspect, it is still a good plot and many teens might like the story, especially if they are gamers themselves.

Opening in Shenzhen, China, Matthew Fong, one of the many main characters, is playing eight simultaneous games of "Svartalfheim Warriors" while eating dumplings.

Not even a page into the book, and the reader can be confused as the third-person all-knowing narrator describes mythical game creatures and parts of the game, getting off-track.

Narrators switch every 10 or so pages, from the life of Californian, Leonard "Wei-Dong" Goldberg, to the hardships of the Indian teen, Mala "General Robotwalla," to countless other characters. And with unlabeled chapters and switching narrator paragraphs, keeping up with the characters can be difficult.

Though most of the book takes place in various Asian countries, everyone seemingly speaks perfect English and is involved some way or another with online gaming or the Webblies, a large international group of gamers longing for better pay from the game corporations and factories they work for and their rights as humans, since most work in sweatshop conditions.

All of these different tech-

genius kids tell their tales of everyday life and their involvement in these online games. They are unknowingly connected to each other and they use the Internet to free themselves from the government and game companies.

Many characters are there for an instant, and then they are either killed off or they disappear into thin air.

Why have them in the first place? Maybe they help get the point across that sweatshops in Asia are wrong, but couldn't the major characters have said that as well?

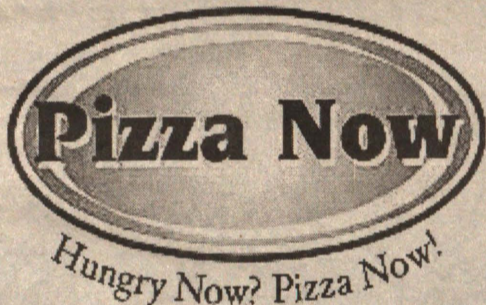
Doctorow puts in parts that have absolutely nothing to do with the main storyline. Sometimes when the characters are talking to each other, or explaining things like economics, it is hard to understand.

The real action of liberation from the game corporations doesn't start until the last hundred pages, and when it came down to anticipating how the story would end, it seemed like the problem wasn't even solved. That was extremely disappointing.

And those other 370-something pages were spent explaining the story, slowly building up to the weak climax in the end. Explaining a story should not take the majority of the story.

Perhaps many young adults would find this book interesting; it has a good hook in the beginning and the story is mind-opening, but overall the book is aimed at readers who already understand gaming.

Others may want to exercise caution before purchasing, or wait for the book to come to a library.



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Season Wrap-Ups

Tight finish for championship title

Softball reigns DVC champ once more

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Glenbard North's loss ended a contentious fight between the Wildcats and the Panthers, which allowed the Wildcats to claim the DVC championship title for the second time in four years.

"It feels awesome to win the DVC title twice in my career," said senior Kaity Olson. "[Winning] makes me realize how talented of a team we have, and how blessed I am to play with such competitive, and amazing people."

On May 19, the girls lost 2-0 to Naperville North, putting their record one win ahead of the Panthers. Although worried that they would tie for DVC, the Panthers stumbled, losing to Naperville North on

Friday, solidifying the Wildcats well-deserved title.

Their regular season ended with a record of 24-9-1.

Olson believes that the team gelled better together this year, which has led to much of their success.

"I think we have improved a lot compared to any of the years before. We definitely have the chemistry, we all get along so well and are so compatible with one another, and we just blend together as one when we play," said Olson.

A first year on varsity, junior Jenny Goldsmith knows what they are capable of.

"Our biggest strength is definitely our offense; we've been hitting great this year. We've done really well defensively though too," said Goldsmith.

Olson believes the team has finally come to terms with the mental aspect of the game.

"We have learned to keep our heads up and play the game until the end without giving up no matter what the score is," said Olson.

Goldsmith believes tightening up hits is a necessity.

"Our biggest weakness is just that some games the hits

24-9-1

don't come at the key times. We'll still hit well but just not be able to string the hits together to bring runs in," said Goldsmith.

And with the post season starting, the five seniors have realized that their time together is limited. Olson wants



Photo by Jacob Wucka

As the ball flies in her direction, sophomore Rachel Johnson prepares to catch.

her younger teammates to know that the seniors have faith in them.

"I want the underclassmen to know that they are super strong. Regardless of if we are gone next year, they are

still going to be really talented and be very successful," said Olson.

The Wildcats hosted regionals on Tuesday. Results were not available as of press time.

Track: Strongest season yet for boys, girls teams

Continued from page 1

see her working extra hard to get more relay teams to state. She wasn't just in it for herself."

And although Eichenberger's win was one of the highlights of the track season, many athletes made their way to the state competition as well.

GIRLS

With a state champion and personal bests achieved, the girls varsity track team has done significantly better than last year.

"A couple of our veterans worked very hard to wrap up their careers with a lot more success than in past years," said Maxson.

The 4x800 relay team, comprised of senior Tanya Starkey, along with juniors Lucy Fuentes and Meghan Nichol, and sophomore Kelsey Sayner qualified for state at the May 14 sectionals.

"I'm so proud of the team," said Starkey. "We worked really hard to make it there, and it really paid off."

And although they didn't win, Starkey ran her leg of the race in a personal best time of 2:24.

"In the 4x800 relay, Tanya Starkey ran her lifetime best time and I think the re-



Photo by Liz Ramos

Junior Mayuri Parmar and sophomore Diana Serio run the two-mile race at sectionals on May 14.

lay [team] did themselves proud," said Maxson.

BOYS

At sectionals on Friday, the team qualified four events to state: senior Matt Kubik with the 100, 200, and pole vault, while junior Jeff Foreman qualified for the high jump.

"[This has] been the best team we've had since 2004," said head coach Paul McLeland.

Overall, the team scored in nine of the 18 events.

McLeland is confident with Foreman and Kubik's abilities for the state competition.

Foreman broke the high jump record at the Waubonsie Classic on May 1, jump-

ing six feet, seven inches.

At first, he was nervous about the season, but since that meet, his confidence has grown.

"In the beginning, it wasn't that great," said Foreman. "But once outdoor started, it really picked up."

With pole vaulting as his strongest event, Kubik is looking forward to placing at state.

"It's been more of a challenge than most years, but I'm hoping to take state in the pole vault or hopefully in the 100 and 200," said Kubik.

The season ends with the state meet Thursday through Saturday.

Immortalized athletes

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Sportsmanship is a certain mentality that exceptionally gifted athletes have; one that strives for fair play, courtesy towards not only teammates but to opponents, decent behavior and integrity on and off the field, and taking grace in losing even though you tried your hardest to win.

This past week, the photos of the newest All-Conference and State Qualifying athletes for the fall and winter seasons were displayed in the athletic hallway. The Wildcat Chronicle would like to commend each and every one of these athletes for their amazing feats, and joining the prestigious wall of great athletes past and present. This school prides itself on its athletic programs, and the school spirit for which they're founded on. From football to soccer, volleyball to softball, or swimming to wrestling, coaches are working to make the best athletic programs, and with these gifted athletes, our programs only grow stronger.

- Kathy Fletcher - Volleyball - All-Conference 2009
- Julia Conard - Volleyball - All-Conference 2009
- Caitlyn Madsen - Swimming - State Qualifier 2010
- Maria Sedjo - Swimming - State Qualifier 2010
- Kelly Loftus - Swimming - State Qualifier 2010
- Kelly Dunn - Swimming - State Qualifier 2010
- Maya Skorupski - Swimming - State Qualifier 2010
- Yvette Kruk - Swimming - State Qualifier 2010
- Blake Zumpano - Football - All-Conference 2009
- Dorian Carrasco - Soccer - All-Conference 2009
- Robert Windisch - Golf - All-Conference 2009
- Blair Skarin - Golf - All-Conference 2009
- Gunnar Sterne - Cross Country - State Qualifier 2009
- Jessica Baidis - Basketball - All-Conference 2010
- Kristina Terry - Gymnastics - All-Conference 2010
- Anthony Nolazco - Swimming - All-Conference 2010
- Jon White - Wrestling - All-Conference and State Qualifier 2010
- Nick Carnot - Wrestling - All-Conference 2010
- Robert Svestka - Wrestling - All-Conference 2010

Congratulations, and the Wildcat Chronicle wishes the best for your future plans. We also hope you will continue displaying your great sportsmanship and Wildcat pride.

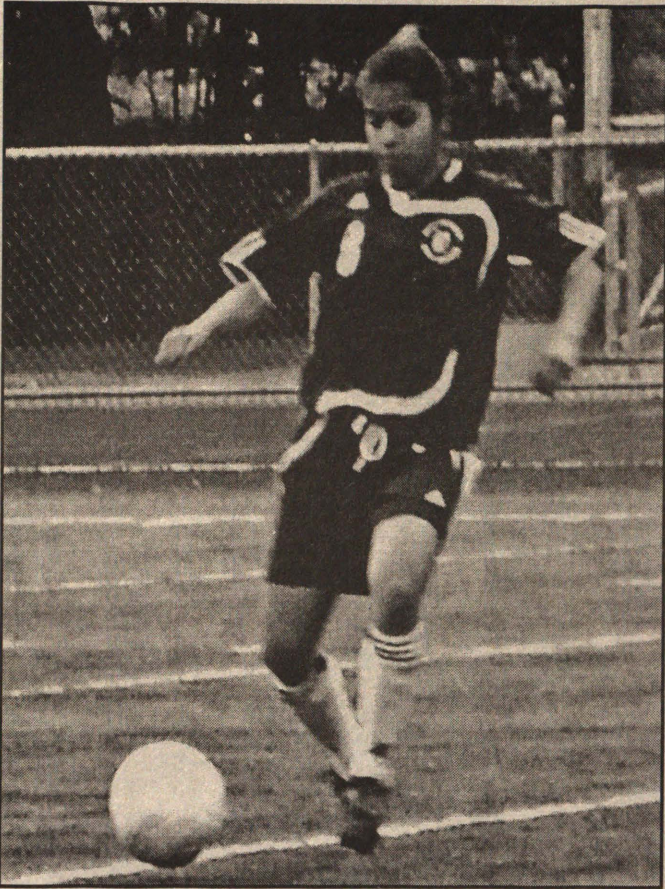


Photo by Keyuri Parmar

Junior Mary Rojas dribbles the ball down the field, trying to get around the competition.

Soccer ends after easy win

Postseason halts at second regionals game

By Keyuri Parmar
Reporter

After defeating Willowbrook on May 14 in the first round of regionals, girls soccer lost to Schaumburg on May 18 in the second round which brought an end to their season.

The first regional game against Willowbrook was an easy game for the girls, with a 6-1 victory, but they lost their second game against Schaumburg with a 4-1 loss placing them fifth in regionals.

"Against Schaumburg we played well and kept up the first half but the second half we let go," senior Anna Mercaldo said.

Overall they were 10-15-1.

Coach Cesar Gomez was unable to attend regionals but he was glad the team won the first round.

"We wanted to get further than the first round of regionals but aiming high and not getting there is okay because we will do better next year," Gomez said.

Throughout the season the girls improved on touch and a lot of stepped up their game.

"We have a team with heart, and like a family we are really connected," said junior Rachel Thomas. "We play for each other which is really important and have a

team effort."

The South Elgin tournament towards the beginning of the season on March 22 was the highlight of the season because the team beat teams that a lot of other schools couldn't.

"Other schools' coaches have told them, they don't give up no matter what the score is," said Gomez.

The best game was against Naperville Central on May 6, even though they lost 2-0.

"It's hard to celebrate a loss, but when you play well and to your potential, it makes sense," said Gomez.

Junior Megan Radloff is thinking about next year.

"We need to work on attacking for next year. Playing in DVC is hard because we play against teams that have a lot more potential," Radloff said.

The girls improved their fluidity by communicating better on the field and keeping possession of the ball.

"We worked on ball work and aggression, the whole thing, just making sure we were winning balls from people and playing more fluidly with people," said Mercaldo.

Next year Gomez wants to make sure the girls are mentally confident and don't lose mentally before the game starts.

Dramatic final games

By Carly Tubridy
Reporter

A rocky boys volleyball season came to an end with a loss to South Elgin on Monday during the first regional match, 25-20 and 25-22.

Their record was 12-24.

12-24

"I didn't feel like we played together," said head coach Kris Hasty.

After previously beating Elgin, Hasty thinks the team may have taken Elgin on too lightly this time around.

"Wins, losses, [or] seed doesn't mean anything. Any team can win on any given night," said Hasty. "[They] need to overcome mistakes and strive to be the best we can be. We should be able to answer the question 'have I done my best?' with a yes."

Hasty would like to see an improvement with the boys' mentality during games.

"In order to win we need to get everyone involved and be



Photo by Carly Tubridy

Senior Gordo Tirado digging the opponent's spike.

aggressive. There is no pressure on us, so we just need to get out and play ball," said Hasty.

At their final home game on May 18 they lost to Naperville Central.

Even though the boys won the first game, Naperville came back to win the final two.

"It's hard to regroup. We have to get used to getting people in the line up. We have to get back to the level we were playing at before the injuries," said Hasty.

Hasty was a little frustrated with the season and believed the athletes could play better.

"Our kids need to step up to the plate and put [themselves] aside and be a team player," said Hasty.

Hasty feels off season is very important to determine how next season will go.

"It depends on commitment. Off season, if you're getting into the weight room, coming and helping out during the girls season, summer camps; that will tell the level of our success," said Hasty.

Riled up and ready for postseason successes

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

Varsity boys baseball rallied their energy in order to win their first regional game 16-0 against East Aurora, Monday.

"We went into that game expecting to win," said senior Matt Ackerman. "[East Aurora] had only won like one game, so we were confident."

The game included a grand slam by pitcher Al Robbins,

and 10 runs scored in the fourth inning alone.

However, not all of the season has gone this smoothly.

"[Our performance] was nowhere close to what we thought we could do," said head coach Dan McCarthy.

13-20

"The conference is the best it's been for a while."

With a record of 13-20, McCarthy believes that the

team's biggest weakness has been lack of consistency.

"The big thing we haven't done is that our pitching isn't as consistent as we would like," said McCarthy. "We also were not hitting consistently. We weren't bad, we just weren't timely and if you don't pitch and you don't hit, it's tough to win."

Ackerman, however, believes that the team did very well based on the difficulty of the conference.

"We were a very talented team that faced talented competition," said Ackerman. "We could play with everyone in the DVC."

The second regional game was on Wednesday versus Geneva. Results were unavailable as of press time.

If the team wins, they move on to the third game of regionals, which they need to win to advance to sectionals. A loss will end their season.

"I think we can win the game against Geneva," said Ackerman. "We beat them earlier in the season like seven to three over spring break when they were expecting to win, but we had really good pitching that game. Hopefully we can do that again."

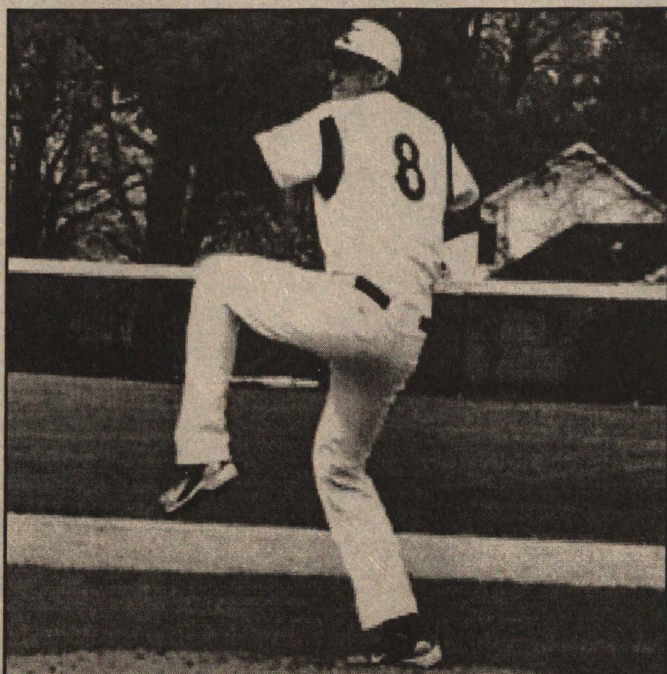


Photo by Kaitlyn Sladek

Senior Charles Jacques prepares to pitch the ball.

Letter from the editor

Dear Wildcat Chronicle Faithful Sports Fanatics,

Through my fledgling journalism career, I have written many columns and perspectives on a wide range of topics. I've debated in support of legalized marijuana, I've degraded an entire grade, and I've gone undercover in search of beauty courtesy of a tanning bed.

But this year I was entrusted with another monthly column: A column that, at first, I was very hesitant to take. I speak of being the sports columnist.

I'm not an athlete, nor am I athletic (as established many columns ago), so it's a given as to why I took a very cautious approach when criticizing athletes.

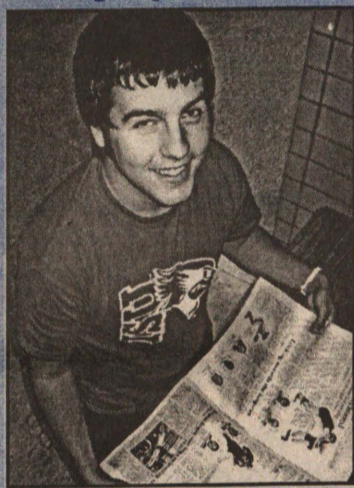
Also, my anti-athleticism probably led to why I wrote such interesting columns like "Must-see TV," better known as the most unenthusiastic column ever written.

The sports section of any high school newspaper is not an easy undertaking, and I could have done a lackadaisical job with it, but I pushed myself to do better.

Being a columnist, I could have repetitively written about school spirit, and cheering on our teams through the good and the bad. However, I established that point in my first column, and moved on.

That's what I've tried to do being sports editor.

Besides being a columnist, I've tried to foster my writers, and push them away from the stereotypical "high hopes" and "high expectations" we've grown to expect.



Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

No team is going to say that they expect to suck, but it is not our place as journalists to sugarcoat our stories so much that reading it would give our faithful readers diabetes.

I've tried to make sports as real as it can be, and I've repeatedly pushed reporters to make their sports stories matter.

Being a monthly newspaper, it is hard to keep sports interesting. We couldn't focus a basket-

ball article on senior Jeff Robinson's amazing half-court shot because that happened mid-January, while we published late February.

But believe me; the Chronicle has worked diligently to make sports interesting, and appealing to everyone and not just the athletes that partake in sports.

When I was a junior, I visited Columbia University in New York City with former editor in chief Greg Vodicka, and the Chronicle's adviser Laura Kuehn.

At Columbia, I took a course taught by Karl Grubaugh, an economics and journalism teacher from Granite Bay High School in California, who was also the sports editor of one of the University of Missouri's newspapers.

He gave me, as he put it, his "10 top tips for tip-top sports writing." His tips:

1. Reporting comes before writing.
2. Don't try to do too much.
3. Show, don't tell.
4. Don't do game stories.
5. Avoid clichés like the plague.
6. Avoid "jock-talk."
7. Use the drama of sports to your advantage.
8. Don't always write the obvious story.
9. Sports is also news.
10. (And last, but most importantly in my opinion) Read great sports writing.

I can only wish that this section has brought enjoyment to everyone that has read it, athletes or not. And I can only wish that through my writing, I have inspired my protégés and my peers.

And although I am breaking one of my anti-fluff and "high hopes" rules, I hope that you all have enjoyed reading great sports stories.

I've enjoyed every second of writing, reading, and editing them.

Signing off for the last time,

Your Faithful Sports Editor

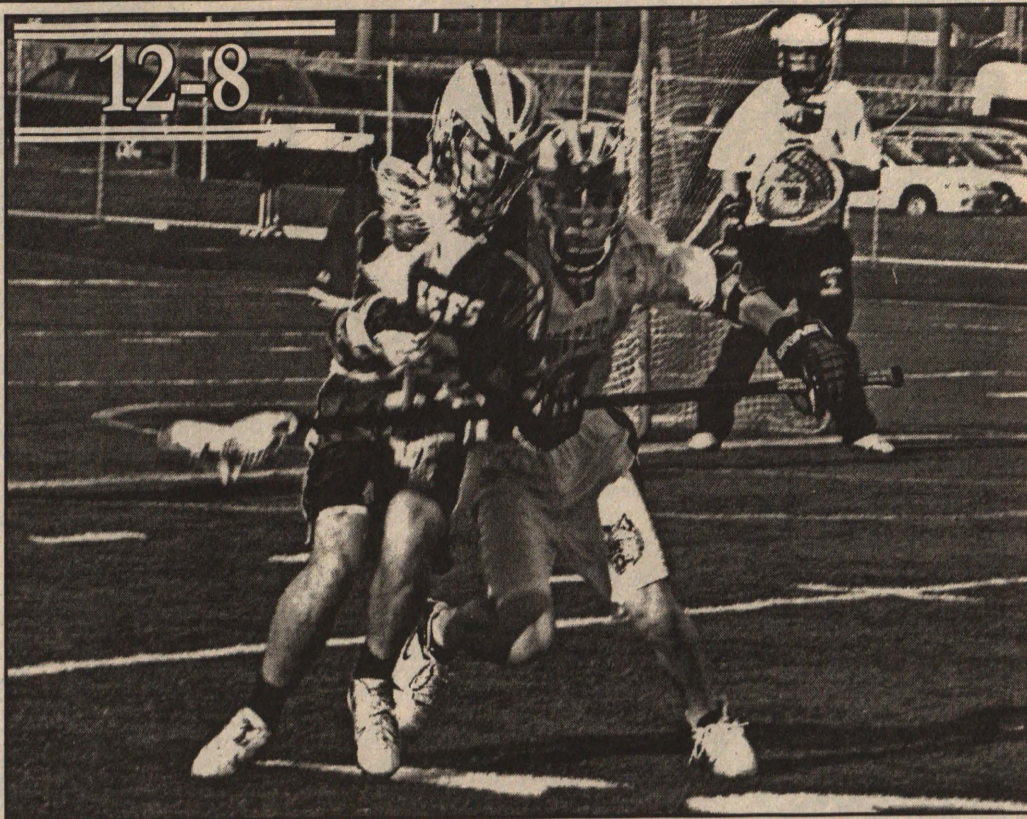


Photo by Megan Hernbroth

At a home game on the football field against Sandburg High School, senior Brad Cole (front, right) blocks an opponent, while goalie Brandon Rhodes (background) waits in anticipation.

Comeback kids

Varsity lacrosse season comes to an end as opponents question 'what's in their water?'

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

Coming back from last year's disappointing season, the boys lacrosse team is taking measures to make sure they end this season as the school's biggest comeback story.

"This team has grown leaps and bounds from last year," said head coach David Pater. "We are more mature, knowledgeable, and skillful than last year. We took a ton of hard losses last season and the boys took that hardship and turned it into a positive with a hard off-season. That hard off-season is now paying dividends because we have done a complete turnaround."

With a positive record, the team will head to the playoffs. Dates and results were unknown as of press time.

Playing Sandburg for the second time on May 20, the team ended the regular season with a 9-4 win.

At Waubonsie Valley on May 18, the team was defeated with a score of 24-5.

The team competed in a tournament at Marmion Academy on May 15, and finished second overall, losing to Grayslake in the finals with a score of 6-4.

"I think we played well throughout the tournament," said junior Austin Barber. "It was hard to play six games in one day, but we played well."

Barber plays attack, the main offensive position.

"[My job] is to score goals,"

said Barber. "We condition really hard in our own way, but I couldn't say if it's harder or easier. [Playing attack] is hard in its own way."

At the last game on the football field at home on May 13, the team competed against Marmion Academy and kept their winning streak on the field, winning 15-3.

"We weren't so surprised [to win]," said Barber. "We outplayed them throughout the game. It was our big momentum booster for the end of the season."

Competing against Geneva away on May 11, the team came out on top of the rivalry with a score of 17-5.

"It was intense," said junior Matt Iannacco. "There was a lot of tension between the teams but we kept our heads and fought through the game."

Iannacco plays midfield, a mix of offense and defense.

"My job is to get the ball out of defense and to the other side of the field for offense," said Iannacco. "It's pretty much sprinting down the field, so it can be really hard."

Against Wheaton North at home on May 6, the team lost with a score of 10-5.

"Last time we played them, we lost really badly," said Iannacco. "But we've gotten better and gave them a challenge this time."

At the team's second game on the football field on April 29, they defeated Home-wood-Flossmoor with a close score of 7-6.

"It was cool to have fans come to our games," said junior Darrek Sams. "We've been playing really well on the field."

Sams plays long stick midfield, a big part of overall defense.

"I pick up the ball after we win the face-off," said Sams, "and if we don't get it I play defense instead of only the three defensemen."

Competing at York on April 27, the team won with a score of 10-7.

"We weren't supposed to beat [York] but we did," said Sams. "The other teams were joking and asking us what was in our water that we were able to beat York."

As for next year, Pater is hoping the juniors will be able to take over what this year's seniors will leave behind.

"Our goals for next season are to build off of our accomplishments and work hard in the off-season," said Pater. "We are losing a group of seniors that carried our team this season. Replacing those players is going to be extremely difficult and we must work that much harder in the off-season to have success next year. Seasons are won and lost in the off-season preparations."

Senior Scott Wheeland knows the team's good fortune will continue.

"Our team did great. I really think we gave everything we had, every game. I'm going to miss playing with them. This is a great group of guys," said Wheeland.