

Wildcat Chronicle

Community High School 326 Joliet St. West Chicago, IL 60185
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Mourning a loss



Photos by Megan Hernbroth

Students gather to mourn senior Jake Carney in Winfield on Monday. Senior Anthony Nolazco (left inset) holds a candle for Carney at the service, where a memorial honored Carney with posters made by students.

By Megan Hernbroth
Editor in Chief

A normally busy and celebratory week before break took a different tone as students mourned the loss of fellow classmate senior Jake Carney.

Carney, 17, died Sunday fol-

lowing a Saturday evening car accident.

Through Facebook, students organized events to help show their respect for Carney. A Facebook page was dedicated to Carney, and two others were created to inform students of a moment of silence in Senior Hall on Monday be-

tween 9th and 10th hours.

The typically bustling hallway fell uncommonly silent during the passing period as students and teachers formed a circle, comforting each other and mourning the loss of a classmate.

Two students held signs for Carney, and said, "This is for you, Jake," loud enough for the crowd to hear.

Sniffles and comforting words periodically broke the silence. When the bell rang for class, no one moved from the tightly packed hall.

Carney's loss brought students together, from those that were close to him to those that knew him from classes.

"[Jake] was in my studies classes," senior Tori Snell said. "Everyday when I went into studies, he was so positive and always made me laugh. I can't even believe [that he's gone.] I'm not ready for it to hit me. It's so depressing to know I won't see him anymore."

Students wore black on Monday as a way to remember Carney. Students of all grades wore somber colors as a way to show respect.

"I think it's powerful when people can come together,"

said Brian Turnbaugh, Carney's English teacher. "There are times when there's no need to speak, we just need to feel and think about the loss of one of our friends. I think how the moment of silence was organized and how it was supported by the staff was really special. There are times when we want to hear, but we just need to feel."

Monday night at 9 p.m., a memorial was organized by Carney's family and friends in Winfield. The time was chosen because it was 48 hours after the accident. Candles cast a light into the dark night, and a somber quiet enveloped the gazebo. Students and teachers reflected on their memories of Carney while comforting others. A box of candles disappeared rapidly as an estimated 200 mourners arrived.

Students hung posters around the gazebo during the memorial service.

Senior Justin Vollmuth was extremely close to Carney.

"[One of my favorite memories] was with all of us sitting on top of the hospital after we climbed on the roof and were looking down on the whole town," Vollmuth said.

Carney was pronounced dead at 4:03 a.m. Sunday at Central DuPage Hospital after he lost control of his 2001 Volkswagon Jetta on Garys Mill Road past Indian Knoll Road in unincorporated West Chicago, colliding with a 1997 Ford F-150 backing out of a driveway at 9:01 p.m. on Saturday.

According to Charlie Dastych, public relations manager for the DuPage County Coroner's Office, speeding was a factor in Carney's accident. Toxicology reports will not be completed for several weeks.

The collision is still under investigation because the collision was fatal, according to Dawn Domrose of the DuPage County Sheriff's office, and an official accident report will not be completed until the investigation has ended.

A memorial visitation will be held on Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. at Norris Funeral Home at 132 Fremont St. Space is limited, so students are encouraged to pay respects to the family quickly.

Carney leaves behind his brother, sophomore, Ben, parents, and other family and friends.



Photo courtesy of Challenge

Jake Carney as a junior.

INSIDE New Classes

Students will have the ability to challenge themselves more with the availability of new honors and advanced placement classes. For all the details on those as well as new music classes--see **NEWS**, page 3.

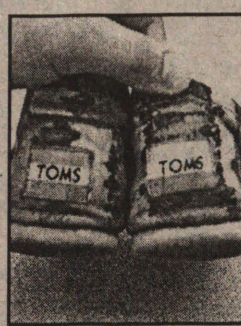
Sweet Dreams

What do different dreams mean? What does your sleeping position say about you? Do you have a sleeping disorder? For these answers and more--see **CENTER SPREAD**, pages 8-9.



Movin' on up

Southern culture seems to dominate pop culture. For the best southern sandwiches, the newest location of Chick-fil-A, and a popular shoe company--see **ENTERTAINMENT**, page 12.



Volleyball

Finishing at the sectional game against St. Charles East, the girls and coaches reflect on the ups and downs of the season--see **SPORTS**, page 15.

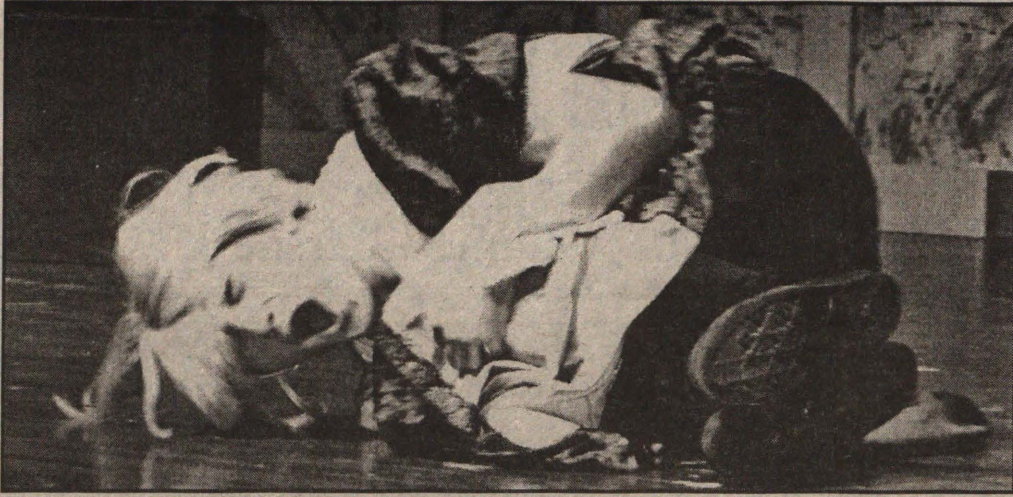


Photo by Alexis Hosticka

Senior Jeff Pierpoint attempts to kill himself as he plays Juliet during rehearsal.

Condensed Shakespeare

By Helene Sankovitch
Reporter

Students can experience a comedic version of all Shakespeare's plays in just 90 minutes.

"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [Abridged]" is a fast-paced, witty comedy with students playing multiple roles, according to director Mark Begovich.

"I think [the students] are feeling very good and enjoying the rehearsal process. Anxiousness is setting in but that leads to excitement," Begovich said.

Senior Jeff Pierpoint looks forward to performing multiple comedic roles.

"It's one of the most entertaining and hilarious plays we have put on in a long time, but it's also required a lot of hard work and dedication from cast to crew. We're really working as a cohesive team this year and the end result is going to be really great," Pierpoint said.

The play will appeal to and entertain a wide variety of people.

"There's something in it for everyone," senior crew manager Dani Keller said. "If you know Shakespeare, it's hilarious. If you don't know Shakespeare, it's hilarious."

Begovich has plenty of experience with theater.

"I have a lot of previous

experience working with students and directing for 15 years, and I am directing this year's All State [play]," Begovich said.

"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [Abridged]" is Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults.

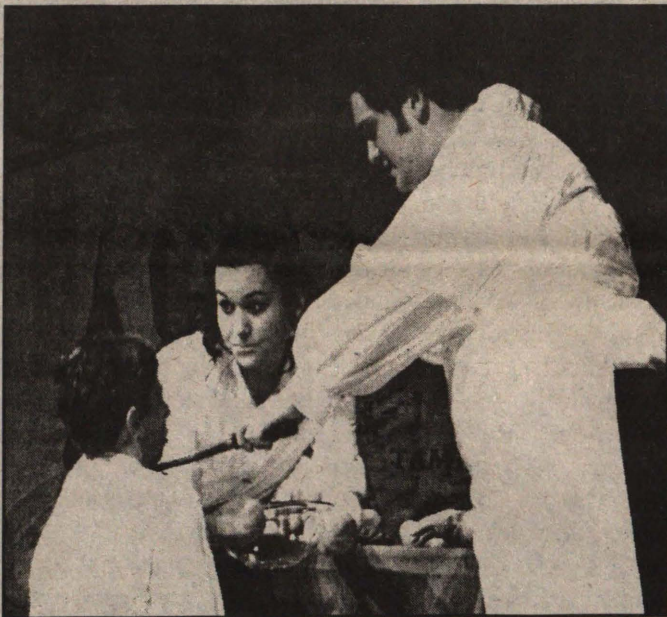


Photo by Alexis Hosticka

Sophomore Dan Stompor (from left), junior Elena Turbidity, and sophomore Josh Brown rehearse.

What's Happening?

Meeting with leaders

By Giuliana LaMantia
Reporter

Future Business Leaders of America members (FBLA), were joined by representatives of the West Chicago and Winfield Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the annual FBLA/Chamber Partnership Breakfast.

At the breakfast on Oct. 28, two FBLA members were seated per table with

two chamber members, allowing students to talk and ask questions.

"It's a way of getting our FBLA members out in the community with business leaders," FBLA adviser Maria Wirth said.

After the breakfast, students moved to the auditorium to hear speaker Jill Morgenthaler, retired US Army Reserve Colonel and President/CJMI.

Chance to save a life

By Yasmyr McGee
Features Editor

Students will have the opportunity to save a life by donating blood at the blood drive Dec. 10.

The drive, sponsored by InterAct Key Club, will be held in the small gym.

"The hope for this year's blood drive would be a great turnout," counselor Gavin Engel said. "We're just trying to get the word out as much as we can and have as

many students donate blood as possible."

Engel believes that students can make an impact.

"Ultimately, [donating] saves lives. It's cool for students to know just a pint of their blood can be used to save someone's life," Engel said.

Students can sign up for the blood drive in commons the week of Nov. 29. Students 16 and older can participate, but those under 18 need parent permission.

They've got skills

By Katie Sladek
Reporter

SkillsUSA state officer and senior Mehak Damani won the Harry A. Meinart Award and sophomore Clarissa Russell received the Statesman award at the Fall Leadership Conference in Matteson on Nov. 4.

Damani received the award for most outstanding and outgoing officer.

"I was surprised," said

Damani. "My advisers, Mrs. Bauer and Mrs. Kozlowski, were proud, my state trainer was very happy for me."

SkillsUSA will run a food drive beginning on Nov. 29. Students have the opportunity to get out of detentions or Saturday school by bringing in canned food items.

Three cans pay for a detention and 20 cans will replace a Saturday school. SkillsUSA donates the food to St. Mary's Food Pantry.

Heading towards the 'WeGo Shore'

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

The Variety Show is heading to the East Coast with the theme of "WeGo Shore" on Dec. 2.

Senior Precious Dannug is singing and playing on the guitar "The Only Exception" by Paramore.

"I adore performing in front of an audience, especially the Variety Show, which I've been in for the past three years. I'm performing for the first time with a guitar," Dannug said.

One more year of dancing in the Variety Show will be added to the three previous years for senior Darryl Thomas.

"I've [danced] throughout middle school and I love to dance," Thomas said. "[I like] that feeling of being on stage by myself just thinking

about what I need to do."

Many of the acts that auditioned were talented but only 10 to 14 acts can participate in the Variety Show.

"All the acts were really good. I can't say that one was better than the other. It's a variety show and there's supposed to be variety," Maria Wirth, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) adviser, said.

Although it's a variety show, according to Wirth there wasn't much variety in the tryouts.

"It's mostly girls singing and dance groups," Wirth said. "We get a lot of students who have talents that can't showcase their talents anywhere else in the school."

Also performing individually are freshman Sophia Bass; freshman Sarah Naffa; and senior Joe Wais. Per-

forming together in acts are seniors James Alfaro, Krysta Youngberg, Nikki Smith; senior Caitlin Kiel and freshman Mikaela Kiel; juniors Angelica Lomibao, Rachel Geronimo, freshman Katie Geronimo, sophomores Elijah and Elisha Dongon, Christina Lomibao, Christina Quach; Tiffany Manzano, Mayra Monroy, Christine Kim, Calvin Barcelona, Brian Om, Luis Ramirez, Daniel Salgado, Abe Garcia; and junior Alex Marano and senior Justin Malandrucolo.

FBLA members host the Variety Show as a community service project. Tickets cost \$3 and profits go to March of Dimes, a charity that helps to prevent birth defects, premature birth, infant mortality, and improve babies' health.

The show starts at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.



Photo by Liz Ramos

Senior Precious Dannug auditions for FBLA's annual Variety Show, this year adding guitar to her act.

Musicians land extra performance

Band and choir members take skills to higher level

By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Reporter

Senior Joe Wais and freshman Mary Cyr qualified for the Illinois Music Educators Associations (IMEA) District 9 Festival for band, along with seniors Danielle Pacelli and Jeff Pierpoint for choir.

IMEA is a professional organization in the state that music teachers can belong to.

Each year, IMEA selects students from the state to play and sing for its band, choir, and orchestra.

"I'm pretty excited, it's really fun," Pacelli said. "I went last year so I was kind of expecting it."

Although Pacelli and Pierpoint made district chorus, they will find out at the end of November if they made it to the all-state chorus.

In order to make all-state, they must be in approximately the top five of their section.

"It's an honor to make the district chorus," choral director Brandon Fantozzi said. "They have to work hard to learn the material, and are competing against thousands of other students to make the ensemble."

Choir students had to prepare five pieces for their audition, however only performed two, sight read, performed major and minor scales, and all four forms of triads.

It's an honor to make the district chorus. They have to worked hard to learn the material and are competing against thousands of other students to make the ensemble."

-- Choral director Brandon Fantozzi

"I wasn't expecting it, so I was really surprised," Pierpoint said.

Wais made IMEA for trombone and Cyr for French

horn.

"It's really awesome," Wais said. "I'm really excited to play with other high school musicians of really high caliber."

Students auditioning had to try out on several parts.

Band students were required to perform major and minor scales, two Etudes (compositions), and sight read, playing a piece they have never seen before.

"I'm very happy that they made it and I'm proud of their accomplishments," band and orchestra director Stephen Govertsen said.

Auditions for IMEA were held at Addison Trail High School on Oct. 5. The performance is on Saturday at Hampshire High School.

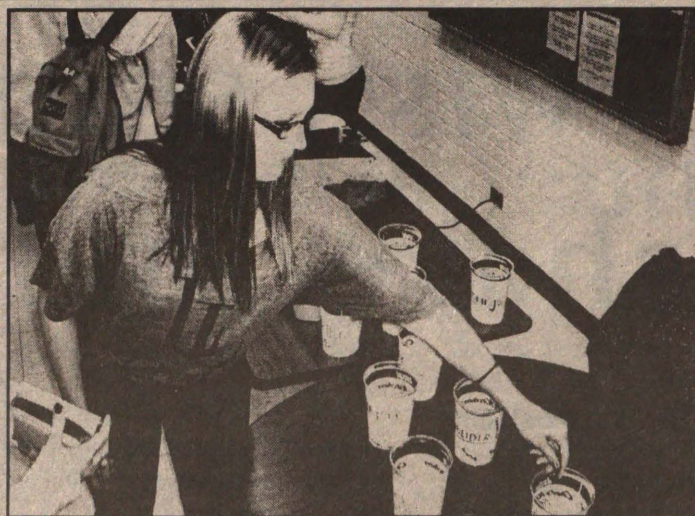


Photo by Katie Sladek

Senior Maddy Dall votes for a teacher to wear the turkey suit as part of a Student Council fundraiser.

Turkey time

By **Katie Sladek**
Reporter

On Friday, be on the lookout for giant turkeys roaming the halls.

Two teachers will don turkey costumes after students cast votes for the teachers they wanted to see dressed as turkeys by placing change into jars labeled with the teachers' names.

Student Council runs the event and this year will donate the money to senior Jake Carney's Family. Last year, Student Council raised about \$600 for the West Chicago Food Bank.

Science teacher Hank Murphy is participating.

"I did this because a student asked me to... certainly not because I want to be a turkey," Murphy said.

If Murphy isn't chosen, he would like to see science teacher James Rice in the turkey costume.

This year's turkeys will be announced Thursday.

"I think the nice thing is it's a fun activity that also raises money for a good cause," Student Council adviser Eric Lasky said.

Students are excited to see teachers in costume. One has a teacher in mind who he would like to see in costume.

"Mr. McKenna, he would probably have fun with that," junior Jeff Camp said.

Going it alone?

By **Ahmad Zaidi**
Entertainment Editor

Due to the lack of athletic excellence over the past years, the school is considering leaving the DVC and going non-conference.

"If you look at our school history, we haven't had much success over the years," assistant athletic director Clay Reagan said.

Athletes and parents are uncertain about leaving the DVC.

"We are exploring actions to give opportunities for athletes," said Reagan. "We don't want to diminish them."

The girls varsity volleyball team made it to sectionals this season and they are not up for leaving the DVC.

"We shouldn't leave the DVC because we are starting to hang in there and come out with wins in the conference. Girls volleyball won the DVC this season, and we are capable of doing it again," sophomore Andrea Skipor said.

Leaving the DVC also means scheduling games against new schools.

"We have lots of options

for schools to play against," said Reagan. "There are 65 non-conference teams we currently play, so it won't be a problem to schedule games."

Reagan said that the idea of leaving the DVC is not based on only one team that is struggling.

"We are looking at all of the teams, not just one," said Reagan. "People bring up the argument of the volleyball team winning sectionals, but it is the first conference championship in 31 years. The school going non-conference was not based on one team."

The school is still deciding on the exact date that the school would leave the DVC, but the Board of Education still has to vote on it.

"We need to convince ourselves that we're leaving because it's becoming a distraction to our athletes and coaches," said board member Rich Nagel. "We need to start looking, we need to hurry and decide if we're leaving or not so everyone knows where we are and where we stand."

Leaving the DVC has become a growing issue throughout the school.

New class options

By **Kristina Manibo**
Reporter

Students will have the benefit of having more choices for their core classes and electives next year.

AP music theory, guitar ensemble, and mariachi ensemble were added as electives at the Nov. 2 Board of Education meeting. Algebra I enriched, AP US history, and honors biology were added as core classes.

AP music theory will be a year-long class. The first semester will focus on music fundamentals, and the second semester will focus on more advanced harmonics.

"It will be for upperclassmen in band, choir, or orchestra, but students who have music experience, like if they've taken piano lessons for ten years, can talk to me about getting into the class," band and orchestra director Stephen Govertsen said.

Guitar ensemble will add musical variety.

"Students who aren't able

to be in band, choir or orchestra; [guitar ensemble] is an additional option for those students," Supt. Lalo Ponce said.

Students can start playing acoustic guitar from scratch and learn how to read music.

Guitars will also be used for mariachi ensemble, where students will learn about the history and culture of mariachi music.

However, it is not likely that all three classes will run every year.

"It will depend how many students sign up for each class and then we'll run whichever classes have the most student interest," Govertsen said. "[Brandon] Fantozzi and I are the only teachers in the music department, so we can only teach so many classes."

The Board of Education also added algebra I enriched to the course schedule.

"Algebra I enriched is for a group of kids who want a greater challenge than algebra I. It's for kids who are interested in moving forward to honors or AP classes at a

later date," Ponce said.

The AP US history exam is one of the most frequently taken AP exams in the country, according to Ponce, and students from here were not performing well without the class to prepare them.

"Out of the last six years, only 10 students [from West Chicago] took the exam. Only a few have gotten a 3, 4 or 5, which they earn credit for," Board of Education member Kevin Kotche said.

The science department will also add a challenging course for freshmen.

"Honors biology is needed to provide for ninth graders coming in. It's for those interested or capable to take a biology course that would contain more challenge than regular biology," Ponce said.

No teachers need to be hired for these new classes.

"I don't believe we will need to [hire new teachers]. We have teachers willing, and qualified and with preparation to teach those classes on staff," Ponce said.

Twist, shimmy, shake, and salsa

By Amber Del Rio
Reporter

Students and staff members can learn how to move their feet to the beat at Latin dance classes Tuesdays after school.

Student Council asked the Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) to teach the dances to students and staff members who want to learn some new moves.

Social studies teacher Barbara Laimins proposed the idea after students expressed an interest in learning the Latin dances after homecoming.

"[The Latin dance classes] are a great opportunity for us to experience new cultures," Laimins said.

Those who attend will have the chance to learn dances such as bachata, salsa, and cumbia or any other Latin dances upon request.

"I love dancing, it's one of my passions and I want to help people learn," senior Daisy Fuentes said. "[I'm looking forward to dancing] duranguence and cumbia."

Students and staff members with an interest in learning new dances and experiencing a new culture are encouraged to participate in the lessons.

It does not matter how much or how little dance experience they have.

Sophomore Nicole Fuechsl attended the dance class and enjoyed learning the steps to the popular Latin dance, bachata.

"It was fun to hang out with friends and learn something new," Fuechsl said. "[Bachata] was fun to learn because I've never heard of it before."

Lessons are until 4 p.m. in room 130.

They will run until the Turnabout dance in February with a possibility of running the rest of the year.

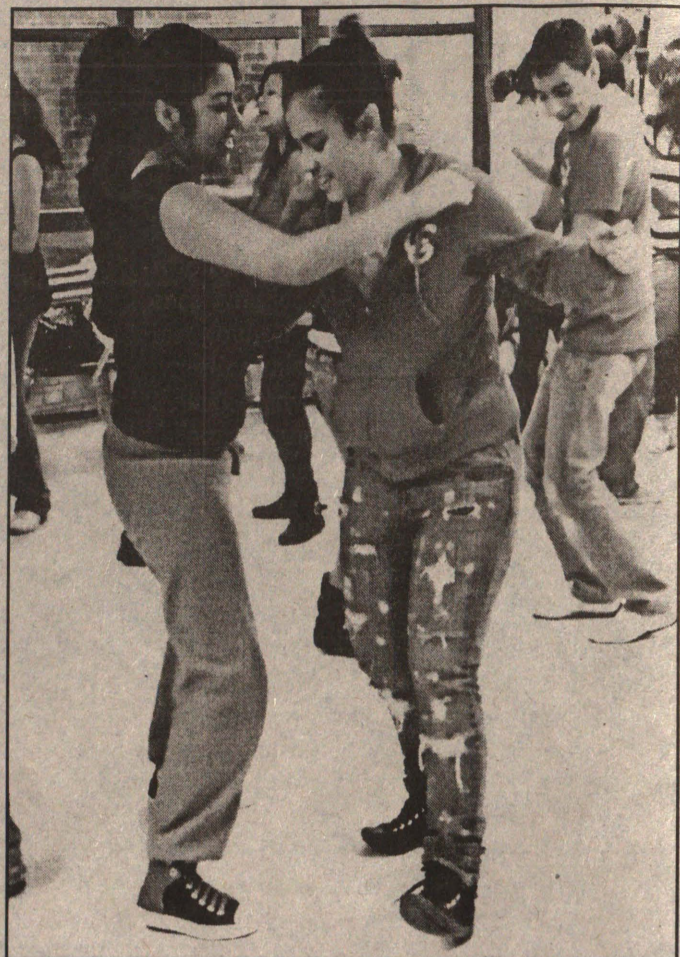


Photo by Amber Del Rio

Junior Angela Lopez (left) and senior Mayra Valdez practice dancing bachata.



Photo by Ahmad Zaidi

Senior Robby Windisch's leadership, passion for golf, and involvement in the community earns him October Student of the Month.

Dedication pays off for senior

By Ahmad Zaidi
Entertainment Editor

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.

NHS member and golfer Robby Windisch is Student of the Month for October.

How did you feel when you were chosen to be Student of the Month?

I was honored because there are a lot of kids who could have won the award, but I was the one chosen. I did not see it coming at all.

What clubs are you a part of?

I played golf for four years, basketball for three years,

[was in] student council for four years, Key Club for three years, NHS for two years, Spanish NHS for three years, and an ambassador for three years.

What is your favorite class and why?

Human anatomy because I like learning about the human body.

Where do you plan on going to college?

It's between Notre Dame, Northwestern, or Cornell right now.

What do you plan on being in the future?

I'm going into pre-med because I like helping people out and I am interested in science and math fields.

Who influences you the most?

My parents because they both push me to do work all the time and it has paid off now.

New place to call home

Sixth graders set to move into West Chicago Middle School within coming years

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

The West Chicago Middle School will have new additions: sixth graders and a new look starting in August 2013, after a referendum passed Nov. 2 allowing for the improvements.

"Ninety-one percent of middle schools in DuPage County already have sixth graders," Chris Scheck, Dist. 33 Board of Education president, said. "We are the only feeder middle school to the high school that still has only seventh and eighth graders."

Sixth graders will come from Currier, Gary, Indian Knoll, Pioneer, Turner, and Wegner. They will be put into teams like the seventh and eighth graders, versus being in self-contained classrooms as they currently are taught in their elementary schools.

"We are running out of space in the elementary schools. For example, Wegner was built to accommodate 600 kids, and now there are around 650," Scheck said.

Enrollment has expanded yearly, and Scheck predicts enrollment to keep increasing.

"Currier and Wegner are the two newest schools, built in 1994. From the time they

of the elementary schools and into the middle school," Scheck said.

The construction may also bring jobs to the community.

"We hope that this construction will bring construction jobs to the community," Scheck said.

Some parents were concerned about the cost.

"We have currently paid off the debt that was incurred when we built Currier and Wegner. We had the opportunity to now sell new bonds for the new addition without increasing the tax rate," Scheck said.

Homeowners will also be benefited by the referendum.

"Better schools lead to better property values. If schools

were built, we added over 550 students district wide, which in actuality is a school in itself. We predict that the enrollment growth will continue to increase over the coming years," Scheck said.

Bringing sixth graders to the middle school will not only enhance their educational experience, but will also alleviate the space issues facing the elementary schools, Scheck said.

"The middle school is 50

'We are the only feeder middle school to the high school that still has only seventh and eighth graders.'

-- Chris Scheck, Dist. 33 Board of Education president

years old; we're going to improve the existing structure and add more classroom space," Scheck said. "In addition, we will be adding a new gym, and instead of a cafeteria, we will build a 'cafetorium.' That will be a cafeteria by day, and an auditorium by night."

The construction will take approximately three years.

"[In those three years] we will still struggle with enrollment issues, but eventually we'll get the sixth graders out

have better reputations, homeowners can benefit," Scheck said.

Sixth graders will also have an educational advantage.

"Sixth graders are more prepared for high school if they go through middle school programming," Scheck said.

"Also, sixth graders will be able to participate in extracurricular programs like band, orchestra, drama and sports, and will be more prepared to excel in those areas once they enter high school."

Over 10,000 meals for impoverished children

By Yasmyn McGee
Features Editor

Imagine feeding 42 underprivileged kids for one year in less than two hours.

That's exactly what members of InterAct Key Club did when they teamed up with Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) and packaged 15,336 meals on Nov. 9.

"Feed My Starving Children is a Christian-based organization whose goal is to end starvation, specifically for children around the world," InterAct Key Club adviser Gavin Engel said. "It's unfortunately a really big problem in third-world countries and beyond. FMSC wants to get food to children who need it most in order to survive."

The food that FMSC sent included a full meal packed with nutrients.

"We had 51 members of our InterAct Key Club participate and then we had some adults, including myself, that took a bus over there. Basically what you do is package a food pack that consists of rice, soy, a chicken flavoring

and freeze-dried vegetables," Engel said. "And believe it or not, it's very healthy. It includes everything in one meal that someone would need to provide their nourishment for the day. You have the protein through the soy, the carbohydrates through the rice, the vitamins through the chicken flavoring and then you have the vegetables through the freeze-dried veggies."

Engel feels that participating in FMSC makes a great

impact.

"I think it's important because we're lucky with what we have [in the United States]. For a lot of people around the world, day to day, it's a battle just surviving," Engel said. "This gives kids that are starving a chance in life. Unfortunately, a lot even with FMSC don't make it, but if we can at least give a fighting chance to a number of kids to have a healthy fulfilling life, all the better."



Photo by Carly Tubridy
Juniors (from left) Alexa Jean, Lexi Micele, and Kylie Hushion help pack food at Feed My Starving Children.

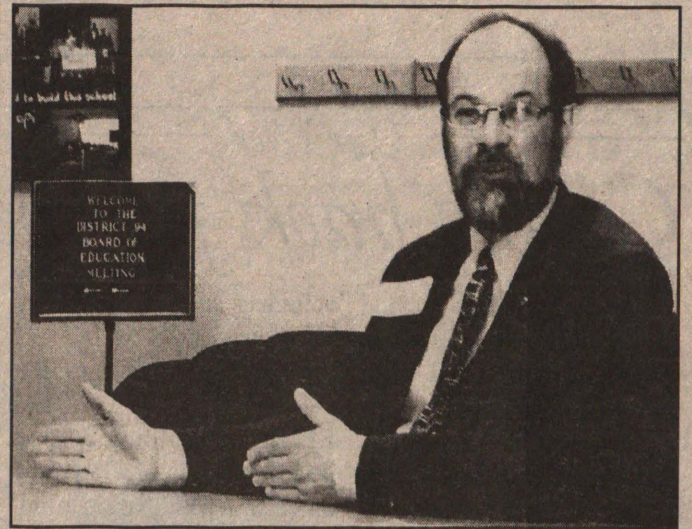


Photo by Helene Sankovitch

Illinois State Rep. Mike Fortner speaks to members of the Stock Market and Capital Challenge teams.

Sharing advice

By Helene Sankovitch
Reporter

State Rep. Mike Fortner gave the Stock Market Game and Capital Challenge teams an insight into the world of stocks.

The teams are seniors Josh Foster, Cesar Gonzalez, Christian Simanonis, and Tim Kotche on one team, and Kyle Molskow, Colton Reif, and Jeff Foreman on the other.

"We're looking at energy sectors that are doing really well right now," Reif said.

Fortner talked to the team about new technologies worth investing in on Nov. 9.

"In the energy sector there

are a lot of new technologies. A lot of those companies rely heartily on venture capital funding," Fortner said.

Fortner was the mayor of West Chicago from 2001-2006, teaches at Northern Illinois University, and researches at Fermilab.

"I did some [stocks] around 10 years ago, but it was when the market took a big collapse. You need to do a lot of research and I didn't have the time. A good balanced portfolio in the stock market will perform better," Fortner said.

As state representative, Fortner maintains office in West Chicago and spends summers seeing what kinds of problems people have.

Weighted grades coming closer to reality

By Giuliana LaMantia
Reporter

Weighted grades are on their way to becoming a reality in the 2011-2012 school year.

A Weighted Grades Program Development Committee will prepare a comprehensive plan with an eye for Board of Education approval in May.

Principal Moses Cheng and Supt. Lalo Ponce told the board at the Nov. 2 meeting that most schools in the

area weight their grades, and CHS is one of the few that does not.

With weighted grades, students can earn a GPA higher than a 4.0.

Without them, the highest is 4.0, which puts students on an uneven level when applying to colleges that don't unweight grades.

"Why depend on that? Why not simply weight the grades and put our students on an even playing field?" Ponce asked.

However, only certain

classes would be weighted, so students who choose unweighted classes would be at a disadvantage.

"I want to make sure students have the opportunity to set their course schedule [knowing that there are classes with weighted grades]," Board of Education secretary Dirk Gunderson said. "We don't want students saying, 'I wish I would have known about the weighted grades before signing up for my courses.'"

Cheng believes it's possible

that students will select harder courses and fewer electives with a weighted grades plan.

"It could make learning and school more of a points game than what it should be," Cheng said.

Advantages of a weighted grades plan would be the opportunity for students to have a more impressive GPA and to be more competitive in college.

Many factors, advantages, and concerns still need to be looked at, including an official weighted grade and an

unofficial weighted grade on juniors' transcripts, according to Ponce.

Board members president Katherine Doremus, Gunderson, Kevin Kotche, Tony Molinaro, and vice president and treasurer Gary Saake all voted in favor of weighted grades. Ruben Campos and Rich Nagel abstained. No one voted against weighted grades.

"I think it's time for us to implement a weighted grades program here at Community High School," Ponce said.

Chronicle's work rewarded again

By Katie Sladek
Reporter

For the fourth year in a row, the Wildcat Chronicle has won the Gold Award for high school journalists from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

High school newspapers are assessed by professionals. The award was not a surprise

to adviser Laura Kuehn.

"We do good work so it doesn't come as a surprise - we should be getting golds," Kuehn said.

Editor in chief, senior Megan Hernbroth, is proud of the staff.

"I was really proud because we've won it in the past and we were able to do it again," Hernbroth said. "We have a



Photo by Laura Kuehn

The Chronicle earns a Gold Award from Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

very good staff."

Center spread editor, senior Sarah Berger, was enthusias-

tic about this win.

"We have a smaller staff than other schools we're

competing against, so it's rewarding that we did better than them," Berger said.

Our View

Giving back for the holidays

A long table piled with food such as turkey, potatoes, or pie tends to come to mind when thinking of Thanksgiving.

However, while some households are filling their stomachs to the point where they have to unbutton their pants, many families are going without dinner.

Families who have the time and money should keep the less fortunate in mind, especially during a time to be thankful for what we have.

According to www.feedingamerica.org, in 2008, 14.6 percent of households in the U.S. were food insecure, meaning they do not always know where they will find their next meal. In 2009, 14.3 percent of people were in poverty.

Hunger is still rising in America, and Thanksgiving is a perfect time of year to think about those in need.

You can help the hungry this Thanksgiving season by donating canned food items or money to local food pantries.

Besides donating, you can

volunteer at food pantries or soup kitchens.

Many opportunities to give are available. Skills USA and FBLA are holding a food drive at the school. Gathering together a food basket to donate to a hungry family is also another choice.

Hold a food drive to collect canned food items from family and friends, and donate the items to an organization or food pantry.

Find creative ways to make money, such as a bake sale, to

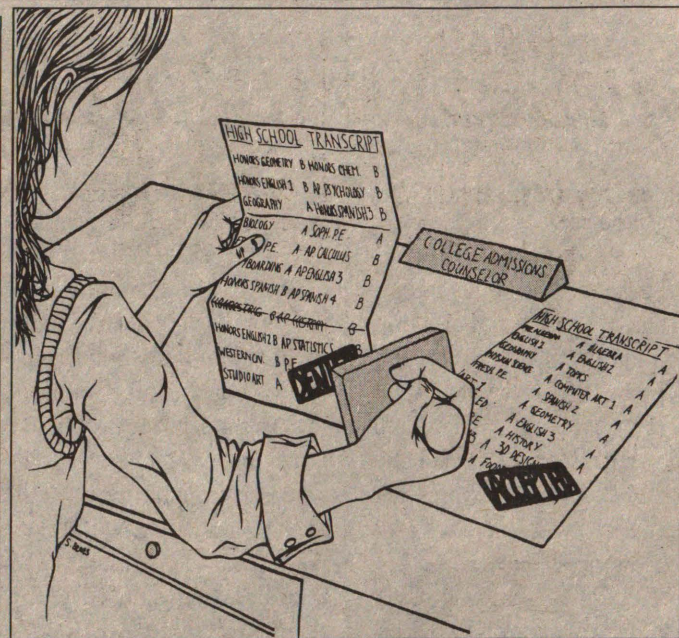
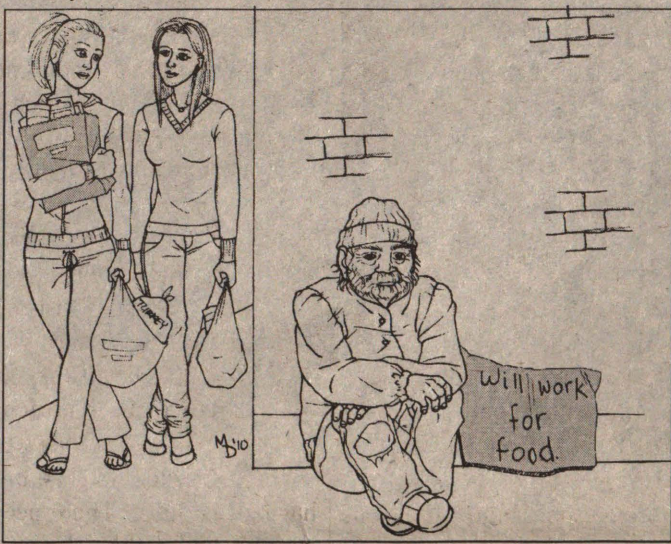
give to local charities.

Participate in a charity Turkey Trot or 5K, which typically donates all proceeds to local food banks or charities.

Thanksgiving is a celebration to be thankful and appreciate everything around us and everyone.

Unfortunately, not every family can afford a celebration, much less a meal.

So find a way to give back this Thanksgiving season and it will make the feast that much better.



Hard work should pay off for students

The Board of Education has finally taken the first steps to implementing a weighted grade system.

A weighted grades committee is in place to determine which classes will be weighted, and how they will be weighted. The board is expected to vote on the plan in May.

Having weighted grades will mean giving honors and AP students the opportunity to earn above a 4.0 GPA, creating multiple benefits for advanced students.

The weighted grading scale is fairly simple to understand. Currently, an A is equivalent to a 4.0 for all classes, regardless of level.

If we had weighted grades, an A would equal 5.0 for designated classes.

The opportunity to earn a GPA above and beyond a 4.0 could encourage students to take more advanced classes.

Principal Moses Cheng is worried the weighted grading system will make school more of a "points" game than it should be.

But, some students who are capable of taking honors or AP classes are avoiding doing so because the grades are not

weighted; there is no encouragement.

Instead, they take the basic class to earn an "easy A."

This is not beneficial because these students are not being challenged as they should be.

Taking the easy way out would not usually help these students in the long term either.

Taking honors or AP classes improves a student's chance of getting into college.

Having a GPA above 4.0 indicates you have taken an advanced level class and done well in it.

This system would give advanced students more of a competitive edge against students from other schools whose grades are weighted, according to counselor Jill Holubetz.

Having a high GPA also improves your chance of earning scholarship money.

This system is all around beneficial to our school.

It will encourage students to do their very best and improve the chance of students getting into a good college.

When the board reviews the plan in May, let's hope a "yes" vote comes.

Not exactly a vacation for Obama

Many people are concerned that President Barack Obama over spends on "vacation" instead of tending to important matters in the country, like Fox News, which reported Obama was spending \$200 million a day on his Indonesian "vacation."

Obama's traveling helps the world. He traveled to Singapore to attend the annual Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum to promote global economic growth, and visited US military personnel stationed in South Korea.

So with all of the importance of the trip, why the focus on the untrue reporting of cost?

Because an unnamed Indian government official in an article from the Press Trust

of India on Nov. 2 made up a story and Fox ran with it without checking the facts.

Before the trip, the official said that 3,000 people would accompany Obama, which includes Secret Service agents, press and government officials. The price was estimated so high because of the heavy security and living arrangements at the Taj Mahal hotel.

Talk show host Rush Limbaugh said that the trip called for 507 rooms and 40 airplanes for the 3,000 people, but he specified no source.

It's highly unlikely that a trip to India costs more than the war in Afghanistan, which costs \$5.7 billion per month, reported by www.factcheck.org.

It's common sense that a trip costs less than the New Jersey Nets basketball team, or, according to www.businessinsider.com, the price Facebook was bought for in 2009.

The White House even disproved the claim, saying that it was "widely inflated."

Obama didn't travel to Mumbai just for kicks; he traveled there for a security drill.

Let's face it: the only reason Obama has been traveling so much is because he wants to help the country.

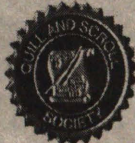
And the only reason the story was reported without the facts is because some news media are more interested in printing lies rather than the truth about Obama.

That needs to change.

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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.

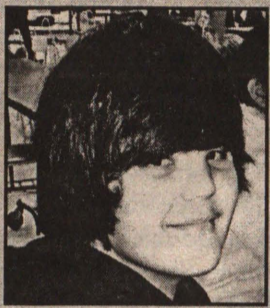
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Students Speak

Compiled by Keyuri Parmar

Do you think people who make over \$250,000 a year should be taxed more?



Freshman

Matt Czarniecki

"Yes, they're making more money so they should give more."



Sophomore

Jennifer Rodriguez

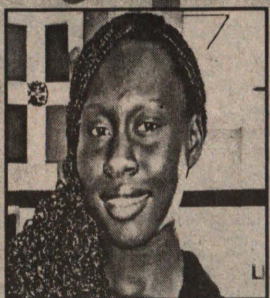
"Yes, because they have enough money to support themselves and enough left over to help others and the government."



Junior

Breanna Kmiecik

"Yes, because it's logical, people who earn more money should pay more taxes to help."



Senior

Stephanie Lambert

"Yes, they should because it's only fair to help out the people who have less than them."



Megan Hernbroth
Editor in Chief

The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Under the Bush tax cuts, this was the motto the country lived by. After Jan. 1, 2011, everyone will pay their fair share.

President Obama proposed a tax reform to take effect once the Bush tax cuts expire. The tax bracket affected by the tax reform will be families making more than \$250,000 a year or singles making more than \$200,000, according to www.factcheck.org.

Individuals that would be affected by the proposed tax hike are currently taxed at 28 percent. The proposal would change the percentage from 28 to 39.6 percent, according to www.factcheck.org.

If the proposed tax reform takes affect in 2011, the taxes alone would generate about \$31 billion in revenue for the country. By 2019, the tax reforms would raise around \$318 billion, according to www.politico.com.

With the country deep in financial trouble, it seems as if the solution could not be any clearer. Those that are financially stable should be able to help more. Without help, those in a family that may not be financially successful may be deprived of types of government assistance, and the country deprived of much needed building projects and employment opportunities.

Saying wealthier citizens have worked hard so they do not have to help, is wrong, since people making less than \$250,000 also work hard.

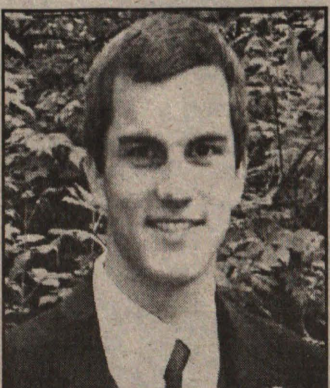
Some individuals think it is not their responsibility to help out because it is not their fault that others, including our country, have reached hardships. This is selfish. Where would you be if no one offered to help when you needed it? Our country needs help from its citizens, not selfish people who are able to help.

These individuals may also find themselves needing social security, unemployment benefits or loans one day, all of which are funded through taxes. They may even want to drive on roads that are not crumbling and have their kids in classrooms that are not overcrowded. Suddenly, those that oppose the reform most may be the most in need.

By opposing tax reform, people are standing in the way of funding schools, hospitals, loans, and other public services. Infrastructure building would benefit substantially from extra funds, providing employment, giving money for people to spend, which allows companies to hire more employees, effectively boosting a crumbling economy.

Instead of standing in the way, individuals should be glad to lend a helping hand whenever they are able to. It's time to think of others and change the old motto.

Education first



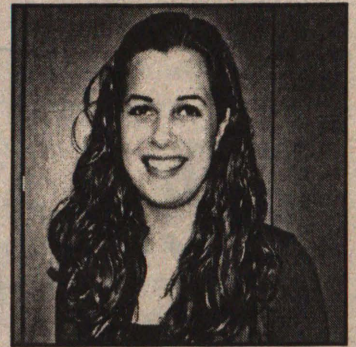
Thomas Harms
Contributing Writer

A big part of most students' lives is having fun in sports and clubs along with classes, but this isn't true for students in Germany.

Wealthy should pay more

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Wealthy should not pay more



Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

Taxes are always a major issue of concern to both political parties. More specifically, how much to tax and how to tax: flat or progressive.

As a supporter of the flat tax system, I'm not in favor of President Barack Obama's plan to change the percentages in the tax bracket. Former President George W. Bush's tax system is set to expire at the end of the year, and Obama has the opportunity to implement a new tax bracket by removing tax cuts.

Obama plans to increase the top bracket of the tax system (over \$250,000 for married couples filing together) by 4 percent. Many people argue that this is fair because they make more money, and therefore should have to pay more money. However, even with a flat tax system, the rich will pay more. If everyone pays the same percentage, I'll use 20 percent as an example, someone who makes \$40,000 a year will pay \$8,000 and someone who makes \$250,000 will pay \$50,000.

The fact that some people make more money does not make them any more indebted to the government and country. It is not their job to pay for those who make less money. Social security, for example, is meant only to be a supplement to one's income, not pay for retirement. It is each individual's responsibility to save up money as they work. Maybe this means going back to school to get a better job, working a night shift, or having two jobs. There needs to be economic diversity in a country, and if the rich are paying the poor, the rich become poorer and the poor become richer.

This quote from author Dr. Adrian Rogers makes my point:

"whenever somebody receives something without

working for it, somebody else has to work for it without receiving. The worst thing that can happen to a nation is for half of the people to get the idea they don't have to work because somebody else will work for them, and the other half to get the idea that it does no good to work because they don't get to enjoy the fruits of their labor."

Tax money also goes towards funding education, providing public services such as a fire or police department, and repairing infrastructures. Those who are rich do not use government services more than the poor, and therefore should not have to pay a larger percentage of taxes.

Because people are rich does not mean that they are lazy, it's often just the opposite. People work their ways up the ladder, and it is often a struggle. They work hard for their money, and deserve it just as much as those who make less money.

advantage of training in in Germany are almost specific areas after the entirely education-focused, Gesamtschule as well, or which can be a good thing. There are hardly any teams or clubs connected with the school.

The Gymnasium, college prep school, often runs from the fifth to the 12th usually, depending on the area of Germany that one lives in. Rather, teens find their niches in their towns. At school, learning is the main goal, and at the Gymnasium, students are generally well-motivated.

Students who are more interested in theoretical and analytical work attend a Gymnasium. Here all of the courses are somewhat more advanced than the average American class, and in the eleventh and 12th grades, students begin focusing on courses related to their potential work areas. However, one's preference is purely a matter of taste on this matter. A person has to choose: Do I want education or do I want entertainment? (Thomas Harms is a '10 graduate who is living in Grebenstein, Germany for a year. He will have an update of his trip each month.)

Unlike the U.S, the schools

Students often take

Stopping stolen sleep

By Keyuri Parmar
Perspectives Editor

Eating a brownie, drinking Monster, and staying up until 2 a.m. aren't the healthiest habits for a student's sleep pattern.

These behaviors throw off diurnal, or sleep, pattern according to science teacher Dr. Hank Murphy, and is the main cause of students being deprived of their sleep.

A diurnal pattern is a human's internal clock that tells you when to sleep and when to be awake.

Taking short naps during class or after school can disrupt the diurnal pattern that the body is used to.

On the weekends the average student probably stays up until 1 a.m. or 2 a.m. Then

on Sunday night they will try to go to sleep at 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. and most likely will not be successful.

"I try going to sleep at 9:30 p.m. but don't fall asleep till about 11 p.m.," junior Sarah Quealy said.

Students tend to go to sleep at different times every day, because they don't have a set bedtime.

"Teens like experimenting with their sleep by waking up and going to sleep at different times, which changes their sleep schedule," Murphy said.

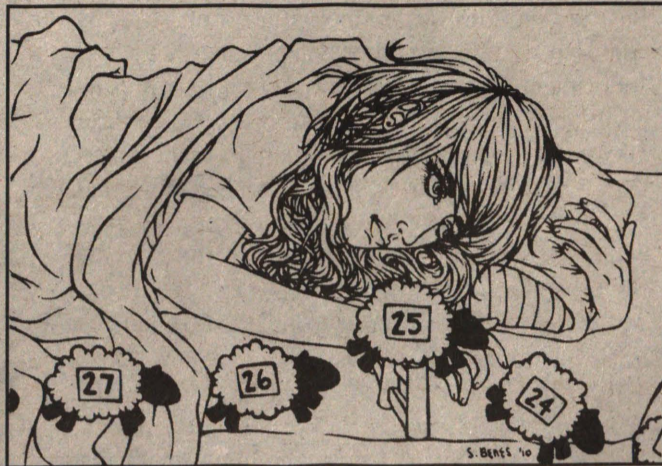
A bad habit is to drink anything with a high quantity of caffeine or eat food with a lot of sugar within four hours before going to sleep.

Caffeine and sugar are stimulants which turn on neurons

in the nervous system.

Students should do activities that slow down their brain before going to sleep,

in the body going so you can't sleep. You need to have a period of slowing down the activity in the brain," Murphy



such as listening to music or having a light conversation with someone.

If the brain is concentrated and awake it won't be able to "shut off" right away.

"Exercise gets adrenaline

said.

There is an exception to every rule about sleep. Some individuals may be able to drink caffeine, eat sugar, do homework, or exercise right before going to bed but there

are only a few of them.

"I could always fall asleep reading my anatomy book in college," Murphy said.

To fall asleep faster, eat foods with melatonin, serotonin or tryptophan, which encourage sleep, Murphy said.

Bananas, warm milk, oatmeal, almonds, whole wheat bread, and turkey have some of these chemicals.

Also watching a boring show can help you fall asleep quicker. According to American College of Chest Physicians, texting late at night makes it difficult for students to fall asleep.

Some students stress out a lot about small things going on and that may be because they aren't getting enough sleep.

"Sleep is designed to let our brain with all of the thoughts and stressors of the day so that it would be ready for the next day," Murphy said.

How you sleep reveals more than you

Photos and information compiled by Megan Hernbroth
Editor in Chief

Only 5 percent of Americans change the position they sleep in each night. Such a habit can say a lot about certain characteristics of your individual personality.

Fetal Position

The fetal sleeping position is the most popular of sleeping positions, adopted by 41 percent of Americans, and specifically 51 percent of females. Typically, people that sleep in the fetal position have a tough exterior but are sensitive or shy at heart. These people have a hard time opening up when meeting new people, but relax once they get to know someone.

Log Position

About 15 percent of people sleep in the log position. Typically, these sleepers tend to be very social and work best when working with people. They tend to be very easy going, and enjoy being part of the in-crowd in most situations. These people are trusting of strangers, and are incredibly gullible.

The Yearner Position

The yearner position is the next most common position, with 13 percent of the population adopting this position nightly. These people are said to be very accepting and open in nature, but can also be cynical or suspicious. They have a hard time making decisions, but are stubborn in their choice once it is made.

Soldier Position

With about 8 percent of Americans sleeping in the soldier position each night, it is the next most common position. These sleepers are usually quiet or reserved in nature. Also, they don't like extra fuss, but set incredibly high standards for themselves and for others. Sleeping in the soldier position increases the possibility of snoring and an overall bad night's sleep.

Freefall Position

About 7 percent of people sleep in the freefall position at night. These sleepers tend to be extremely sociable and highly energetic, but may also be nervous and timid underneath. They do not take criticism well and deal poorly with extreme situations. The freefall position aids digestions the best of the positions.

Starfish Position

The starfish position is the least common sleeping position, with only 5 percent of Americans adopting this position. Those that sleep in the starfish position are said to make friends easily and listen well to others. They offer help when needed, but generally do not enjoy being the center of attention. The starfish position may contribute to an increase in snoring or to a bad night's sleep.

Fetal



Log



Soldier



Freefall



Dream decoder

mean you feel out of control in your life. They could also reflect a sense of failure according to www.dreammoods.com. Flying can mean you are on top of a situation and risen above something.

people seeing, which means your dream could be telling you that you are trying to be something you're not, according to www.dreammoods.com. Animals also have different meanings. For instance, a pig means dirtiness and greed. Snakes symbolize evil. Reoccurring dreams are very

common and tend to reveal valuable information about oneself, according to www.dreammoods.com.

People who are sensitive, creative, intuitive, or imaginative are prone to nightmares. Nightmares can be a way for your subconscious to bring a problem in your life to the forefront of your mind.

According to [dreammoods.com](http://www.dreammoods.com), remembering your dreams will help you become more aware of your feelings and needs. However, remembering dreams can be difficult because 5 minutes after you wake, half of the content is forgotten and 10 minutes after 90 percent of the dream is forgotten.

By Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

Dreams can showcase a person's wants, fears, or needs, or so say those who have analyzed dreams for centuries.

Common dreams of falling, flying, being chased, or showing up in public naked are considered "universal dreams" that people from all walks of life experience.

Falling dreams usually

Another meaning could be that you have gained a new perspective on a certain aspect of your life. According to www.thinkquest.org, being chased means the dreamer cannot accomplish something so they must run away from it.

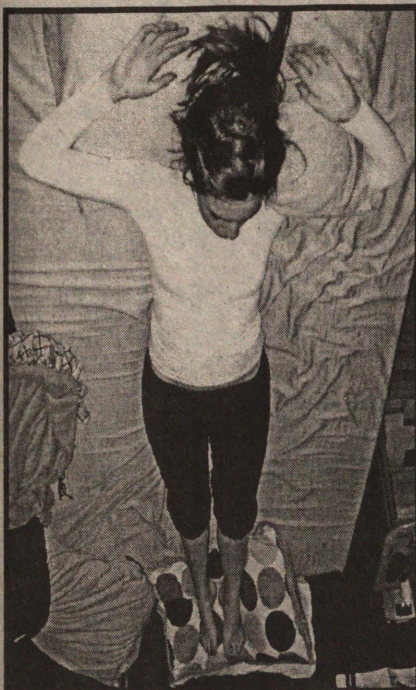
Being naked in public in a dream shows a person's vulnerability. It may be because you are hiding something that you are afraid of



You think Yearner



Starfish



Sleeping disorders: a living nightmare

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

When it comes to sleeping disorders, simply counting sheep won't help. According to Michael McCormick, the Director of Pulmonary Services at the DuPage Medical Group, the most common type of sleeping disorder is sleep apnea. Sleep apnea is when a person has pauses in breathing or shallow breath while sleeping.

The most common cause of sleep apnea is a blocked or obstructed airway. The soft tissues in the throat relax during sleep and obstruct the airway. This results in the brain briefly arousing the sleeping person. This can happen 50-100 times an hour in a person with severe obstructive sleep apnea.

"Obesity is a major cause of sleep apnea and can be cured. However, not all sleep apnea is caused by obesity. Personal anatomy of the throat and airway is also a cause. You are born with that anatomy. Untreated sleep apnea significantly increases the person's risk of developing heart disease. It increases blood pressure, lowers blood oxygen level, and makes one more susceptible to weight gain," McCormick said.

Cormick said.

Other common sleeping disorders include insomnia, which is when the person has difficulty sleeping, and hypersomnia, which is when the person is sleepy all of the time. Circadian Rhythm disorder, which is a sleeping disorder that affects the timing of sleep, is caused by several factors, such as working night-shifts at work or having jet-lag.

"Most people are born with the disorder or it develops over time during their life. Circadian Rhythm disorders are definitely developed from life style or work and can be cured," McCormick said.

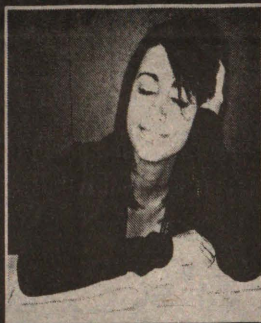
Movement disorders include the common Restless Leg Syndrome.

"Some Restless Leg Syndrome cases are caused by iron deficiency. Those cases can be cured by taking supplemental iron. Other cases are not, and there is no cure," McCormick said.

Sleeping disorders have serious effects on a person's overall health.

"Sleep disorders affect the overall health of people. Sleep is a body function requirement. Sleep disorders put people at a higher risk to possibly develop heart disease, cancer, and other diseases," McCormick said.

Life of an Insomniac



Sarah Berger

We all have the occasional sleepless night, where you toss and turn and stare at the alarm clock until the sun rises and you have to face the day with baggy eyes and a sour mood. Now, imagine that happening every day, month after month. The life of an insomniac is hardly fun, and I know.

My night-owl habits began in January of eighth grade. My brother was very sick and was in the hospital, and my whole family was under a huge amount of stress. I remember the first sleepless night; it was the first night my brother had to stay in the hospital. The next morning I felt drained and lifeless, but I figured I would just catch up on sleep the next night. I couldn't have been more wrong.

Night after night, I stared at my alarm clock as the hours ticked by. Even though my brother had gotten better and was out of the hospital, it was too late; my paranoia had already set in.

I would spend my nights

staring at the ceiling, trying every trick in the book to try and make my body fall asleep.

I would drink hot tea, try to relax every muscle in my body one at a time, and focus on clearing my head. The days were almost worse than the nights. I was too exhausted to do daily activities like putting on makeup and going out with friends.

I became obsessed with how many hours of sleep I was getting, and as soon as the sun went down I would abandon everything else I was doing so I could go home to start "trying" to fall asleep.

Eventually, I ended up going to the doctor who took my blood to make sure it wasn't a hormone imbalance that was causing my sleeplessness. It wasn't.

The doctor saw my growing depression and anxiety that was caused by lack of sleep, and recommended that I see a psychologist.

I was determined to fight this disorder on my own, and I decided to keep pushing through those dreadful sleepless nights alone.

Over three months, my sleeping disorder slowly started to fade. As winter turned into spring, my stress level began to decline and sleeping became easier. I had finally gotten over my insomnia.

Disabilities do not affect bonds

Laughter keeps sisters' relationship together

By Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

Junior Pilar and freshman Paloma Bonilla are "just like any other family," according to Pilar.

The fact that Paloma has Down syndrome doesn't change Pilar's mind.

"Down syndrome slows down the brain process, so it takes [Paloma] a longer time to learn things like reading, writing, and math," Pilar said.

Since Paloma started school, Pilar has felt the difference in having her sister here with her.

"It's more fun. I get to see her more. Plus with her being here, my friends keep an eye on her. So they can tell me if people are making fun of her," Pilar said.

When kids with Down syndrome hit their teens, talking to themselves helps them process things better in their minds.

"Paloma has a tendency to talk to herself and people

about people with disabilities," Pilar said.

Sometimes Pilar helps Paloma with her homework but they also like singing karaoke, playing sports, and watching movies.

"'Avatar' is our favorite movie," Pilar said.

"And 'Alice in Wonderland'," Paloma chimed in.

The girls are close and enjoy having each other at

However, planning for Paloma's future can be difficult because of her disability.

"My family is trying to plan her future like if she is going to live alone, where, stuff like that," Pilar said.

When talking about what it is like at home, Pilar couldn't articulate a difference from any other family.

Paloma egged Pilar on by saying "Keep going... and..." and the girls burst into laughter.

"Paloma, being my sister and having Down syndrome, has really been a blessing and, as you can see, she is hysterical," Pilar said.

Paloma continued to crack jokes and the girls began to laugh as Paloma formed the 'rock on' symbol with her hands and said "rock on" in response to Pilar.



Photo by Carly Tubridy

Paloma, being my sister and having Down syndrome, has really been a blessing.'

-- Junior Pilar Bonilla

tend to mock her for it," Pilar said.

Paloma's special needs have positively impacted Pilar's life.

"It definitely has opened my eyes to seeing people with disabilities to not be disabled. I feel like I'm more educated

school.

"[I like school] because it's fun," Paloma said.

Paloma hopes to continue onto college after graduating high school.

"She wants to go to school for as long as she can. She loves school," Pilar said.

An active relationship

By Keyuri Parmar
Perspectives Editor

A special need has not kept senior Kelsey Myers and sophomore Taylor Myers from having a close, loving relationship.

Taylor was diagnosed with autism when she was 4 years old. Her parents brought her to the doctors when she was still having trouble learning how to talk.

But Taylor and Kelsey have a close relationship, without Taylor's autism coming between them.

"We're really close. We both play basketball, which is something we have in common and we talk everyday," Kelsey said.

Taylor looks up to her older sister and is comforted by having her around daily.

"When I cry, she's there to cheer me up and it's just nice having her there," Taylor said.

Taylor's future will be different than most teenagers; she will turn 16 this year but will most likely not be able to receive a driver's license because she is autistic.

She will be able to obtain a degree that requires a couple years of school.

Having a sister with special needs has impacted Kelsey's life in more ways than one.

"She's made me a lot more accepting of others, realize how different people are, and made me more understanding," Kelsey said.

Taylor may not ask her sister for much help day-to-day, but occasionally needs it.

According to Kelsey, others probably assume that Taylor isn't normal and can't do certain things on her own, but people who know the sisters don't view them differently than anyone else.



Photo by Keyuri Parmar

"I think people should treat others with disabilities normally but keep in mind that they live a different life-style," Kelsey said.

For these sisters, Taylor's disability has brought them closer together and made Kelsey more aware of people with disabilities.

"It's been a different experience having one sister with a disability and one without one, it's made me a better person," said Kelsey.

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Appreciating the small things

German exchange student reflects on American life

By Megan Hernbroth
Editor in Chief

As students drudge through the halls complaining about classes and counselors, senior Moritz Krause could not enjoy a day at school more.

Krause is taking part in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) that sends German students to study in America for a school year while sending American students to Germany for the year. CBYX sent '10 graduate Thomas Harms and senior Soli Page to Germany for the current school year.

"I've been here for three months," Krause said. "I'll be here throughout the whole school year, so I will go back sometime in June. I wanted to come to learn a lot of the language and get better at speaking English, but I also wanted to experience the culture."

Although he was excited to come to America, Krause found it hard to adjust to

American life at first.

"At the beginning, it wasn't too easy," Krause said. "The first few weeks were difficult [for me to adjust], but I just got into it and got better and better."

Through the program, Krause lives with Anthony Lage and Steven Thinnes in West Chicago. Krause's host family has given him many different experiences typical to American life.

"I went to Chicago, traveled to the Wisconsin Dells, and took a weekend trip to Tennessee because a friend of my host family has an animal sanctuary there," Krause said. "I think Chicago is a beautiful city; I like all of the buildings and we took a boat trip on the lake and it is a great view. I liked all the different things to experience in the Wisconsin Dells. We went zip lining, which was a lot of fun. It reminded me a lot of the Black Forest, which is where I'm from, because of

all the trees and lakes."

Tennessee, however, was a bit of a struggle for Krause.

"The dialect was very hard to understand as a foreigner," Krause said.

Back at school, Krause takes classes like any other student.

"I think it is great you get to pick your classes here because in Germany you take every class every year," Krause said. "My favorite class is American studies with Mr. Kling and Mr. C. because it is a lot of fun. We learn what it means to be an American, and as a foreigner, it is an interesting perspective."

Krause starts his school day student assisting a German three class.

"The German teacher (Jane Knecht) was a lot of help when I first came," Krause said. "I like to see how many students are taking German and learning the vocabulary. Their pronunciation is a little different, though."

Krause enjoys how friendly people are to one another.

"Everyone is so friendly, from the counselors to the students in the halls," Krause

said. "When you ask someone how they are, there is only one answer, 'I'm good.' In Germany, you ask the question and you hear their life story and all of their problems. In school, everyone says 'hello' to me. Everyone is friendly and helpful."

Part of living in a new country involves a bit of culture shock, even for Krause.

"I will have two feelings mixed," Krause said. "I will be happy to see my family, but I will get to know everyone here, so there will be one sad and one happy."

Because of this experience, Krause hopes to return to America in the future.

"I know the language well, and I already know some people," Krause said. "I

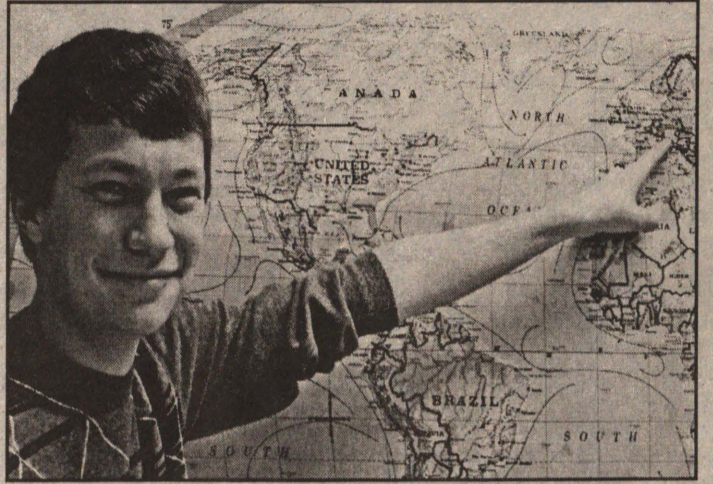


Photo by Yasmyrn McGee

Senior Moritz Krause points to his home country, Germany. Krause is here to experience American culture through an exchange program.

"Everything here is bigger, from the cars to streets to houses," Krause said. "There are also more choices with food. I like the different cultures and foods."

Once the school year comes to a close, Krause will have to say goodbye to his new friends and host family.

would like to do an exchange semester for college here. I want to teach because I like to explain complex things. My most favorite right now would be to teach English."

But until he leaves, Krause will appreciate the school experience many students take for granted.

Perfecting a craft

By Helene Sankovitch
Reporter

Junior Elena Tubridy and senior Jeffrey Pierpoint are becoming well-rounded actors by performing in much more than just the school productions.

"I've wanted to be an actress as long as I can remember, but I started doing it religiously when I was in 8th grade, and have been in about 23 productions since," Tubridy said.

'Hairspray,' at Elgin Community College, was one of Tubridy's favorite productions to be in.

"I liked the set better than any other show I've done. It was really pretty," Tubridy said.

Tubridy has sacrificed a lot of her social life in order to become successful with acting.

"I got started by taking classes, then going on auditions, then looking at agencies, and going to camps and looking at colleges. I even spent part of my summer art program [at Northern Illinois University] where I majored in acting and stayed in a college dorm taking college acting," Tubridy said.

Taking these classes was a great opportunity for Tubridy to get noticed by acting scouts.

"I like died when a New York University scout told me I should apply there because when I took her Shakespeare class, I apparently caught her eye," Tubridy said.

For Tubridy, theater outside of

school is just like school theater because it requires hard work and is a lot of fun, but it's also very different.

"The professional shows I've been involved in were super professional and intense. And getting paid to do what I love wasn't so bad either. Some outside shows even count for college credit," Tubridy said.

Acting takes up a lot of her social time, but Tubridy doesn't seem to mind.

"You kind of lose a social life, but you gain so much more," Tubridy said.

When Pierpoint was encouraged by peers to start acting in productions other than at school, he quickly jumped at the opportunity to perform.

"'Hairspray' and 'Into the Woods' were two of my favorite productions. 'Into the Woods' was the All State show, so it was a huge honor to be in. We rehearsed once a month for roughly 36 hours a weekend. It's been a fantastic experience that showed me that theater is what I want to pursue in college," Pierpoint said.

Pierpoint started acting at 3 years old, but realized his sophomore year that it was something he wanted to keep doing.

"There's more of a time commitment, and there's a wider variety of kids. Acting outside of school makes it seem less like an activity and more like a job. It gives me a good idea of what I want to do with my future," Pierpoint said.

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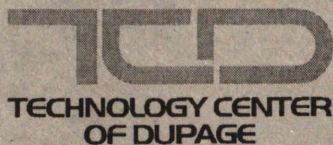
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Southern migration

Down home cookin'

By Amber Del Rio
Reporter

Chick-fil-A is better than your average fast-food chain restaurant.

This quick-service chicken restaurant is slowly making its way north. The first Chicagoland area Chick-fil-A opened in Aurora at 4435 Fox Valley Dr. just outside Fox Valley Mall.

The restaurant first opened in Greenbriar Mall in Atlanta, Ga. and has since grown into 1,500 locations in 38 states and Washington D.C.

Upon entering the restaurant, I had a hard time deciding what meal I wanted

to try. Customers can choose between a char grilled chicken sandwich, chick-n-strips, a chicken deluxe sandwich, a chicken salad sandwich, chicken nuggets, or a spicy chicken deluxe sandwich. Each meal comes with a medium drink and waffle-shaped potato fries.

After I paid \$6.44 for my eight piece nugget meal, the cashier asked for my name for when my order was ready.

I waited about a minute when a server called my name with my order. Instead of saying "you're welcome," workers say "my pleasure."

For being 8 p.m. on a Saturday night, the restaurant was

still filled with families and in the drive thru as well. However, the place was not overcrowded to the point where there were no tables to sit at.

The chicken was really delicious. It pulled apart easily and it was real white meat. The waffle fries were very filling and though they did not look like normal fries they tasted fresh out of the oven rather than straight from the freezer.

The nuggets that I had and the char grilled chicken sandwich that my friend ordered were not rubbery like some fast food restaurants.

After finishing our food, we noticed the dessert menu that



Photo by Amber Del Rio

Chick-fil-A is a delicious and different fast food joint fresh from the South.

was on every table. Everything sounded tasty from the cheese cake to the milkshakes and brownies to the pies.

We decided to order a slice of cheese cake for \$2. It was good but it did not come with cherries on top like the pic-

ture showed.

Overall, Chick-fil-A was well worth the 20-minute drive.

Lucky for potential diners, Chick-fil-A recently opened a restaurant in Wheaton on Nov. 11.

More than a fashion statement

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

What started as a charity project in Texas is slowly becoming a country-wide business. TOMS shoes have spread across the country and are not only making a fashion statement, but also an impact on third-world countries.

Originally known as Shoes for Tomorrow, the name changed to TOMS in order to fit on the label, according to www.toms.com. The project works so that for each pair of TOMS shoes purchased, another is donated to a child in an impoverished country.

"[The shoes] are really cool and different and I love the whole mission behind them that when you buy a pair then the exact pair you buy is donated to a child in need," senior Maggie Tikka, who owns three pairs of TOMS, said.

According to www.toms.com, "American traveler Blake Mycoskie from Arlington, Texas, befriended children in Argentina and found they had no shoes to protect their feet."

So began TOMS and later in 2006, Mycoskie brought back 10,000 pairs of shoes.

In 2006, TOMS sold



Photo by Alexis Hosticka

Senior Maggie Tikka sports a pair of her TOMS shoes.

through retailers mainly in the South, but recently, an increasing number of retailers in the Chicago area have begun to sell TOMS. Shoes are also available online at www.toms.com and prices on shoes range from \$40 to \$80 a pair.

A wide variety of styles are available, including wedding, glitter, and a large selection of casual shoes.

"I wore gold sparkle TOMS to homecoming because I don't like buying a lot of shoes, and I can wear these again and it goes to a good cause," Tikka said.

Although they are more popular for girls, boys shoes are also available. There are also Vegan styles for the animal lovers. For more information about the shoes, visit www.toms.com.

Endless options

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

Which Wich? is a little different than your typical sandwich shop – and much better.

The restaurant, which began in Dallas, Texas, is beginning to move north and one of the newest locations, and the first in Illinois, is in Naperville at 2728 W 75th St.

As customers enter, they can choose from a rack of paper bags divided by choice of meat on the sandwich. Choices include turkey, ham, pork, beef, chicken, seafood, vegetarian, Italian, comforts (salads), classics (pre-selected such as a BLT), breakfast, or kidswich (a kids meal).

On each bag is a list of all the items that you can have

on your sandwich. Grab a red Sharpie and start filling in the circles.

Categories include cheese, mustards, mayos, spreads and sauces, onions, veggies, and oils and spices.

Between mustards, mayos, and spreads and sauces, there are 18 choices in addition to 15 vegetable choices.

I chose a turkey sandwich on white bread with cheddar cheese, regular mayo, caramelized onions, lettuce, mushroom, and avocado.

After handing my order to the cashier, I paid \$6.72 and had my sandwich in my hands in a minute and a half.

The shop was not very crowded on a Saturday afternoon, and it was easy to find a table among eight or so fill-

ing the small yet cozy shop.

The sandwich was delicious and the bread was warm and soft. It tasted fresher than other chain sandwich shops and was not overstuffed with any one topping.

One major downfall of Which Wich? is the price. In general, sandwiches range from \$6 to \$8, and a few of the toppings incur a \$1 charge, such as bacon, extra cheese or meat, or avocado. There is also only one sandwich size available – a six inch. Which, for me, is fine. But for anyone who always buys a \$5 footlong sub at Subway, you might want two, which means spending two to three times as much money.

Interested in grabbing a 'wich? Check out the website at www.whichwich.com first and sign up for the e-mail list to get coupons for free food.

Taking over radio stations

By Katie Sladek
Reporter

Artists such as Keith Urban, Kenny Chesney, and Taylor Swift have taken over iPods of some students.

Senior Jeff Foreman, who enjoys listening to country artists such as Kenny Chesney, Taylor Swift and Dierks Bentley, has been listening to country music his whole life.

"[Country music] is a little more popular, but I'd like to see it even more popular," Foreman said.

Sophomore Katie Yackey has a similar opinion.

"I like how it connects to



Photo courtesy of Kate Williams

Senior Kate Williams enjoys the Country Thunder concert.

real life and how I can sing to it," Yackey said.

Over the summer, senior Kate Williams went to Country Thunder in Twin Lakes, Wis.

A few of the performances were Kenny Chesney, Sugarland, and Miranda Lambert.

"My favorite part about Country Thunder is how friendly the people are. It feels like everyone's your neighbor," Williams said.

Williams said she likes how country music tells a story.

"I like country music because I can easily relate it to my life and it is a more honest portrayal of people and their real lives," Williams said.

Season Warm-Ups

Working hard from start of the season

By Keyuri Parmar
Perspectives Editor

The girls played their opening game against Nazareth Academy, winning 60-33 on Tuesday at home.

Tuesday nights' game was close until the third quarter, when the Wildcats came back strong and destroyed Nazareth.

For it being the first game, the girls were satisfied with the way they played.

"We played good, [we're] a little shaky but we picked it up and it's all you can ask for the first game," senior Mary Connolly said.

The girls know what they need to work on after seeing how they work together

"We did well but still need to improve on defense and come out and be ready," junior Allie Tapanes said.

According to senior Guoste Kislieliute, tryouts for varsity on Nov. 1 went well; the girls were prepared and had good intensity.

They've been ready to work hard from day one.

"It's their time to play together on varsity to see what they can accomplish with seven seniors leading the way," varsity coach Kim Wallner said.

The Wildcats have experienced players on varsity that have been with Wallner since the feeder program in sixth grade.

"The competition in DVC is better than last year; over-

all last year was a rebuilding year for many schools," Wallner said.

The team has many strengths because of the many experienced athletes on the team.

"Our strength will be a push team concept and to get everyone to understand their role," Wallner said.

In the DVC the hardest team to beat will be Wheaton North because they have many good players such as Fantasia Vine, Lauren Graham, and Sydney Sharkey, according to senior Taylor Ballek.

"All the girls strive to reach their goals on a daily basis. Our motto this year is strength in numbers; this is one of the largest groups of seniors I've had graduate from my program," Wallner said.

During the off-season the girls worked on their rebounding on offense and defense and transition skills.

Their goals are to push the ball and score transition baskets and get everyone to understand their role.

"The Blue and White scrimmage was just to get their feet wet and so Tuesdays' game wouldn't seem like their first official game," Wallner said.

The girls plan on making it through regionals this year after missing the chance last year.

They will play in the Thanksgiving tournament at Lyons Township from Friday to Nov. 27.

Replacing a legend

By Megan Hernbroth
Editor in Chief

Replacing the sole state qualifying wrestler is on the boys wrestling team's to-do list for the upcoming season.

"[Jon White] graduating really hurt us," head varsity coach Humberto Ayala said. "He was our lone state qualifier and we will miss his senior leadership. I hope a lot of the underclassmen took him as an example, especially with his tough work ethic."

Wrestlers looking to fill White's shoes include sophomore Robert Svestka, freshman brother Tyler Svestka, and senior Robert Guillen.

"Hopefully Robert Guillen will do well," Ayala said, "but right now he is pretty banged up, but once he gets healthy he'll be a contender. We also have Robert Svestka,

who is a returning all-conference wrestler. We also have his younger brother Tyler wrestling this year, and he's looking pretty tough."

Saturday, the team will host a Blue-White Wrestle-off, a scrimmage preparing the wrestlers for the upcoming match against Lincoln Way East and Glenbard South.

"Some of our big matches this season will be against Wheaton North because we match up well," Ayala said. "Anyone in conference will be tough this year."

Practices preparing the athletes for the season opener will focus mostly on technique, whereas preseason workouts focused mainly on conditioning.

"Preseason was a lot of conditioning," senior Jesse Short said. "We've also done a lot more lifting in the pre-

season than we have in previous years."

During preseason, however, Short recognized the strong potential in some of the underclassmen.

"We have a lot of lighter weight guys this year," Short said, "so we should have a strong JV and freshman team. Those guys are really busting their butts. Some of them have eight or nine years of experience coming into the program."

As far as personal goals go, Short is hoping to drop weight and improve his record.

"I want to place in the top three of DVC and not get pinned all year. Last year my record was 6-18 for varsity and 10-2 on JV. This year I want to average more wins than losses in varsity," Short said.

Cavalier Classic offers first challenge to a young team

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

Practicing hard and working on the challenges of being a young team are helping the boys basketball team prepare for their first game in the Cavalier Classic.

The first game is against LaSalle-Peru on Nov. 26. The boys will also face Catham, and Dunlap as the tournament runs through Nov. 27.

"I expect us to win. I always expect us to win," Baldus said.

Baldus will scout a LaSalle-Peru game before the team plays to see what they will be going up against.

"[LaSalle-Peru] has a new head coach so their offensive system will be different so I can't go get a tape from last year and plan for them," Baldus said. "I think if we play well and take care of our business then the game will be in our favor."

Players think they will have a great season.

"We have a ton of young players. I think if we play together we'll definitely compete in every game," junior Justin Mundt said. "We're really close. There are strong friendships. This is a fun group to play with."

Optimism is something ju-

nior Josh Gimre and Mundt have in common.

"We're definitely going to come out and play hard. Our first DVC game is at home and hopefully we'll have an excited crowd and look to get a win. We're not going to hold anything back," Gimre said.

According to senior Matt Zajac, competition between players will show when they play.

"I think we're going to stay competitive because we're all fighting for the same spots. I think the competitiveness will show on the court," Zajac said.

Because the team has so many young players they'll have to work hard to play at a higher level.

"We're going to be very young and inexperienced. Our biggest challenge is to learn and play at the varsity level. It's a big challenge to come from a sophomore level and play on varsity as a junior," Baldus said. "We will be a different team at the end of the season than we are at the beginning of the season."

Mundt is the only returning starter.

"We've turned over our entire starting line-up except Justin. If you watched us last year you will not recognize

this year's team from last season," Baldus said.

The desire to win has Mundt ready to do anything for the team.

"[I'm going to] help the team get better. Anything I have to do: defense, scoring, anything to win," Mundt said. "[Being the only returning starter] is an opportunity. It was a little bit of a struggle last year and I hope to take my experience and help out in any way possible."

Differences between the level of play is known by the younger players.

"I think we're a young team. We have very few returning seniors. We just have to know it's a whole new level of competition. Nothing's going to be easy," Gimre said.

Being one of the lone seniors on the team is an opportunity for Zajac.

"I think I need to step up and take leadership," Zajac said.

The biggest rivalries this year are Glenbard North and Wheaton North.

"I like the competition levels with all the teams," Baldus said. "[The team will do] a lot of preparation, have a winning mindset, have the willingness it takes to compete, and ultimately win the games."

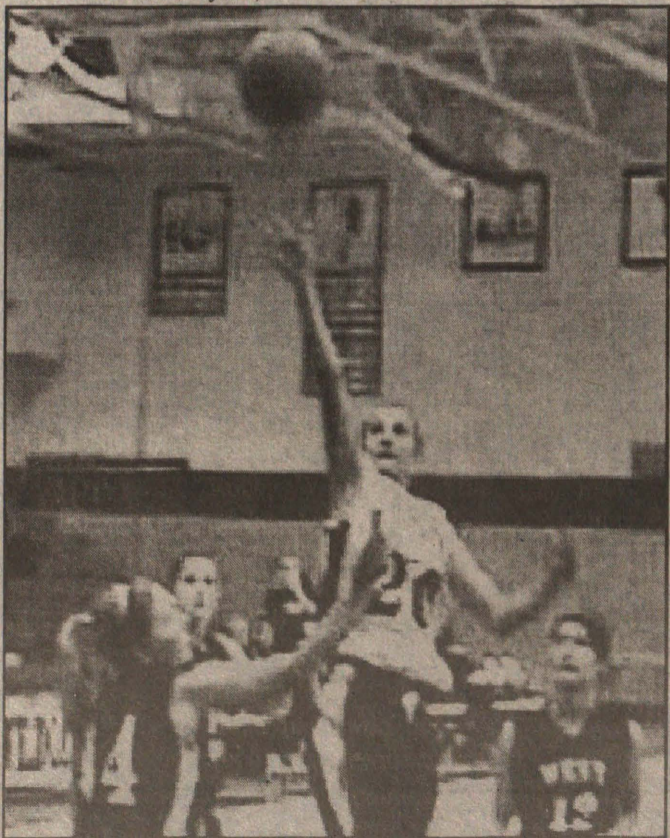


Photo by Amber Del Rio

Junior Allie Tapanes goes up for a shot at the Blue and White scrimmage on Nov. 12.

Season Wrap-Ups

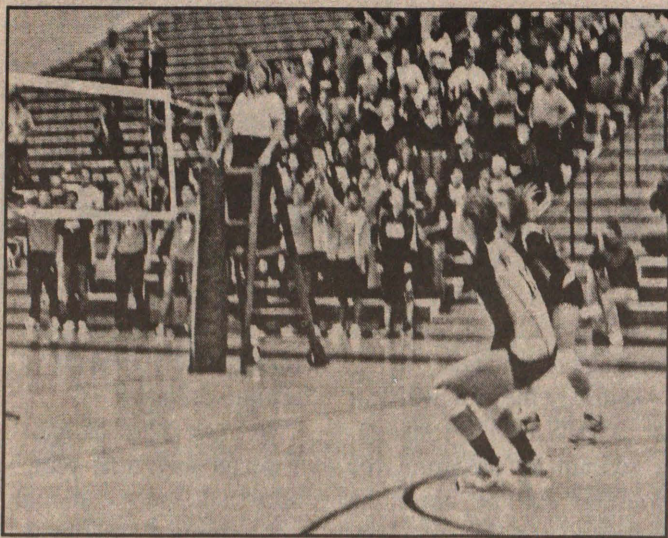


Photo by Carly Tubridy

Junior Payton Bayless digs the ball at the match against St. Charles East on Nov. 2.

Successful season ends at sectionals

By Yasmyrn McGee
Features Editor

From DVC champs to regional champs, girls volleyball ended the season with the best record they've had in 31 years; 30-8.

At sectionals Nov. 2 the Wildcats lost to St. Charles East 30-28 and 25-18, closing the season.

"We just did not play our best. It was disappointing to end it not having the team perform their best," coach Kris Hasty said.

Outside player junior Julia Conard agreed but appreciated the heartfelt support.

"It was a really hard loss but we had an amazing crowd; we're grateful for that," Conard said.

Despite this loss, Hasty described the year as "unbelievable."

"What a great year. We set goals that we would advance as far as we did and we [achieved] them," Hasty said. "But the team really wanted it. They made commitments [to train] over the summer with club and camp and they

knew they had a good shot [in going far]. They got along on and off the court and had commitment and dedication."

Conard was glad of the team's efforts in exceeding their goals.

"I was really proud of all the girls and coaches and what we accomplished [this year]. We all should feel proud of ourselves," Conard said.

The hard work paid off, earning them the title of not only DVC champs but regional champs.

"It was a great match with St. Charles North, lots of back and forth. We won 25-23 and what a way to win. It was a hard fought match," Hasty said.

Hasty looks forward to building from this year's success into next year's season.

"We've been in a position as a winner and are respected. [Next year we] need to fill spots for varsity and carry up-beat momentum into off-season with club and camp. We need to start gelling as early as summer," Hasty said.

Going the distance

By Helene Sankovitch
Reporter

The boys and girls cross country season wrapped up with senior Gunnar Sterne competing at state.

Boys

At the state meet in Peoria on Oct. 30, Sterne came in 33rd place out of 210 with a time of 14:54 for the three-mile course.

"Overall, I was happy with my time and my place. This year's competition was a lot better than previous years because I would've been in the top 20 with my same time in last year's state meet," Sterne said.

Boys cross country had some disappointments along the way, but an overall great season, according to coach Paul McLeland.

"Some of the meets were the best we ever did. I thought we were going to be okay [as a team], but we did better than my expectations," McLeland said.

Senior Derrik Pietrobon competed in sectionals and had a personal best.



Photo courtesy of Gunnar Sterne

Senior Gunnar Sterne placed 33rd at sectionals on Nov. 2.

"I didn't do as well as I expected, but I ran a personal best by 14 seconds. Personally I did well but my overall goal wasn't achieved," Pietrobon said.

Girls

Girls cross country coach Bob Maxson is proud of the team, although there were some surprises throughout the season.

"We were in a very difficult regional. Essentially, all the girls ran the best race of their whole lives at regionals and DVC," Maxson said.

"I was surprised our best runner from last year was injured all year, [but] the girls ran faster as a team this year than they did last year. Our top girls didn't run as well as our top girls last year," Maxson said.

As for next year, the girls are worried about losing their top runners, but determined to run faster.

"We're hoping to do just as well as we did this year. We're losing two of our top girls, but I'm hoping we can do better than this year," junior Diana Serio said.

Uphill battle' in final game

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

After a successful season, the varsity boys soccer team managed to hold their own in the DVC, placing fifth with a 2-3-2 record, as well as an overall record of 7-9-6.

The boys played hard at the regional game against Naperville North on Oct. 23, but not enough to win the game, they lost 2-1.

"Our team's performance was much improved in the second half compared to the first. Unfortunately, we gave up a goal in the first two minutes of the game which made the game an uphill battle from the start," coach Steve Brugmann said.

The boys put up a fight, but soccer is a difficult game to win.

"I felt that we should have won. We had so many opportunities to score. The other team only had about two to three opportunities to score, but they took those opportunities to put them in [to score a goal]. That's how soccer is; all that counts is the team that scores the most goals, even though you may be dominating the whole game," senior Aldair Vega said.

Despite losing the regional game, the boys are still proud of their achievements.

"The season definitely went extremely well, we had more of a connection than past years," senior captain Adrian Porcayo said.

Seniors will be missed as off-season starts

By Amber Del Rio
Reporter

The football team wrapped up their season with a final record of 1-8 as seniors hung up the jerseys of their high school career.

The boys lost to Naperville North 31-14 on Oct. 22.

"We didn't play nearly as well as we expected. We didn't reach our potential," senior quarterback Evan Bernard said.

Wildcat touchdowns were scored by Bernard and senior wide receiver Sean Paler.

Despite a tough season,

head varsity coach Paul Reinke saw improvements throughout the year.

"Strength-wise and speed-wise, we took a step forward. Offensively and defensively we did a lot better than we did in the 2009 season," Reinke said.

Though the season ended unsuccessfully, senior athletes will miss playing for the school.

"It's sad knowing that that's the last time you're going to be in that environment with all your best friends," Bernard said.

Not only will the seniors

miss the football program, but coaches and athletes still in the program will miss the seniors as well.

"The senior class will be hard to replace. They're an enjoyable group of kids to be around and coach. They will be missed," Reinke said.

Returning athletes will begin their off-season workouts for next season after Thanksgiving. Workouts will include lifting and other strength-building exercises.

The returning athletes will not begin to work with the football until the coming spring.

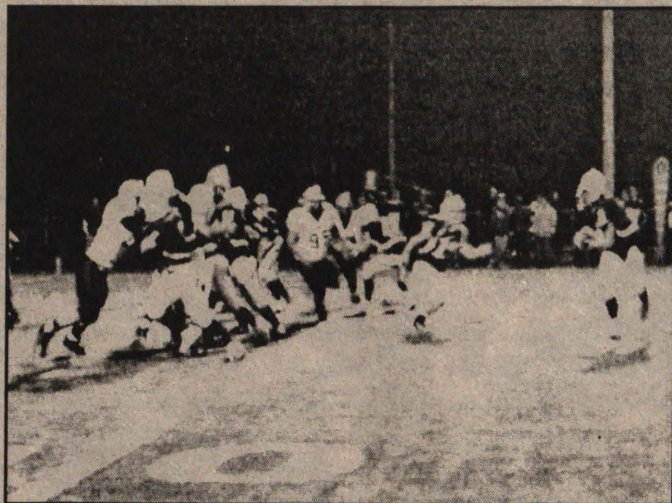


Photo by Amber Del Rio

Senior Evan Bernard dishes the ball to senior Brad Wilson against Naperville North on Oct. 22. Seniors were sad to be playing their final game.

Strong defense key

By Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

Despite starting the season with injuries the Wheaton West Wild hockey team dominates the league with a record of 5-2.

"We've finally got a full bench. The third and fourth lines really make a difference," varsity coach Dave Dyson said.

On Nov. 7 the boys struggled against the Andrew Bolts and lost 6-4.

"[We played] awful. We didn't come out strong," senior Nick Shurba said.

The boys couldn't get ahead and had to keep playing catch up. Despite that game, Dyson

is pleased with how the boys are playing this season.

"We're playing extraordinary team defense," Dyson said.

Senior Jon Gilbertson stands out as a key player.

"Jon Gilbertson is a phenomenal defenseman," Dyson said.

Gilbertson received all-state last year as a junior.

Along with great defense, sophomore goalie Kyle Nielson is top in the league with three shutouts. Competition within the league is intense.

"Wheaton Warrenville South, Glenbard, and Lyons Township are good competition. We have very spirited games with them," Dyson

said.

Outside of the league Rockford is a state powerhouse, winning multiple championships in previous years.

"That's a team you have to work hard against. Hopefully we get that chance at the end of the year," Dyson said.

The team is a co-op of Wheaton North, Wheaton Academy, and West Chicago.

Dyson has faith in his team and believes the team will go far this year.

"With the caliber of talent, the expectation is a league championship," Dyson said.

With hard work Dyson would like to see a state championship as well.

"We have the pieces to work towards [state]," Dyson said.

A lot of the boys show

leadership skills and Dyson likes to let the captains pick themselves by seeing who steps up.

"We're loaded with good leadership. That's one thing we're not lacking," Dyson said.

One thing they are lacking, however, is support from students.

"There are a lot of misconceptions about high school hockey. I encourage everyone to come and check out a game. We love seeing students at the games. It really increases the energy on the ice," Dyson said.

The next game is against JCA Minooka at 6 p.m. at International Ice Center in Romeoville on Sunday. Center Ice of DuPage is the team's home rink.

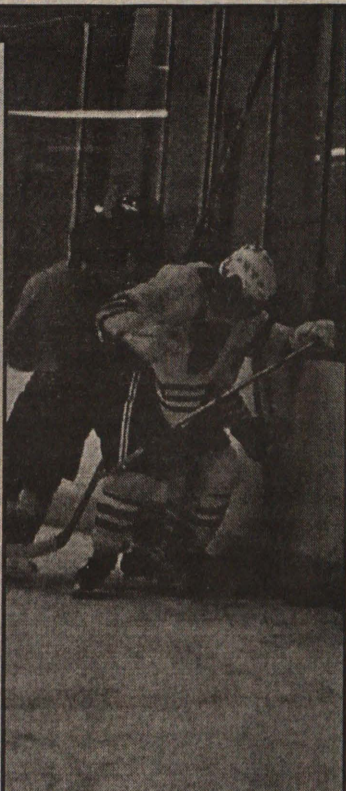


Photo by Carly Tubridy
Senior Luke Somen fights for the puck in the corner against the Andrew Bolts on Nov. 7.

Online voters honor Conard with award

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

Years of volleyball training, dedication, and hard work has resulted in Athletics 2000 awarding junior Julia Conard athlete of the month.

"[Athletic director Doug] Mullaney was the first to know and he came up to me to congratulate me and I didn't even know. I was just really surprised," Conard said.

Conard thought a girl from Bennett Academy would have won athlete of the month, which is selected through online voting on www.athletics2000.com.

"There are a couple girls from Bennett Academy that were ahead of me in the polls," Conard said.

Conard has worked hard during the season.

"I think I have worked hard for a really long time and I'm glad for the recognition and there's a lot of great competition," Conard said.

"I'm really grateful for it."

Conard believes next season will go well.

"Next year should be another good season. We have a lot more confidence in ourselves. I think more students will come to our games,"

Conard said. "[The award] is a confidence booster [for next year]."

Conard started playing volleyball when she was in fifth grade.

"My older sister played when I was younger. I kind of went with it,"

Conard said.

"I've been playing club for five or six years."

Conard enjoys volleyball because of the energy.

"I like the energy on the court. There's never really a dull moment. Sometimes smacking the ball down feels really good,"

Conard said.

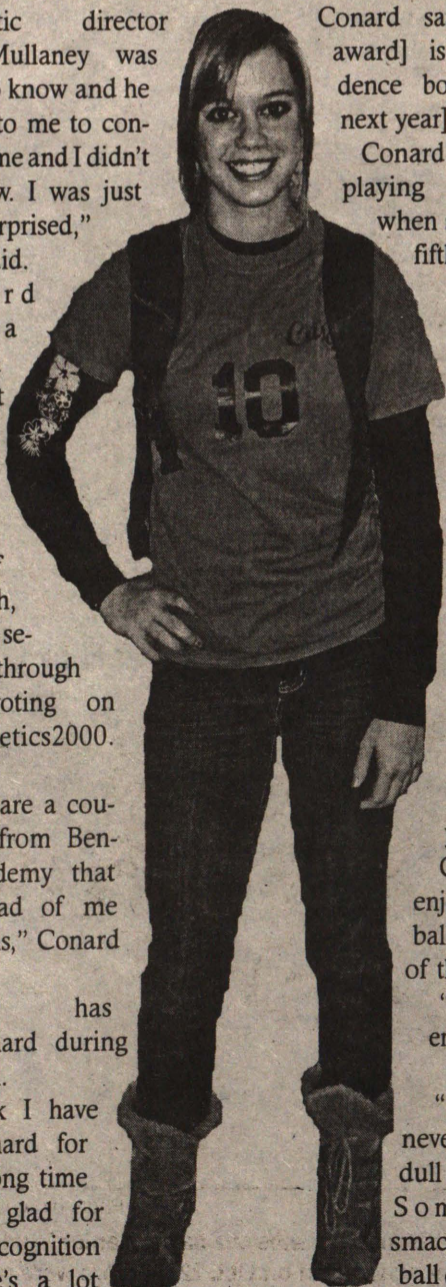


Photo by Carly Tubridy

Sports beyond high school

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

Six seniors will further their sports careers at Division I colleges.

Mary Connolly signed to DePaul for softball; Kelly Dunn signed to the University of Nebraska in Lincoln for swimming; Keegan Johnson signed to Baylor University for cheerleading; Emily Paschke signed to Northern Illinois University for volleyball; Meagan Radloff signed to Eastern Illinois University for soccer; and Dane Sauer also signed to Eastern Illinois University for baseball. They signed Nov. 10.

Connolly committed to DePaul with a full ride.

"In seventh grade I had the idea that I wanted to keep going with it and pursue it [in college]," Connolly said.

Connolly is thankful for her opportunity.

"You can only be grateful to be given that opportunity

to go to a great school with a full ride," Connolly said.

The University of Nebraska offered Dunn a 36 percent scholarship for swimming, and she is also eligible for an academic scholarship that could bump it up to 75 percent. Dunn immediately knew where her future would start.

"When I got offered [the scholarship], I knew right then and there that's where I wanted to be," Dunn said.

Johnson received a partial scholarship to Baylor for competitive cheerleading. She did gymnastics, but started cheerleading as a freshman.

"I have been dreaming to go to a Division I school ever since elementary school, but I always thought I would be signing to do gymnastics, not cheerleading," Johnson said.

Johnson is proud of herself and of the squad.

"[They] helped me get where I am today," Johnson said.

Paschke received a full tuition to Northern for volleyball. She has been playing since middle school, and started club freshman year.

"When I started playing club, I knew if I put in hard effort I could go to a good school like this," Paschke said, "I was really excited and proud of the work I put into this. I'm looking forward to my experience."

Radloff has been playing soccer since kindergarten.

"After talking with the coach [at Eastern], I was so happy when she offered me a scholarship. I'm just so excited to finally be going to college," Radloff said.

Sauer was offered a 50 percent scholarship for baseball at Eastern.

"I'm excited to further my baseball career in college," Sauer said. "[For students planning on going to a Division I school], just try and get recognized, and never give up on your dreams."

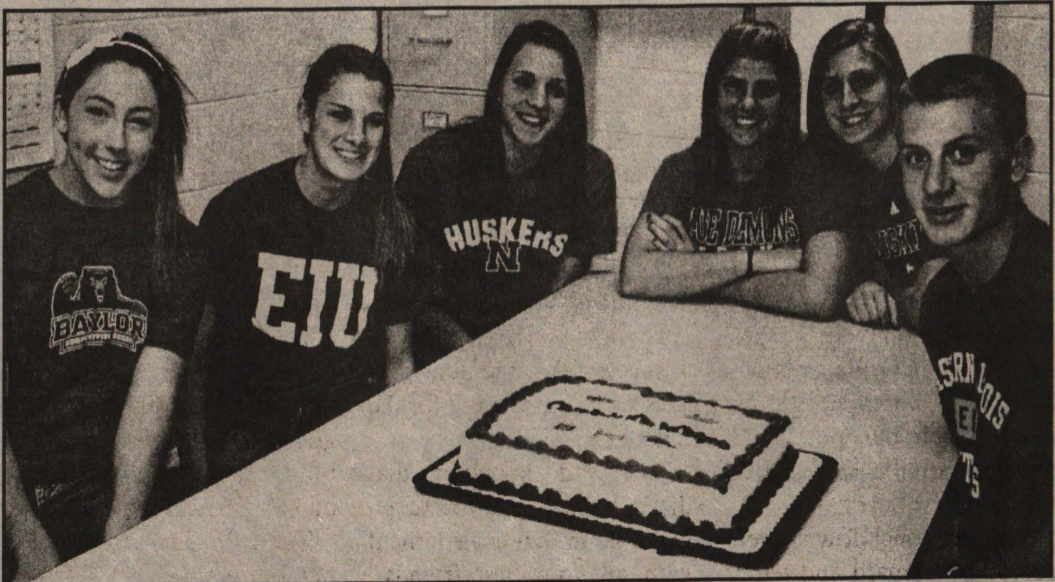
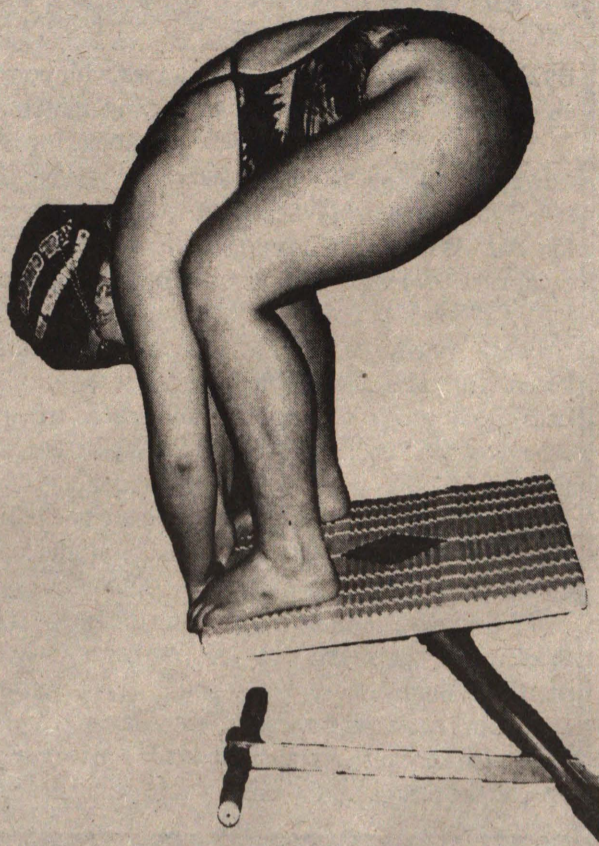


Photo by Kristina Manibo
Celebrating signing with D1 schools are (from left) seniors Keegan Johnson, Meagan Radloff, Kelly Dunn, Mary Connolly, Emily Paschke, and Dane Sauer.

3 seconds before the block



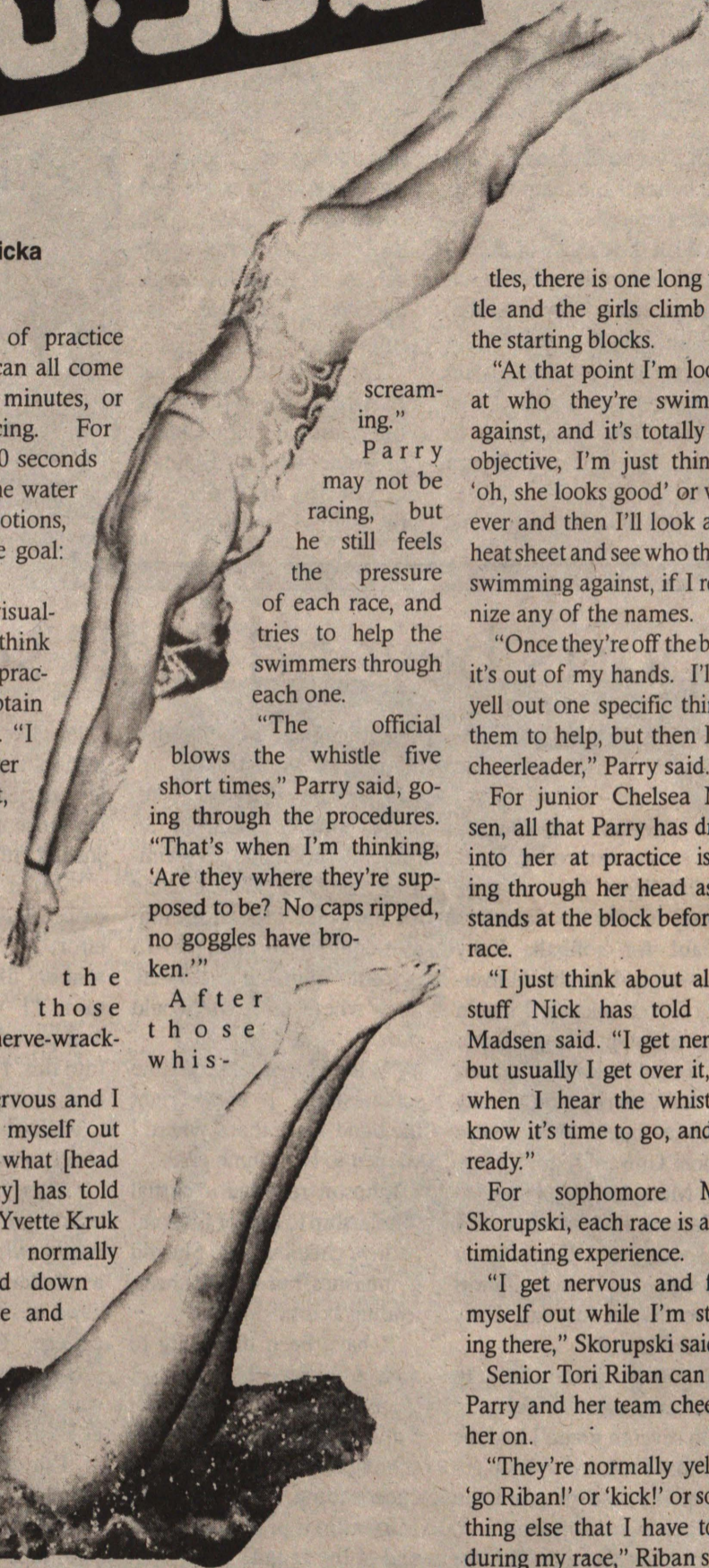
By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

After months of practice and training, it can all come down to a few minutes, or seconds, of racing. For swimmers, the 30 seconds before they hit the water are full of emotions, thoughts, and one goal: to win the race.

"Usually I visualize my race and think about what I've practiced," senior captain Kelly Dunn said. "I say a quick prayer before I start, and I'm thinking about calming myself down; giving myself a pep talk."

For many of the other swimmers, those 30 seconds are nerve-wracking.

"I get really nervous and I try not to psych myself out and think about what [head coach Nick Parry] has told me," sophomore Yvette Kruk said. "[Nick's] normally jumping up and down on the side and



screaming." Parry may not be racing, but he still feels the pressure of each race, and tries to help the swimmers through each one.

"The official blows the whistle five short times," Parry said, going through the procedures. "That's when I'm thinking, 'Are they where they're supposed to be? No caps ripped, no goggles have broken.'"

After those whistles,

there is one long whistle and the girls climb onto the starting blocks.

"At that point I'm looking at who they're swimming against, and it's totally non-objective, I'm just thinking, 'oh, she looks good' or whatever and then I'll look at the heat sheet and see who they're swimming against, if I recognize any of the names.

"Once they're off the block, it's out of my hands. I'll just yell out one specific thing at them to help, but then I'm a cheerleader," Parry said.

For junior Chelsea Madsen, all that Parry has drilled into her at practice is going through her head as she stands at the block before the race.

"I just think about all the stuff Nick has told me," Madsen said. "I get nervous but usually I get over it, and when I hear the whistle, I know it's time to go, and I'm ready."

For sophomore Maya Skorupski, each race is an intimidating experience.

"I get nervous and freak myself out while I'm standing there," Skorupski said.

Senior Tori Riban can hear Parry and her team cheering her on.

"They're normally yelling, 'go Riban!' or 'kick!' or something else that I have to do during my race," Riban said.

Results

DVC RESULTS

Fifth place at DVC as a team

DVC CHAMPS

100 free style, 52.27 DVC conference meet record (senior Kelly Dunn)

100 backstroke, 59.97 (sophomore Maya Skorupski)

Second place in the 400 freestyle relay (Dunn, Skorupski, sophomore Yvette Kruk, senior Tori Riban)

Third place in the 200 medley relay (Dunn, Skorupski, Kruk, freshman Nicole Reitz).

SECTIONAL RESULTS

Fourth place in 200 medley relay: 1:49.45 (Skorupski, Reitz, Kruk, Dunn)

(Sophomore Theresa Hock, Riban, Kruk, Skorupski)

Third place in 100 backstroke: 58.58 (Skorupski)

Fourth place in the 400 freestyle relay: 3:35.36 (Skorupski, Hock, Dunn, Kruk)

First place and new pool record in 200 freestyle: 1:54.12 (Dunn)

Second place in 100 freestyle: 52.39 (Dunn)

Sixth place in 200 freestyle relay: 1:39.83

Favre overstays his welcome

By Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

Brett Favre is a legendary quarterback.

Favre has received MVP three times, is a Super Bowl champ, and has led the Vikings and the Packers to eight division championships and five NFC championships.

He has started in 292 consecutive games since 1992 with the Packers.

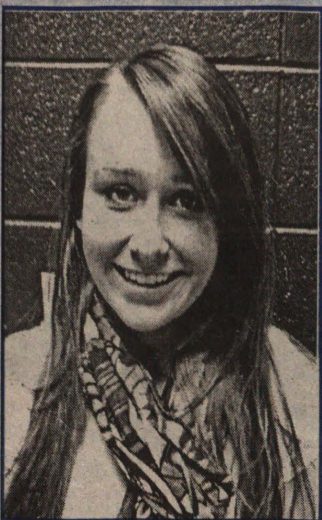
However, he has passed his prime and it's time for him to hang up his jersey.

As of now, in his 20th season, Favre has just nine touchdowns compared to his 13 interceptions, according to nfl.com.

In 1996 as a Green Bay Packer, Favre also threw 13 interceptions but that can be overlooked due to the 39 touchdowns he threw, and 3,899 yards he accumulated.

His rating has dropped drastically from last year's 107.2 to this year's 72.2.

Yes, despite the fact that he was a Packer, I can admit he was a phenomenal quarterback.



Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

However, Favre is 41 years old and injuries are starting to become a real factor.

According to sportsillustrated.com, on Nov. 5, Favre experienced three injuries in the course of one game: ankle, chin, and foot.

A younger quarterback probably would not have had these issues, or at least not to the same degree.

Plus, as he ages, his quickness is slowing so he can't handle blitzes as he once could.

He has been sacked 17 times this year with a total of

116 yards lost, according to nfl.com

We're also seeing Favre's ego kick into overdrive. He's not ready to quit and he is showing that.

He's grasping at his last bits of fame with commercials and his latest scandal within his personal life.

Ego plus being a legendary quarterback is the only thing keeping him on the field.

He won't be benched, it just won't happen, but it's about time for coaches for to recognize he is not living up to his name anymore.