

Wildcat Chronicle

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

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Three's a crowd: *Bus overcrowding becomes serious issue for students*

By Yasmyr McGee
Features Editor

Depending on the size of the person sitting next to you, squeezing someone else in might not be the ideal situation. Three people to a seat can be one too many.

"There's a lot of [sitting three to a seat] and I can barely get a seat sometimes. People fall out into the aisles and it's really hectic and a safety hazard," senior Cara Stompor, who rides Route 19, said. "I think the school needs to get more buses or figure something out. The buses are way too crowded this year."

Sophomore Zetham McNeil rides Route 1 and also finds overcrowding to be an issue.

"It's really crowded and [most students share] three to a seat and it's not safe. I think the state should do something about it, because they are the ones who give us the money for [transportation]," McNeil said.

According to dean Whitney Rusin, the amount of students on buses is determined by the route taken.

"Buses depend on who's a bus rider. Anyone who lives 1.5 miles away from the school is allowed to ride the bus and have bus privileges," Rusin said. "We also want to make sure we have the most efficient route possible. We don't want to send one bus to pick up only 10 kids [on a route], so sometimes we have to adjust how



Photo by Yasmyr McGee

Students wait in line to board their crowded bus after school. Since overcrowding is such a problem on buses, students in the front of the line have a better chance of getting a seat.

many kids are on each route. The bus company cannot let more people on the bus than are actually allowed by law or capacity. But for some of those buses they do allow three to a seat, because that is what they

believe is still safe."

Rusin feels that the excess of students on the bus can be linked to the economy.

"My guess would be there are probably more people riding the bus now, because more families need it. Families who used to drop their kids off need to go to work," Rusin said. "I agree that there are more bus riders this year than I have seen in the past."

State funding is another problem, causing overcrowded buses.

"The state currently is about \$13 billion in [debt]. They are continually spending money they don't have. It's a problem

for schools and all the services they provide. When it comes to education, there are a variety of state funding programs; transportation is one of them," Gordon Cole, director of business services, said.

Not receiving enough funds from the state has an end result of not having as many buses for routes, according to Cole.

"We finished last fiscal year with the state owing us [over \$1 million] of what they had committed to a year earlier. Now [the state] is paying last year's commitments and they owe us a little over \$600,000 from last fiscal year," Cole

said.

Freshman Olivia Wilson, who rides Route 19, feels that overcrowding can not only be blamed on the economy and state, but students themselves.

"[Overcrowding] depends on the people who use the bus. [There's three to a seat] when people bring friends on the bus. It's too crowded and, if we crash, it wouldn't be good," Wilson said.

Charles Scurlock, who has been a bus driver for three years, doesn't seem to think overcrowding on buses is a problem. Scurlock drives Route 1.

"The [number of] students [who ride] are about the same. I don't think overcrowding is that serious. It all depends on which areas [the driver] covers," Scurlock said.

Scurlock also feels that there has not been a rise in student confrontations with the increase in passengers.

The Illinois Bus Law states that school buses can transport three to a seat if passengers are in grades 1-5 and two per seat in grades 9-12. For students in grades 6-8, school districts can vary the capacity of the bus depending on the size of the students.

For those who feel that their route is a safety hazard to the students on the bus, Rusin says there is only so much the school can do.

"We still want to maintain that we have efficient routes. That's a waste of tax payers' dollars," Rusin said. "If you feel that [your bus is overcrowded], the best thing to do is talk to the bus driver about it and they can relay that message to the bus company. Also, the bus driver should be checking IDs for the bus to prevent people [not a part of the route] riding that bus [which] prevents overcrowding."

Local bus company, Liaison, declined to comment.

We also want to make sure we have the most efficient route possible. We don't want to send one bus to pick up only 10 kids [on a route], so sometimes we need to adjust how many kids are on each route.'

-- Dean Whitney Rusin

INSIDE WeGo for Hope

After being inspired by the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird," sophomore English students felt the need to get involved in the community. For ways you can help--see NEWS, page 5.

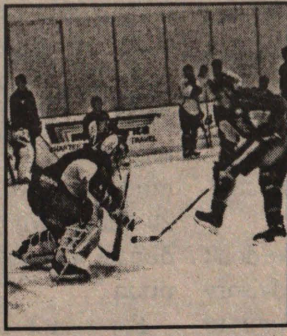


Teen parents

While it may be glorified by MTV and other media, teenage pregnancy is a serious problem that hits close to home. For the real teen parent stories--see CENTER SPREAD, pages 8-9.

With the band

Who are the musicians behind the popular Allstar Weekend? For the complete interview with an album review--see ENTERTAINMENT, page 12.



On the prowl

What is a professional hockey practice like? What do players do to blow off steam? For an in-depth look into a Chicago Wolves practice--see SPORTS, page 16.



Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

Sophomore Vanessa Valenzuela interacts with one of the preschool students during class.

Back to preschool

By Giuliana LaMantia
Reporter

Not only do child development classes enjoy helping out in the preschool, but younger kids also enjoy the preschool.

"I like to play with marbles," preschooler Jorge Munoz said.

According to child development teacher Brittney Bauer, the preschoolers participate in many activities such as art, dancing, group time, and dramatic play.

"I like to do everything," preschooler Henry Cool said.

Students who continue on to child development 2 spend more time with preschoolers.

"I'll be doing child development 2," sophomore Van-

essa Valenzuela said. "Here we only get three days with the kids, and in child development 2 we get all three months and we get to take them to the zoo. I think it'll be a better experience."

According to Bauer, preschoolers like playing and doing the different activities, and the high schoolers love working with the children.

"It's a really fun experience," Valenzuela said. "Mrs. Bauer really trained us and told us what situations we'd be under so we'd be prepared."

Bauer explained how the children are able to express themselves during play time.

"It's a warm, friendly environment," Bauer said. "Everyone cares for everyone."

Besides serving as a hands-

on learning experience, being with the preschoolers is a break from regular classes, according to junior Katie Giordano, who has been involved with the child development program since her freshman year.

"I like how everyone can be interactive with the kids and just in general the atmosphere and everyone working together," Giordano said. "Being here is like a break from your whole school day."

Bauer said how child development 1 students are taught how young children play and develop from the point of conception to preschool age.

"If [students] want to work with children as a career in the future, it gives them knowledge and hands-on experience," Bauer said.

What's Happening?

Giving back through books

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

Students can give back this year with the gift of reading by purchasing books for the LRC.

The LRC created a book wish list on Amazon.com, which features books and audio books the LRC does not have. Students can purchase the books on the wishlist and donate them to the LRC.

"The books are [bought] just to be donated. The book can be checked out first by the donor," librarian Donna Leahy said. "The student, or the parent donating in honor of the student's accomplishments pays for shipping. The books are

shipped directly to us."

Many of the books are AP English books and recently written popular young adult fiction, but according to Leahy, they will take requests.

"This is a chance for students and the community to be able to contribute to the library, because we did get budget cuts for books; although, the budget cuts are not the main reason," Leahy said.

Each book donated will have a placard with the donor's name and year of graduation.

"All of CHS benefits from having more books available to them," Leahy said. "It's a win-win situation for everyone."

Hockey team helps out

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

The Wheaton West Wild hockey team will host a toy drive Sunday to help children with epilepsy.

"Part of what we have the hockey team do is community service. One of the projects we came up with is the Help the ELF Program," said Kurt Florian, president of the Wheaton West Wild hockey team and board member of the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago.

The Epilepsy Foundation sponsors the Help the ELF Program.

The Help the Elf Program

gives toys to children with epilepsy, so "they don't feel so threatened while they're in a scary situation," Florian said.

The toy drive will provide seizure-safe toys like puzzles, action figures and board games.

Former Wolves player Bob Nardella and Skates, the Wolves mascot, will help collect toys. Everyone who brings a toy will receive a raffle ticket to win four tickets to a Wolves game.

The varsity game is tentatively set at 7:20 p.m. at Center Ice in Glen Ellyn during the game against St. Charles. St. Charles is also participating.

Small turn out causes blood drive to fall short

By Yasmyrn McGee
Features Editor

Despite firm efforts, the blood drive failed to meet its goal this year.

InterAct Club adviser, Ward Rau, said that this year's blood drive turn-out was smaller than expected and not one of their best.

"A factor for that was our blood drive had been planned for Nov. 12, which turned out to be one of those half days so we had to move it. [Since it was] later in December, we had only two weeks to do all the sign-up," Rau said.

Rau felt that there was a lack of communication between the students and signing up too.

"The other thing is we don't have advisory and advisory was such a good way for us to

communicate with all the students. It got a little enthusiasm and competition [among advisories] and increased the number of donors. Those things contributed to having less than our best turn-out," Rau said.

However, Rau is grateful for the donations he did receive. His motto is "whatever we can do to help, as often as we can do it."

"We still had 120 units donated which is very good, because there's potential there to help 360 people [who need it]," Rau said. "Since we couldn't give any awards away to advisories to the most donators, we decided to randomly draw the names of 20 people who signed up to donate and give them a free pizza."

For senior Lucy Fuentes,

donating was rewarding "I decided to donate blood to give the gift of life. I love helping people in need and

since my blood is O-, which is rare, LifeSource is always contacting me. I really don't mind donating my blood and

my experience was great. I had no problems and I was surprised how fast the little bag filled up," Fuentes said.

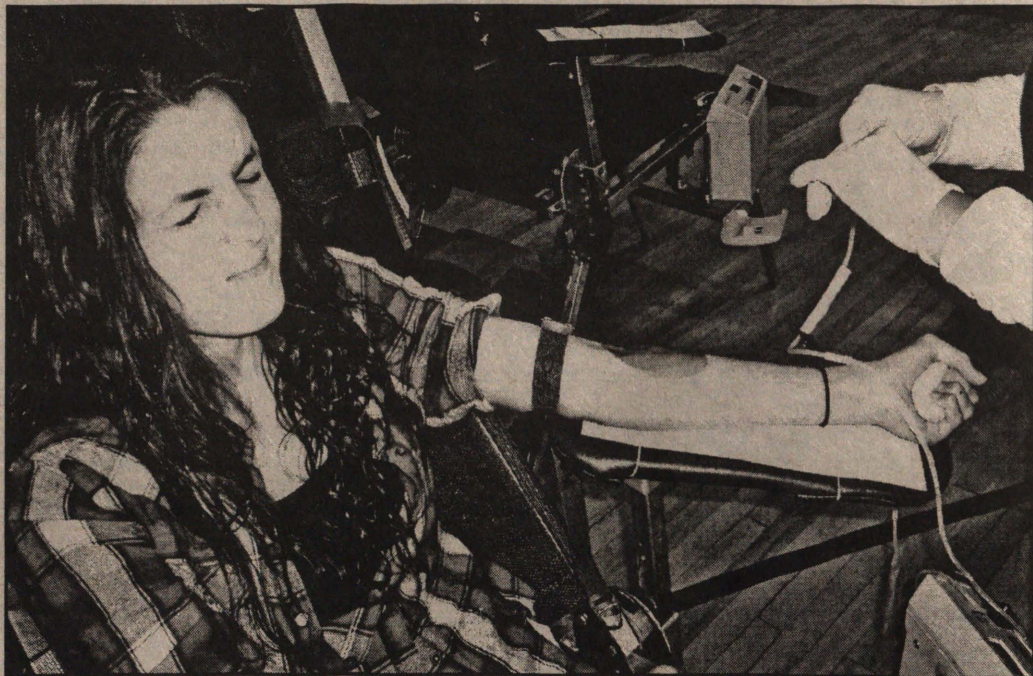


Photo by Yasmyrn McGee

Senior Stevie Rae Limbrick waits for the pinch of the needle as she donates blood.

Wildcat Chronicle

Hooked on club

By Katie Sladek
Reporter

Fishing lovers finally have a club to call their own.

The Bass Fishing Club was started by parent Tim Pradel and his son, freshman Nick.

"As soon as [Nick] found out that bass fishing was now an IHSA activity with sectional and state tournaments we began exploring the possibility of having a club at West Chicago. I then began talking to the athletics director, Doug Mullaney," Tim said.

Tim was surprised when 22 students attended the informational meeting. Senior Charlie Cunningham had an interest in fishing long before he joined the club.

"I like how you can see nature in its fullest form," Cunningham said.

Skills covered during meetings are practicing casting, knot tying, recognizing water characteristics, and more.

"I want to gain experience of getting a bigger fish and better knowledge of using better bait," Cunningham said.

Students will have an opportunity to fish as well.

"Where? That's one of the details I'm still working on. The DuPage County Forest Preserve has many lakes and ponds that can be fished from shore. As far as boat fishing, that is one thing we still need parent or sponsor support for," Tim said.

The next meeting is Jan. 18 at 6 p.m. in room 197.



Photo courtesy of Amanda Cordes

Senior Rob Delvalle has won the slam contest twice during Café Express YoSelf.

Creative forum for student expression

By Amber Del Rio
Reporter

Students continue to find creative ways to express themselves at Café Express YoSelf.

Those who attend can expect to participate in a writing workshop, an open mic, and a slam poetry contest.

Each month, Café Express YoSelf staff members determine a theme for that month's event. Themes in the past have included fall, bad horror movies, and sacrifice.

Participating in the open mic and slam poetry contest are not mandatory in order to attend. At previous shows, audiences ranged from 50 to 60 people, with 20 performers.

"It's really unpredictable the turn out we get," Café Express YoSelf adviser Amanda Cordes said. "We're getting to the point where we're like a family so students are more comfortable performing their more personal work."

Even still, Cordes would like to see more parent and staff involvement.

Performances have included hip-hop and rap, monologues, and singing and playing guitar.

Senior Dillon Hall regularly attends Café Express YoSelf and performs his original raps.

"I'm trying to get known and I really enjoy it. It's one of my passions," Hall said.

During the slam contest, audience members choose a

slam champion. Hall was the slam champion of November. Senior Rob Delvalle has also won twice in the past.

"I really wish I could have gone up against Rob because he's really good so it would have been more fun," Hall said.

The December Café Express YoSelf was on Wednesday. The winner of the slam poetry contest was not available as of press time.

Audience members can also anticipate a few appearances by professional slam poet Robbie Q. Tefler throughout the year.

The monthly show meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. The next Café Express YoSelf will be on Jan. 26 in the LRC.

Students' involvement increases

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

A wide variety of activities are drawing in more students than ever.

Between the '07-'08 and '10-'11 school year, student participation rose from 14 percent to 22 percent.

"The jump in percentages was most likely caused by the addition of clubs and activities based on student desire," director of student activities Chris Covino said.

Advisory may also have had an effect on the percentage jump.

"One of the original intents of advisory was to create a place for students to hear about and consequently join activities and clubs. One of the ways to account for the rise in student participation in clubs and activities since 2007 was the advisory program," Covino said.

In 2009, 12 percent of Hispanics participated in activities while 30.1 percent of Caucasians, 38.8 percent of Asians, and 31.1 percent of African Americans were involved.

More Asian students and African American students have been joining clubs than Caucasian students.

"I would anticipate that there may be two or three new clubs [this year]," Covino said. "I think it's important that students find a niche that they can hold onto besides academics."

Clubs such as Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) targets specific students.

"CHS needs to have clubs that represent our diversity. OLAS is a club that represents our Hispanic population," Covino said. "Sometimes the name of a club appeals to students and [OLAS] having Latin American in it turns [students] off."

Hispanics are the main participants in OLAS.

"We have four Yazidis, an ethnic minority from Iraq, Puerto Ricans, and a Cuban [in OLAS]. There are a core of 20 Hispanic students plus 30 more students that [participate in some of the activities]," OLAS adviser Lucinda Sanders said. "I think some of them want to be involved, but might be too shy to join another club. OLAS is extremely welcoming. By joining OLAS [students] become comfortable to join other clubs."

Kissing a kid

By Katie Sladek
Reporter

A goat named Dora the Explorer made an appearance during Thursday's winter pep assembly looking for a kiss.

After weeks of student voting, one lucky staff member puckered up to Dora in a WeGo to Africa fundraiser.

As of Tuesday, the top five candidates were Assistant Principal Pete Martino, gym teacher Paul Reinke, science teacher Jill Serling, Spanish teacher Sarah Bellis, and math teacher Aaron Hayes.

Starting on Dec. 1 and ending Thursday, students voted for a staff member they wanted to see kiss a goat by placing money in jars labeled with the staff member's name.

"Ms. Daneels came up with the idea because she found out from online that another

school had done this, and because of the awkward name she thought it would be fun," said senior Anthony Nolzco student chairmen of the Just Kidding fundraiser.

Daneels liked the idea. "I asked the community leadership class if they thought it would work and they thought it would be fun," sponsor Mary Ellen Daneels said.

The fundraiser went well at the other school, and Daneels hopes it will turn out well for WeGo to Africa as well.

"I like this fundraiser because it is a new idea. I will be happy with any funds generated," Daneels said.

Sophomore Tuyetmai Chau finds the idea humorous.

"It's a teacher kissing a goat. I've never seen that before," Chau said.

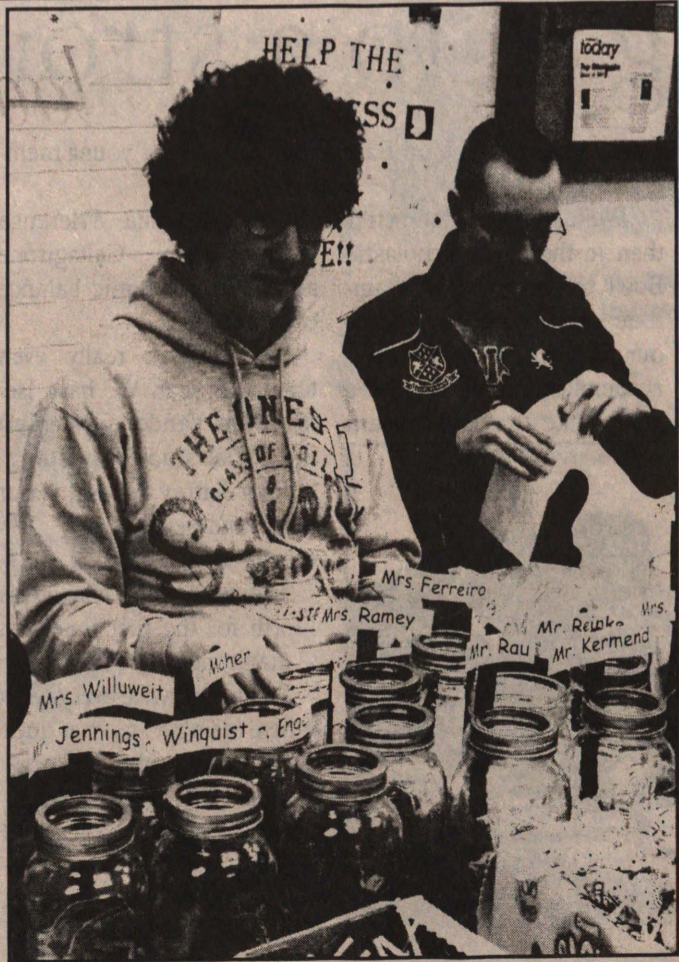


Photo by Katie Sladek

Seniors Fred Vargas and Brandon Taylor help collect funds for the kiss a kid fundraiser.

Seniors take All-State stage

By **Connie Kim**
Contributing Writer

Although hundreds of students auditioned for the All-State musical, only 27 parts were given out with three being seniors here.

Two teachers will also participate in running the annual musical.

Only the students with the best talents in Illinois are chosen to perform in the All-State Play.

"It's unusual for this many students to get chosen from one school so this is an honor," drama teacher and director Mark Begovich said.

The three students picked were seniors Jeffrey Pierpoint, Nadia Pelletier, and Danielle Pacelli.

"Knowing that I made the musical was a really big honor, especially because over 300 people auditioned and only 27 kids made it. Being one of those kids is out of this world," Pelletier said.

To get chosen, students had to be nominated by a teacher, fill out an application, and then audition. Although applying and auditioning were hard, being dedicated to the play is even harder.

The cast meets two or three times a month during the weekend and rehearses for about 36 hours each time.

"Everyone's very talented and focused, and we all work hard to be on the same level as each other," Pacelli said.

The students, however, enjoy working on the play even though it's hard work.

"It's fun because I'm around the same type of people as me, and they are talented and study to [act]," Pelletier said.

This year, the All-State musical performed will be "Into the Woods" written by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine.

"The show is very powerful and is about the upsides and downsides of society using fairy-tale characters that question if they are truly happy and how far they would go for something they want," Begovich said.

Chorus teacher Brandon Fantozzi is working as the vocal director of this year's All-State musical.

"I enjoy working with students from all over the state and seeing their professionalism and their perspectives on drama, music, and vocal abilities," Fantozzi said.

Although he was involved in the play five times, Begovich is directing for the first time this year.

"Working with the students is something magical, and everybody is always so energized," Begovich said.

The show will be put on for other students at the Illinois High School Theater Festival at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on Jan. 6-8 but it will not be open for public view.

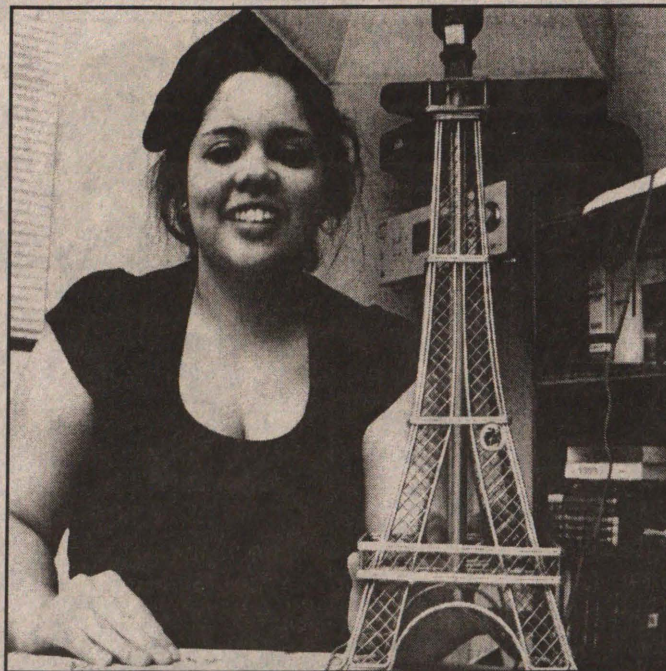


Photo by Alexis Hosticka

Senior Maria Barajas is the November Student of the Month.

Enthusiastic senior rewarded

By **Katie Sladek**
Reporter

For her involvement in extracurricular activities and enthusiasm for her classes, Maria Barajas is the November Student of the Month.

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

I was really excited. Mr. Covino told me ahead of time. I was happy and shocked. I never thought I would get it.

What clubs are you a part of?

I'm president of Student Council, InterAct Club, and I am involved this year with helping out thespians.

What is your favorite class and why?

My favorite classes are hu-

man anatomy and French. I love human anatomy because it's challenging but still interesting. French is just so fun to speak and I love the language.

Where do you plan on going to college?

I plan on going to college in the Midwest. My top choice is Elmhurst College.

What do you plan on being in the future?

I plan on going into pre-med. I want to be an ob-gyn.

Who influences you the most?

I think my mom influences me to work as hard as I do because she is a hard worker and always gets things done. She always tells me to believe in myself and give all I have to succeed.

Buzzing in to a strong start

By **Liz Ramos**
Reporter

Scholastic Bowl is off to its best start in 10 years, with a record of 3-1.

The team lost the first match against Wheaton Warrenville South but won the second

match against Glenbard East on Dec. 6.

"We're doing a lot better than in the past," Scholastic Bowl adviser Nick Caltagirone said. "Our strength is our balance. We have our academics well-balanced. We would like to see our team

grow in terms of young members."

Senior Joanna Wierenga agrees with Caltagirone about the academic balance on the team.

"We have a really even team this year. We have [senior Ben Vanderlei] answering social studies questions. [Junior Jeffrey Pekosh] is our math and science guy," Wierenga said.

The team beat Naperville North for the first time that Caltagirone can remember.

Practice is twice every week where members go over questions, study guides, and art.

"I usually try to incorporate a painting or a piece of fine art because there are usually questions on art in the competition as well," Caltagirone said.

Vanderlei, Wierenga, and Pekosh are the strongest

members, according to Caltagirone.

Varsity captains are Wierenga and Vanderlei.

"It's a lot of fun to work with [Caltagirone] and the people on the team. We have a really good time," Wierenga said. "It's a lot of fun to test your knowledge and see how you can apply the facts from what you studied."

The toughest matches this season will be against Naperville Central, Wheaton North, and Wheaton Warrenville South.

"We're going to keep going over questions and go over the most often asked items and work on our buzzer speed. We're going to try to determine the answer as the clues build," Caltagirone said.

Scholastic Bowl has a tournament on Jan. 8 at Fenton High School.



Photo by Liz Ramos

Scholastic Bowl members (from left) senior Joanna Wierenga, and juniors Sam Spyrison, and Patrick Lawler run through retired competition questions at practice.

Test scores flatten

By **Amber Del Rio**
Reporter

As flat test scores continue to appear on the school's report card, administrators look for ways to improve them.

Within the last six years, the percentage of African American, Asian, and Hispanic students has increased.

"The fact that our enrollment is 50 percent Hispanic should not impact our achievement," Ponce said. "We should provide stimulating programs for all our students which will allow them to achieve at the highest levels and provide for the upmost development of their capabilities."

Ponce believes language barriers do play a factor in the test scores, but are not an excuse for students to not perform at their best.

"We have a gap to close between our student groups due to educational experiences. Whether the student has an abundance or lack of learning experiences makes a difference," Ponce said.

The ACT test scores on the report card are those of the 2010 graduating class. Since then, the school has created programs, such as the 30 Plus Club, that aim to help students improve their scores.

By doing so, the school hopes to close the gap between ethnic groups, boys and girls, and the economically disadvantaged.

"We [want to] raise the bar, expect more, and promote rigor," Ponce said. "By doing that, we will see something like a high tide that comes in, it raises all ships. In other words, the performance of all students goes up."

Despite the school's attempts to help improve student test scores, class sizes have been increasing which will make it harder for students to get more one-on-one attention from teachers.

Director of student services Maura Bridges does not believe class size is the only factor in the school's test scores.

"I can't say [class size] is a direct correlation, but it has impacted [the scores]," Bridges said. "I think the courses taken are impacting the scores. [If we have] students taking more challenging classes then the scores will be better."

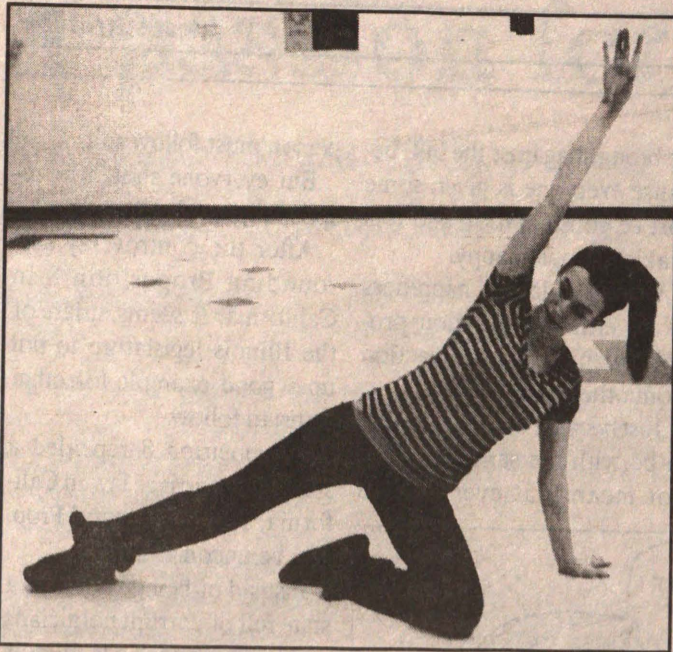


Photo by Liz Ramos

Senior Chrissy Jonas practices for the Dance Production show, themed "Got Dance?"

Making calls for a check

By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Reporter

While most students are usually doing homework, eating dinner, or watching TV in the evening, seniors Jazmin Galindo and Pedro Gaeta, and junior Josh Gouskos are at work making phone calls for State Farm.

Galindo, Gaeta, and Gouskos, from business technical internship classes (BTI), began working as State Farm employees in mid-October.

State Farm agent Jason Dederich called the school when a friend from the north suburbs did something similar and gave him the idea.

Business education teachers Peggy Peach and Donna Durbin spoke with and supplied Dederich with applications from students in BTI classes, and those who met the qualifications were hired.

"I like that it has flexible hours," Galindo said. "It's a nice environment to work in."

Dederich claims this was very helpful for hiring, because finding 15 new applications would have been timely and costly.

"The biggest part of the job is making phone calls," Dederich said.

Between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., four days a week, Galindo, Gaeta, and Gouskos call potential customers to be insured by State Farm.

"You get a lot of funny people on the phone," Gouskos said. "You hear a lot of good excuses."

This is the first school that the West Chicago Agency has hired student employees from, and Dederich said they will continue to hire students.

"Having a young person make that call makes customers more receptive," Dederich said. "It works well for the students and it works well for me. They are able to work part time which is what I need for this job."

Dream chasing

By **Ahmad Zaidi**
Reporter

Students who wanted hands-on experience with their dream jobs were able to shadow professionals doing their daily routines on Career Exploration Day.

"Career Exploration Day is a day where we match high school students with professionals in a field they might be interested in pursuing," information and technology division head Marc Wolfe said.

Seventy-five students shadowed professionals in their chosen field and witnessed what goes on in that job.

Junior Andrew Kruthoff shadowed an FBI agent.

"It's something I want to pursue later on in my life," Kruthoff said.

Kruthoff enjoyed the experience.

"He told us about the different things FBI agents do everyday. We met an FBI guy who just became an agent and I thought it was awesome and interesting," Kruthoff said. "It made me want to be an agent."

Dance show to include many genres, styles

By **Liz Ramos**
Reporter

Solos, duets, quartets, and whole group dances will be performed at the annual dance production show on Jan. 20 and 22.

The production will include, jazz, ballet and hip-hop dance with the theme of the show is "Got Dance?" The program will include approximately 20 dances.

"Each of the dancers do a level dance which is where freshmen dance with freshmen, sophomores with sophomores and so on," dance production teacher Julie Wyller said.

One dance will be a tribute to the passing of senior Jake Carney.

Wyller brings her experience to help collaborate the show.

"It's great. It's a lot of fun. There's a lot of talent the girls have. It's a fun, exciting time to collaborate a dance," Wyller said.

Senior Chrissy Jonas and sophomore Caitlin Romolt's favorite dances are "I'm a Nerd" and "Secrets."

"I like everything. It depends on the dance and the choreography. I like dancing in general," Romolt said.

Jazz and lyrical dances are Jonas' favorite genres.

The type of music the girls are dancing to inspire them when creating the choreography.

"The music helps with the choreography. A lot of the time it's the lyrics that help," Jonas said.

The show is in the auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3 for students and \$5 for adults.

Giving change for hope

By **Ahmad Zaidi**
Reporter

Taking a page from "To Kill a Mockingbird," students are helping others in Amanda Cordes' sophomore English classes.

"After reading 'To Kill a Mockingbird' in class, students were interested in doing some community service," Cordes said. "They were inspired by the character Atticus from the book and how he 'walked in other people's shoes.'"

The class began WeGo for Hope and is collecting change, clothing and cans for the elderly, homeless, and hungry.

They will donate to DuPage PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter), St. Mary's food pantry, and West Chicago Terrace.

"We are doing it because we thought it would be a good idea to help those in need," sophomore Valentin Barrera said. "Especially around this time because of the holidays."

They are accepting donations until Friday.

"So far, we raised \$300, and we purchased fabric to make blankets for the elderly," Cordes said.

The students are passionate about the cause.

"I think it is a great thing that we are doing because people actually got excited on working on this," Barrera said. "I also think it is good for this school to have a little group of students helping out, especially during this time of the year."

Winter retreat: Students have opportunity to attend weekend filled with discussion, fun

By **Carly Tubridy**
Sports Editor

Morals, ethics, and good choices are promoted at Snowball, a weekend of discussing topics that are normally avoided.

On Jan. 15-16, students will enjoy a retreat to Lorado Taft, in Oregon, Ill., to promote good choices throughout their high school careers.

"[There is a] myth that all students are drinking and having sex but when you come to Snowball, you realize that is

not the case," Snowball adviser Jared Winquist said.

One of the goals of Snowball is to show that students throughout the school are making good choices.

"It's also about forming new relationships with students and teachers alike," Snowball adviser Krysta Schoenbeck said.

The weekend includes guest speakers, large and small group activities, and workshops.

"The students can choose from a variety of workshops

like suicide or healthy relationships where they go and discuss the topic," Schoenbeck said.

With an open-format, students are encouraged to ask questions they would normally not ask and talk about things they normally wouldn't talk about.

"Snowball isn't adults standing to lecture about what you should and should not do," Winquist said.

The weekend will be mainly student-run.

Student directors plan the

weekend, and leaders are in charge of small group activities.

"My favorite parts are teen leader intros and adult leader intros because it's the start of the weekend and they can tell we're hyper about Snowball and that we're Snowball addicts," senior Maria Barajas, director, said.

To become a student leader, students had to fill out an application and sign up for an interview time. The interview was with the directors and the advisers.

"My least favorite part was choosing leaders and directors. We didn't have a single candidate we didn't think would be good," Winquist said.

About 90 students can attend and the weekend costs \$90.

Applications are found in the counseling office and they are due by Thursday.

Schoenbeck stresses the importance of signing up early because it is first come first serve and there is a limited amount of space.

Our View

Illinois takes a step towards fairness for all

Illinois has decided to take a step in the right direction by allowing civil unions between homosexual couples.

The bill allowing civil unions will be signed into law in early 2011, allowing for same-sex couples to file for the legal benefits reserved only for heterosexual couples.

Some rights now available to gay couples are the right to visit a sick partner in the hospital, disposition of a loved one's remains, and the right to make decisions about a loved one's medical care, according to www.huffingtonpost.com.

Also included in the bill is the right for religious institu-

tions to define marriage as they see fit, protecting them from lawsuits seen in other states that don't allow civil unions, according to www.huffingtonpost.com.

By allowing civil unions, Illinois began the battle for gay marriage, and although this is the argument for those opposed to gay marriage, it cannot be seen as negative.

How can allowing individuals rights, that were previously denied to them, be a bad thing?

Marriage can still be a religious event, and as stated in this law, churches in Illinois have the right to refuse same-

sex couples if it goes against religious beliefs.

Very few arguments should

be brought against the bill, because everyone is given some sort of consideration and it is making people happy.

Why should the happiness of an entire population provoke such a negative reaction from other citizens?

Just because someone wants to be with the same sex does not mean that every single

person must follow suit.

But everyone should be respectful to each other.

After the controversy surrounding Proposition 8 in California, it seems smart of the Illinois legislature to put up a good example for other states to follow.

Proposition 8 repealed a same-sex marriage law in California, and many found Prop. 8 to be unconstitutional.

Instead of being known as a state full of corrupt politicians and terrible attack ads, Illinois can be looked at as one of the states fighting for individual rights.

Denying these rights will only make Illinois citizens look insensitive, an added stereotype we do not need.

By embracing civil unions, we can begin taking strides towards true equality and finally allow the persecuted to breathe a sigh of relief.



Airport security invades privacy

U.S. citizens are complaining about the new security precautions TSA has put in place in

airports, saying the new scanners and pat downs invade an individual's privacy.

reach the maximum radiation that is unsafe, according to the Minneapolis Star Tribune, any amount is unacceptable.

According to USA Today, not enough tests have been taken to prove the airport scanners are safe.

Some are worried that the scanners will cause more health problems in the future.

Being around an abundance of radiation could lead to various kinds of cancer, according to www.physics.isu.edu.

Besides radiation, these scans show the person's bare body and there have been cases where the pictures have leaked onto the Internet, according to www.articlesbase.com.

Travelers don't know who in the airport is actually seeing the pictures.

Who knows who will get a hold of the images?

If travelers refuse to go

through the scanners for any reason their only other option is to get a pat down. And that can be just as scary.

Pat downs take around 4 minutes according to www.tsa.gov. During the pat down someone will touch you in the genitals and everywhere else.

Travelers have reported to the American Civil Liberties Union they were touched forcefully in the genital region and were criticized about their physique, according to www.aclu.org.

People refusing to go through both of these procedures can cause delays in all the major airports in the nation.

Sure TSA's idea is to protect citizens, but is it really worth it if citizens feel violated? This measure only keeps terrorists from hiding explosives in their clothes.

Next, terrorists might just

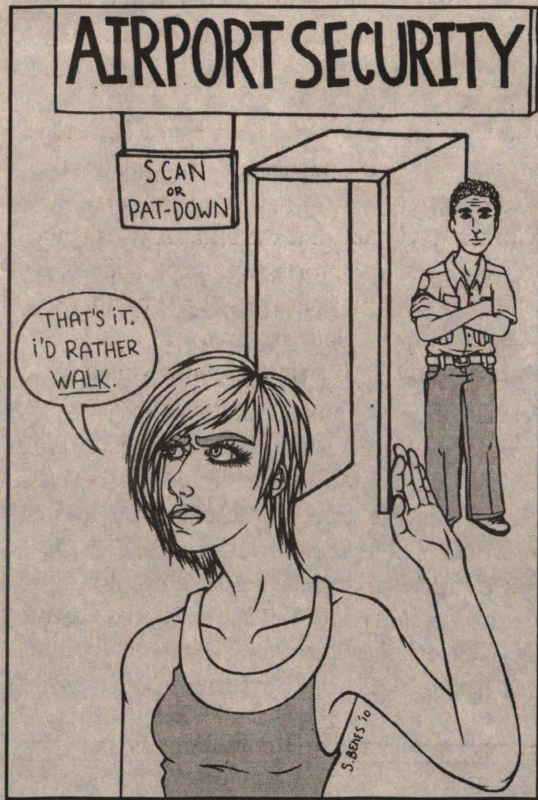
hide explosives inside their bodies to avoid getting caught. Will airports require x-rays to board a plane?

That is never going to be an option, so pat-downs or getting scanned shouldn't be either.

Instead of making citizens uncomfortable about traveling, why not come up with an alternative such as stronger metal detectors?

According to www.nextbigfuture.com, Israeli airport security is one of the safest in the world, instead of pat downs and scanners they have security checkpoints where cars are checked before entering airport grounds, armed security are stationed everywhere, people are trained well to interview all passengers before take off and after, the baggage goes through an x-ray, and body searches only occur if one looks suspicious or gives a bad interview.

Before TSA probes another body, alternatives should be explored.



The dangers of the scanners are also drawing fire.

Those who travel for their job may have to go through airport security at least once a week, causing a lot of radiation going through their body.

While one would have to go through the scanners more than 1,000 times in a year to

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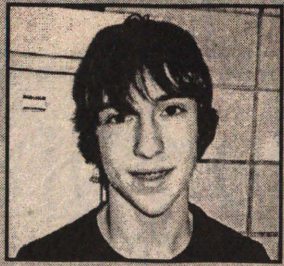


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THE WILDCAT CHRONICLE is the student newspaper at Community High School. It is a public forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views. The Chronicle publishes eight times a year, with the student editorial board making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

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

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Freshman

Adam Huslion

"I think it's a good idea because it will make people think about the risks of smoking."



Sophomore

Jose Guzman

"Yes, because it shows what cigarettes will do to them, so I think the number will decrease."

Students Speak

Compiled by
Amber Del Rio

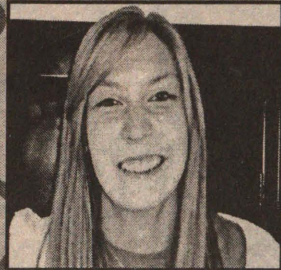
Do you think that having pictures of dying cancer patients, diseased lungs, and toe-tagged corpses will cause a decrease in the number of people who smoke?



Junior

Courtney Toman

"I don't think it will, because people are addicted to the cigarettes and they already know the consequences so adding the pictures won't make a difference."



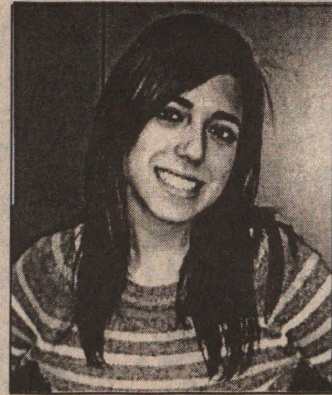
Senior

Rachel Thomas

"Yes, because I think it might scare people."

New look for cigarette boxes

FDA trying to lower the smoking rate



Giuliana LaMantia

Reporter

vent teenage girls and young women from smoking because the box won't be "pretty" enough.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 43 percent of teenage girls tried smoking and 19 percent of high school girls were regular smokers in 2009.

If sleek black boxes outlined in hot pink, meant to appeal to women, are replaced with graphics of rotting lungs, the FDA thinks the number of female smokers will lower.

While this approach may help somewhat with teenage girl smokers due to lack of a more stylish packaging, it's pretty easy to get around looking at ugly pictures.

My guess is cigarette cases will probably become more popular once October 2012 comes around, especially for adults and girls, since carrying around a box with a picture of rotting yellow teeth would be pretty embarrassing.

Besides this, I am sure people purchasing items at the store do not want to be disturbed by pictures behind the counter of suffering humans.

Plenty of education exists on the hazards of smoking thanks to D.A.R.E., and anti-smoking ads, like the billboard that was on North Avenue of a boy licking ashes out of the bottom of a glass ash tray.

It's unfair that a single private company is forced to put such graphic and disturbing pictures on their packaging.

I realize the FDA is only doing this to try and help people from getting involved with a dangerous habit; however there are other ways to do this, such as boosting up education or making more of their own ads and commercials, besides forcing cigarette and tobacco companies to put graphic pictures on their products.

Suffering cancer patients, damaged lungs, and toe-tagged corpses are not exactly sights classified as pleasant.

But the pictures are coming to cigarette packs soon.

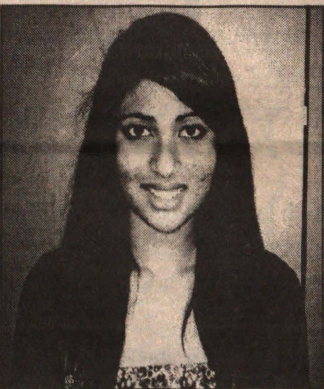
Beginning in October 2012, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will place graphic images of patients who have cancer caused by smoking on cigarette packs as a new form of cigarette health warnings.

While this form of advertising may help with the prevention of younger children smoking, I highly doubt it will really be all that effective for teenagers and adults already addicted to smoking with no intentions of quitting any time soon.

People who smoke are already aware of the risks and dangers with all of the education and advertising on the dangers of smoking. They really don't need to see a picture of a man with a hole in his throat on every pack they buy.

The FDA believes pictures of dying people on cigarette packs will especially help pre-

Republican's tax decision



Keyuri Parmar

Perspectives Editor

Republicans are satisfied with Obama's most recent tax-cut decision made on Dec 7; Democrats, not so much.

Obama made a new tax-cut deal with the Congressional Republicans, for extending the high-end of the Bush-era tax cuts and on cutting the estate tax lower than its scheduled level. Along with this, Republicans agreed to extend unemployment benefits, cut payroll and business taxes, and extend tax credits for college tuition. Without the deal, Republicans

refused to extend unemployment benefits or take any action of any kind, according to the Chicago Tribune.

If this change had not been made then the Bush tax cuts and high-end tax cuts would have expired on Dec. 31, which would have caused our nation to be in a larger turmoil.

Obama claims it is now in the Republicans' hands to determine whether the economy gets better or not.

If all goes as planned then there's a potential for many jobs to be created but failure will result in fewer jobs and lower pay checks mostly to the middle class, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Democrats wanted changes in the tax rates but Republicans refused to be flexible with anything other than how they wanted which is how it ended up working out, according to the Chicago Tribune. Obama is trying to convince Democrats what his logic was behind

the new tax-cut decision that favors what the Republicans have been hoping for.

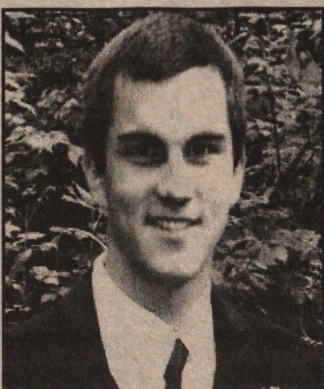
Many keep putting Obama down for every solution he creates, when everyone needs to realize if he kept the tax-cuts the way he proposed to have them, the recession would have been twice as bad, according to the New York Times.

The country has had the same tax system for the past four years and another two won't hurt anyone dramatically. Obama obviously has a goal in mind and isn't making rash decisions. He plans on lowering the deficit by coming to this new conclusion.

Also citizens who are unemployed have the two years to feel secure about getting unemployment benefits while searching for another job.

Obama is on the right track, but Democrats refuse to realize it even though they are benefiting by this tax-cut decision, just like everyone else.

Holidays abroad



Thomas Harms

Contributing Writer

Half of the year is almost gone, and as one would expect, the Christmas season is a somewhat different ballgame in Germany. However, there are also plenty of similarities to be noted as well.

Since there were no Pilgrims who settled Germany and shared meals with natives, there is no Thanksgiving celebration to put off putting up lights and decorations too early, but folks still grumble

about how early the shops start in with their Christmas ads.

Families start planning gatherings, collecting gift ideas and looking forward to holiday cheer well before December has rolled around.

Germany is a very Christian nation, therefore, Christmas is the main holiday celebrated in December, and it is just as commercialized as in America.

For me, this is somewhat of a change to be in a family that takes part mostly in commercialized celebration instead

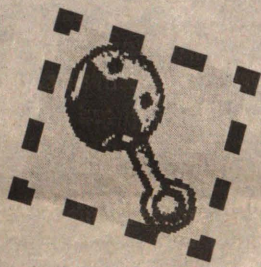
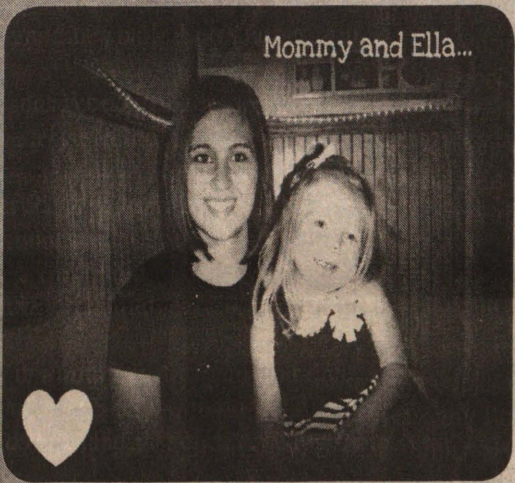
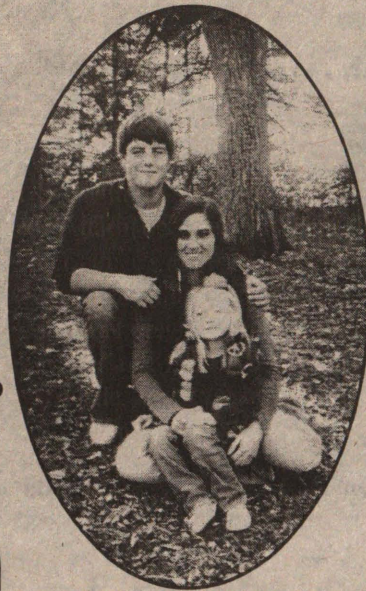
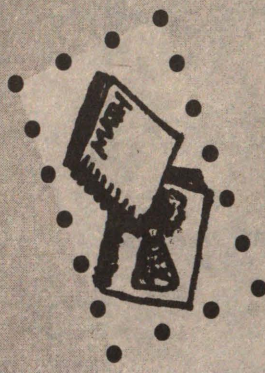
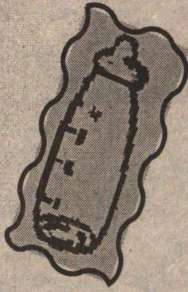
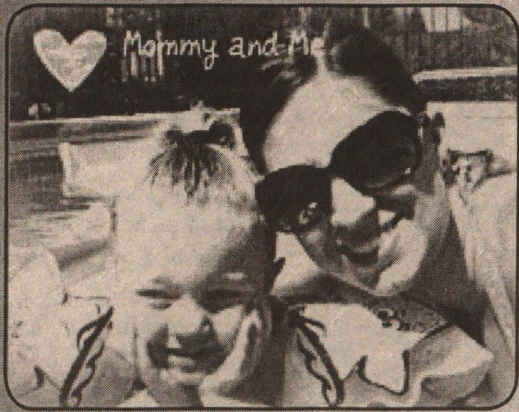
of religious festiveness, as my family in the States is fairly involved in our church in West Chicago. Nonetheless, the cheer is still there, and I am enjoying the festive spirit here in Grebenstein.

One difference that I cannot seem to develop an opinion on is the lack of kitschy decorations scattered about the lawn and gaudy, colorful lights slung across the roof and bushes and trees. For the most part, Germans seem to be very reserved in their decorating, and see the big blow-up Santas and Frosties as an

American fad to be avoided. While the tasteful decorations are all very beautiful, I am always reminded of home when I see the rare lawn decoration—or stuffed Santa on a fake ladder scaling the side of a house that I see every morning on the way to school—set out by a brave soul not afraid to go against the grain.

Merry Christmas West Chicago!

(Thomas Harms is a 2010 graduate who is living in Grebenstein, Germany for a year. He will have an update of his trip each month.)



Photos courtesy of Ashley Hickman

A balancing act

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

With cartoons blaring in the background and a toddler running around, Ashley Hickman sits comfortably in the place she calls home. To most people, it seems in the far-off future, but for Hickman, it's reality.

Hickman graduated in 2008 from West Chicago a semester early, a feat she maintained her senior year.

"I was 17 when I found out I was pregnant. I absolutely freaked out. After my family found out, though, they supported me," Hickman said.

Hickman believes that graduating a semester early was the best decision she's currently continuing her education at Northern Illinois University.

"It definitely wasn't an option for me not to go to college. I had to go to college, and I didn't want that to change just because I got pregnant. It was a scene where I get to relax, so school has turned into my quiet time."

While her friends were picking out roommates and leaving for college, Hickman was preparing for her baby girl, Ella's, arrival.

"The hardest part was watching my friends get to leave for college. It was hard here. Ella was born the June after my senior year, so it was extremely hard," Hickman said.

Even with a large supply of diapers and baby bottles, nothing could prepare Hickman for motherhood.

"There's no way anyone could have prepared me for being a mom. It's so hard, I'm busy all of the time and just so tired," Hickman said.

Despite the stress, Hickman and her boyfriend Jerry Henning, find ways to enjoy their lives with Ella.

"We don't get excited about things that normal 22 year olds get excited about. We go to parties or bars; we go places with Ella. She's the perfect excuse to go to the zoo," laughs Hickman.

Alongside commuting to NIU, Hickman also works part-time.

"[Parenting] would be so hard without Jerry and my family's help. It's hard of it now, but I don't think I could do it without them," Hickman said.

Hickman encourages other young mothers to continue with their education, no matter how hard it might get.

"If a young mom has high hopes of going to college, it would be worth it in the long run. If someone gets pregnant in high school, they should graduate. I have high hopes for Ella, I hope she goes to college and becomes a doctor," Hickman said.

Teen parents receive school support

By Helene Sankovitch
Entertainment Editor

Although the issue of teen pregnancy may seem like just a controversial topic glorified by MTV, it's a real issue that has affected many students walking the halls of West Chicago.

Currently 20 moms and 10 dads attend the physical education program for teen moms, and five moms are not in the program.

This number has decreased since six years ago, when there were 31 girls in the class.

"Some schools have nurses from teen parent services come in. Our program is considered one of the best in the state. We offer support to dads and moms," teen parent educator Deb Kowske said.

The teen moms program falls under the P.E. department.

"We started the program because we started to see a larger number of teen pregnancies. We felt it was important [for the girls] to be active

and take care of themselves," P.E. division head Clay Reagan said.

The class, which has been running for 12 years, is optional, but doesn't count for P.E. credits for the dads.

"When you have a student who is pregnant, [we need to] help them understand the impact of what the pregnancy will have and help them transition into their roles as moms, as well as students."

--Principal Moses Cheng

Kowske said.

"Teenage girls who are pregnant need a support system that is different than for a woman. School is about caring for a student. When you have a student who is pregnant, [we need to] help them understand the impact of what the pregnancy will have and help them transition into their roles as moms, as well as maintaining their roles as students," Principal Moses Cheng said.

Along with dealing with nasty looks and comments

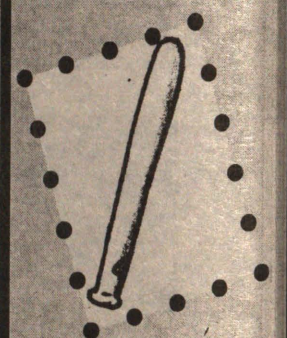
from their peers, these girls have to deal with their parents as well.

"Parents react with anger, sadness, and they're going to cry. Some parents have kicked the girls out, and in one situation the dad hasn't talked to the daughter through the whole pregnancy. Fathers have a harder time with it, but in the end they eventually come around, and they all want their kids to stay in school," Kowske said.

Only one mom in 12 years has given her baby up for adoption, according to Kowske.

"[It's because of] cultural and religious reasons, and it's a really hard decision to make. We found over the years Caucasian and African-Americans have abortions, but for Latinos, that's not accepted," Kowske said.

People from adoption agencies have come to talk to the girls, as well as parents who have adopted, and a former teen mom who gave her baby up for adoption, in order to help out the girls.



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Expecting mom keeps head held high

By Megan Hernbroth
Editor in Chief

While many seniors are planning for graduation and prom, senior Deisy Alfaro is planning for her first child.

After getting engaged over the summer in Mexico, Alfaro, 18, found out she was pregnant.

"I got engaged in Mexico and we are planning to get married next summer," Alfaro said. "Right now we live with his sister."

Alfaro declined to release her fiancé's name.

Once Alfaro discovered she was pregnant, telling her family and friends became a struggle.

"It was really hard to tell my friends and family," Alfaro said. "They didn't want me to be pregnant now; they wanted me to graduate high school then have a family. At the beginning, my family was upset. No parent wants their girl to leave at this age, but now they are happy for the baby."

Alfaro is expecting a baby girl that she'll name Jimena.

"I'm so excited," Alfaro said. "People ask me if I'm nervous, but I'm not that type that thinks about that. I'm thinking about having her at

home and dressing her up."

As Alfaro's due date draws closer, she appreciates the friendships she has at school.

"Every friend I used to have is more attached to me," Alfaro said.

Walking the halls, Alfaro noticed the attention she started to get from her peers.

"There are people who stare at my stomach," Alfaro said, "but I just think 'oh well.'"

Alfaro realizes how lucky she has been to have a fiancé who supports her and the baby.

"He is working and doing everything he can," Alfaro said. "He already graduated from high school and got his license to work with trucks so the baby can have a good future. He is really excited. He wanted a boy at first but now we have everything for her and he is very excited. He built the crib a few days ago."

To show their support, Alfaro's family threw two baby showers and helped the new family get the items they would need for the baby.

"My mom and my sisters-in-law both threw me a baby shower," Alfaro said. "I got a lot of clothes at the first and my dad bought us a lot of

stuff at the second. I got the crib at the second, too."

Amid the excitement, Alfaro has already begun to notice the difficulties that come with being pregnant in high school.

"Every morning I drive to school and drop my fiancé off at work because we only have one car, so it is difficult," Alfaro said.

"By the things people have told me, it will be difficult to concentrate on school stuff once the baby is here. I am nervous because I want to go to college."

Alfaro plans on waiting a year before enrolling in a nursing program to begin her career.

"I will need to wait a year to save up the money to go to college. I want to be a nurse for babies, and I'm going to TCD now for nursing," Alfaro said.

Once the baby does arrive, however, Alfaro recognizes that her life will change once again.

"I will be spending more time with the baby,"

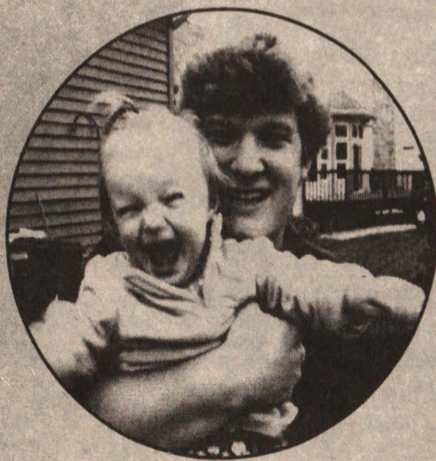
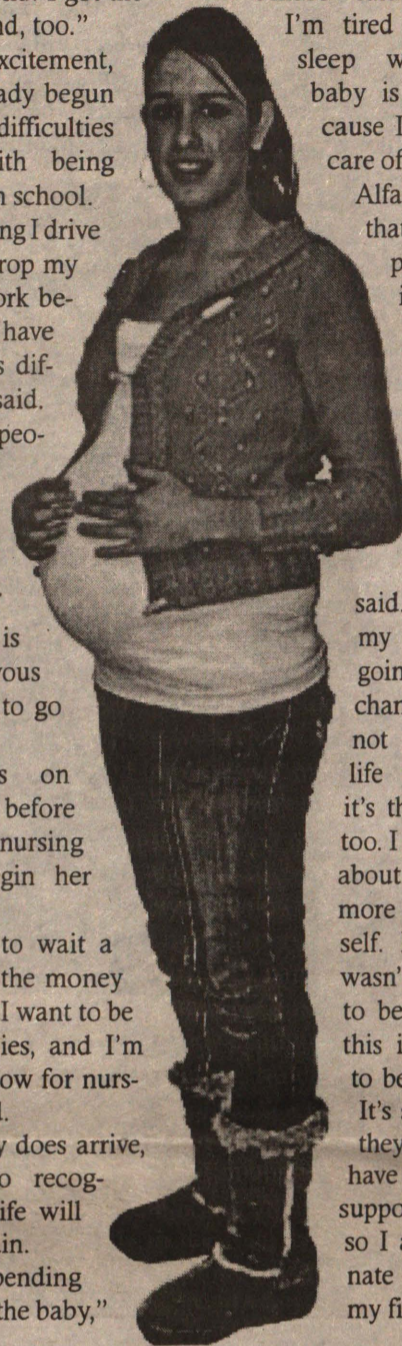
Alfaro said. "When I'm tired I cannot sleep when the baby is here because I will take care of her."

Alfaro knows that getting pregnant in high school was not ideal.

"It was a kind of hard," Alfaro

said. "I knew my life was going to change. It's not just my life anymore, it's the baby's, too. I will think about the baby more than myself. I think I wasn't ready to be a mom; this is no age to be a mom.

It's sad when they may not have the dad to support them, so I am fortunate to have my fiancé."



Photos courtesy of Zach Abraham

Trading boy time for bottles

By Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

Junior Zach Abraham was forced to take on a huge responsibility when he found out he would be a father at 16.

February of 2009, Abraham was shocked to find out his girlfriend, Tali Bangert ('09), was pregnant.

"We didn't want to believe it, so we went to the doctor to get a second test," Abraham said.

Even though Bangert and Abraham found out the first month of pregnancy, they didn't tell Bangert's parents until the fourth month and Abraham's until the fifth month.

Abraham wrote a note and left it for his parents to find when he went to school.

"When I got home they told me they read it and it would take some time to accept, but they would work at it and of course love my baby," Abraham said.

Bangert's parents were excited to be grandparents.

"They took it well. They were ready to be grandparents and help and love the baby," Abraham said.

Becoming a dad was not something Abraham wanted at such a young age and admits to thinking about abortion.

"I definitely thought about abortion. I didn't want to tell people I was going to be a dad at 16. I just wasn't ready. After a couple months, Tali kept insisting she was going to keep the baby so I had to start looking at it in a different way and started preparing for being a dad," Abraham said.

Ellie was born Nov. 9, 2009. Bangert and Abraham's parents help them take care of her.

"My mom watches Ellie when Tali and I are at school. Then Tali and I switch off watching her so we can do our homework," Abraham said.

Abraham and Bangert receive help from Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), a program that gives them coupons for food. Bangert has a job to pay for the expenses and their parents help financially as well.

Ellie has completely changed how Abraham looks at life.

"She makes me want to be a better person so I can support her in the future," Abraham said.



Drumming up enthusiasm for Macy's parade

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

Amidst almost 140 groups of talented performers, seniors Anthony Nolazco and Joe Wais marched through the streets of New York City with Macy's Great American Marching Band, although at different times.

Both were drum majors for the school band during the marching season, Wais for three years and Nolazco for one. They found out about the opportunity to perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving parade at Smith-Walbridge drum major camp.

"I had always watched the [Macy's] parade and I thought it would be awesome to see what New York was like," Wais said. "I just had to send in a recording of myself playing."

Nolazco, who performed in the 2010 parade, helped to make up a band of 220 stu-

dents. Wais, who performed in the 2008 parade, had a total of 250 high school students from across the country with him in the band.



Photo by Alexis Hosticka
Senior Joe Wais practices his trombone before going to New York for the parade.

"You got to meet so many cool people, and people from states like Alabama and Mississippi who had never been to a 'big city.' They were so amazed. It was fun to see their

reactions," Nolazco said.

Wais agrees and one of his favorite parts of the parade experience was the people.

"It was just cool to be meeting a bunch of other high school musicians," Wais said.

Both spent a week in New York City, arriving on the Saturday before the parade and leaving the day after.

"We rehearsed in the morning and in the afternoon, we did sightseeing. We saw Cirque du Soleil and went to the Top of the Rock," Wais said. "They'd take us somewhere and be like 'be back here in three hours' and we could take the subway or go around wherever as long as we were back on time."

Their practices were held in a National Guard armory that had been converted into an indoor soccerfield.

"We practiced 20 minutes away in New Jersey," Wais said.

The day of the performance, call time was 2:45 a.m. After getting back to the hotel late the night before, the musicians only got about five hours of sleep in preparation for a march around New York City.

"We had to be at Harold's Square [the square in front

of Macy's] by 2:45 and we had to go through the entire performance. It was like 27 degrees out and we were freezing," Nolazco said.

After the rehearsal, the band went to Hard Rock Café for breakfast.

"Everyone fell asleep except me," Wais said.

"I ran around waking people up because I was already awake and I wasn't falling back asleep."

Nolazco, on the other hand, tried to snooze before the three-mile march.

"If you would have thought about how long it was, you

would have been dead," Nolazco said. "It didn't hit me how nerve-wracking it was until after we were done in

Times Square, and I was like, 'holy crap, it's real!'"

Wais, on the other hand, said he was calm throughout the entire performance.

"I was just doing my thing, playing the music," Wais said.

About two and a half

million people watched the Macy's Thanksgiving parade in the city, as well as an additional 55 million who viewed the Macy's Thanksgiving parade on TV.



Photo courtesy of Anthony Nolazco
Senior Anthony Nolazco wears his uniform proudly at the Macy's parade.

Different holiday traditions

Three students celebrate the holidays in their own unique way

By Yasmyn McGee
Features Editor

Not everyone searches for a Christmas tree and makes lists to Santa.

Juniors Sam and Anna Spyrisson light a menorah and open up gifts for eight days

manages to uphold certain customs.

"Every night we light candles and we light one candle for each night. We sing [songs] and give each other presents," Anna said.

Even though celebrating Christmas is popular among his peers, Sam feels Hanukkah is more rewarding.

"I prefer Hanukkah, because you have eight days to get all these gifts. It's also cool to be unique from everyone else," Sam said.

Hanukkah is the celebration of light and purity overcoming darkness and evil.

For senior Kelsey Malan, the holiday

season has never been different from any other day.

"My mom's a Jehovah's Witness so she won't let our family celebrate [Christmas].

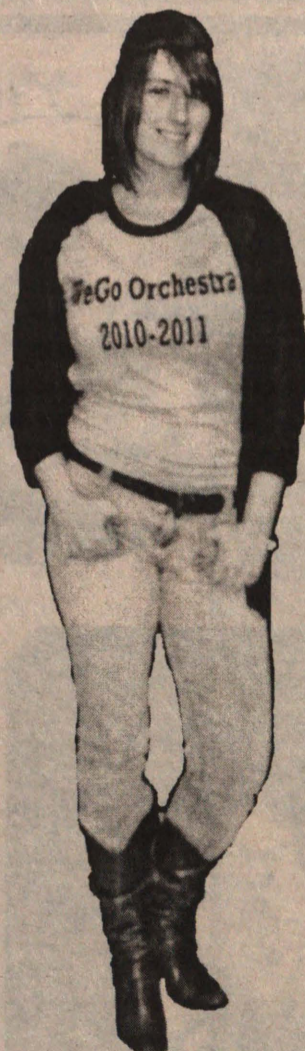
I don't get presents from my family and I've never had a Christmas party," Malan said.

Even though Malan doesn't celebrate Christmas, she sees the advantage of her choice.

"I don't have to fork out money to buy people gifts," Malan said.

Malan, not celebrating Christmas isn't a big deal.

"Since I've never celebrated it, it doesn't seem like a big deal. Some people don't seem to understand the concept of someone



Photos by Yasmyn McGee

not celebrating. [My friends are] just really surprised [when they find out I don't]," Malan said.



I prefer Hanukkah, because you have eight days to get all these gifts.'

-- Junior Anna Spyrisson

instead.

"I was born into a Jewish family and I've been celebrating Hanukkah my entire life," Sam said.

Hanukkah started Nov. 25 and lasted eight days.

According to Anna, her family is less traditional but

The twins' friends were shocked when they first found out the pair didn't celebrate Christmas.

"People are really surprised [when I tell them I celebrate Hanukkah]. They ask me if it's similar to Christmas but it really isn't," Anna laughed.

A passion for giving

For junior Noemi Cinto, making a difference has become her life

By **Brandon Jackson**
Reporter

While many students focus on community service to receive hours, junior Noemi Cinto does it because it's her true passion.

As far as priorities are concerned, Cinto puts community service over hanging out with friends and partying.

"You just get used to it," Cinto said. "You feel like you have to do it, but not in a bad way. You're doing what you enjoy most."

And though sometimes between school, community service, and other obligations things become exhausting, Cinto said, "In the end it's all worth it, because you know you're making a difference."

Cinto has gotten that and much more from community service. Since being involved in community service, she has realized that she would like to become a teacher, because

they have a large impact on an individual's life.

"When I was little, I wanted to be a teacher," Cinto said. "There was no reason, it just happened. It just came to me."

However, that's not the only thing Cinto has gotten out of community service.

"I've become really grateful with what I have, because I've seen a lot of people who don't have enough, and yes it makes you sad, but you can only do so much to help someone out," Cinto said.

Also after doing community service Cinto said, "You value what you have a lot more."

Prior to community service Cinto had been more selfish, and if something didn't pertain to her it wouldn't be that large of an issue, since then community service has changed everything and has added a whole new perspective and now she's selfless.

Cinto doesn't have a preference when it comes to what type of work she's doing.

As long as she's doing something helpful, she'll do whatever she can.

Cinto participates with community service four-five times a week including weekends.

Cinto enjoys having community service as such a big part of her life for various reasons.

Also, her parents are the ones who started getting her involved in all the community service, and she enjoys doing it with her family and friends.

"It makes you feel really good, and we need as much help as possible to make a difference," Cinto said.

Cinto visits a food pantry once a week and is a very large part of it because she is bilingual she is able to offer a lot more.

"I try to get my friends involved when I can," Cinto said. "They don't always know what we will be doing, but I tell them it's not hard to do."

Within the school Cinto helps out with Battle of the Bands, helping with the voting campaign, and is currently working on Tie Dye for Haiti and is reaching out to Wheaton Academy students to get more publicity for the Haitians.

"I think it's good [that our school has many organizations]," Cinto said. "I know I'm not the only one involved. I try to join a lot of the clubs, but I am too busy."

Also, Cinto is currently helping organize the turn-about dance, and once Cinto leaves school she will not stop helping.

Five years into the future, Cinto would like to have a shelter that focuses on helping out homeless people, continuing to make a difference with her passion to help those in need.



Photo by Liz Ramos

Junior Noemi Cinto helps tie dye a t-shirt for Tie-Dye for Haiti on Dec. 9, benefiting Smile Train.

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Behind the band: *Backstage look at rising pop group, Allstar Weekend*



Photos by Helene Sankovitch

Lead guitarist Nathan Darmody (left) and bassist Cameron Quiseng perform for thousands at the Magnificent Mile Lights Festival in Chicago.

By Helene Sankovitch
Entertainment Editor

Allstar weekend, a pop boy-band from California, entertained crowds of ear-piercing, screaming fans at the Magnificent Mile Lights Festival in Chicago on Nov. 20, promoting their new album, "Suddenly Yours."

The band is quickly making a name for itself in the music industry, but mostly with the younger, teenage girl crowd.

As soon as the boys stepped onto the stage, their dedicated fans waved their hand made posters in the air and cheered at the top of their lungs.

Even the bundled up, half frozen moms couldn't help dancing and singing along

with their daughters to the popular song, "Dance Forever."

After their 20 minute performance on the main stage, 21-year-old lead singer Zach Porter had a quick scholastic journalism press conference at the Hotel Intercontinental.

"It's really rare to find people who really have the drive to make it [in the music industry.] You have to eat, sleep, and breathe it- it has to be a part of you. We even went to 50 Jonas Brothers shows handing out our flyers," Porter said.

Despite the fact that Allstar Weekend looks and sounds very similar to the ever-popular group, Jonas Brothers, they were not created by Dis-

ney Channel.

"We've been doing this way before we were signed [by Hollywood Records.] We were never put together," Porter said.

Looking up to the band Blink-182, who attended the same high school as Allstar Weekend, they have a strong drive to pursue their music career.

"I want to be able to make a living out of this for my entire life. I would love to be able to perform and write songs forever," Porter said.

The dedicated fan base is a major confidence boost for the new band.

"The weirdest thing I've ever signed is an insulin pump," Porter said, laughing.



Lead singer
Zach Porter.



The crowd enjoys
All Star Weekend.



Lead guitarist
Nathan Darmody.

Breaking the boy-band mold

By Amber Del Rio
Reporter

Staying original while being famous teenagers may be a challenge for some young artists, but for the members of Allstar Weekend, that's not the case.

Zach Porter, Nathan Darmody, Cameron Quiseng, and Michael Martinez, who make up Allstar Weekend, recently released their new album, "Suddenly Yours."

The pop-punk songs make up your average album, with lyrics about first loves, hanging out and having fun, and just being yourself. However, unlike many popular artists today, the members of Allstar Weekend actually

write their own songs.

The boys write about situations that many teenagers face on a daily basis without using profane language or talking about drinking and doing drugs.

After listening to the CD, a few songs stood out over the rest.

"Dance Forever" was the catchiest song on the album and it makes one want to do just that, dance forever. The intro to the song has a fun beat that sets up the lyrics to the rest of the song nicely. The bridge

that leads into the chorus says, "We won't sleep 'til three in the morning" which is exactly what teenagers do during the summer (and sometimes during the school year). Overall, it's a fun song to listen to while hanging out with your

friends when you have nothing to do.

The upbeat song "Hey Princess" is the second track on the album which combines modern day with a typical fairytale scenario. The lyrics say, "I'm just a boy and you're Cinderella. Snow White in blue jeans I'm gonna tell ya, 'ever you want, 'ever you want, I'm down." This song is entertaining with its fast-paced chorus that gives it a summer drive with the windows down, blasting music

feeling.

"A Different Side of Me" was not as upbeat as "Dance Forever" and "Hey Princess," but the lyrics stood out because they deal with the different stereotypes that adolescents use to define themselves. The song says, "I know everything is going to change for me. If I can make it then you'll see that there's a different side of me."

The song shows that stereotypes are only temporary and things can change at anytime.

The rest of the album had its ups and downs. Unfortunately, "Can't Sleep Tonight," "Journey to the End of My Life," and "The Weekend," the last few songs on the album, blended together, making the listener want to stop listening.

In general, "Suddenly Yours" is an average album that has a few hit songs and a few duds too.



Photo by Helene Sankovitch

Lead singer Zach Porter.

Fresh year for entertainment



MTV's highly controversial new show "Skins" airs Jan. 17 at 9 p.m. Photo courtesy of MTV

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

Based off the British series "Skins," MTV will be premiering its version of the show in January. Although MTV is known for its reality shows, "Skins" will be scripted, bringing something new to the table.

"Skins" is about a group of American teenagers and their hidden lives, which revolve

around sex, drugs, drinking, and partying. Although this show may seem like yet another excuse to portray teenagers in a negative light, "Skins" is actually written mostly by teenagers, and the material for the show comes from American teenagers' own experiences.

Despite much controversy over the obscene content, the show also faces criticisms from fans of the "Skins" Brit-

ish version. Fans claim that everything from the trailer to the plot line of the U.S. version of "Skins" is an exact copy of the British version, and are upset that the U.S. version is priding itself on the show's originality.

MTV made a smart marketing move for "Skins," by using the negative backlash in their advertisements, hoping it will spark interest among teens everywhere.

Taking on the technology giant

By Ahmad Zaidi
Reporter

After watching Apple's iPad become a super-hit by selling over 8 million iPads, Blackberry decided to take over with the Blackberry PlayBook, releasing in June 2011.

Determined to beat Apple, Blackberry took the basic idea of the iPad and made some changes.

According to www.buzzbiznews.com, the PlayBook is smaller and lighter than the iPad. The major difference between the PlayBook and the iPad is that the PlayBook allows you to multitask in a similar way as a computer. For example, you could not listen to music and use downloaded apps at the same time on the iPad.

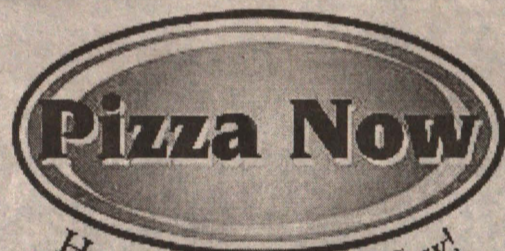
Another advantage for

the PlayBook is that it runs programs that require flash, while the iPad does not run those programs. The PlayBook also has a USB port, unlike the iPad.

According to www.engadget.com, the PlayBook will allow video conferencing with a 3 megapixel front-facing camera and a 5 megapixel rear lens which supports 1080p HD video recording. The PlayBook will also have Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 2.1.

Those with Blackberry smartphones can sync information with the PlayBook through Bluetooth, such as the calendar, documents, e-mail, and other content to use interchangeably, according to www.gsmfiles.info.

The 8GB PlayBook will start at \$399, the 16GB for \$499, and the 32GB for \$599.



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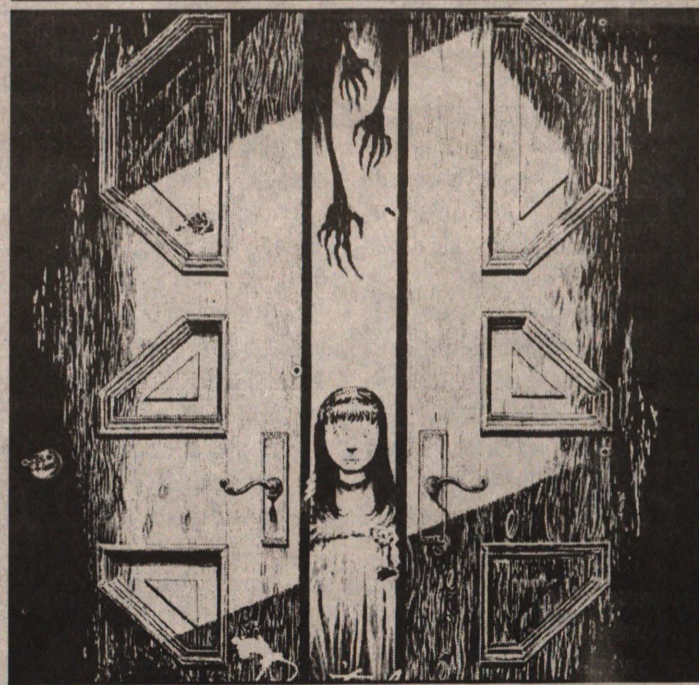


Photo courtesy of Miramax

"Don't be Afraid of the Dark," will be released during 2011 and is sure to be a thriller.

Don't be afraid

By Helene Sankovitch
Entertainment Editor

The original 1973 made-for-television movie, "Don't be Afraid of the Dark," was recreated into a thriller set to release in 2011.

Starring Bailee Madison as Sally, Guy Pierce as her father, and Katie Holmes as his girlfriend, the movie takes place in an old house with voices coming from a sealed fireplace in the basement.

Just like in the original movie, strange things start happening to Sally, and she

gets tormented by the creatures from the fireplace.

The trailer, which features a black screen with a raspy voice saying, "You're sitting there in the dark, but don't worry, there's nothing to be afraid of," was shown in "The Last Exorcism," "Devil," and "Let Me In," and evoked fear from audiences.

The initial release date was set for Jan. 21, 2011, but has been postponed due to the sale of Miramax by Disney. A new date has not been set.

This scary remake is sure to leave major chills in 2011.



Photo by Megan Hernbroth

Freshman Scotty Oglanian pins his Wheaton Warrenville South opponent before winning his match on Dec. 9.

Injuries hurt team, determination gets them through snag

By Megan Hernbroth
Editor in Chief

The boys wrestling team is trying to 'stick it out' through injuries and losses.

"As a captain, I believe the team has been showing good progress and better understanding of the sport," senior captain Robert Guillen said. "Also, we have many injuries, but they stick it out and don't give up."

On Saturday, the boys came away victorious against the Quad at Maine East with wins against Roosevelt, 75-6; Maine East, 72-6; and Carmel Catholic, 45-24.

"Our hard work really paid off," junior Dan King said, "and we won just about every match."

The boys took on Glenbard East on Friday, redeeming themselves in conference with a win of 35-31.

At the second home match of the season on Dec. 9, the boys suffered a close loss against Wheaton Warrenville South with an ending score of 37-34. The freshman team won with a score of 53-36. Both teams had numerous forfeits because some athletes did not make weight. Guillen was not able to compete because of an injury.

"The frontrunners in the DVC that we are competing against are Glenbard North, ranked first in the state, and West Aurora, ranked 10th," head coach Humberto Ayala said.

At the Hinsdale South Varsity Tournament on Dec. 4, the team finished ninth overall, with strong individual places. Freshman Tyler Svestka finished third in the 103 pound weight class, sophomore Robert Svestka

finished first in the 125 pound weight class, junior Franky Correa finished second in the 130 pound weight class, Guillen finished sixth in the 135 pound weight class, and King finished sixth in the 171 pound weight class.

On Dec. 3, the boys took on Wheaton North, and struggled to keep up. The match ended with a Wildcat loss of 44-23.

At the first home match on Dec. 2, the team faced one of the biggest rivalries of the season, competing against Glenbard North. The match ended with a hard loss of 68-0.

"Our most difficult match was against Glenbard North," Ayala said. "Eight of their 14 frontrunners are ranked in the top 10 individually in their weight class."

Against Lisle on Dec. 1, the boys won in both the JV and varsity categories. Varsity won 59-21 and JV won 69-12.

"I feel like I mentally and physically prepared," Guillen said, "which led me to a 14-2 score and a pin at the third period."

The season opened against Lincoln Way East and Glenbard South on Nov. 23. After practicing for the first match, the team won with a score of 57-22.

Guillen wrestles in the 135 weight class, but wants everyone to know "it's all muscle." As the season continues, Guillen has prepared himself to advance further than he has in previous years.

"My goal for this year is to make it down to state and place," Guillen said.

The boys will compete in the Rex Whitlach tournament Friday and Saturday.

Switching tactics

More focus on routines, less on new skills

By Giuliana LaMantia
Reporter

Girls gymnastics finished 8th place out of 10 at a competitive meet at Conant on Saturday.

"For competing against some of the top teams in the state, we did really good," senior and captain Kristina Terry said.

They were successful, however, at Glenbard East Dec. 2 with a score of 128.8-118.95.

The team began the season with simple routines, and a goal of being strong by the end.

"This year we will be focusing on more routines and less new skills," coach Maureen Latimer said.

Terry and junior Caitlin Lawson participate in the team, which is made up of girls from Wheaton North, Wheaton Warrenville South, and West Chicago.

"The big change this year is developing into a co-op," Latimer said. "It has been interesting for both the gymnasts and the coaches, but we don't seem to identify ourselves by our home school."

Athletes believe the season is off to a good start.

"I think I'm doing really well," Lawson said. "I have the support of my coach and my friends."

According to Latimer, the team has a lot of talent this season.

"Kristina Terry is a strong

contender on floor as a varsity member," Latimer said.

As a captain, Terry has high expectations for herself and the team.

"I want to get to state this year, and the team wants to win DVC and get to sectionals as a team," Terry said.

The next event is the varsity invitational Illinois Best Saturday at home.

Leading up to state finals in mid-February, the rest of the DVC meets will take place in January.

"The team I am concerned about in the DVC is most likely Glenbard North," Latimer said.

Generally, they have a good team and finish strong at the end of the season."



Photo by Alexis Hosticka

Sophomore Jack Eichenberger is a potential state swimmer but needs to increase his intensity in practice.

Chance to change the tide

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

With multiple first place finishes already behind them, the boys swim team has a strong start to its season.

On Dec. 7, versus Naperville Central and West Aurora, senior Neil Hummer took first in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:02.72, and senior Anthony Nolazco took second in the same race with a time of 1:02.80.

On Dec. 9, versus DeKalb, Hummer took first in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:57.56 and in the 500 freestyle with a time of 5:19.22.

For the past eight years, the boys swim team has missed the state competition.

This year, head coach Nick Parry sees the chance for a change.

"I honestly don't know if

we'll make it to state, but I'm hopeful," Parry said. "We have the talent, but we lack the work ethic."

Illinois is among the top five states in the nation for swimming, thus the cuts for state are lower than many other states.

Parry thinks that the potential state swimmers are Hummer and Nolazco and sophomores Andy Lang and Jack Eichenberger.

However, in order for state to be a possibility, the swimmers need to increase their practice intensity.

"I don't know why some days things click and they all practice hard, and then the next day I just think 'what happened?'" Parry said.

"They have to take initiative and do stuff on their own, there's only so much I can do."

Hummer's goal is to pick up practice intensity.

"I'm going to listen to what Nick says, work on my stroke, and work on my muscles that help with my strokes," Hummer said. "Last year I was two and a half or three seconds off cut time [for state] and if I work hard I'll be able to get it."

As a captain for the team, Hummer also feels responsibility towards the rest of the team.

"Some of the newcomers have had a hard time finding the work ethic for swimming," Hummer said.

Ten of the team's 17 members are also on the Sharks club swim team, which Parry believes somewhat helps.

"They know more what they're doing, but some individuals have great work ethics and some don't," Parry said.

Successful season ends with blonde hair

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

With a newly-blonde head of hair and four races placing at state, head girls swimming coach Nick Parry was very content with the end of the season.

His blonde hair was a result of a bet made early in the season that if at least five

girls made it past sectionals, he would dye his hair. The girls pulled through, sending six to state and placing in four races.

"At state it gets to the point in time that all the hard work has gone in, and now it's about who wants to beat who, and our girls are very competitive when they need to be," Parry said.

Senior Kelly Dunn took 5th in the 200 freestyle with a school record time of 1:51.82, and 6th in the 100 freestyle, beating another school record with a time of 51.89. Dunn and sophomores Maya Skorupski, Theresa Hock, and Yvette Kruk came in 9th in the 200 freestyle relay with a time of 1:38.28, and Skorupski placed 9th individ-

ually with a time of 58.12 in the 100 backstroke.

"We actually did much better than I was expecting, we took a chance with the 200 [freestyle] relay, and did well," Parry said. "I didn't expect Maya to be able to place."

In the past, Skorupski's time had not been as low; she dropped nearly half a second

in order to place in the top 12.

After working hard all season, Dunn met a goal that she had been aiming for for a few years.

"Being in the top six [swimmers] felt awesome. The season has been stressful, and I made it by tenths and hundredths of a second, I was ecstatic," Dunn said.

Power play proves perilous

By Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

As the season rolls on, varsity hockey coach Dave Dyson stresses balance within the team.

"We have some key guys scoring but we need a balance," Dyson said.

On Dec. 12 the team played Lincolnway Central and won 7-1. The boys lost against York 3-1 on Dec. 5 to make their overall record 13-6.

"I think the key [to the game] is balance from all three lines. There is also a guy leading, I think, the state in scoring [on York]. He's a three-to-four-points a game guy. We'll need to avoid little mistakes," Dyson said.

For most of the first and second periods the boys held their own. However, they were having difficulty with power plays despite a few two-man advantages. In the third period, they struggled to keep up and lost.

"First of all, I think what we did badly was our power play. What we did well, we worked well as a team," junior defenseman Mac Kwasnik said.

Despite the loss, Dyson still believes a league championship is in reach.

"The top tier, which we're a part of, has proved to be very strong. [A championship] is

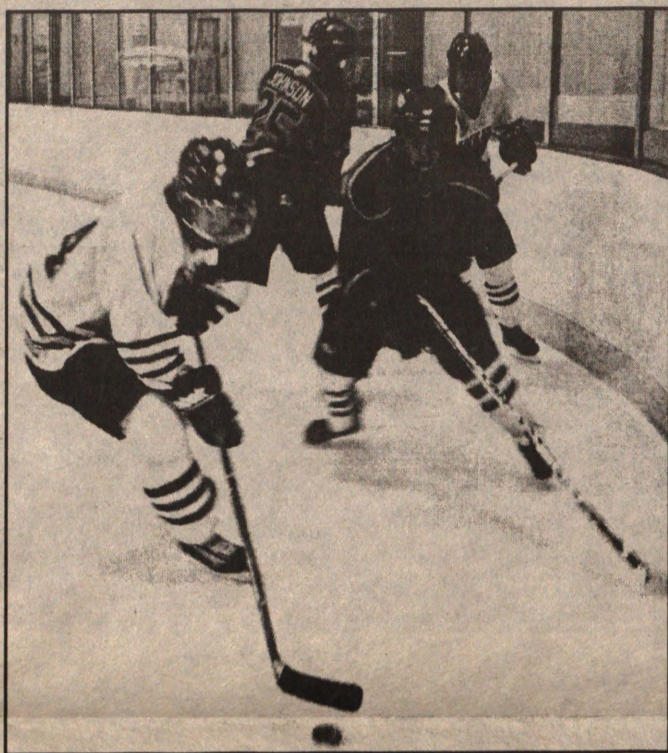


Photo by Carly Tubridy

Wheaton West Wild hockey tries to move the puck out of its zone on Dec. 5 against York.

achievable, but it's going to take us ticking on all cylinders and be healthy when it comes that time in February," Dyson said.

Senior Luke Somen is leading the team in scoring and in points with 15 goals and 21 points as of press time.

"Luke Somen has always been a good player but he has really exploded this year. He's really playing at an all-star level," Dyson said.

Dyson is happy with the team's level of progression.

"They are right on sched-

ule. The guys are playing as a team. They are exactly where I want them to be," Dyson said.

Conditioning is no issue for the team. Dyson thinks the team may be one of the most well-conditioned teams.

"Conditioning is exceptional. I gave the varsity boys a break over Thanksgiving and then pushed them hard after. They held up well," Dyson said.

The next game is against St. Charles on Sunday at Center Ice tentatively set at 7:20 pm.

Improvement is key for team to keep up

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

With a record of 3-4 and no disappointments, boys basketball is ready to step it up and make more improvements.

The boys won against Addison Trail Tuesday, 57-52.

"I think all of [the players] are playing well at this point of the season," coach Kevin Baldus said. "They all play hard to try to win games."

Against Glenbard East on Dec. 10, the team lost 58-86. The team started the game off well but lost the rhythm getting into the second quarter.

"We started the game well by making our first eight shots, then we didn't do a good job of handling their pressure. We got caught up trying to play at their pace and didn't stick to our game plan, which was to slow them down and contest open shots," Baldus said.

Because of their performance in the Dec. 10 game, players realized the necessary improvements.

"Now we know where

we're at as a team. We've got our baseline and we know what we have to improve on. We have to step up and play now at conference games," junior Alex Weier said.

After a few games, the team knows what they've already achieved and what still needs to be worked on.

"[We've improved on] game experience for those kids we haven't played. It's really valuable," Baldus said. "We also have good balance at every position."

At the Cavalier Classic the team won the first game out of the three they played on Nov. 26-27. The first game went into triple overtime.

"To play a triple overtime game on [Nov. 26] and two games on [Nov. 27] was difficult," Baldus said.

Junior Justin Mundt made the all-tournament team at the Cavalier Classic.

"I think playing on varsity last year has really helped [Mundt] a lot to know what it takes to play at that level," Baldus said.

The next game is Friday at Glenbard North at 7:30 p.m.



Photo by Keyuri Parmar

Senior Mary Connolly (left) and junior Emily Warkins practice to improve upon every aspect of their game, refusing to settle for "good."

Doing well is never good enough

By Keyuri Parmar
Perspectives Editor

Despite the girls 8-1 record, they are still working on ways to improve in every aspect of the game.

Girls basketball won their game on Tuesday night with a score of 47-35 against St. Charles East.

They won 43-40 against Glenbard East on Dec. 9.

"Glenbard East is not the best team in the conference, but we can't play down to their level; we didn't play strong," senior Mary Connolly said.

According to the girls this was a learning experience for and it will remind them to give it their all every game.

"We came out, didn't keep focus because we've been doing well. We were capable of much more and took them lightly," senior Taylor Ballek said.

The girls are a good fast-break team but are still trying to progress.

"A team can never be good enough, we work on improving in all areas," coach Kim Wallner said.

They are trying to improve on running the ball down the

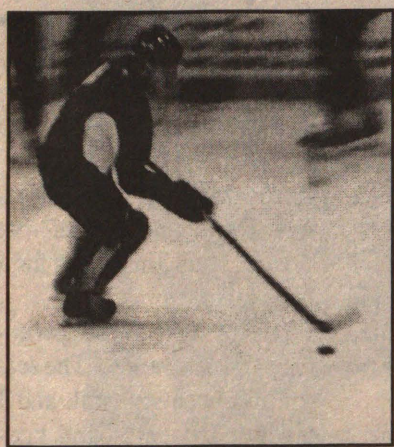
court and to not set up a half-court offense.

"We want to continue to improve and not settle for the way we played in our past games; we don't take any team lightly and play down to their level," Connolly said.

The improvements worked since the team won the Thanksgiving tournament.

"It's never really easy to win a tournament; they played well, were consistent with their defense and rebounding, and we're really excited," Wallner said.

Thursday the girls are playing Glenbard North at home.



Photos by Carly Tubridy

Welcome to the wolf pack

By Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

A fight broke out on the ice during the Wolves' practice and spectators laughed as center Andre Deveaux and a teammate wrestled and goofed around, blowing off steam at the end of the practice on Dec. 7 at the Hoffman Estates Park District Ice Arena.

After practice, sweaty faces and battered grins exited the locker room to talk with student journalists on Future Media Day.

"We have a love/hate relationship," Deveaux joked about his teammate that he was wrestling with.

The team likes to joke and mess with each other.

"The best prank I've seen was someone poked holes in a ketchup packet and put it under the pads in someone's helmet. Then as practice went on, the ketchup rolled

down their face," Deveaux laughed.

After the jokes, the players get serious. They all had hurdles to jump to become the athletes they are.

"My biggest hurdle in life was being short," right winger Darren Haydar said. "Perseverance [is how I overcame it] and I always produced."

Goalie Peter Mannino has learned from the challenges he has faced.

"My biggest hurdle in life has been just overcoming adversity; you have to go through things that stop you from moving forward," Man-

experience and knowledge to younger players.

"The first and second years are a rollercoaster mentally. I try to keep their heads in the game. [I try to] pick them up when they need it and hit them when they get too cocky," Krog said.

Part of the rollercoaster is leaving behind their families on road trips. Goalie Drew MacIntyre is married with a 2-year-old daughter.

"That's a side of the game people don't understand; what the families go through. It's more than just road trips but picking up and moving

kids or if their families were their motivation to play.

"Having two older brothers that pushed me to be the best I can be [influenced me the most]," Haydar said.

Being a professional athlete, injuries are inevitable and the Wolves players are no exception.

"I've had three operations. I had two hernias in my stomach the first year I played pro," MacIntyre said.

Deveaux was fighting when he got a concussion.

"It was actually really embarrassing. The guy knocked me out and when I blacked out, my knees buckled in," Deveaux said.

People tend to forget about the people behind the team. The people who, if not for them, the team wouldn't be there. People like coach Don Lever and general manager Wendell Young, who are both much more than their job descriptions. Young was

a goalie and also is the only man in hockey to have won all four North American championships: the Stanley Cup, Turner Cup, Calder Cup, and Memorial Cup. He was also the first Wolf to have his jersey number retired.

"It's kind of surreal. It's humbling because it's like, 'Do I really deserve that?'" Young said.

Lever, being from Canada, was surrounded by the skating world all his life.

"I had five brothers growing up who all played hockey and two sisters who figure skated," Lever said.

Lever and Young both recognize the one-on-one aspect of the game.

"Some guys need hugs, others need a push. You need to have patience with the players," Young said.

As the journalists filed out, the guys moved down the hall, finally getting a chance to rest.

'Some guys need hugs, others need a push.'

-- General manager Wendell Young

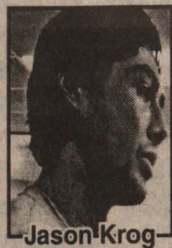
nino said.

Center Jason Krog has played in the NHL, AHL, Austria league, and Swiss league. He tries to pass on his

[if you switch teams]," MacIntyre said.

Families play a huge part in the athletes' lives, whether it's leaving their wives and

Meet the Wolves



Jason Krog

Height: 5'11"
Weight: 185 pounds
Points this season: 22
NHL team: Atlanta Thrashers



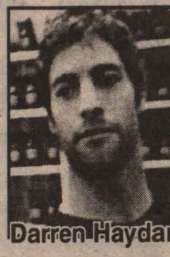
Peter Mannino

Height: 6'
Weight: 200 pounds
Win streak: 4 games
College: University of Denver



Drew MacIntyre

Height: 6'2"
Weight: 185 pounds
Last NHL game: Oct. 9
Home town: Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island



Darren Haydar

Height: 5'10"
Weight: 170 pounds
Goals this year: 11
Hat tricks: 6



Andre Deveaux

Height: 6'4"
Weight: 232 pounds
Goals this year: 9
Penalty minutes: 56

Photos by Kristina Manibo and Amber Del Rio

Unnecessary rules hurt integrity of the game

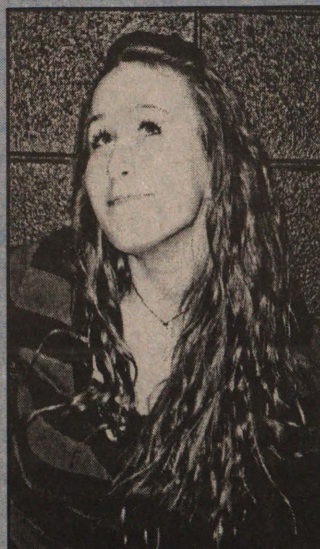
By Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

Let's face it, some rules in sports are just dumb.

Allowing intentional walks in baseball is like allowing the other team to choose your roster. Pitchers can completely take a big hitter out of the game by walking them. Man up. Sports aren't about feeling bad that the other team isn't as good. In fact, I would say that part

of the fun is showing that they're not. This rule is silly and makes the person that utilizes it look like a joke.

Basketball is a fast-paced game. However, when coaches are allowed to take timeouts one right after another, it slows down the game. No one wants to watch the coaches talk to their players for 5 minutes when there are 23 seconds left in the game and it's all tied up. The game loses its intensity. It's the officials' job



Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

to keep the game moving and this is doing quite the opposite.

End-zone celebrations always cause controversy. While there must be lines, football is still a game and celebrating is expected. Leave the props at home, TO that means you. Don't address the other team in any way. Other than that, players should be left alone. Let them look like fools; it's entertaining. Officials, sit back and watch the show. Don't be so uptight.

The quarterback throws 32 yards to his wide receiver. Receiver jumps to catch it, when a linebacker nails him mid-air pushing him out of bounds. Officials call it a completion because the receiver would have landed inbounds. What? He may have possibly landed

inbounds but he didn't. He was pushed out. So why is that a completion? That rule is unfair to the defense.

Perhaps one of the dumbest rules is in golf. You may have just golfed the game of your life, blowing everyone out of the water, but you didn't sign your scorecard. Disqualified. So instead of recognizing someone for their golf abilities, he is forgotten for something that has nothing to do with his athletics. This shows the serious flaws within sports.

It's time for officials to re-evaluate some dumb rules, and focus on enhancing the game and rewarding athletes for their accomplishments.