

Measuring up

By Keyuri Parmar
 Perspectives Editor

A thick blanket of snow covered the ground when students returned to school on Feb. 4 after two snow days.

Having a snow day on Feb. 2 was something most students and teachers expected.

"On Feb. 2 we stayed in communication with other districts and kept track of the weather organization. It was pretty apparent that there was going to be a lot of snow," Supt. Lalo Ponce said.

The storm dropped 20 inches of snow, bright lightning flashes, and winds up to 60 mph.

Temperatures on Feb. 3 were reported as 7 degrees below zero and a wind chill of 12 degrees below zero.

"Usually sub-zero temperatures might not cause school to be closed but the heavy snow in small streets, four-lane roads being down to two lanes, and large piles of snow around corners in neighborhoods did not make it safe," Ponce said.

The second snow day occurred because it was not safe for students or staff to be out-

side in such cold conditions.

"On Feb. 3, snow and wind made it dangerous to be outside. Also, a lot of transportation arteries were paralyzed so it was appropriate to cancel school and all other activities on that day," Ponce said.

Students enjoyed having the two days off.

"I shoveled, played in the snow, and went sledding in the snow for two hours," senior Namita Parikh said.

Some people decided to take a walk in the snow and get a workout.

"I had friends over and went hiking in the snow for an hour," senior Maddy Dall said.

Most teachers weren't affected by the snow days too much.

"They didn't affect lessons much; I just had to rearrange things and put them in order so it would make more sense to the students," foreign language teacher Sarah Bellis said.

Some teachers were as relieved as students to have two days off.

"I was sick so I was happy we had two snow days. It pushed back tests but that

doesn't bother me," science teacher Jill Serling said.

With sign ups for labs and project due dates, some teachers were inconvenienced.

"My classes were supposed to be in the computer lab and there were problems with the schedules. Other teachers were flexible and I pushed back the dates. You have to be adaptable when things like this happen," social studies teacher Mitchell McKenna said.

Not having students or teachers at school on Feb. 3 allowed time for more snow to be removed from school parking lots and streets.

The school pays for snow removal by push, which is each time they come out to clear the snow. So no matter how much they clear they are getting paid the same amount.

Paying for an extra push or two doesn't affect the school much, according to Ponce.

But there is a cost for the days off. Instead of the last day of school being June 1, it will now be June 3 for underclassmen. The last day for seniors, May 27, remains the same.

Lack of interest cancels trip

By Keyuri Parmar
 Perspectives Editor

Dreams of traveling to Germany this summer were crushed for German students when they found out the foreign exchange trip was canceled.

"I was kind of bummed; it's a big thing I'd been looking forward to since sophomore year," senior Bobby Giese said.

The trip was canceled when not enough students committed to the trip. Fifteen students signed up, which was the minimum needed, but only 14 paid the price of \$2,500.

"We postponed the German exchange travel experience for summer 2011 as the minimum number of students required to travel was not met. CHS will host German students next school year in spring 2012," division head of world languages Janelle Stefancic said in an e-mail interview.

For some German 4 students the trip was, in a way, a reward.

"I was upset because it was one of the main reasons I took German 4," senior Darrek Sams said.

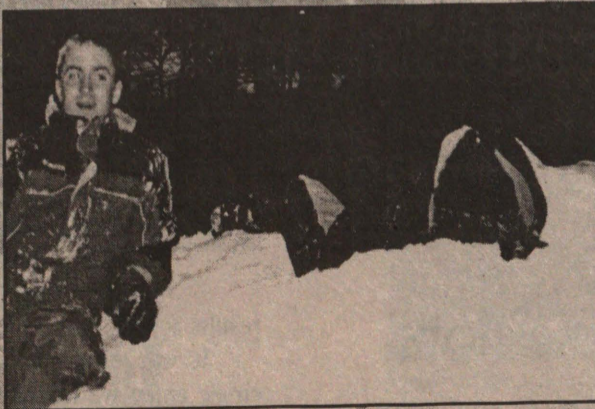
Other students were hoping to get out of the trip what they could not learn in class.

"I was looking forward to living with the host family, trying new food, and learning about the culture," Giese said.

The cause of the cancellation was probably the most devastating part.

"The worst part is it got canceled because we didn't have enough people. If it was because of a storm or something I wouldn't be upset," Sams said.

The withdrawal of the program let down students looking forward to the experience.



Photos by Megan Hernbroth and Carly Tubridy
 Senior Darrek Sams (bottom left) spends his snow day channeling his inner child after he and senior Bobby Giese (bottom right) tunnel through a snow pile left by the plows. 2009 graduate Sean Tubridy (above left) attempts to uncover his driveway under 20 inches of snow on Feb. 2.

INSIDE Ordinary People

After a serious performance, Drama Club and classes add an extra play to the lineup. For more information on the upcoming performance of "Chess"--see **NEWS**, page 3.



Mean Girls

Bullies do not always have to hit or punch in order to hurt and girls have their own ways to harm. How has a former victim changed from her experience?--see **CENTER SPREAD**, pages 8-9.

Battle Royale

Two of the school's top bands are shooting for a future in the music industry. For their plans to take the industry by storm--see **ENTERTAINMENT**, page 12.



All-State

After a season of dedication and hard work, two hockey players made the honored All-State team. For how the game went--see **SPORTS**, page 16.

Dancers 'got' skills

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

Students showcased their talents in dance production's, "Got Dance?" performance.

The girls danced to various musical styles, from hip hop to jazz and lyrical. They fist pumped to "Beat Dat Beat" by DJ Pauly D and danced in nerdy outfits to "I'mma Nerd" by Swagg Kids. In memory of senior Jake Carney who died in a car accident in November, the girls danced to "If I Die Young" by The Band Perry.

Senior Cara Stompor danced in the show for the first time.

"I love dancing, and I liked most of the dances I was in. I've been dancing for a long time so I'm used to the experiences," Stompor said.

Freshman Cristin Zaputil performed in nine group dances and a duet with Stompor.

"I thought [the show] was pretty good, since everybody knew their dances," Zaputil said. "What I liked best was that I got to perform and have fun with everyone."

Zaputil was not nervous before the January show.

"Since I danced before, I was just ready for it," Zaputil said.

Dance production teacher Julie Wyller is proud of the show's outcome.

"I would say [the girls] exceeded my expectations. They worked hard all semester long and put extra effort to go to practice outside of school. They really stepped it up during dress rehearsals,"

Wyller said.

In addition to the extra effort, Wyller appreciates the girls' attitudes.

"The girls were mature, they were responsible, and they did a really nice job," Wyller said.

This was Wyller's first year teaching the show.

"The students choreographed, and I cleaned up their dances," Wyller said. "I aided them as they were coming up with material, making sure there was a variety of dances."

Tryouts will be held in the beginning of March for next year's showcase.



Photo by Kristina Manibo

Junior Lexi Micele (left) and senior Keegan Johnson choreographed and performed a hip hop dance, "I'mma Nerd."

What's Happening?

Recycling initiatives

By Giuliana LaMantia
Reporter

Beginning in mid-February, Club Green will place containers in math and science classes to collect dead batteries from calculators and recycle them at Public Work's storage lot.

"We decided to collect batteries because we saw a need for it in the math and science classrooms," club adviser Suzanne Burchacki said. "We could save landfill space by having a container

in each room where students could deposit old batteries."

In addition, Club Green is considering hot chocolate sales. The money made last year went towards adopting a snow leopard at the Lincoln Park Zoo.

"It goes toward helping feed that animal for a year," Burchacki said.

Club Green will hold a locker clean-out at the end of the year to collect gently-used supplies that can be reused by students next school year.

Mr. Wildcat returns

By Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

Senior boys ready to showcase their confidence and talent are needed for this year's Mr. Wildcat.

Mr. Wildcat is coming back after a lack of interest last year cancelled the show.

Contestants will compete in formalwear, talent, and question and answer.

"This is not an evolutionary meat market," Pep Club

adviser Dave Jennings said.

Senior Evan Bernard is already planning on wiping out the competition.

"I grew up a Wildcat. I bleed Wildcat. I sleep Wildcat. I breathe Wildcat. I am pretty much the best Mr. Wildcat there was, or will be," Bernard said.

The show's exact date is not set yet, although it will be in the auditorium. Boys interested in competing can contact Jennings.

iTunes cash up for grabs

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

Students can win an iTunes gift card by completing a small survey from the Carol Stream Library starting March 1.

"We wanted to do the teen survey to introduce programs that would get high school students to come to the library," assistant director Pam Leffler said. "We didn't know what types of

programs students would be into."

iTunes gift cards worth \$10 will be awarded to 50 random winners for completing the survey, which will be available for pick up at the beginning of April.

Students can complete the survey at www.cslibrary.org, or through the library's Facebook page. Students will be asked for an e-mail address so they can be contacted if chosen to win a gift card.

Speech team misses state cut

Close loss has seniors reflecting on past seasons

By Yasmyn McGee
Features Editor

Sectionals put a stop to speech team Saturday.

"We had four of the events get through into sectional finals. None of them made it out to state, but it was still a very successful weekend," Lichy said.

Seniors Thalia Fernandez, Ben Vanderlei, Darrek Sams and sophomores Josh Brown and Daniel Stompor competed in sectionals.

However, the disappoint-

ment of not making it to state took a toll on Vanderlei and Fernandez.

"I almost cried and Thalia really did cry," Vanderlei said.

Still, Fernandez said that making it to sectionals is an experience she'll remember long after graduation.

"It was difficult but amazing. I've been going [to competitions] for three years but this was an awesome but hard experience," Fernandez said.

Despite falling short at sectionals, the team had positive

results at regionals.

"It was excellent. Every single entry we had went to a final round at regionals," adviser Paul Lichy said. In the final rounds we had seven competitors, [in] six events, go on to the sectional finals. We did very well."

Lichy found that having

"We had a group of seniors at the sectional finals that were amazing. [They were] Ben, Thalia and Darrek Sams. Not to say everyone wasn't but [those three] provided great leadership which is hard given the fact that they've known other coaches. For us to work together and

was excellent," Lichy said.

Lichy looks forward to making even bigger strides in all aspects of the team.

"It's a beginning. I told the kids on the bus on the way home from regionals, I hope they get used to it because this is where we're going," Lichy said.

He is sure that the team will continue to compete at this level.

"We're not going to go back from this point. Anything we do will be taking a step forward [as far as] work ethic, competition and everything. Not to say they've been doing it wrong before, we're just taking the next step," Lichy said.

It was difficult but amazing. I've been going [to competitions] or three years but this was an awesome but hard experience.

-- Senior Thalia Fernandez

driven students on the team led to a solid season.

have a good relationship that first year is hard to do but it

Heading to state, aiming for nationals

By **Connie Kim**
Reporter

Thirty-four members of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) are heading to the state conference in March after competing at regionals.

The team qualified for state in Decatur on March 25-26.

Members placing first, second, or third at state will be eligible for the national conference in Orlando, Fla. on June 26 - July 1.

"I feel we have a great group that is determined and hopefully will bring first, second, and third place trophies and go to the national level," FBLA adviser Maria Wirth

said.

FBLA president senior Kyle Molskow feels positive about the state conference.

"I think we'll do well at the state conference because we have been studying hard for the events," Molskow said.

During a competition, events include either a written test, a performance, or both. There are individual events and team events which include speaking or a presentation.

Competitors choose from 63 events ranging from accounting 1 to word processing to compete in and up to three students are able to compete together.

Regional placers included

seniors Guri Haxhiu, second in job interview; Tim Kotche, fourth in parliamentary procedures; Luis Guzman and Molskow, fourth in management decision making; Nici Burlingame, fifth in sports management; Matt Rayos and Matt Zajac, sixth in emerging business issues; and Brandon Fischer and Justin Malandrucolo, seventh in global business.

Juniors that placed were Alex Marano and Justin Olson, second in desktop publishing; Anthony Venen, third in computer applications; Alex Weier, third in marketing; Vito Loiotile and Tyler Schoenwolf, fourth in desktop publishing; and Alec



Photo courtesy of Maria Wirth

Junior Alex Weier will go to the state conference after placing third in marketing at the FBLA conference competition

Strachota, sixth in emerging business issues.

Sophomore winners included Megan Matson, first in word processing 1; and

Ryan Weier, fourth in sports management.

Regionals were Jan. 22 with about 600 students competing.

No ordinary performance

Serious play followed by new style

By **Keyuri Parmar**
Perspectives Editor

The curtain may have closed on the winter play, "Ordinary People," but it is still open to others with a passion for the theater.

Any thespians interested in being on stage can pick up an audition packet for the spring musical, Aida, on the drama call-board outside of 217 and in the library. Auditions will be Tuesday and Wednesday and callbacks on Feb. 28.

In the meantime, Drama Club will do a group interpretation of "Chess," about the Cold War. They will present Chess at the IHSA competition on March 19 and at the school March 22.

"Students should have a

lot of opportunities to be involved and find different opportunities to experience those moments," director Mark Begovich said.

Drama Club presented a dramatic and serious play that brought tears to many people's eyes on Feb. 10-12.

"[Ordinary People] is a serious story about a young man dealing with teen family and friend issues," director Mark Begovich said.

The young man Conrad Jerett, played by sophomore Daniel Stompor, is coping with the death of his brother when returning to school and his own attempted suicide.

"It was edgy and dramatic, something the school usually doesn't do," sophomore Ahmad Asani said.

The play was unique because it addressed a different kind of issue.

"It's different than any other play we've done. It's more serious and talked about stuff people don't like to talk about," senior Tori



Photo courtesy of Maggie Haas

Junior Anthony Soliven (top) and sophomore Daniel Stompor rehearse for the winter play, "Ordinary People."

Snell said.

It was a very emotional play that makes people think about life.

"The story gives me a down to the heart feeling. It's something that pulls at my emotions and I'm drained from the experience," senior Nik Kmiecik, who played Buck,

said.

Begovich believes the play talks about a situation that needs to be addressed.

"I like how the play is a constant reminder of how important it is for family and friends to stick together when things are tough," Stompor said.

Shoot, score

By **Amber Del Rio**
Reporter

The fifth annual West Chicago Wildcat Classic 3-on-3 basketball tournament returns looking for more teams to participate.

"The first couple of years we had a really good turnout with the grade school teams but last year we were really down [in teams] in that division," coordinator Butch Hansen said.

The tournament is open to students in 5th grade and up.

The cost is \$60 per team through 12th grade and \$80 per team for the men's, women's, senior, and open divisions. All participants will be given a 3-on-3 t-shirt the day of the tournament.

Games for divisions 5th through 8th will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. All-over divisions will begin after noon.

A \$400 cash prize will be awarded to the Open Division Champion. Winners of the other divisions will receive a trophy.

Although the high school hosts the tournament, the number of teams in the high school division has decreased dramatically since the first year.

"We're hoping we're going to get more teams this year. [We had] 49 teams [total] the first year," Hansen said. "We're trying to get more high school teams [to participate]."

Teams who sign up can expect to play at least two games. Each game will be played to 15 points or 15 minutes, whichever comes first.

Tangible way to help say thank you

By **Kristina Manibo**
Reporter

Students can thank their soldiers by contributing to care packs.

With students' help, social studies teachers John Chisholm and Mitch McKenna are sending care packs to soldiers.

This is Chisholm's first year in charge of the care

packs. Social studies teacher Mary Ellen Daneels introduced the care packs to advisory classes a few years ago.

"Mr. McKenna and I teach world wars classes, and we thought it would be cool to recognize soldiers' services to our country," Chisholm said.

The care packs are sent to former West Chicago graduates.

"We're still asking for

names [of graduates]. It's important to recognize people who are trying to keep us safe," Chisholm said.

Letters of encouragement, non-perishables, and small amenities like socks, razors, and lotion are included in the care packs.

"We have gotten letters back saying thank you," Chisholm said.

Three soldiers receive a

package each month. So far, 12 boxes were sent.

Anybody who wants to donate can drop off supplies at rooms 180 and 182.

"[Veterans of Foreign War] are able to pay for the majority of the shipping cost. They've been really generous in reimbursing us," Chisholm said.

Chisholm will mail the next three boxes on Feb. 26.



Photo by Alexis Hosticka

Senior Megan Hernbroth's dedication to journalism has helped the newspaper to win many journalism awards.

Senior writes her future

By Connie Kim
Reporter

Student of the Month is based on a solid academic history, commitment in extra-curricular activities, and community involvement. Students must be nominated by at least one staff member, and the final selection is made by the student activities director and committee made up for additional staff members.

Wildcat Chronicle editor in chief Megan Hernbroth was named Student of the Month for January.

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

I was really surprised because I got the award without having a 4.0 GPA.

What clubs or sports do you participate in?

I've been on the newspaper and track for four years, but I'm also in the InterAct Club and the Leadership Team.

What is your favorite class

and why?

It is definitely journalism because that's what I want to be. I'm willing to put all the work into it. I also like human anatomy, because I find it interesting.

Where do you plan on attending college?

I am going to Northwestern University in Evanston, and I'm majoring in journalism and marketing.

Who influences you the most?

My parents influence me the most because I know life hasn't been easy for them, but they're still able to back me up.

What do you enjoy the most about high school?

I enjoy being with my friends and teammates because we see each other so much we're basically family. I also enjoy making new friends from sports or clubs that I would have never been with if I hadn't joined.

Random assessment

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

Twenty-eight randomly selected seniors have the opportunity to show what they have learned in high school in a national test.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an assessment for 4th, 8th, and 12th grades to measure what students are learning.

Seniors will take the test on Tuesday.

Schools were also randomly selected to take the NAEP.

This year the NAEP is a

writing test including a multiple choice and essay portion.

"It's a national organization so they use this information to analyze how students are doing in different areas and in different student populations," director of student services Maura Bridges said.

According to Bridges, only 28 seniors were chosen to take the test because the organization only needs a sampling. The NAEP doesn't affect the school directly or the students individually.

"We can see the results. It's used more for national data about schools and student

populations," Bridges said.

Some seniors don't want to take the test.

"I really don't want to take it because it's like the ACT. I don't want to take a test for two hours," senior Namita Parikh said. "I'm not doing any preparations because it's not going to affect me so I'm just going to go in and take it."

Other seniors won't mind taking the test.

"I think it'd be a cool idea of representing hundreds of students," senior Matt Iannacco said. "I won't do any preparation though."

Keeping a legacy

Stock team continues winning streak

By Amber Del Rio
Reporter

The legacy of Stock Market Game wins continues as four seniors took first place in the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association Foundation's program.

Seniors Justin Bangert, Denis Mahmic, Kevin Stolzman, and Brad Wilson teamed up to invest in the Stock Market Game.

"We've done pretty well in previous years with teams," business education teacher Nancy Blume said.

Students enrolled in Consumer Education have the opportunity to choose and follow their own stocks in the Stock Market Game.

Each semester, students spend a few days looking at

stock trends, forming teams, and buying different stocks.

According to Mahmic, the boys invested in three different stocks with unknown companies that had just opened.

The team increased their \$100,000 to a final portfolio of \$131,228 in the three-month span of the game.

"I didn't think we could make that much money in such a short amount of time," Mahmic said. "During college I'll definitely invest."

The game was close for the boys and the team from North Cook Young Adult Academy in Skokie who came in second with \$125,370.

"It was close but the stock market can change in a day," Blume said.

Second semester classes will also compete in the game.

Their results will be compared with first semester's group to see who will move on to the national level.

Working towards recovery

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

After facing budget problems last year, the school looks to be in a much better position this year.

"We still don't know what the state's going to do," Gordon Cole, director of business services, said. "In theory, in the long run, we should be okay."

The state has been making payments, and the projected deficit for next year is only about \$100,000.

The school is paid in two different categories and all money from last year has been paid so far. For this year, one of the two categories has been paid consistently.

So far, the school has not created a list of potential cuts, but the Board of Education and staff members have discussed possible items.

"We will have a meeting in February with an actual list of cuts that we can make, but right now we're looking for suggestions for reductions," Supt. Lalo Ponce said.

Ponce has met with staff members and will continue to look for ideas from students, staff, and the community.

The High Lake fund, a fund of savings from sold property, would be available for funding only if the Board of Education approved its use. In the past, the Board of Education has avoided using the fund despite requests from staff and parents.

Beating out the competition

By Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

After beating out competitors at the local level senior Tim Kotche took third at the district level in the Voice of Democracy competition.

The prompt of Voice of Democracy, "Does my generation have a role in America's future?" inspired students throughout the school to voice their opinions.

To compete students write and then record an essay motivated by the prompt provided by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

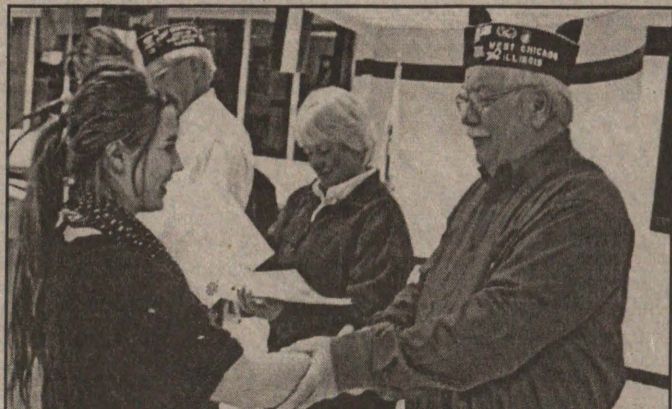


Photo by Megan Hernbroth

Senior Megan Gossen accepts her award from veteran Bob Guftason.

Prizes are given at the local, district, state, and national level.

"I was surprised, happy, and honored [when I found

out I won]," Kotche said.

Kotche shared first place with four others at the local level: juniors Kristyn Pavnica, Cassie Thill, seniors Jordan

Gabriel and Katie Kemnitz.

They attended a banquet with the veterans to recognize their achievement.

"When we went to the banquet, the [veterans] really appreciated our essays," Pavnica said.

Every student is given a certificate and monetary prize.

"Our local VFW is very generous. For example, our first place winners won more than the district winner," social studies teacher Mary Ellen Daneels.

Next year's prompt will be, "Is there pride in serving in our military?"

Broken heart mended for students

By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Reporter

Twenty human anatomy and physiology students experienced seeing a broken heart mended on Valentine's Day at Provena Mercy Hospital in Aurora.

"We watched the entire operation," human anatomy teacher Hank Murphy said. "It took about four hours. Everyone was interested; no one was bored."

According to Murphy, students stayed in a separate room and watched the open heart surgery through a live

video feed, and were able to ask the surgeons questions throughout.

"I liked being able to actually see everything, from the tiniest needle stitching to the doctors having a good time at work," senior Lucy Fuentes said.

Besides watching the open heart surgery performed during the field trip Monday, students also saw presentations from different health care officials about their jobs, including a cardiac surgeon, anesthesiologist, cardiovascular perfusionist (professional who operates the heart/lung

machine during cardiac surgery), and an operating room nurse.

Only 20 students were able to participate in the trip due to hospital limits. Students were selected after submitting a written statement on why they wished to go.

The trip has never been done before, so Murphy was unsure how everything would work out, however, everything went well.

"I saw this operation better today than when I saw it the first time as a medical student," Murphy said. "That's really something for a high

school student to see it better than a doctor when he was training."

Student also enjoyed it.

"I loved seeing the environment in surgery and the inter-

talking and laughing together."

After the surgery, everyone involved in the surgery had lunch with the students.

Murphy hopes to continue

I liked being able to actually see everything from the tiniest needle stitching to the doctors having a good time at work.'

-- Senior Lucy Fuentes

action between the doctors and nurses," junior Kelsey Sayner said. "They got along really well and were always

taking the trip in the future.

"They [gained] insight into some health-related occupations," Murphy said.



Photo by Yasmyrn McGee

Involvement in school activities and dedication to school work has awarded senior Kelly Dunn Student of the Month.

Diving into success

By **Yasmyrn McGee**
Features Editor

Student of the Month is based on a solid academic history, commitment in extra-curricular activities, and community involvement. Students must be nominated by at least one staff member, and the final selection is made by the student activities director and committee made up of additional staff members.

Swim captain and student ambassador senior Kelly Dunn was named Student of the Month for February.

How do you feel about being chosen for Student of the Month?

I was really excited. It's kind of something I always wanted in high school. I think I've worked pretty hard throughout high school so it's

like your work is being recognized.

What extracurricular activities are you involved in?

I'm in swimming, NHS and student ambassadors.

What college are you going to?

[I'm going to] University of Nebraska in Lincoln and I'm super excited.

I'm thinking possibly English, but...I'm going to wait until I get there and test the waters and see what I like.

Who has impacted your life the most?

My friends, my parents and my coaches because they're the ones who have supported me throughout everything I've done in high school. I definitely wouldn't be able to achieve anything that I've done so far without them.

Appreciating the little things

By **Sarah Berger**
Center Spread Editor

Expressing their beliefs through writing, junior English students had the opportunity to practice their persuasion skills and pocket \$100 through the This I Believe essay contest.

"I didn't know what to write about, and my sister just told me to write about what made me happy, so I did. I wrote about the little things in life, like singing in the car or a perfect first kiss," said junior Elena Tubridy, this year's winner.

The contest originated from a public radio station that wanted to get to the hearts of true Americans. Four years ago, Brad Larson's junior English class began submitting their This I Believe essays to the radio station.

Two years ago, though, funding was cut for the radio station contest, but the contest still thrives at school.

"The This I Believe essay

contest fits perfectly into the junior English curriculum, because it works on persuasion writing skills. Every English class, except for AP, is required to take part. Each class selects their three best essays, and then submits them into the contest. We have about 30 essays in the contest," said language arts division head Chris Covino.

The prize is \$100 for the first place winner, and \$50 for second and third places essays. CHS Education Foundation funds the prize money.

Last year, the contest was judged by members of the community, but this year, judges were from the school administration.

"Judges are looking for a unique quality and the writer's personal voice, while still answering the prompt. So often in school you can't write about yourself. This essay creates an opportunity for students to purely express their own belief system," said Covino.

Bring on the talent

By **Liz Ramos**
Reporter

Students and staff have the chance to show their special talents to entertain others at lunch and win money in the process during WeGo's Got Talent on Feb. 23 and 24.

A microphone and CD player will be available for the performers.

"I think we have to admire those who do it and it'll be a break in routine. Some students may surprise us with the talent they have," Student Council adviser Barbara Laimins said.

Laimins got the idea of having WeGo's Got Talent during lunch from the TV show "Glee."

"[English teacher Dave] Jennings did [WeGo Idol] during advisory and we don't have advisory anymore, so we wanted to have entertainment during lunch. We're the only school to try this so [other schools] are waiting to see how it works," Laimins said.

A winner will be chosen from every lunch hour, and all the winners will compete against each other.

Students and staff will vote for the winner by putting money in jars for each participant. The winner will keep the money in her or her jar, while the other jars' donations will be donated to an undetermined organization.

Sign-up sheets are posted on the wall in commons.

Aim to end season with regional wins

By **Connie Kim**
Reporter

Scholastic Bowl finished their best season in the last 10 years with varsity at 13-12 overall and 4-3 in the DVC.

"We've been cruising our way up every year, and each year the season is better than the last," Scholastic Bowl coach Nick Caltagirone said.

The team placed sixth out of 24 teams at the Fenton Tournament on Jan. 8, and senior Ben Vanderlei made the all-tournament team, placing third. Vanderlei also was named to the All-Sectional Scholastic Bowl team.

For the first time in 10 years, the team beat Naperville North and Wheaton North.

"We haven't beaten Naperville North or Wheaton North since I've been the Scholastic Bowl coach," Caltagirone said.

Scholastic Bowl captains Vanderlei and senior Joanna Wierenga enjoyed the season.

"I love Scholastic Bowl because I've always been one of those nerds that love school

and it gives you the opportunity to be smarter," Vanderlei said.

Scholastic Bowl isn't just for competing and fun, but members also get an educational experience.

"I had a good time with all the people on the team," Wierenga said.

The varsity team goes to regionals on March 7.

Our View

O.M.G. Politicians need to back off

While walking down the crowded streets in the city, there is always at least one person who is moving slower than everyone else and is bumping into other pedestrians. It's no surprise that this person is either talking on their cell phone, texting, or listening to their iPod.

As a result, New York Sen. Carl Kruger and Arkansas Sen. Jimmy Jeffress want to make it illegal to use electronic devices while on or near a city roadway.

It seems silly for the government to have to create a law for people to be aware of their surroundings while crossing a busy street in the city. Children are taught at very young ages to look both ways before crossing the street, so why are so many struggling with this?

The Governors Highway Safety Association has reported an increase in 2010 in pedestrian fatalities, which

only makes politicians believe that grown people cannot handle walking down the street listening to music.

The latest YouTube hit of Cathy Cruz Marrero helps prove what the politicians believe is true, thanks to her famous plunge into a mall fountain while she was texting.

However, it's not fair for states to create a law that prevents everyone from using electronic devices on the streets just because of a few careless people.

It cannot be proven that these gadgets are the cause of the increase in accidents either. Cell phones and iPods have been around for quite some time now. If they were the cause of so much pedestrian carnage, why has the increase in accidents just begun?

Laws such as this don't always work as they are intended to. Take the no texting while driving ban for example. It's illegal, but people still do it. What makes it even worse is that people are trying to hide their phones out of view from cops, so they hold it down which takes their eyes even further from the road.

Enforcing this would be impossible.

How exactly will an officer know if one was using their Bluetooth or if the iPod was on pause or playing just before the pedestrian started crossing the street?

Just like pedestrians, politicians need to know when to go and when to stop.



Funerals are for respect

Amid the grief following the Arizona shooting on Jan. 11, a small church in Kansas wanted to take advantage of the media attention and picket the funerals of the shooting victims.

The Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) is infamous for picketing military funerals with signs proclaiming "God Hates Fags," "God Hates America," and "God Kills Soldiers," hoping to use the publicity surrounding military funerals to spread their beliefs on homosexuality. The WBC believes that God is punishing America for allowing homosexuality.

In the days following the Arizona shooting, images and articles popped onto the church's website stating that they would be picketing 9-year-old Christina Green's funeral.

According to www.cnn.com, however, WBC canceled the planned picketing in exchange for 30 minutes of air time on the Steve Sanchez Radio Show in Phoenix, stating that they could reach a broader audience with the interview than with the picketing.

It seems simply unthinkable that any type of group would take advantage of such a vulnerable time for so many. It is understandable to want to project a point of view, and living in America allows civilians to do so.

However, these messages need to find another way to gain publicity. Funerals of fallen soldiers, AIDS victims, or shooting victims should be a time for friends and families to mourn their

losses, not worry about hateful posters close to the church or funeral home.

As undesirable as WBC's message is, the right to free speech is protected under law, and they may state their beliefs. However, WBC should find another outlet to get its point across.

Following WBC's promise to picket other victim's funerals, Arizona passed legislature banning protests within 300 feet of the services, according to www.cnn.com.

The bill was absolutely necessary, as it is insensitive of WBC to see a national crisis as a publicity stunt. Church members do not think of the family and friends inside the service mourning the loss of a loved one; they just want people to look at their signs.

Finding other outlets, such as a radio talk show, may upset some listeners, but is preferable to picketing funerals. Those who have died do not deserve to be disrespected in such a way.

America was built on differences, and yet some civilians cannot show even a slight tolerance for different beliefs. Intolerance in such a diverse nation is unacceptable, yet WBC thrives on such intolerance.

Unfortunately, WBC's actions are not unconstitutional, as repulsive as they are, because it takes advantage of the freedom of speech.

WBC needs to find other outlets for its voice, leaving poor victims and families alone. Enough pain exists without WBC adding to it.

Rape cannot be redefined

Not all bills are well thought out.

The House Republicans majority proposed the rape exemption for abortion be limited to "forcible rape."

That means that there would be no federal assistance for abortions in rape cases that include statutory rape, if a woman is drugged or given excessive amounts of alcohol, rapes of women with limited mental capacity, incest if the woman is over 18 and date rapes.

The bill would also prevent the use of tax benefits paying for abortions, which could lead to companies dropping women's reproductive health benefits because there is no tax benefit for the companies.

Not surprisingly, the only ones in support of this bill are extreme anti-abortionists. Not only is this bill ridiculous but it's just cruel.

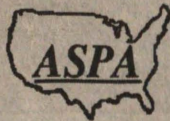
Under this bill a woman who was drugged and taken advantage of isn't considered a rape victim because she wasn't "forced."

But when you can't think straight because someone put roofies in your drink, it's a bit difficult to stop another person from assaulting you.

This is yet another excuse to limit the amount of women getting abortions but it may just cause the opposite effect. Women may attempt dangerous methods in order to get the abortion they want. The days of women falling down stairs and grabbing a coat hanger will rear its ugly head once again.

Even though the chance of this bill passing is slim to none, it should have never been brought up in the first place.

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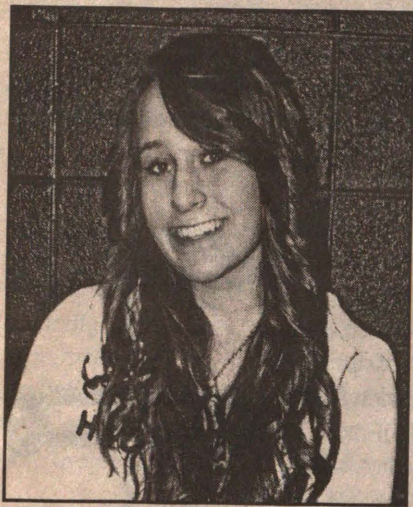
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Death penalty: is it necessary?

Gov. Pat Quinn has not yet decided if the death penalty should be abolished. The bill has been on his desk for weeks.

Lessons not learned **Vs.** It's not our decision



By Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

The death penalty is a necessary evil; however, it should be used sparingly and with concern.

If there is concrete evidence to prove guilt in cases of serial killers and serial rapists, the death penalty should be used. If there is any reasonable doubt, then the defendant should be put in jail in case they are proven innocent later.

According to deathpenaltyinfo.org since 1973, 130 prisoners have been released from death row because evidence proved their innocence, which is why the death penalty should be used with extreme caution.

Innocence is completely up to the judicial system and shouldn't play a role in determining whether or not the death penalty is right.

While shouts of "let them rot!" are heard, convicts aren't rotting in prison. Three meals a day, time to work out, read, and participate in other sorts of entertainment does not sound like rotting to me.

Leaving serial killers in prison is not teaching them a lesson, and it is providing them with an opportunity

to escape.

Take the Texas Seven for example. On Dec. 13, 2000, the Texas Seven broke out of high-security prison, according to www.time.com. They overpowered a guard and prison employees to drive off in a police truck.

Convicted of attempted murder, Joseph Legendre and Martin Moon escaped in November 2005 from the Iowa State Penitentiary.

They used rope and a grappling hook to scale the wall.

Giving dangerous criminals the chance to break out and commit more crimes is awful and scary for law-abiding citizens.

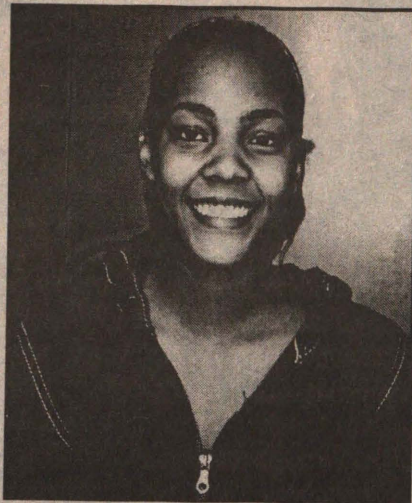
While the death penalty is substantially more expensive than imprisonment, the low number of people that are actually executed compared to the amount of people in prison makes the number less significant.

In Illinois, 45,545 people were incarcerated in 2009. It costs \$21,911 to house a prisoner for one year. That means for one year it costs \$997,936,495, according to www.iocd.state.il.us.

There have been 12 executions in Illinois since 1976. Each execution can cost around \$3.2 million depending on where the execution takes place, according to www.fnsa.org. So based on those figures, in 35 years, Illinois may have spent \$38,400,400 on executions. This is pocket change compared to the \$997,936,495 it costs for housing prisoners for just one year.

Peace of mind for citizens is worth the extra money that comes with the death penalty.

The death penalty comes with risks and downfalls. However, the benefit of ridding the world of people that only want to cause pain and suffering to others far outweighs the negatives.



By Yasmyrn McGee
Features Editor

"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind." This saying by Muhammad Gandhi rings true with the death penalty.

Approving the death penalty in Illinois is simply the wrong decision to make. The death penalty is not only immoral but hurts more than just the prisoner.

Yes, murderers and rapists deserve to be punished for their horrible crimes. But it is not our place to decide who lives and dies.

A murderer already took that route and look where he ended up. What makes us so different?

Murdering criminals won't bring back victims or teach the criminal a lesson.

In fact, states that have the death penalty have higher murder rates than those that don't, according to deathpenaltyinfo.org.

Another reason why the death penalty shouldn't be considered is, criminals have been found innocent of crimes they've had to serve long and harsh time for or were put to death for.

How do you explain to the family of the alleged criminal that he was unjustly killed?

Put yourself in the shoes of these families and I'm sure you'd be furious if this happened to someone you loved.

According to nodeathpenalty.org, in 2003, Illinois Governor George Ryan changed the sentences of all of the states' 167 death row prisoners on the grounds that the system was so flawed it could not ensure that the innocent were spared.

Even if the criminal is guilty, at least family members would be able to visit them in prison. If the death penalty was enacted they'd be visiting their grave instead.

Some argue the cost to house prisoners is reason enough to have the death penalty.

But according to msnbc.com, it's cheaper to imprison criminals for life than to execute them.

Not only does the actual execution cost money, but so does the lawyers, security measures to house inmates and processing evidence.

This should definitely be taken into consideration with the recent recession we are facing.

Also, it has been said that without the death penalty prisoners will have the chance to escape and once again wreak havoc on society. This notion is ridiculous.

The chance of a criminal escaping from a high maximum security prison is slim to none. Those dramatic yet nearly impossible escapes are reserved for Hollywood movies.

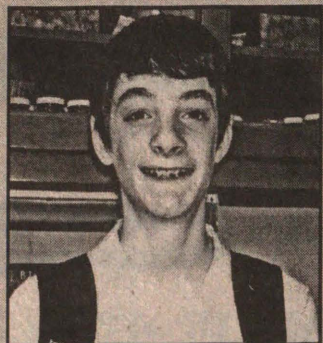
It's clear that there are much more advantages to getting rid of the death penalty than keeping it.

Hopefully, Illinois sees that too and Gov. Quinn will sign the bill to end the death penalty.

Students Speak

Compiled by Amber Del Rio

Do you think that Illinois should ban the death penalty, keep the death penalty, or only use it in certain cases?



Freshman

Vince Romano

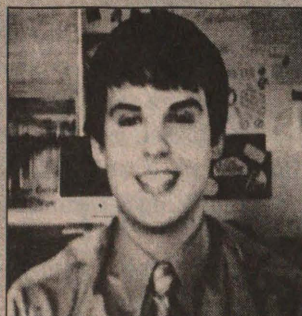
"I think we should keep it because our jails will overflow and what's the point of keeping dangerous criminals in jail?"



Sophomore

Venessa Valenzuela

"They should ban it because it's not the solution to end violence."



Junior

Tyler Schoenwolf

"It depends on the situation and the crime that had been committed."



Senior

Miriam Garcia

"It should only be used in certain cases because some people could be framed."

CONFESSIONS OF A FORMER MEAN GIRL

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

**Name has been changed in order to protect the privacy of the people involved.*

Cliques and cattiness were a way of life for current senior Marie*, but now that she is older and wiser her mean girl past haunts her.

"It all started the summer going into my sophomore year. There were five girls in my drivers ed. class that I had never really talked to before, but for some reason we all started talking and getting along. We disliked the same people, so we kind of bonded over that," Marie said.

That summer, the girls became inseparable. They had sleepovers almost every other night, and quickly became best friends. Together, the six girls were unstoppable when it came to spreading rumors and teasing other girls.

"We would always make rude comments



about other girls and started some nasty rumors. There was one girl in the clique that seemed to be the instigator, and the rest of us would feed off of it. Being mean was almost like a drug; we just couldn't stop," Marie said.

Marie admits she had always been somewhat mean growing up, but that summer things started to spin out of

control.

"My parents were pretty oblivious when it came to my behavior, but the parents of other girls were concerned for their daughters. By tormenting their daughters, in a way we were tormenting their parents too, because they hated to see their daughters being treated so terribly," Marie said.

As summer turned into fall, though, the girls were in different classes and their tight clique slowly started to fall apart.

"After we drifted apart, I started to mature more as a person. Being around friends who egg you on to be mean is never healthy. Looking back on it, I never would have done the things I did if it wasn't for the pressure that my friends had put on me. Now, I try to treat people with respect and ignore rumors," Marie said.

Although she regrets her past actions,

Marie has realized that no one is perfect, and that there is always an opportunity for a fresh start.

"I think everyone goes through a mean-girl stage. You know who you are and what your morals are better than anyone else, if someone is telling you to be someone that you're not, don't listen to them," Marie said.

IT'S NOT EASY BEING MEAN

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

Being a bully is often not just about being "mean." Bullies have reasons behind their actions, although they may not realize it.

"A bully often has low self-esteem, and she'll bully others to find out where she falls in the social hierarchy," Angela Garson, school psychologist, said.

For example, if a bully teases someone and others think that it is funny, he or she feels higher than the person who was bullied. According to a recent study by the American Sociological Review, "those who were in the top 2 percent of a school's social hierarchy generally didn't harass their fellow students."

Another reason students

can feel the need to bully is to have other people hurting along with them.

"If a kid feels badly [about himself] he wants to make others feel bad as well," social worker Bob Maxson said.

A student who does not consider those around him can also be a bully.

"If a student is lacking in empathy, they bully and don't think they're hurting anyone," Maxson said. "They don't think if someone did the same thing to them that it would hurt."

Gender also influences how people bully.

According to Maxson, the way girls bully is much more "subtle" and guys are "straight forward."

Garson expanded on these ideas.

"Girls bully in a more undercover way: spreading rumors, using body language,

and manipulation," Garson said. "Boys, however, are much more physical and use verbal aggression."

Many methods that people turn to in order to cope with bullying are ineffective.

"We know there are things that don't work: being scared, running away and avoiding the issue, and fighting back, which are often what people think are the only options," Maxson said.

The best option, in fact, is to go to someone for help. However, according to Maxson, despite the fact that students know that they should go to an adult for help, they often cannot "follow their own advice."

Bullying victims should look for someone they are comfortable talking to, but be aware that different types of adults can help in the situation.



"Some bullying needs mediation and to be sat down and talked through with someone like a social worker," Garson said. "Other bullying that, for example, is more aggressive and is a more serious conflict could require the intervention of a dean and punishment for the bully."

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MAKING IT TOO FAR: NEW LEVELS OF BULLYING RESULT IN MENTAL DAMAGE

by Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

**Name has been changed in order to protect the privacy of the people involved.*

Natalie* thought her friends were the best, she even wanted to be like them.

But during middle school, they turned on her. They put her down, made fun of her, teased her, and destroyed her confidence.

"They let people pick on me. They told me I wore too many cut shirts, and called me a slut," Natalie remembered.

With all the verbal abuse, Natalie believed the negative things her 'friends' were telling her.

"When I was with them, I had no confidence whatsoever. They were always putting me down," Natalie said.

When Natalie started getting boyfriends, the girls stopped the relationships as often as they could.

"I even lost having confidence with guys because every time I got a boyfriend they would try to steal him away from me. They would tell me he was too good for me anyway," Natalie said.

The hurtful words cut Natalie deeply, and she still carries them with her.

"I'm so sensitive now to the littlest things people say because of what [my friends] said and, they meant it so I think everyone else means it," Natalie said.

Reminders of the past are all around her.

"I have random bursts of depression of it now because I think back on it. I know people say not to dwell on the past, but you can't really help

it when you have a past like mine with friends like mine," Natalie said.

The girls affected Natalie's relationship with her parents as well. Natalie argued with her mom about her friends.

"When I was friends with them, I was horribly mean to my parents because they thought it was weird if I was nice to my parents," Natalie said.

Natalie realized her friends were a problem when her mom voiced her opinions. Her mom didn't like the way they ignored her and thought they were a bad influence.

"She didn't like how [the girls] didn't talk to her. I guess it's a respect thing," Natalie said.

When she came to terms with the fact that her 'friends' were bullies, Natalie still wasn't able to completely distance herself from them.

"Having to stop being friends with them was the hardest thing ever. I thought if I stopped being friends with them they would do even worse things," Natalie said.

However, as Natalie distanced herself from the bullies and grew closer to her new friends, she realized that despite the hurt she went through, the experience has made her stronger.

"I feel like I have much stronger relationships with everyone around me now," Natalie said.

Her relationship with her mom has benefitted since she



Photo illustrations by Sarah Berger

cut off all ties with the girls.

"I'm best friends with my mom now. I hid everything from my mom when I was with them because I thought

she would hate me because she hated them," Natalie said.

As her relationship with others grew, so did her confidence and Natalie has accepted who

she is and is proud of it.

"I just felt out of place with them. The person I am now is the person I want to be," Natalie said.

43%

OF GIRLS FEAR BEING HARASSED IN THE SCHOOL BATHROOM

85%

OF THE TIME BULLYING OCCURS, THERE IS NO AUTHORITY INTERVENTION

15%

OF GIRLS WHO ARE BULLIED ACTUALLY TELL SOMEONE

Culture shock: *Exchange students, hosts share experiences*

Compiled by Yasmyrn McGee
Features Editor

Senior Robby Windisch and Edwin Bolandi

How was it hosting Edwin?

Robby: It was very fun and a different experience. [Especially] seeing how they react to things like snow.

What did you think of Robby?

Edwin: He's a kind person and a good friend. He seemed like a normal person.

In what ways did you try to show Edwin what American teens do on a daily basis?

Robby: Just having him hang out with [me and my friends] learning different words, types of things to do and our daily life.

Would you recommend participating in the hosting program?

Robby: Yeah, you learn a lot of new words and use a lot of street slang words that are useful.

Do you want to come back to the U.S. in the future?

Edwin: Yeah, I would come back and stay here [permanently].



Senior Robby Windisch (from left), exchange student Edwin Bolandi, 8th grader Emily Windisch, and freshman Kelsey Windisch visit the skydeck at Willis Tower.

Junior Laura Dalla Costa and Cinthia Chaves

What were the benefits of hosting a person from Costa Rica?

Laura: It was a good experience, because you got to experience [living with] different people and a culture you weren't used to.

What were the benefits of living with an American?

Cinthia: It was great, because you get to know American culture, education and places you didn't know before. My best experience was the Willis Tower and [being on] the skydeck. The food is better [in America] too because I eat Costa Rican food all the time. And boys over here are more attractive.

What activities did you do with Cinthia?

Laura: We spent a few days in Chicago at [The Art Institute of Chicago] and went shopping at Woodfield mall.

What's the major difference between American students and Costa Rican students?

Cinthia: Students in Costa Rica form groups [depending on social classes] and Americans form groups [based on material things one has] like iPods or clothes.



Senior Joanna Wierenga (left) and exchange student Nicole Delia enjoy a bowling outing.

Senior Joanna Wierenga and Nicole Delia

What was your favorite thing about staying in Illinois?

Nicole: I loved the cold, because we don't get to experience that in Costa Rica.

How was your experience hosting Nicole?

Joanna: It was a lot of fun and we had a good time. The Costa Ricans got to do a lot of what they wanted to do and I even got to see parts of Chicago that I've never seen before.

We went to the Willis Tower and I've never been there before so it was a lot of fun. [Nicole] was very shy at first. It was really hard to talk to her,

but eventually she opened up. After a few days we really got to know each other and it got to be a lot of fun.

What is one major difference between Costa Rica and America?

Nicole: Everything is 100 times bigger. The mall is so big and close. Clothes and stuff are very cheap here compared to Costa Rica so everyone just goes crazy. I could actually [see myself] living here.

Would you recommend hosting to other students?

Joanna: Definitely, it was a very eye-opening experience. You learn a lot about a different culture and get to meet someone who's very different from you.

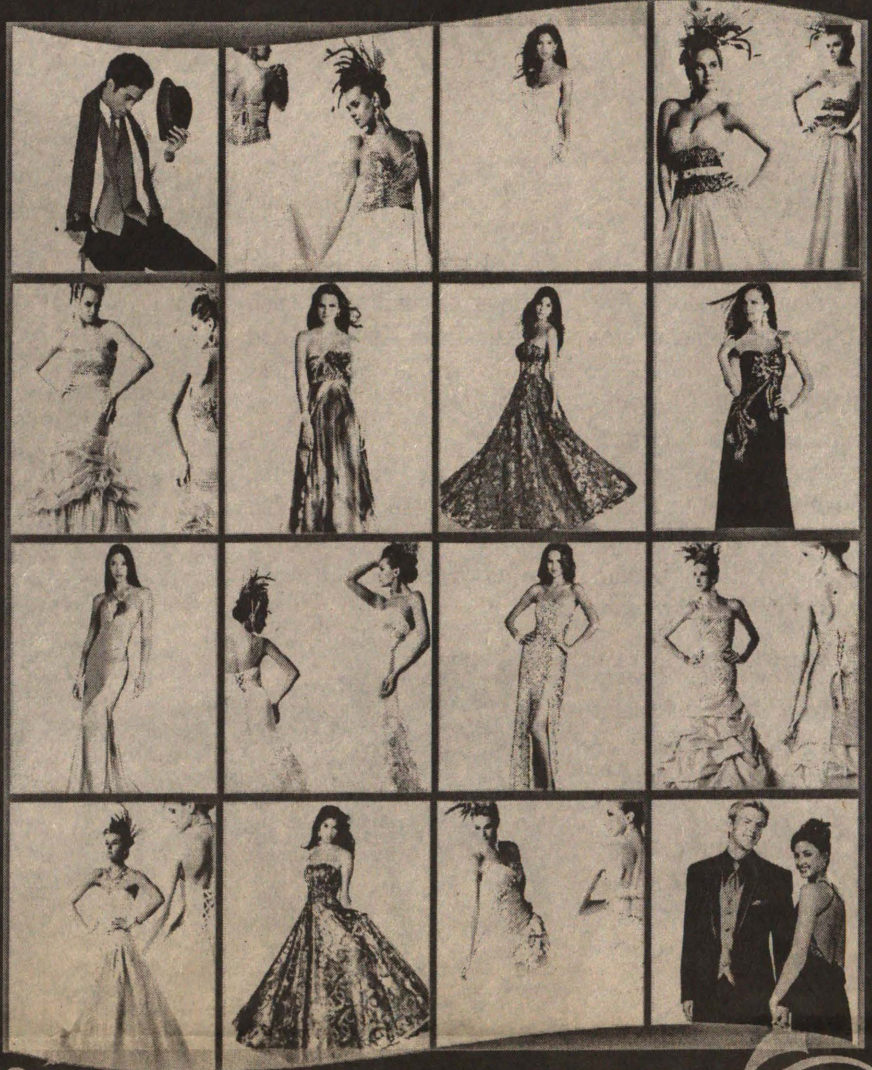
COSTA RICA



Junior Laura Dalla Costa (right) and exchange student Cinthia Chaves reach the top of Willis Tower.

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'It is on like Donkey Kong'

Carpe Diem vs. Grewsome Twosome

By Helene Sankovitch
Entertainment Editor

After growing up in the same neighborhood, five friends joined together to create Carpe Diem.

Making up the band are sophomores Brian Berger, lead singer and rhythm guitar; Jacob Seeman, lead guitar; John Draughon, bassist; Katie Yackey, electric violin; and freshman Kevin Seeman, drums.

"Jacob, Kevin, and I were all in a band together and once John came on board we started being more serious," Berger said.

The band members have some professional training but mostly taught themselves how to play their instruments.

"I asked for drums for Christmas. I just wanted a drum set and I taught myself," Kevin said.

Carpe Diem originally started out as Goodbye Music, but the band didn't like the name.

"My sister thought of Carpe Diem. I had written down a list of names, and one of them was 'seize the day' and that's what carpe diem means," Berger said.

The band's variety of instruments makes their music unique.

"A lot of people think violin is just classical. The electric violin is totally different. It's easier to hear and you can make cooler sounds," Yackey said.

Although they don't yet have a label for what genre their music is, Carpe Diem heads in the indie direction.

Music is like candy. You take away the (w)rappers.'

-- Sophomore John Draughon

"We still haven't found our sound yet. I guess generally it's just indie rock," Berger said.

Their inspirations come

from bands like Brand New, 30 Seconds to Mars, and MGMT.

Carpe Diem's inspirations for their original songs such as "The Truth About it" and "Kathy" came from ideas from each of the band members.

"What we listen to at the time reflects the songs that we're writing," Berger said.

After performing at shows like Battle of the



Photo courtesy of Brian Berger

Bands, the variety show, and the winter dance, and recruiting fans through Facebook, Carpe Diem continues to work hard to improve their band.

"We have eight songs we're going to put on a CD. We will fully record them [in Jacob's basement and a studio in Chicago] and give them to people for free. We just want people to listen," Berger said.

Despite the rumors of conflict between Carpe Diem and the Grewsome Twosome, Carpe Diem ignores the gossip and just has fun playing music and performing for their fans.

"We're just going to write and play and see what happens. We'll do mostly school events for now," Berger said.

Draughon responded, "Music is like candy. You take away the (w)rappers."

Carpe Diem also performed at the winter dance on Feb. 5.

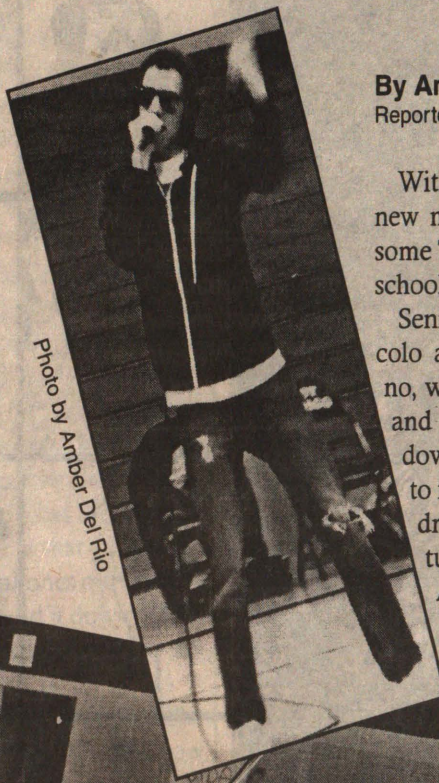


Photo by Amber Del Rio

By Amber Del Rio
Reporter

With their fresh raps and new music video, the Grewsome Twosome has taken the school halls by storm.

Senior Justin Malandrucolo and junior Alex Marano, who go by DJ Habanero and DJ OG Mo'Preme, sat down in a musical setting to finish their mixtape still dressed up from a Future Business Leaders of America meeting.

The boys decided to start a rap group of their own

after the previous rap group they were a part of split up.

"We wanted to do our own thing. We wanted to take it to the streets," Malandrucolo said.

After creating their name from a saying on the TV show "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," the Grewsome Twosome began writing raps about the average life in West Chicago.

"We go off the beat. We get the beat first then write the rap," Marano said. "If I'm angry, I can write an angry rap. If I'm sad, I write an emotional rap."

Their mixtape, "Songs from the Basement," was released on Jan. 30, including "Wildcats," and "Blue and White."

Seniors Precious Dannug, Christian Simanonis, freshman Alex Leal and John Malandrucolo ('08), are also featured on the mixtape.

The boys turn to rapper Kid Cudi, their emotions, and their fans for inspiration. They also look up to rappers Tupac, Biggie, and Wiz Khalifa when writing their raps.

"Our fans are a huge in-

spiration," Justin said. "We have almost half of a thousand fans on Facebook."

The Grewsome Twosome performed at the Battle of the Bands, the variety show, and during the halftime of the girls basketball game against West Aurora on Jan. 29. The group will also be performing in Aurora. Dates and location will be announced later.

"I like the rush and energy from the fans [while performing]," Justin said as Marano nodded in agreement.

Although Justin will be graduating in the spring, the boys say the Grewsome Twosome will live on.

"We're not stopping. [Alex] is coming to U of I with me," Justin said with a laugh.

Marano added, "We're going to do shows there."

In the future, the boys hope to tour some, land a record deal, and make enough money to do nothing but rage each night.

"We may not be able to make a living off of it but we'll get something from it," Justin said.

Just as famous artists are in competition among each other, the Grewsome Twosome has been in rivalry with local band Carpe Diem.

"It's on like Donkey Kong," Marano said with a smile.

'We wanted to do our own thing. We wanted to take it to the streets.'

-- Senior Justin Malandrucolo

The boys have also worked on a music video for their popular song "Wildcats." Fans can expect a video for "The Basement" and "Blue and White" coming soon.

The group plans to release a collaboration track with other artists from their self-made label, Basement Productions, in March.

As the boys finished recording their last song, they began to relax and loosen their ties.

"Our raps are as good as the quality of our clothes - perfect," Justin laughed.



Photo by Amber Del Rio

Senior Justin Malandrucolo, (top,) and junior Alex Marano, (bottom,) from the Grewsome Twosome perform at the Jan. 29 basketball game. Sophomores Brian Berger, Jacob Seeman, and Katie Yackey, part of Carpe Diem, middle, perform at Battle of the Bands.

Family bonds push to state

By Megan Hernbroth
Editor in Chief

For the first time in 18 years, two wrestlers, sophomore Robert Svestka and freshman brother Tyler Svestka, will compete at the state level Thursday through Saturday at the University of Illinois. Tyler adds another accomplishment to his season by being the first freshman to compete at the state level.

Tyler and Robert competed at sectionals Feb. 11-12 at Downer's Grove North. Tyler took first and Robert came back to a fourth place finish after a first round loss.

Tyler and Robert placed second in their weight classes at regionals on Feb. 5, advancing to sectionals.

"Regionals was good," said Tyler. "I placed second and I'm currently ranked fifth in the state."

With an overall varsity record of 12-8, boys wrestling wrapped up a 'winning season.'

"We did better than expected; 12-8 is a winning season for us," head coach Humber to Ayala said. "We're in the toughest regional in the state and we're in the toughest sectional in the state."

Leading up to the regional meet, Ayala focused on conditioning during practices.

"We haven't introduced anything new, such as techniques or anything," Ayala

said. "We shortened practice because the guys' bodies have taken a toll throughout the season, and we really picked up conditioning because conditioning is the key."

Hosting the DVC meet on Jan. 29, the boys were not able to take away a victory, coming in eighth.

"Glenbard North [is the hardest team we faced]," junior Dan King said. "They have a good program, they're number one in the DVC, and have state champs every year."

Although the team placed poorly, a few wrestlers placed well individually. Tyler placed second in the 103 weight class, Robert placed third in the 119 weight class, and sophomore Jesus Duran placed fourth in the 112 weight class.

Being new to the team, Tyler feels lucky to have his brother as a practice partner.

"My brother plays a huge role in my life on and off the mat," Tyler said. "I'm lucky to have a skilled practice partner like him; we make each other better every day."

Ayala recognizes the strength underclassmen like Robert and Tyler bring to the team.

"Our freshman team ended 4-3 in conference," Ayala said. "It shows the other teams we have a good young team that will grow in the next year or two, and we will be competitive."

Preparation for playoffs

By Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

Emotions ran high at Wheaton West Wild's Tuesday night game against Lake Park.

Tempers flared as words were exchanged.

After an eventful game, they tied 4-4.

With state and league playoffs approaching, the team is heading in a promising direction.

"I'm thrilled with where we are right now," varsity coach Dave Dyson said.

Coming off a win against one of the best teams in the

state and best in the league, St. Charles, Dyson is excited about the level of play the boys are producing.

"We played our best game of the season and it shows that on any given night, we can play with anyone," Dyson said.

Although the boys have a record of 10-4-2, Dyson believes the boys have been inconsistent.

"We have not always played our best, but when we are playing our best we are very tough to beat," Dyson said.

In the next weeks, the team will be preparing for state.

"We didn't necessarily

get as high of a seed as I thought we deserved in the state ranking," Dyson said.

Despite not receiving the seed they wanted, Dyson is optimistic about state.

"I like where we are in terms of the state tournament and I think we can go very far," Dyson said.

Seniors John Gilbertson, Luke Somen, sophomore Kyle Nielson, Wheaton Academy senior Micheal Kammes, and Dyson were invited to the All-Star game on Jan. 8.

The next game is against Plainfield on Sunday at 4:40.



Photo by Carly Tubridy

Senior Conor Zaputil breaks away as Lake Park junior Timothy Patrick follows closely.

Taking it to the next level: *Students sign to D1 schools to further careers*

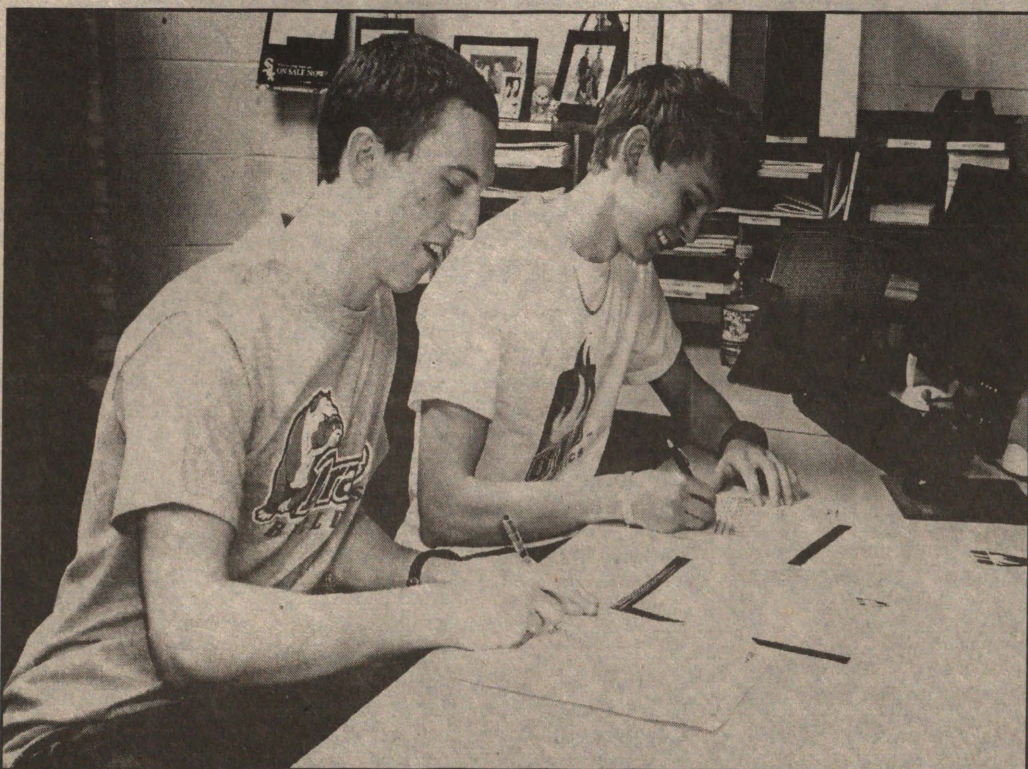


Photo by Kristina Manibo

Seniors Jeff Foreman (left) and Gunnar Sterne sign to Division 1 schools to continue their athletic success into college.

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

Two seniors signed to Division 1 schools to continue their careers in athletics.

Jeff Foreman signed to Drake University for track and field and Gunnar Sterne signed to University of Illinois in Chicago for track and field and cross country.

"The bottom line for these athletes is that they have the opportunity to go to school, and to participate in a sport and realize their potential beyond high school," athletic director Doug Mullaney said.

Foreman received a full ride and half of Sterne's tuition and fees are covered.

Foreman was also accepted to Cornell University, University of Pennsylvania and

Marquette University.

"I wasn't expecting to go [to Drake] at all, I expected to go to Cornell," Foreman said.

Sterne was also accepted to North Central University, Iowa State and University of Wisconsin.

"I wasn't really surprised [when I found out], I was set on going there," Sterne said.

Foreman looks to his father and coach for support.

"My dad and my coach [motivate me the most] because I love them both and they always expect me to do the right thing," Foreman said.

For Sterne, senior Derrik Pietrobon is a source of inspiration.

"Derrik motivates me because he always pumps me up before a race," Sterne said.

Top finishes start season the right way

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

Track season opened with top finishes for both boys and girls.

Boys

Winning eight of 16 events, boys track came in second with 81 points at their first meet at Rolling Meadows on Friday.

Rolling Meadows scored 81.5, Maine West had 63.5, points and Elgin had 13 points.

"I was happy with how they did. There were several events with only one guy in [it], so we had quality but we needed a little bit of quantity," coach Paul McLeland said.

Senior Jeff Foreman placed first in high jump, breaking an indoor record at Rolling Meadows with a jump of six feet four inches.

"I feel pretty good [about breaking the record]. It's okay because it's happened before," Foreman said. "I won all three of my events. I was really proud of that."

Foreman also placed first in the 55-meter high hurdles with a time of 8.3 seconds.

Senior Gunnar Sterne placed first in the 800-meter with a time of 2:02.2 and 1600-meter at 4:56.6.

"I won both my events. I was really trying to get the Rolling Meadows field house record in the 800 but I came less than a second off," Sterne said.

Junior Mack Mowen tied for first in the 55-meter dash with a time of 6.9 seconds.

Placing in first for triple jump was senior Matt Bannon with a jump of 38 feet three inches.

With a time of 58.4 seconds, junior Anthony Venen placed first in the 400-meter dash.

The 1600-meter relay placed first with a time of 3:47.5.

Since Jan. 17, the team has been treating every practice as a chance to get better, get in shape, and get stronger.

"I think the guys that were on the team last year came prepared and wanted to be ready for the season," McLeland said.

The next meet is Tuesday against West Aurora and Elgin at home.

Girls

Girls track won their first meet at home on Feb. 8 against Rosary and Bartlett.

The team won with 46 points, Bartlett came second with 45 points, and Rosary finished with 37 points.

"The girls split up into big sisters and little sisters and decorated each others' lockers and that shows unity. I feel that all the girls, experienced and new, competed well," coach Bob Maxson said.

Senior captain Meghan Nichol placed first with a time of 10.41 seconds in hurdles.

"I think I did really well. I won hurdles and I got a good split for the 4x400 for the beginning of the season," Nichol said.

Other runners on the 4x400 were senior captain Kaitlyn Anders, junior Lali Valdivia, and sophomore Erika Macias. The girls placed second with a time of 4:43.

Junior Kelsey Sayner placed first in the 800-meter at 2:46.7 and placed second in the 1600-meter at 6:00.

Anders believes that despite their size, the team will be successful.

"The team and varsity did really well and everybody impacted the results somehow," Anders said. "We're going to keep working hard in practices and, even though we have a small team, we're going to have great results at every meet."

The team is ready to challenge themselves to do better and the coaches will be there every step of the way.

"I think the girls know that many have more talent than they've tapped and it's fun to watch themselves change to step in and be a team leader," Maxson said. "We know we have some talented sprinters, and we want to see them step up. We have some girls in field that will work hard too."

The next meet is on Saturday at Oswego.

Fighting until the buzzer sounds

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

Although boys basketball is 4-17, they are fighting until the timer runs out to win their last games.

The team lost 66-44 to West Aurora on Friday.

"To make these last few basketball games the best, I have taken it upon myself to work as hard as I can. So when I look back at my last season no matter what happened or is going to happen, I know I left it all out there," senior Matt Zajac said.

Seniors on the team have the chance to be an example and show leadership to their younger teammates.

Each senior has grown as a player since they've joined the team to their last games.

"As a freshman you think to yourself, 'man I want to be playing on Friday night; I can't wait for my turn.' Now that it's pretty close to coming to the end, I can't believe it," Zajac said.

Seniors Jake Martin and Ian Draper didn't play on the team all four years but

worked hard to make it on varsity for their last year.

Draper is currently out due to a torn ACL and is most likely not going to be playing in the last games.

"Even though I'm injured, I'll be with my team for whatever their needs are and I'll be there cheering them on no matter what," Draper said.

Varsity is an honorable experience according to the seniors.

"As a team, we have pushed

fast paced and as I have learned is very hard work to get to the varsity level. It is fun and I look forward to playing more. It is a breathtaking experience to run on that floor every Friday night," Martin said.

Playing on varsity is unlike playing at lower levels.

"There's a special feeling about playing varsity basketball. It's the feeling of you running out for warm ups.

You hear the band playing our fight song, and all of your friends are there cheering you on, in those stupid costumes. It gives me the chills sometimes and I think there is nothing like it," Zajac said.

Seniors will miss teammates and

coaches as they move on to college.

"I have a family who I got to spend every day with and play basketball. I'm very thankful for my teammates," Draper said. "I loved playing at such a high level and being challenged every day."

The next game is home on Friday against Wheaton Warrenville South at 7:30 p.m.

'It is a breathtaking experience to run on that floor every Friday night.'

--Senior Jake Martin

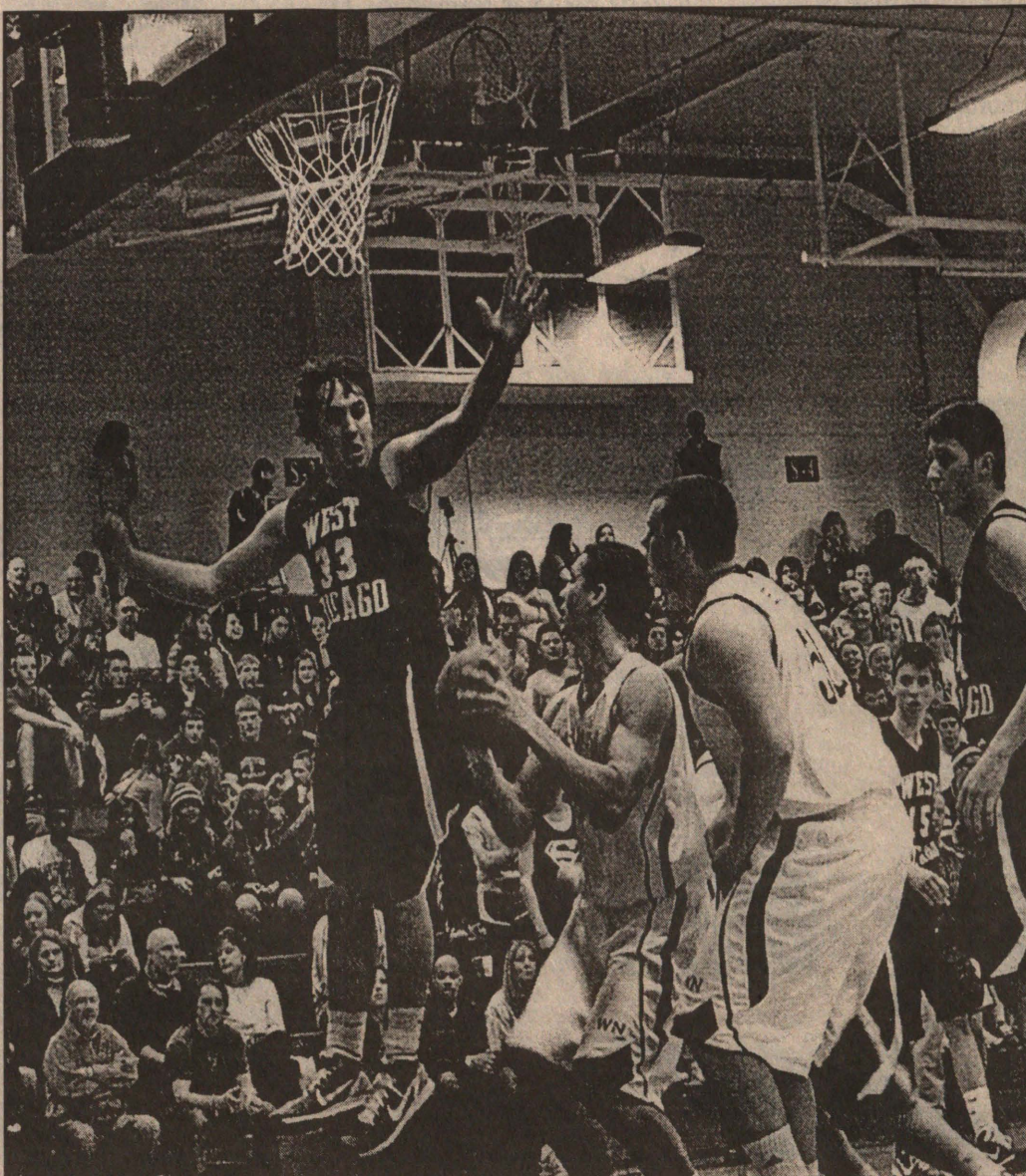


Photo by Carly Tubridy

Junior Reid Regalado tries to thwart Wheaton North's attempt to score at the game on Jan. 28.

Injuries cripple chance at state

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

With only one swimmer placing in a significant spot at conference, state may be beyond the reach of the boys swim team.

Senior captain Neil Hummer finished third in the 100 butterfly with a time of 56.08, still 2.5 seconds away from the state cut.

In order to make it to state, Hummer must have a time of 53.45 at the sectional meet.

"[Head coach Nick Parry] has seen taper take off up to 5 seconds, so I definitely still have a chance," Hummer said.

Taper is when swimmers have more relaxed practices in order to prepare for a big meet.

At the DVC meet, the team finished right in the middle.

"It was the same as always, which is code for 'we went fourth.' But we did well for us," Parry said.

After losing one of the team's top two swimmers, senior Anthony Nolazco, due to a non-swimming related injury, Parry

thinks the chance of sending a relay to state is very slim.

"[Nolazco] not being here leaves a rather big hole in our lineup," Parry said. "Our time now with the relay is what it was with Anthony a month and a half ago, but we still have a chance."

Both Parry and the team

members are hoping that tapering will greatly improve their times, and Hummer believes that is the only way to get himself to state.

"To prepare, we're on taper, so I just practice as Nick coaches me, eat healthy, get lots of sleep, and be as lazy as possible outside school," Hum-

mer said.

Freshman Aidan Culloton is not planning on swimming at state.

"I feel improvement from the start of the season, and the other people on the team have improved. It's been a good season," Culloton said.

Senior captain Lucas Mack-

ey also doesn't see himself going to state, but he is content with the season.

"At DVC I did really good and dropped time in the 50 free and relays," Mackey said. "This season was definitely better than last."

The sectional meet is on Saturday at St. Charles North.

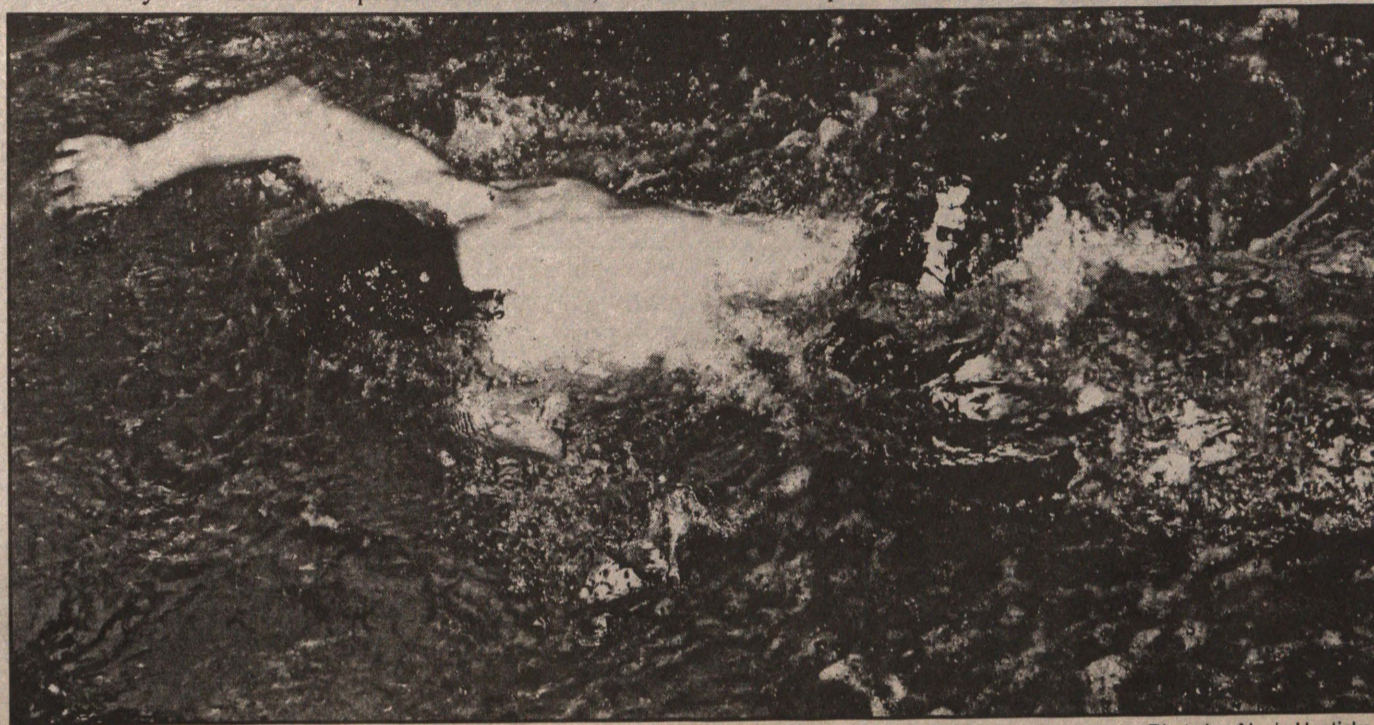
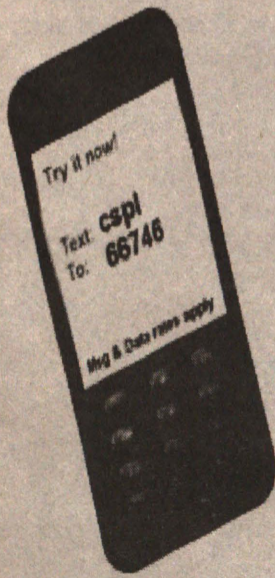


Photo by Alexis Hosticka

After senior Anthony Nolazco, one of the team's top swimmers, injured himself, swimmers must take it up a notch to make state cuts. Senior Lucas Mackey does just that while practicing on Feb. 9.



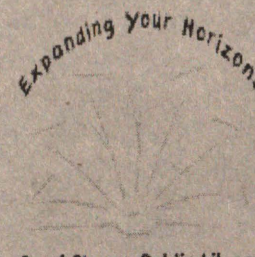
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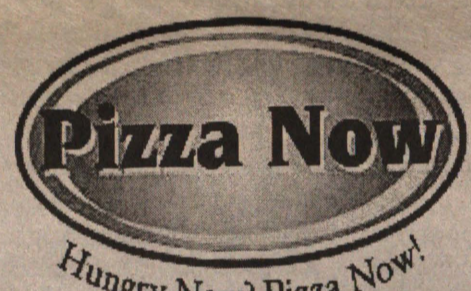
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Skating to the top



Photos by Carly Tubridy

Senior John Gilbertson played defense for the All-State team. (Inset, third from left) Senior Luke Somen also played for the team that was made up of the top 40 players in the state.

By Megan Hernbroth
Editor in Chief

Struggling through injuries and a tough season, seniors Jon Gilbertson and Luke

Somen were voted into the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois' all-state hockey game on Feb. 7.

"It's a tremendous honor

for the program," Wheaton West Wild hockey head coach Dave Dyson said. "It's an individual honor but a team honor as well."

The all-state hockey game is compiled of the top 40 players in the state, as voted by other varsity coaches around the state. The boys then compete on separate teams of 20.

"The level of play is just ridiculous," Dyson said. "All of these guys are college caliber. The hockey powerhouses will be well-represented and we were right there with them."

Somen, forward, experienced the game for the first time, but was not surprised by his participation.

"It felt good to be chosen, but I was expecting it," Somen said. "I was honored."

Although this was Somen's first time competing at the all-state level, Gilbertson, defense, was back for round two after competing the year before.

"This year was mostly the same as last year, but I wasn't nervous this year because it was my second time doing it," Gilbertson said.

Gilbertson struggled through the season due to injury, but was still voted by the other coaches to compete.

"It shows how highly [other coaches] regard Jon," Dyson said. "He struggled with injuries this year and missed some games. The coaches all still thought enough of him to vote for him. It's a real testament to what he's done and his reputation. They consider him to be an elite guy."

Gilbertson's and Somen's team ultimately lost 8-5, but both were pleased with how the game went.

"I played hard and I knew guys from all over the place so it was fun competing against them," Somen said.

Gilbertson was also pleased with his performance in the game.

"The game went well," Gilbertson said. "We lost, but other than that it was good. I knew kids from other teams in our league that had played."

First time at state ends well for cheerleaders

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

Varsity cheerleading stepped up their game, and qualified for state for the first time.

"We got second place in DVC, which is the highest we've ever gotten," coach Terri Rohrdanz said. "This is also the first year we've qualified for state."

Varsity performed at state in Springfield on Saturday, placing eighth out of 16 teams.

"We've never done as good as we did this year," senior captain Haley Goranson said. "Our tumbling has improved so much, and we have more difficult stunts. Overall, we used to lose, but now we're

really winning."

Senior captain Keegan Johnson is satisfied that varsity was able to place in state.

"[Before we arrived] we didn't know who our competition was, but we were happy to be there," Johnson said. "When we made it to state, it was an accomplishment in itself."

However, when she found out who was competing, Johnson focused on who she wanted to defeat.

"I wanted to beat Naperville Central. We beat them at DVC and wanted to beat them again," Johnson said.

Goranson wanted to disprove the myth that varsity was unable to succeed.

"[Other schools] usually don't look at us as competi-

tion, they don't expect us to win anything," Goranson said. "We stepped it up and they looked worried to go against us. It's about time we get recognition from other sports."

At DVC, varsity competed against seven other schools.

"We have always gotten seventh, so we were expecting to do better, but we were extremely happy we got second place," Rohrdanz said.

Rohrdanz hired a choreographer and had music professionally done, in order to step up their game before DVC.

"All the other schools that have the most successful squads are the ones who have the choreographers and professional music," Rohrdanz said.

No regrets despite disappointment

By Giuliana LaMantia
Reporter

Although there was disappointment at sectionals, girls gymnastics was still satisfied with a good season.

"None of us qualified for state, but we had fun," senior Kristina Terry said.

Terry individually qualified for beam, vault, and all around at the sectionals meet Feb. 8 at Lake Park High School.

This year was Terry's second year qualifying for sectionals.

"Before sectionals I was really nervous, but I knew no matter what happened I had to go for every trick I had with every ounce of strength and confidence I had in me, and that in the end I would be proud of myself no matter what," Terry said.

To prepare, the girls had short, but not stressful, practices.

"Since I didn't qualify for sectionals on floor, I was really shooting for beam," Terry said.

According to Terry, her strengths are beam and floor,

and not letting pressure or disappointment get to her head during a meet.

"My goals were to just do the best I could and qualify for state," Terry said.

Unfortunately, the team did not qualify for state; however they were happy with how the season went.

"At sectionals, we all did the best we could, we had many difficulties and falls and disappointments, but all-in-all we had a fun meet and a great season, and I'm glad I got to meet all of those girls this season," Terry said.



Photo by Keyuri Parmar

Senior Meagan Radloff defends against Glenbard North during the game on Jan. 27.

String of losses end at first round of regionals

By Keyuri Parmar
Perspectives Editor

After a string of losses, regionals started out with a win against York on Tuesday with a score of 50-46.

The girls are currently 16-10 overall and 7-7 in conference.

"Regionals is a chance to a new start. We want to win the regional championship game," coach Kim Wallner said.

In preparation for the regional game against York the girls scouted them and worked on plays they have to run against them offensively and defensively.

"We need to start hitting shots on offense, sometimes we miss easy shots. We also

need to work on executing better and our half court offense," senior Taylor Ballek said.

The game against Naperville Central at home on Feb. 5 involved many distractions.

A small fire in the school set the fire alarm off during the game, and caused an evacuation with 55 seconds left in the game.

Once the all clear was given the girls finished the remaining seconds, losing 52-45.

"We've been losing by three, five, and seven points. We haven't been able to win those close games," Wallner said.

At the end of the game the girls had to foul and Naperville Central. Despite their effort the girls still lost.