

Gas prices around the country

- Denver, Colo. \$3.60
- Evansville, Ind. \$3.92
- Clovis, N.M. \$3.76
- Magnolia, Ariz. \$3.70
- Phoenixville, Pa. \$3.99
- Cincinnati, Ohio \$4.15
- Leonard, Texas \$3.88
- Littleton, Mass. \$4.10
- Epsom, N.H. \$3.89
- Birmingham, Ala. \$3.70
- Southaven, Miss. \$3.67

*Information collected from online interviews.



Photo by Yasmyrn McGee
 Filling up for \$4.35 a gallon, senior Cara Stompor is not alone in her pain at the pump.

Pain relief?

Students around the country cope with rising gas prices

By Alexis Hosticka
 News Editor

With summer in a few weeks and cars that will soon leave the monotonous route between school and home, one concern is on every car-owner's mind: gas prices.

With Illinois heading the list for most expensive prices of gas in the U.S., prices are expected to continue rising.

Around the country, students are suffering from the price increase. However, a price increase in different areas of the country could be considered cheap to those from the Chicago area.

Senior Victoria-Lynn Metts from Southaven, Miss., is currently paying \$3.67 per gallon, a price that any Chicagoan would love. But in Mississippi, this is a steep increase

line that customers are putting into their cars today may have only cost \$85 a barrel, but the oil that makes the fuel that will replace it will cost a lot more. Customers, then, are paying more

now to cover the station owner's cost in the future."

The average price of gas is \$3.96 per gallon, the highest it has been since July 2008, when it was \$4.12. The Chicago average price per gallon is currently \$4.51, and in July 2008 it was about \$4.30.

"Gas prices are ridiculous! I work two jobs 20 minutes away, so I'm spending \$60 a week on gas. My paychecks aren't even worth it anymore," junior Alex Hund said.

Other working students also feel the pain at the pump.

"[The prices] are outrageous," junior Andrew Kruthoff said. "I'm poor now; I limit where I drive [and] I use all my paycheck on gas."

Despite the high price of gas, families are still making their way on vacations this summer.

"I'm driving to New Jersey for my cousin's wedding," senior Meghan Nichol said. "Even though it's expensive, it's cheaper to drive than fly."

Those gas prices can also affect seniors in the near future as many head off to college.

"I'm not going to have a car in college just because gas is so expensive," Nichol said.

from the normal: the highest it has been since summer 2008, according to www.gasbuddy.com.

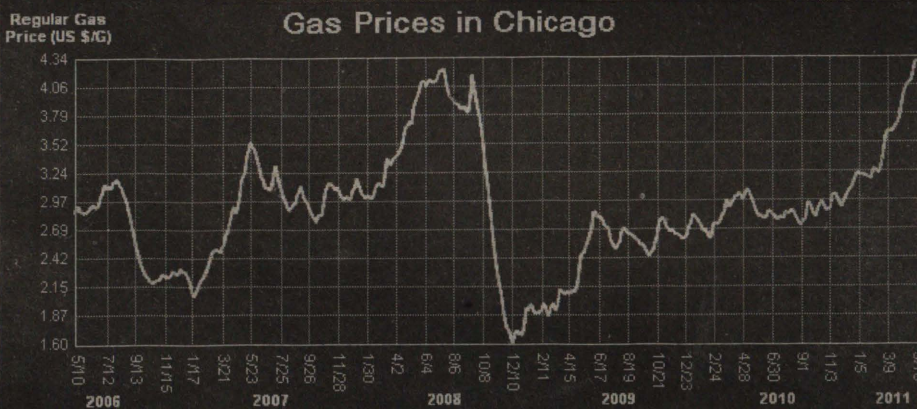
"It's absolutely awful; it takes me \$60 to fill up my tiny car!" Metts said.

Out West, the prices are lower, but still high in comparison to the last few months.

"I always hear that Colorado has some of the lowest prices in the nation so I'm always thankful for that, but it's still depressing every time I have to fill up," said senior Jessica Goellner from Denver, who pays about \$3.55-\$3.60 per gallon.

According to CBS news, the "oil that made the gaso-

Gas Prices in Chicago



SOURCE: www.gasbuddy.com

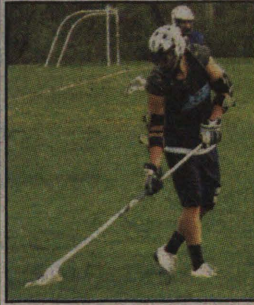
INSIDE **Speak out**
 September 11 survivor speaks out about the controversy surrounding Osama bin Laden's death. For his reaction--see **NEWS**, page 3.



New paths
 After graduation, new paths are opened up to students. For how the military, community college, or taking a year off can affect the future--see **CENTER SPREAD**, pages 8-9.



'90s flashback
 What was popular when the Class of 2011 was born? Do any students remember the Chicago Bulls dynasty? For popular '90s fads and TV shows--see **ENTERTAINMENT**, page 12.



Dedication
 One season as a student athlete can be stressful, but what happens when the season never ends?--see **SPORTS**, page 16.

Finals altered

The two days students got off for snow days seemed nice at the time, but now underclassmen are paying with a week of school after seniors. See below for the finals schedules.

Seniors

May 25

Follow schedule and take final exams in classes 4th through 10th hour, 1st through 3rd hour are regular classes

May 26

Follow schedule for 1st through 3rd hour and take final exams. Dismissed at 10:45 a.m.

Underclassmen will follow their regular schedules during the seniors' exams and have exams the following week.

June 1

0 hour: 7-7:50 a.m.

1st hour: 7:55-9:25 a.m.

2nd hour: 9:35-11:05 a.m.

3rd hour: 11:15-12:45 p.m.

June 2

4/5/6 hour: 7:55-9:25 a.m.

6/7/8 hour: 9:35-11:05 a.m.

9th hour: 11:15-12:45 p.m.

June 3

10th hour: 7:55-9:25 a.m.

Athletes targeted

IHSA randomly selects school for drug testing

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

Twelve student athletes were randomly selected and tested for use of performance-enhancing drugs on May 12.

"It was a urine test, carefully monitored, there was no blood, no needles," athletic director Doug Mullaney said.

The school was randomly chosen from all Illinois high schools.

The urine samples were sent to University of California-Los Angeles; IHSA will receive the results in two weeks and then send the results to the school.

In order to make sure the tests were accurate, only one person was allowed in the

restroom at a time, and the toilet water was dyed blue to prevent students from diluting their urine with it.

The IHSA policy states that all participating athletes in a registered IHSA member school are required to complete the forms to participate in any IHSA sport.

Mullaney discovered that not all of the required student and parent signatures were available for some of the student athletes. Some randomly selected students were not eligible to be tested because they did not have the required parent signature. The testing organization had to use an alternate list of randomly selected athletes provided by the IHSA.

The athletic department has since developed strin-

gent procedures to provide a 100 percent adherence to this mandatory IHSA drug testing policy.

This is the first time that the school was chosen for random tests, and Mullaney found out that students would be tested on May 11.

"I wasn't allowed to tell any of the students about it when I found out," Mullaney said.

He was worried at first that teachers would be frustrated about students being pulled out of class for the tests, but everything went smoothly.

If any students have taken performance-enhancing drugs, they will be suspended from all school sports for 365 days, however there has never been an issue in the state of Illinois.

Mullaney is happy with how the testing day went.

"I honestly wouldn't mind if our school was chosen to be tested again," Mullaney said. "It went really well."

Swinging into spring

Jazz band to host dance as year's final performance

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

Swing back into the 1940s with jazz band and chamber choir at the annual Spring Fling on Friday.

"[Spring Fling] is our end of the year jazz concert which we have turned into a 1940's style dance. We're turning the auditorium into what a school would have looked like in the 1940s," band teacher Steve Govertsen said. "It's really fun and I'm not a dancer. It's like a serious dance where people are actually dancing."

Spring Fling is from 6:30-9:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Students will learn how to swing dance from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Jazz band and chamber choir will perform from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Afterwards, more music will be provided for students to dance to.

Anyone from the community is allowed to attend Spring Fling.

"The dance lessons are really fun and even though swing dancing is hard, it's really fun," senior Joe Wais said.

Wais enjoys performing in jazz band during the Spring Fling.

"It's a very high-energy performance because the crowd is interacting and not just sitting there. They like to get into it," Wais said.

Sophomore Heather Mullins believes the Spring Fling is better than the other dances offered at the school.

"[Spring Fling] was the most fun at a dance ever. It's so much fun to learn the

dances. You feel like you're in the era. It's the best dance ever. It's better than homecoming," Mullins said.

Money from Spring Fling will go towards senior college scholarships and buying a stereo that is needed for the music department.

Tickets are \$5 for admission and \$3 for senior citizens.

"It's been really successful. We've raised a good deal of money and when you look around, you see everyone having a great time," Govertsen said.



Photo courtesy of Steve Govertsen

The community is invited to join in on a 1940s-style dance on Friday. Jazz band from last year performs at Spring Fling.

What's Happening?

Classes canceled

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

Due to a lack of interest, the sophomore world studies class will not run next year.

Not enough sophomores signed up for world studies; however, global and American studies will still be offered.

According to Maura Bridges, director of student services, determining

whether a class will be canceled depends on the number of students signed up.

"[The World Studies class] covers English and social studies requirements for sophomores, so canceling the class takes away one of the class options. But we still have other course requirements that can replace this option," Bridges said. "Sophomores will instead take English 2 and topics or western civ."

Students wrap up at state

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

Economics students participated in the nationwide online Personal Finance Challenge, and four were successful enough to compete at state finals.

The Personal Finance Challenge is held in the spring, where students answer questions related to finance and economics. The top-scoring teams qualify to advance to state finals.

Nineteen students competed in the challenge, and four qualified for state. Seniors Kate Borromeo, Jimmy Gehlhaar, Jordan Hedger, and Zara Khan attended state competition at the Federal Reserve in Chi-

cago on April 7. The students did not place at state.

The seniors competed against 535 other students from 19 schools in Illinois.

"There were three rounds of competition. All of the questions revolved around economy, investing, and personal finance," economics teacher Emily Jacobs said.

The first two rounds tested the students individually, and the third round tested the students as a team.

Jacobs is satisfied with how well the competition went.

"The students did well," Jacobs said. "They each held their own, and were very competitive."

Left with a bittersweet feeling

September 11 survivor reacts to Osama bin Laden's death

By Megan Hernbroth
Editor in Chief

When President Barack Obama announced late May 1 that Osama bin Laden had been killed, Americans rejoiced over a victory 10 years in the making. For September 11 survivor Joe Dittmar, America's victory held personal sentiment.

Dittmar, who is a businessman, volunteers his time to travel around the country to speak about his experience on the historical day. Now, his presentation has a different ending.

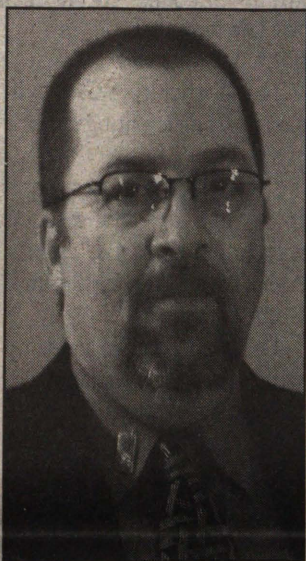
"Sunday morning, I was in Maryland giving a presentation," Dittmar said during a phone interview from his office in North Carolina. "I picked up my wife from a friend's house that we were staying at and made the drive back to North Carolina where we live. It's a good seven-hour drive and when we got back, all I wanted to do was lay down."

As Dittmar began to relax and enjoy a baseball game, the crowd chanting "USA" caught his attention.

"I wondered what was going on," Dittmar said. "Then my phone starts going off with the e-mails, texts, and phone calls. Everyone was

trying to tell me what was going on, and I kind of knew what they were talking about. When my daughter texted me and said, 'it's been a long 10 years of waiting. I love you, Dad,' I knew it was [September 11] related, and I turned on the news."

Dittmar, along with the rest of America, witnessed



Joe Dittmar

Obama's speech on television.

"And bam, there it was," Dittmar said, "Osama's dead. I had a bittersweet feeling because you can never rejoice in the death of someone. I just thought, okay, this has occurred, but it doesn't

bring the 3,000 people back that died that day; it doesn't change history. Justice has been served; it wasn't pretty, it wasn't the way to happen, but I hope the families of the victims find solace in this and get some satisfaction that he is gone."

For nine years, Dittmar has given presentations because he has felt it was his duty "as a survivor of a historical event."

He spoke at the high school in 2003 and lived in Aurora when he was working at the World Trade Center.

However, he does not hold a personal grudge against bin Laden.

"bin Laden has one judge, and that one judge knows what he has done and will judge him accordingly," Dittmar said. "However, there were 3,000 voices celebrating loudly on Sunday. If you live by the sword, you die by the sword, and unfortunately that is what happened."

For Dittmar, bin Laden's death was as inevitable as another terror attack.

"It's not if there's another attack, it's when," Dittmar said. "It was never would we find him, it was what would happen when we did."

In the process of finding bin Laden, thousands of

American lives have been lost, something Dittmar hopes will begin to end now that bin Laden is gone.

"My hope is, as a result of the bravery of those Navy Seals, is that kids your age can come home," Dittmar said. "[bin Laden's death] is a strike against the terrorists. It's just not fair; I don't want to see more lives spent. I do feel better, though, that the Navy Seals are on our side. That they put themselves in

the leader of the free world, the guy we voted into office. I did not personally vote for Obama, but I am behind him as our country's president. He has nothing to gain with lying about bin Laden's death. I don't mind that they buried him at sea; I actually think it is humane compared to how people have been treated historically."

Two men Dittmar has grown close to as a result of the attacks, one Pentagon

'bin Laden has one judge, and that one judge knows what he has done and will judge him accordingly.'

--September 11 survivor Joe Dittmar

harm's way to bring the most wanted man in the world to justice is incredibly brave."

As far as releasing the pictures of bin Laden's body, Dittmar believes that Obama made the right decision.

"Conspirators and extremist sympathizers will always be present in situations like this," Dittmar said. "There is no reason for the government to lie or cover up, there's zero reason to make a false claim."

Personally, Dittmar did not want to see the pictures even if they were released.

"I am not enamored with pictures of a body with a bullet through its head," Dittmar said. "I trust the authority that made the decision,

worker and one World Trade Center worker, contacted him upon hearing of bin Laden's death.

"They had the same feelings as I," Dittmar said. "The Pentagon guy is an ex-Army guy, so he has the typical military attitude that they shot him, killed him, and now it's time to move on."

bin Laden's death, however, does not mark an end to the war on terror, and Dittmar recognizes this.

"We should continue to be on guard because this is not the end," Dittmar said. "This is some semblance of a step toward closure, but this is something you can never get over; you just learn to manage it every day of your life."

Recognition for Chronicle

By Connie Kim
Reporter

The Wildcat Chronicle recently won ten awards from three different scholastic press associations.

The Chronicle was awarded a first place from the American Scholastic Press Association, scoring an overall 930 points out of a possible 1,000.

Individual awards were given to students from the Northern Illinois Scholastic Press Association (NISPA).

Individual winners from NISPA include seniors Megan Hernbroth, blue ribbon for editorial writing and honorable mention for news writing; Yasmyn McGee, blue ribbon for individual in-depth, and honorable mention for team-in depth; Sarah Berger,

honorable mention for team in-depth; and Alexis Hosticka, honorable mention for team in-depth and honorable mention for photography.

NISPA gave the Chronicle an overall rating of silver.

"This was the first year I had my work sent in, and it was exciting because it's really nice to have someone out of the school recognize your work," Hernbroth said.

Junior Kristina Manibo placed 17 out of 267 competitors and earned a medal for her review writing from the Quill and Scroll Press Association's International Scholastic Press competition.

Manibo won for her movie review of "Dear John."

"I worked hard on the article but didn't expect to win out of so many other contestants," Manibo said.

End on a high note

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

Student of the Month is based on a solid academic history, commitment is extracurricular 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.

Senior Dani Keller played her way to April Student of the Month through her involvement in music-related activities.

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

It's cool to be recognized.



Photo by Alexis Hosticka

April Student of the Month, senior Dani Keller will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall.

It's weird because people have been like 'oh, you're Student of the Month!'

What extracurricular activities are you involved in?

Marching and symphonic band, pit orchestra, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, thespians, and backstage crew manager.

What are your future plans?

I'm attending University of Wisconsin-Madison and majoring in Spanish and education with a minor in ESL. I want to teach abroad if I can.

Who influences you the most?

Aside from my parents, my teachers influence me. They believe in me both career wise and personally that I can be the best I can be.

What do you enjoy the most about high school?

Everyone brings something different to the table, everyone has an interesting story, and everyone is unique.

Saving lives one step at a time

By **Connie Kim**
Reporter

The American Cancer Society is hosting its annual Relay for Life on Saturday, and participants are striving to meet their financial goals.

On the day of Relay for Life, participants will get the opportunity throughout the night to honor cancer survivors and those who lost their lives to cancer.

Three traditions that remain every year are the survivor's lap, the luminaria ceremony, and the fight back ceremony.

The Relay starts off with the survivor's lap in which survivors walk around the track.

Once it gets dark, the luminaria ceremony starts where candles are lit inside bags with names of people who were affected by cancer, and a lap is walked in complete silence.

The fight back ceremony is last, and personal commitments are made to save lives

by fighting cancer.

The traditions work to celebrate and remember those affected by cancer and to encourage the community to fight back.

According to www.main.acevents.org, the goal of Relay for Life is to create a world in which more people survive cancer and live to celebrate another birthday, and participants work hard to encourage the goal.

To fundraise, senior Michelle Sanchez raffled off tickets for a cake she made. Sanchez has experienced cancer firsthand which led her to participate in Relay for Life this year.

"Three of my family members have been diagnosed with cancer this past year, so I wanted to get involved for awareness," Sanchez said.

All participants need to raise \$100 in order to stay overnight at the school stadium.

Relay teams have formed, consisting of friends, clubs, and sports.

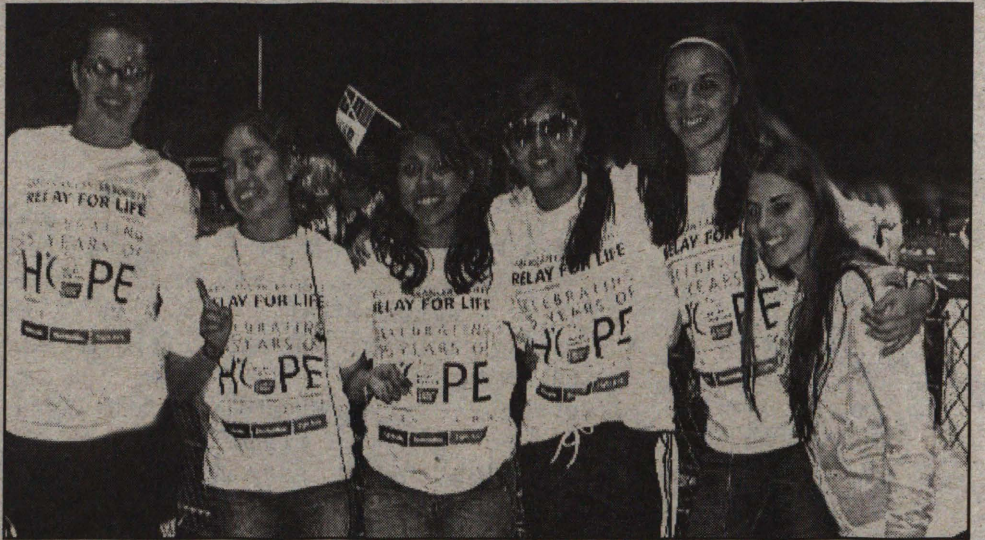


Photo courtesy of Corina Del Rio

Seniors Kayla Freund, Nena Delgado, Mariela Mendoza, junior Jenny Amaro, seniors Lily Villa, and Megan Gossen (from left) honor cancer survivors and those who lost their lives from cancer in the annual Relay for Life last year.

Junior Janeleen Baptista, team captain of the group Victorious Bunnies, started fundraising early and selling candy and chocolate, asking for donations from students and teachers, and having a garage sale.

"This is the third year I've done [Relay for Life], and some of the people in our group have lost relatives with cancer, so we do it to help

out," Baptista said.

The Horticulture Club will also be participating in the event.

"[Relay for Life] is a good group activity and a good way to get involved," senior Alex Laiter, a Horticulture Club member, said.

The club members came up with creative ways to fundraise individually such as raffling off tickets for the cake

or making jewelry.

Sophomore Elizabeth Youngwith, member of the color guard team, has been fundraising through e-mail by asking for donations.

"I'd like to raise money for the research and raise awareness as my dad had cancer," Youngwith said.

Participants have until Saturday of Relay for Life to fundraise for the cause.



Photo courtesy of Miriam Garcia

French exchange students Adèle Todeschini (from left) and Anaïs Messaadi and senior hosts Miriam Garcia and Maria Barajas enjoy a trip to Hobby Lobby to spend time with each other.

Anything but homesick

By **Amber Del Rio**
Reporter

Although they were miles away from home, the French exchange students were anything but homesick.

"I was very welcomed, and we did lots of activities so the time was fair," French exchange student Elisa Boutin said.

Twenty exchange students from Grenoble, France visited on April 15-29.

Senior Miriam Garcia hosted Adèle Todeschini, and senior Lucy Fuentes hosted Boufin.

Boutin hosted Fuentes during the 2010 exchange trip, and the girls have formed a closer bond.

"I knew her from last year when she hosted me, so I feel like we got much closer this year," Fuentes said.

According to Garcia, all the students who hosted, organized outings as a big group whenever they could to help the French students feel more comfortable.

"We did a lot of activities together with a lot of people that were hosting. We went golfing, we went to Buffalo Wild Wings for my birthday, we had a cookout and a bonfire; we did all kinds of things," Garcia said.

For the French students, visiting America was an exciting adventure.

"Everything was amazing. I love the school, the life, the people, the city and the activities," Todeschini said. "The food is really different too, and you can eat every time you want. The Americans are very patriotic and the lifestyle is not expensive."

Both French students agreed that the school was

much bigger than theirs and filled with many more activities.

"Your school is better than ours. I really want the same one because it's big and less used. You have a lot of sports activities, and the classes are shorter than in France," Todeschini said.

Although the trip was fun-filled for the exchange students, Garcia and Fuentes said many of the hosts felt stressed because of planning activities while balancing school and time to sleep.

"Planning activities to do with other people hosting was hard because there were a lot of us," Garcia said. "A lot of us ran on no sleep the first few nights. Because of the time change, they were wide awake when we were trying to sleep."

Channel into poetry

By **Amber Del Rio**
Reporter

Step up on the spot, and Show Me Whatchu Got at the third annual show on May 27 in the auditorium.

The student-run show is featuring over 30 poets and slam poet Tim Stafford for the biggest show yet.

In order to participate this year, students were required to audition, unlike previous years.

According to senior Nicole Clark, there will be more than just poetry performed at the show.

"There's an increase in the number of rappers this year so there's going to be an interesting mix between poetry and rap," Clark said.

All poets were continually

coached up until the show to help their performance.

The theme is "Change the Channel" where poets hope to promote students to stay active.

Senior Thalia Fernandez is hosting the event as well as performing her original poems "I'm Sick" and "To the Boy in the Audience."

"I've done it for the past three years. It's my senior year, and it's like [Café Express YoSelf]; it's just the big finale," Fernandez said.

Tickets are \$2 and will be sold the week of the show. Profits will be donated to a local charity.

Poetry workshops will also be offered the week of the show for students interested in writing and improving original works.



Photo courtesy of Amanda Cordes

Senior Thalia Fernandez will perform poetry again at Show Me Watchu Got on May 27.

Revolution

Egyptian protest brought close to home for social studies classes

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

Freshman social studies students got an inside look on what the revolution in Egypt was really like when Democracy Development Program Project manager Sherif Alaa Abdel Azim spoke to the classes on April 19.

The Democracy Development Program's purpose is to spread democracy globally. Azim was visiting West Chicago to observe the government simulation but ended up presenting to global studies and world geography classes as well.

"One of the things we've been trying to do all year is break stereotypes. After [September 11] some students view Arabs and Muslims as terrorists. To see someone like Azim in the flesh who was as courageous as he was, break those stereotypes," social studies teacher David Sayner said.

Azim played a vital role in the revolution, which began on Jan. 25. The revolution protested poverty, unemployment, government corruption, and the autocratic government of President Hosni Mubarak. Mubarak had ruled the country for 30 years, and people like Azim believed it was time for a change. Azim brought his experiences to the classroom with a presentation including personal stories and Youtube videos.

"The same regime has ruled Egypt for 60 years and has had the same president for 30 years. If you spoke

badly about the president or went against him in any way, you could be killed, so it was incredible to see 80,000 protestors gather during the revolution," Azim said.

Since Azim was a leader in the revolution, the government targeted him.

"I come from a family of activists, so my phone was tapped. I was taken to the police station for protesting but was released six hours later because the police ran away. I was also forced to hold a sign saying that I supported the president, otherwise I would be killed. Those were the times I was truly terrified," Azim said.

According to Azim, the revolution has changed Egypt forever.

"Before the revolution, everyone resented having to live in Egypt. After the revolution, people honestly loved living there. It was the first time anyone had showed any type of patriotism towards Egypt, and it was the first time there was any art work created against the regime," Azim said.

After sharing his story to the world geography students, Azim stressed the importance of being aware and fighting for your rights.

"Egyptians were living under corruption and oppression up until now; things are changing because of awareness. If you are aware of your rights, then you can get your rights. I can't wait to get back to Egypt and participate in what's happening," Azim said.



Photo courtesy of Brittney Bauer

Members of SkillsUSA move on to nationals after having success at the state conference. (From left) senior Jennifer Keilhack, sophomore Mariela Montenegro, senior Andrea Siefert, and junior Chelsea Madsen at the state competition. Keilhack and Siefert will move on to nationals.

Moving on to nationals

By Giuliana LaMantia
Reporter

Three SkillsUSA students are competing at nationals in June after a successful state competition in Springfield April 14-16.

Senior Jennifer Keilhack came in first for prepared

Clarissa Russel was third for

courtesy corps. Keilhack also took first for essay, however she will not go to nationals since it is not a national competition.

First place winners of every competition moved onto nationals for the competition, except courtesy corps, in which the first, second, and

sophomore Keyuri Parmar secondary president; junior Steven Celmer secondary secretary; and Mehak Demani SkillsUSA Alumni.

"I have to help organize and plan the various SkillsUSA conferences," Keyuri said. "It's rewarding, and I'm excited to begin my experience as a state officer."

Nationals are in June in Kansas City, Mo.

"I'm really excited," Mayuri said. "It's one of my favorite conferences that we go to because there are a lot of different people from different states that you get to meet."

According to adviser Brittney Bauer, nationals is an entire week of competitions, along with a baseball game, community service, a 5K walk, and officers training.

"I hope my students place in the top three because I know they are the best of the best, and they've worked hard for where they've come," Bauer said.

It's one of my favorite conferences that we go to because there are a lot of different people from different states that you get to meet.'

--SkillsUSA member Mayuri Parmar

speech, and senior Mehak Demani in fourth.

Junior Jeff Pekosh came in first place for the second year in a row for applied technical math.

Senior Andrea Siefert placed second for pre-school assistant, senior Megan Swertz came in second for photo competition, and sophomore

third place winners moved on.

"I'm nervous because it's for a whole week, and I don't really know anyone who's going," Keilhack said. "It's me against the world."

Many students also won state offices.

Senior Mayuri Parmar is the post-secondary president;

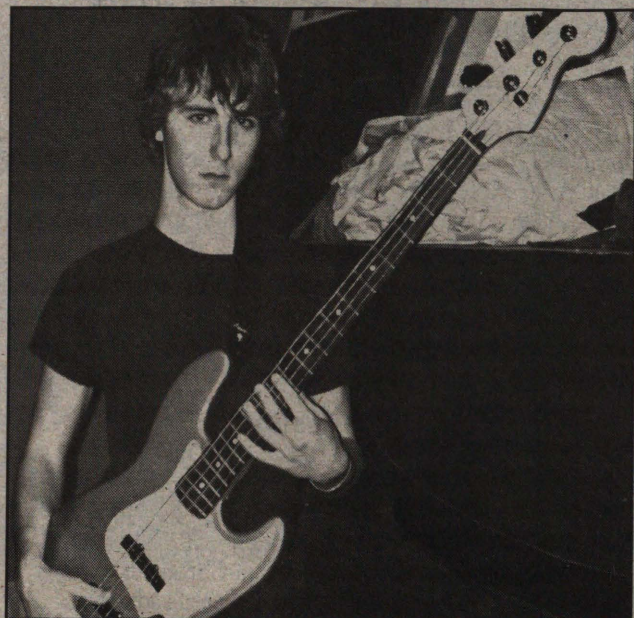


Photo by Alexis Hosticka

Participating in many music-related activities, senior Joe Wais has earned the title of May Student of the Month.

Don't stop the music

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

Student of the Month is based on a solid academic history, commitment in extracurricular 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.

Performing in several music activities has earned senior Joe Wais the title of May Student of the Month.

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

I was really surprised when I found out. It's just really cool.

What extracurricular activities are you involved in?

I'm pretty much in everything for band: symphonic band, jazz band, jazz combo, orchestra winds, and pit orchestra. I'm also in International Club and National Honor Society.

Where do you plan on attending college?

I'm going to Elmhurst next year. I'm majoring in music education.

Who influences you the most?

Probably Mr. Govertsen because he's always encouraging me to get out of my comfort zone with music and not be afraid to try new things.

What do you enjoy the most about high school?

Band and the overall music department experience is just awesome. I got to meet some awesome people, and it's just fun for me.

Perspectives

6

May 19, 2011

Wildcat Chronicle

Our View

Trump does not meet expectations

Possible candidates for the future president of the U.S. are not meeting expectations of many citizens, especially one man that is most commonly known for his catch-phrase "you're fired."

Donald Trump, a man with a net worth of about \$7 billion and doesn't have a problem bragging about it, has opened up to the public about considering running for the 2012 presidential term.

Some citizens have already deluded themselves to believing Trump will be a great president, as they are sick of empty promises from presidents in the past years.

Putting their trust in him will only lead to a worse economy. Trump believes that America has become a laughing stock in the eyes of other countries because of poor resistance against the increasing rate of imported products. His main goal is to become involved in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to lower gas prices along with taxing countries from which America receives products.

Yes, lowering gas prices and taxing other countries may benefit citizens, but Trump hasn't addressed any other issues in today's economy and offers no solutions to any other issues.

Unethically, Trump thinks other countries owe the U.S. for giving them protection, and he thinks the protection should be used as blackmail for lower oil prices.

However, those countries did not want our protection and only obliged because they were forced to.

If Trump's views were expressed to the world, he would be the reason America would actually become a laughing stock. His tendency to speak his mind could be dangerous as he might offend different countries, like he offended President Barack Obama, and other possible candidates.

In his speech at the Conservative Political Action

Conference (CPAC), Trump said, "Our current president came out of nowhere... In fact, I'll go a step further. The people that went to school with him never saw him; they don't know who he is."

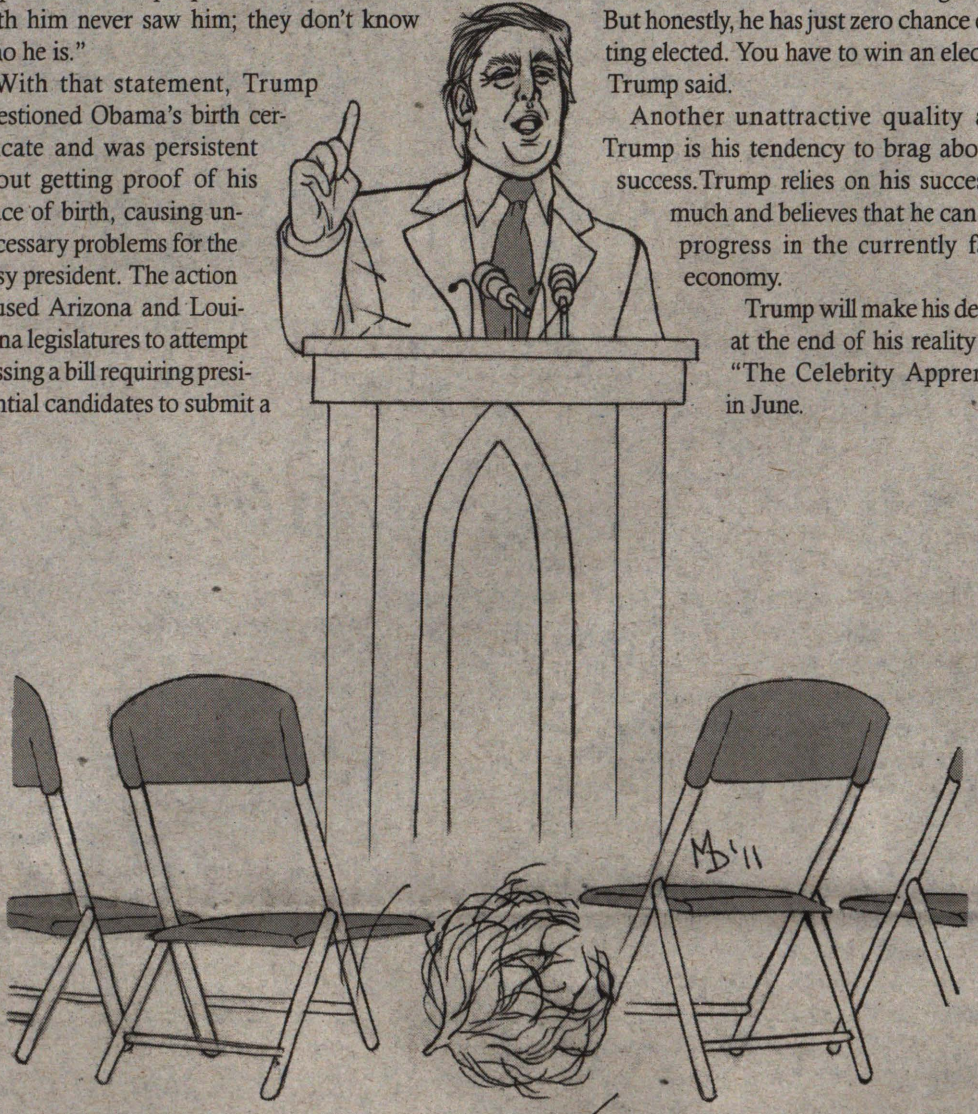
With that statement, Trump questioned Obama's birth certificate and was persistent about getting proof of his place of birth, causing unnecessary problems for the busy president. The action caused Arizona and Louisiana legislatures to attempt passing a bill requiring presidential candidates to submit a

birth certificate before running. Also at the CPAC, Trump insulted presidential candidate Ron Paul.

"I like Ron Paul. I think he's a good guy. But honestly, he has just zero chance of getting elected. You have to win an election," Trump said.

Another unattractive quality about Trump is his tendency to brag about his success. Trump relies on his success too much and believes that he can make progress in the currently failing economy.

Trump will make his decision at the end of his reality show "The Celebrity Apprentice" in June.



Letter to the editor

Teacher's Perspective

When the news broke that the advisory program was not going to be renewed for the 2010-2011 school year, I may have breathed a sigh of relief. Don't get me wrong, any student reading this might think I thought spending 23 minutes with them was a hassle. This was not true. It was the program itself and the daily activities that I found to be, well... inadequate.

When the concept of advisory was first introduced, I liked what I heard. A small group of students would be assigned to a classroom where an-

nouncements could be heard clearly and students could work with an adult in the building without the threat of a grade or homework. As the days rolled on homecoming activities, door decorating and counselor visits came to a screeching halt, I found myself asking, "What do I do the rest of the time?" Many days were spent fighting about possible t-shirt designs or viewing silly videos on Youtube.

This year, I have a very tight schedule during the lunch hour. I never have enough time to make it to the teacher's lounge, so I stay in my room. Some students in my 5/6 hour botany noticed and asked if it would be okay to sit in my room and share their lunch with me. Over time, the number of students increased from two or three to around seven or eight on any given day. We talk

about everything: assignments, missed prom hair, and dresses, who everyone is dating, and even the weather.

When I paused for a moment, I realized I had my own little advisory.

The point is, sometimes when there are not so many requirements attached and a list of rules to follow, great things can happen. I want to tell all of the seniors that I ever had in advisory that I enjoyed being with you and I wish you all the best for the future.

I feel guilty for cheering about the program being cancelled, but thankfully, my "pseudo advisory" formed, and so did some great relationships outside of curriculum and grades.

-Corrie Stieglitz, science teacher Community High School

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



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

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Not the blame for everything

Blaming President Barack Obama for everything that goes wrong may be a popular activity for some, but it is getting old.

The newest complaints blame

Obama for high gas prices.

In reality, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is responsible.

High gas prices go back to OPEC, who is in charge of pricing individual barrels of crude oil. When OPEC raises their crude oil prices per barrel, gas companies buy less; this causes the price to go up because of short supply, according to the New York Times.

According to the New York Times, oil prices closed for \$100 a barrel on May 5, which will lead to lower gas prices in the future.

Energy experts explain that the reason for the drop is because weak employment data and a strengthening dollar make all dollar-denominated merchandise cheaper in America and more expensive for people in other countries.

Gas prices have been inconsistent for a couple years now; citizens should realize that the gas prices will eventually go down.

If anything, individual gas station owners have more of a control over gas prices than Obama.

These details prove that Obama had nothing to do with the expensive gas.

Obama has been doing everything he can for this country and he should be respected for it. He should not be put down because of something a company controls.

If anything, people should be complaining about OPEC being unreasonable.



Keyuri Parmar
Perspectives Editor

Death celebrations taken too far

Killing Osama bin Laden is a U.S. victory that has taken 10 years, but Americans are taking celebrations of his death over the top.

On May 1, President Barack Obama signed off on the attack to kill bin Laden. According to www.huffingtonpost.com, there was a firefight where American forces shot bin Laden in the head and took possession of his body.

Yes, bin Laden is finally dead after the suffering from September 11, 2001 but does that mean we should be celebrating and throwing parties in Times Square and Ground Zero?

People went around waving American flags chanting "USA" and singing patriotic songs in New York after Obama made the announcement of the al Qaeda leader's death.

Families who lost loved ones on September 11 have finally received



Liz Ramos
Reporter

justice and should be happy that bin Laden is dead, but thousands of people crowding by the White House singing Steam's "Na Na Hey Hey (Kiss Him Goodbye)" is just too much and unnecessary.

Students at colleges such as Pennsylvania State University, Ohio State University, and Iowa State University gathered around chanting "USA" with fireworks booming in the sky.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York said, "Osama bin Laden is dead and lower Manhattan is pulsing with new activity... Osama bin Laden is dead and New York City's spirit has never been stronger."

I never thought the day in which Americans were this excited over a man's death would come. Yes, he was a terrorist and caused a tragedy that no one can forget, but we are better than that.

Giving bin Laden a proper burial was the best for the situation. If he was brought back to the U.S. who knows what would have happened to the body, and al Qaeda could have responded with another attack.

By giving bin Laden a proper Islamic burial, the U.S. is showing that we have respect, but it does not change the fact

that he was found and killed by U.S. soldiers.

The death of bin Laden has been a way to show other countries that no matter how long it takes, the U.S. gets the job done, but people are forgetting the fact that the war on terror isn't over.

According to www.cnn.com, "al Qaeda warnings against the United States emerged on [May 6] as the killing of Osama bin Laden continued to yield a trove of ominous intelligence, including details about a possible attack on the 10th anniversary of September 11."

Even though bin Laden is dead, threats on the United States are already coming up and can happen at any time.

After the U.S. killed the leader of al Qaeda, I would think that al Qaeda would want revenge.

According to www.guardian.co.uk, intelligence has been found at bin Laden's Pakistani hideout that prompted a warning that al Qaeda wanted to attack the U.S. rail network.

We only think of the positive, bin Laden is dead, but we don't think of the consequences and dangers of this action.

Relay: make time to honor cancer victims

Arthur Restarski isn't a name that many people know, but within my family, he was the infamous Uncle Artie. Goofy and playful, he had my siblings, cousins, and I constantly laughing.

He was the rock that supported my aunt. He was everything to her, and she could never imagine a life without him. Yet she was forced to watch him slowly deteriorate as he suffered from pancreatic cancer.

Uncle Artie passed away in June



Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

2006.

During the luminaria ceremony at Relay for Life last year, I remembered times I spent with my uncle at the playground across the street from his house.

Close family friends Linda Kelly and Joey Farber continue their fight against cancer and, as I walk the track at this year's Relay for Life, I will pray that the money I helped to raise gives them more time.

Relay for Life is an amazing experience that opened my eyes to how many people are affected by cancer.

This year over 1.4 million people this year will hear the words "you have cancer" according to the American Cancer Society, and Relay for Life raises money to make people healthy and find cures.

The American Cancer Society helps

people stay well by developing tips and guidelines for screenings and physical activity.

To help people get well, they provide transportation to doctor appointments and help patients find treatment options.

But Relay doesn't just raise money; it gives people hope.

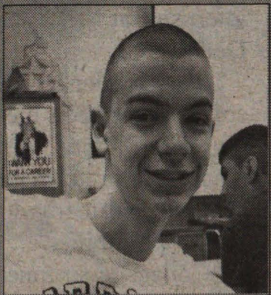
Being a part of Relay last year made me believe that one day we will have a cure.

Relay for Life isn't just walking around a track all night. Music, food, and games, provide a fun way to support a great cause.

On Saturday, our entire school has the opportunity to support the fight against cancer. While Saturday nights are usually reserved as a time for going out and forgetting about school and other issues, this Saturday is a time we all need to remember what is important.

You never know who will be the next person to hear those heart wrenching words, "you have cancer."

Anyone who has been affected by cancer will thank you. I know I will.



Freshman

Dayton Brown

"Yes, because he ruined a lot of peoples' lives. It's vengeance."



Sophomore

Rutvi Parikh

"I don't think we should celebrate. People should be happy, but not have a huge party. It's not respectful."

Students Speak

Compiled by Keyuri Parmar

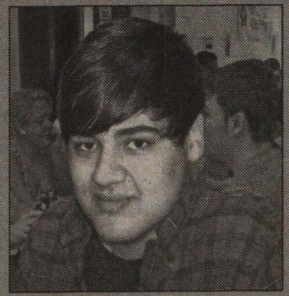
Do you think celebrating Osama bin Laden's death is acceptable?



Junior

Diana Serio

"I don't think it's okay. Someone's life was still taken and it's not respectful, it's inappropriate."



Senior

Brandon Castillo

"No because even if he was a terrorist we still shouldn't be celebrating the death of a person."

Taking a break

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

As graduation draws near, not every senior is headed off to college. One option that has become a somewhat popular choice is to take a break year before college.

Break year options can range from an internship to traveling for the year.

Kelsey Whitaker ('10) graduated early and took this past year off from school altogether.

It has given her a chance to travel as well as a chance to make some money before beginning college.

"I actually traveled for the first six months of the year I took off," Whitaker said. "I loved it!"

Whitaker's decision to travel during her off year was based on her parents.

"I decided to [travel] because it was the only way my parents would let me graduate early," Whitaker said.

One word of advice that www.collegeconfidential.com gives students who take a break year is that they have a structured plan for the year so that it is easier to get back into the routine of school.

Whitaker understood that and planned an interesting few months for herself while off of school, including

stays in Maui, Thailand, and Nepal.

After months of travel, Whitaker acknowledges

that college may be tough.

"I know it will be hard to get back into the swing of things now that I am going back to school in the fall," Whitaker said.

Jimmy Weier ('08) also took a break year to get a breather from classes, homework, and the pressure of school.

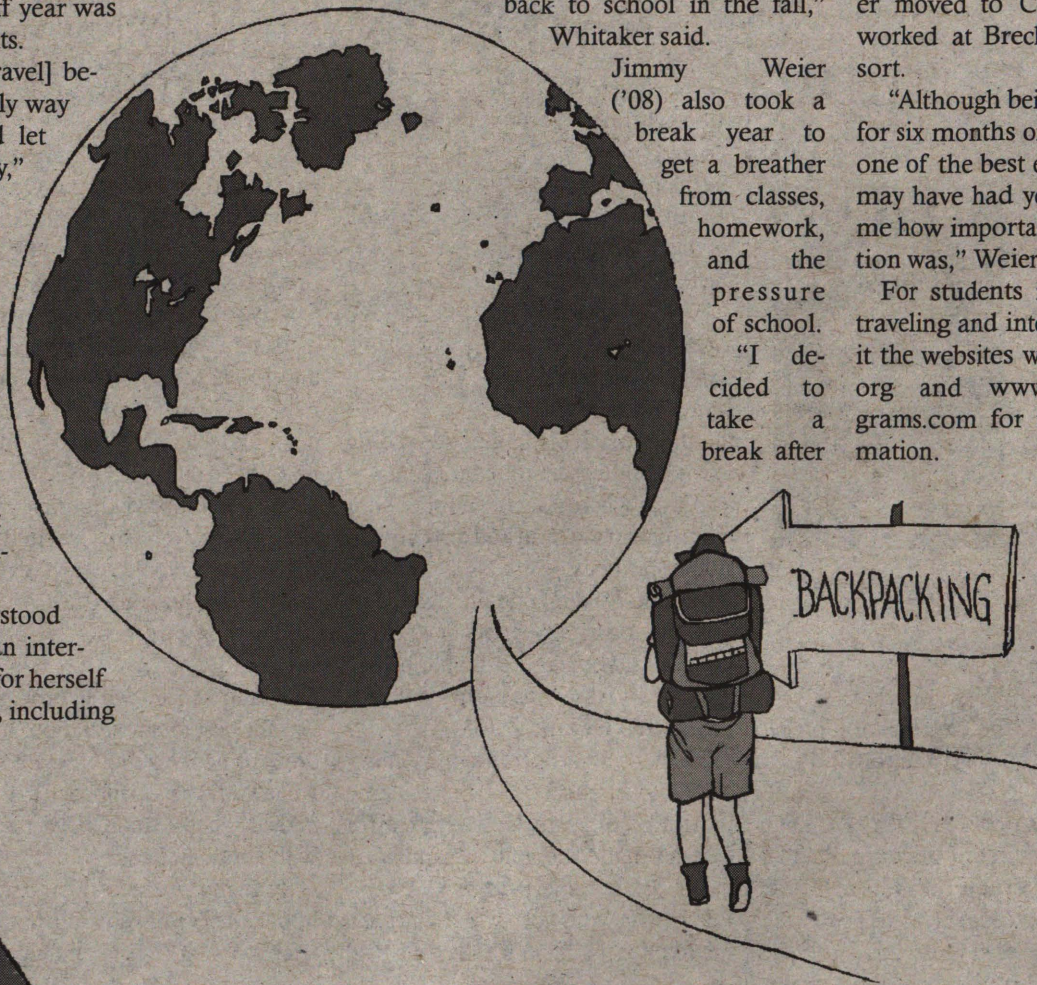
"I decided to take a break after

high school because I was not really fully committed to my academics," Weier said.

During his year off, Weier moved to Colorado and worked at Breckenridge Resort.

"Although being a ski bum for six months of my life was one of the best experiences I may have had yet, it showed me how important my education was," Weier said.

For students interested in traveling and internships, visit the websites www.dynamy.org and www.interimprograms.com for useful information.



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Campus-bound

By Helene Sankovitch
Entertainment Editor

Going to school at a major university may seem intimidating and challenging, but the opportunities it brings to students is well worth the work.

Megan Ogorzalek ('10) just finished her freshman year at Indiana University in

Bloomington and can't wait to return to school.

"I went to school not knowing anyone and can honestly admit I'm so happy I did that. I made friends on my own so quickly and really learned how to be independent and not rely on people I knew from high school," Ogorzalek said.

Ogorzalek wanted to con-

tinue to branch out and meet new people and decided to join a sorority.

"I joined a sorority at school, Kappa Delta, and would strongly recommend going Greek to most incoming freshmen. I've made so many more friends and have already gotten more involved on campus, which is a huge deal because it's kind of hard to find a way to get involved on a campus with over 40,000 students," Ogorzalek said.

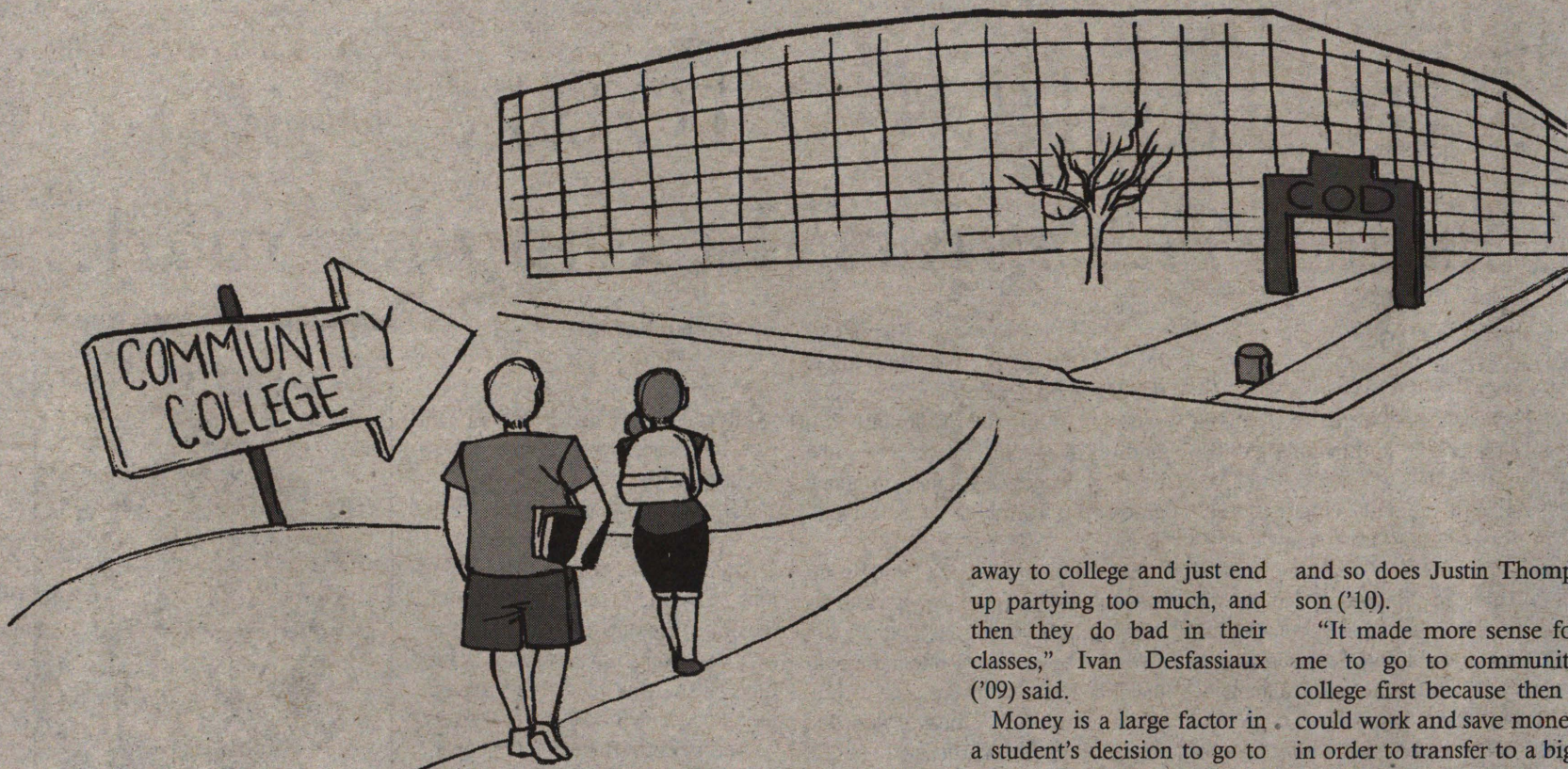
Mike Dalton ('08) is an incoming senior at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and learned how to balance his social life with school, while working his way to an internship at radio station 101.9 The Mix.

"I got an internship working for the Big Ten Network, making videos for them and reporting on University of Illinois sports, hosting a movie review TV show for local channel seven, and now an

internship at 101.9 The Mix," Dalton said.

His experiences through college have been life-changing for Dalton; they have made him more mature and have opened many doors for new opportunities.

"College is so much more than just classes and a freer schedule. Those are things that happen when you go, but really it's a transition from being a kid to being an adult," Dalton said.



Which path you choose after high school?

Close to home

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

For most high school graduates, living away from home is one of the many benefits they look forward to as young adults. The smarter decision for many college

freshmen, though, hits a little closer to home.

"I originally went to Westwood College, but I transferred to College of DuPage. Westwood was just way too expensive. I think that community college is a smarter option; a lot of freshmen go

away to college and just end up partying too much, and then they do bad in their classes," Ivan Desfassiaux ('09) said.

Money is a large factor in a student's decision to go to community college.

"I didn't want to go to a university and spend that much money when general education classes at COD are just the same except a lot cheaper. I especially didn't want to spend all that money when I have no idea what I am majoring in," Kelli Koehring ('10) said.

Many students that attend community college don't plan on staying there all four years; Koehring plans on transferring after two years,

and so does Justin Thompson ('10).

"It made more sense for me to go to community college first because then I could work and save money in order to transfer to a bigger university," Thompson said.

Although community college is the cheaper option, the social life does not live up to a university's. Thompson still has the same friends he had in high school, and Desfassiaux agrees that it's hard to meet new people.

"You still have a social life, but you don't have the option to meet new people; you're kind of stuck. It's like high school part two," Desfassiaux said.

Serving the USA

By Amber Del Rio
Reporter

Joining the military is a big decision requiring self-discipline and time away from family and friends.

Graduating students can choose to join the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard.

Senior Daniel Sal-

gado enlisted in the Marines in December.

"I needed a challenge and I want to be a part of the few and the proud, the Marines," Salgado said.

The decision to enlist can be difficult for families to accept. Salgado's parents were upset and didn't understand his choice.

"My mom didn't want me to leave. She cried when I told her because I'm her only son," Salgado said. "My dad didn't want me to leave because he's afraid I won't get to carry on the last name. He wants me to go to college."

Once the decision to enlist has been made, young adults can take the Armed Services

meeting all the entrance requirements. Once committed, entry training or "boot camp" begins.

Salgado leaves for training on Aug. 22.

Kevin Glenn ('09) entered the military after high school and loves what he does.

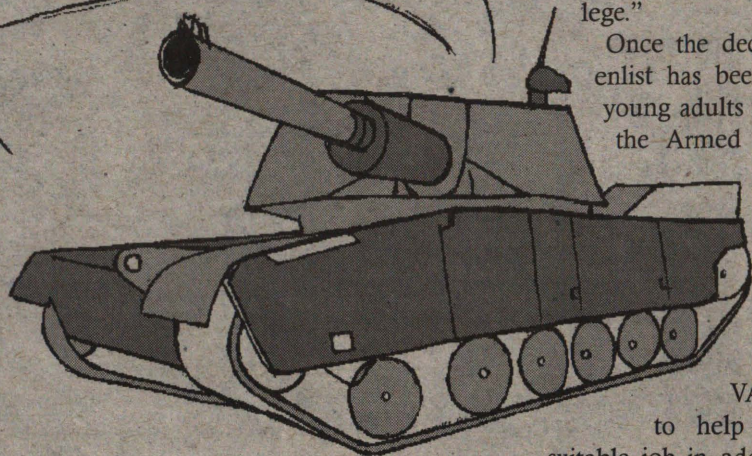
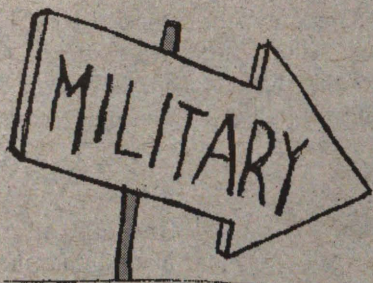
"I chose to serve in the Army because I trust my God and love my country," Glenn said.

After going through boot camp and meeting new people, Glenn feels serving has greatly impacted his life in a positive way.

"I have a much more disciplined mindset than what I used to have," Glenn said. "The guys I work with feel like a second family."

However, along with country pride comes challenges and hardships that recruits must face. Glenn said one of the most difficult parts of serving does not occur in the midst of a battle.

"You can't really explain to people what exactly you do because they'll never understand, which makes it difficult to go home sometimes because I can barely relate with anyone," Glenn said.



Art by Maddy Dall

Vocational Aptitude Battery (AS-VAB) test to help find a suitable job in addition to

The fantastic four: *Four teachers say good-bye to WeGo* *Always a helping hand* Leaving his mark

By Yasmyn McGee
 Features Editor

For counselor Ward Rau, retiring isn't the end of him making a difference in the lives of others.

After 15 years of being a counselor, Rau wants to leave knowing he's done his job.

"To me, it's important that my students think that I have been helpful. That's probably the best short summary of my job; to help students be successful at their job. I hope they think I have done that with some success," Rau said. "I love working with my students, and I have many great friends among the staff. That's the hardest part about leaving, not having the daily contact with people whom I like working with."

Although Rau will miss coming into work everyday, he's ready to face new challenges.

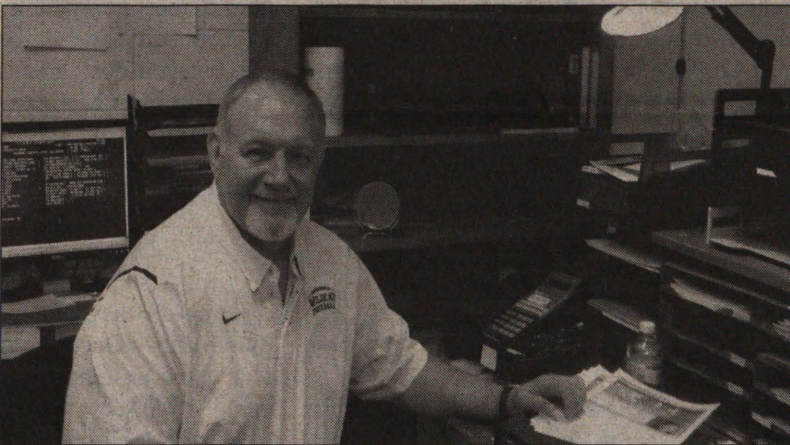


Photo by Yasmyn McGee

Counselor Ward Rau's office was known for the interesting trinkets and gizmos he had obtained over the years. Now, shelves are deserted as he prepares to leave.

"I still love my job, and I'll miss almost everything about it. But I know it was a good decision and the timing was right for me and my family," Rau said. "I'm looking forward to some new challenges, a lot like someone graduating from high school or college."

Even though he won't be in an office, Rau doesn't plan to just waste his time sitting around.

"Since my wife will continue to teach at least one more year of kindergarten in West Chicago, we won't be moving out of the area, so I'll probably try to find some way to make myself useful. I can't just sit on the porch and read the paper," Rau said. "Maybe I'll do a short-term mission project, or disaster relief somewhere in the world. Maybe do some tutoring, or drivers ed around here. The possibilities are endless. The hard part is trying to narrow them down."

By Yasmyn McGee
 Features Editor

After retiring, English teacher Tim Courtney hopes to have made a lasting impression.

Courtney has worked at the school for 34 years as an English teacher.

After working at the school for so long, Courtney feels students aren't the only ones who are learning.

"I learn something everyday. Sometimes it's a new idea that I haven't thought for a book or characters. Sometimes how to deal with people," Courtney said. "Sometimes it's about books. Sometimes it's about more personal things. I've run into a lot of really cool students over the years."

Even though he is looking forward to retiring, Courtney will miss the people he has managed to form close relationships with most.

"I really like teaching here and the friends that I work with. You're going to miss the nice people who like you, who respect you and students," Courtney said.

Courtney's plans after retirement include traveling more and perfecting his golf game.

"I feel change is a good thing sometimes and change is a good thing for me to make," Courtney said.

After working here for so long, Courtney doesn't have a specific endeavor he wants to be remembered for.

"I want them to remember me period," Courtney laughed. "I don't care what for. I think probably different people remember different things. I

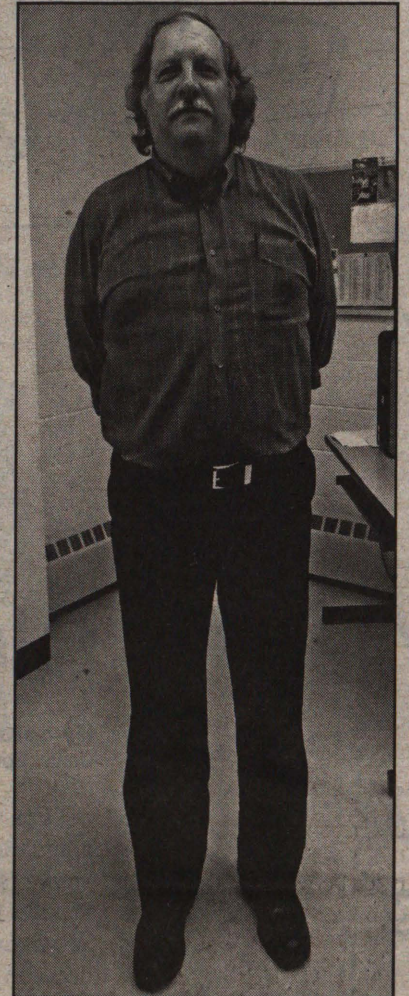


Photo by Amber Del Rio

English teacher Tim Courtney, who has taught at West Chicago for 34 years, hopes he's remembered by students and staff after he retires.

hope they're good things and not bad things. I hope they have nice memories of something we shared together and I made an impact on somebody. The more the merrier."

Another chapter in the book

By Yasmyn McGee
 Features Editor

For two retiring teachers, being remembered by students makes leaving for new opportunities worth it.

According to special education coordinator Linda Gilbert, retiring is just another beginning in her life.

"It's like opening another chapter to a book. New opportunities kept following me and when that happens, you know it is time to move on and explore them. It's time to move on and continue to be a lifelong learner supporting education initiatives that make sense for kids," Gilbert said.

Special education teacher Cindy Bedford also looks forward to retiring but at the same time will miss the students she's met.

"I'm excited about it but it has its moments where I'll be sad by the time I say goodbye to everyone. [I'll miss] the students because they keep me on my toes and keep me young. I follow

their interests," Bedford said.

One piece of advice Bedford wants students to remember is "there's always a way to make things work."

Gilbert will also miss the students and staff who have made a difference

in her life and hopes she's returned the favor.

"I will miss the students and staff who have been such an integral part of my life as friends, colleagues and people who actually do make a dif-

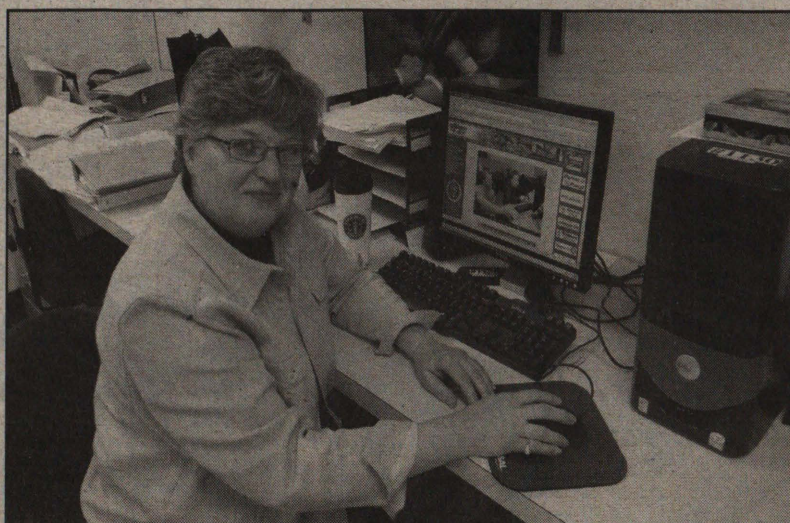


Photo by Yasmyn McGee

Special education teacher Cindy Bedford enjoys listening to music influenced by her students during her off hours. Her favorite artists are Lady Gaga and The Black Eyed Peas.

ference. I hope I have [made a difference]," Gilbert said. "I feel I have made a difference in many students' lives who struggled with school and life, but now realize that it was not a test score but their attitude and efforts that helped them to succeed."

Her efforts in trying to get students to see obstacles in a different light, is what Gilbert wants to be remembered for.

"I would like to be remembered for my forward thinking and recognizing the value of each student as we look for their strengths and giving them the opportunity to make a difference," Gilbert said.

After retiring, Bedford will finally be able to accomplish tasks she's never been able to do.

"I hope to travel, especially in August and September, when school is just starting. I plan to be in the garden a lot. I'll be able to do what I want to do," Bedford laughed.

Gilbert also plans to travel after retiring as well as do consulting and networking for people with special needs.

Walk another day

Despite accident, senior overcomes physical obstacles

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

When senior Katarina Noelke took off for a fun family ski trip, she was expecting fresh powder and a good time; what she didn't expect was to end up in the hospital, fighting for her life.

On Dec. 31, Noelke strapped on her skis and set off for a day of skiing on Christmas Mountain in Wisconsin with her sister Emma and brother Eric, both freshmen. What was supposed to be a carefree day quickly turned into any skier's worst nightmare.

"We knew there was a jump on this particular slope, but then when I was going down it was so foggy that I didn't see it. Before I knew it I was in mid air, and I was just waiting until I hit the ground because I knew it would hurt really badly," Noelke said.

Noelke expected to break her arm at worst, but she ended up on her right arm and lower back. Noelke's first thought was that she was paralyzed because she was unable to move or breathe.

"The thing that was hurting the most was my lower back; it felt like a thousand knives were in it, I never even imagined someone could be in that amount of pain," Noelke said.

The last thing Noelke remembers was the mountain's emergency rescue team attaching her to a toboggan and taking her by snowmobile to an ambulance. Later she woke up in the hospital bed, which was when the real pain began.

Noelke fractured her humerus, had to have two small plates and four screws put in her hip joint, and had all her arm muscles intentionally torn by the surgeon so she wouldn't feel pain.

"After the second surgery I stayed at Loyola for a week or so more, and then I got recruited to go to Marian Joy for rehab therapy. While in pain, I had therapy four times a day. My first goal was to roll side to side, and it took four days to accomplish that," Noelke said.

Noelke was released from Marian Joy on Jan. 27, but was still in extreme pain and was restricted to a wheelchair. On March 8, Noelke was cleared for full weight bearing on her arms and legs.

"I felt like I had spaghetti legs because I had lost a lot of muscle, and it was scary to put pressure on my leg," Noelke said.

Although Noelke's journey to recovery is not quite over, she chooses to look at the situation as optimistically as she can.

"The only things I will take away from this whole experience are two six-inch scars, two two-inch scars, and the feeling of gratefulness that I am even able to walk around and live my life like nothing happened. I work that much harder to recover, because I know I can do it," Noelke said.

Bumps along the road

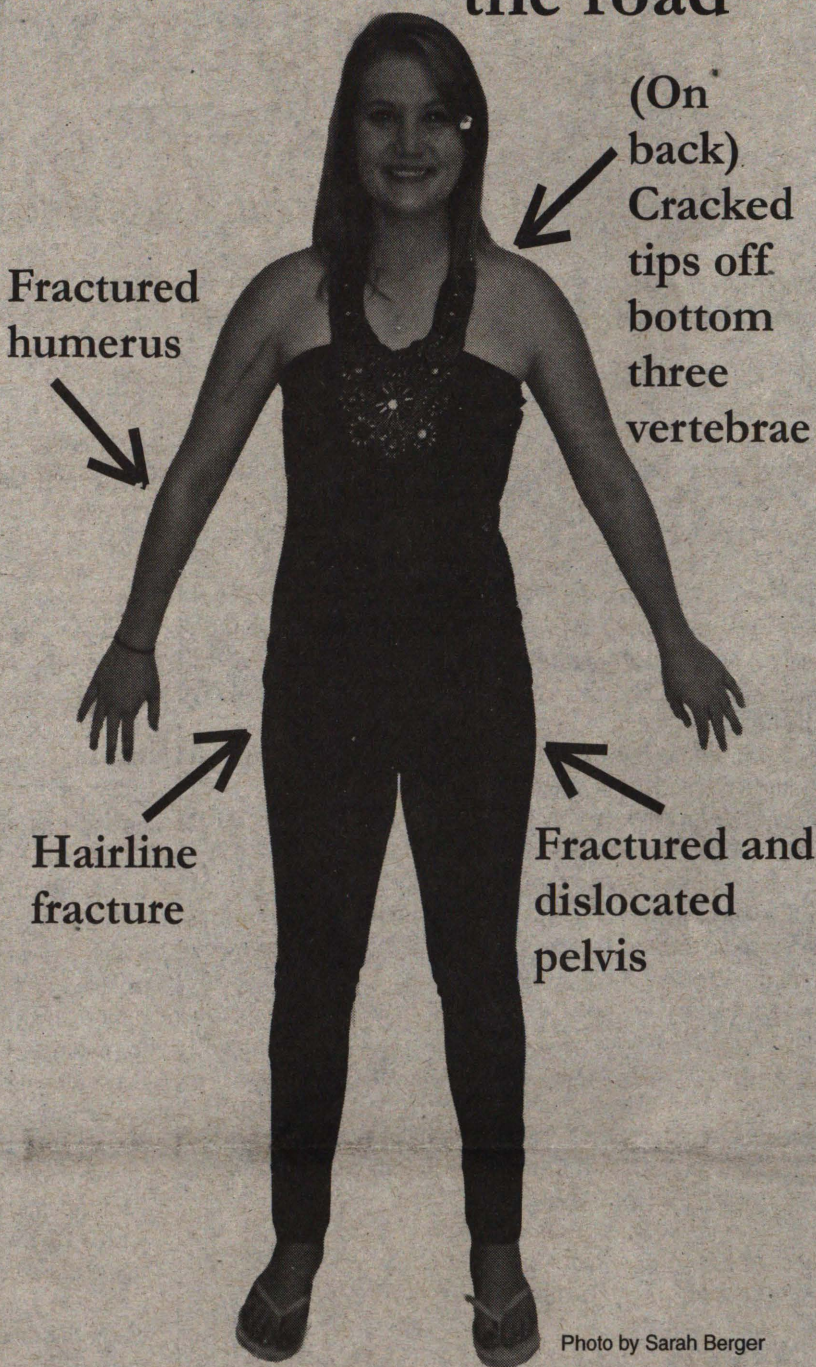


Photo by Sarah Berger

Taking a passion for singing to the next octave

By Kristina Manibo
Reporter

What began as junior Katherine Schofield's hobby transformed into something real, and her singing career is taking on a high note.

Schofield began singing in fourth grade.

"At first it was a religious thing through church, and then it became a

hobby. Now, I want singing to be my career," Schofield said.

What started out as a church hobby led Schofield to perform at various restaurants, pubs, and charity events. Once a month she sings at Ballydoyle, an Irish pub and restaurant in Stratford Square mall in Bloomingdale.

"I have an upcoming charity event sponsored by a band [called Jypsi] in Nashville; they invited me to sing

with them," Schofield said.

On Saturday, 24 other bands will participate in the charity event benefiting a man who needs surgery. Her singing career does not stop there.

"I'm working on a CD that my producer and I are going to send to colleges. College is what I'm focusing on right now," Schofield said.

Schofield's album will feature songs with a pop and country feel, and "a little bluesy twist," according to Schofield.

To gain recognition, over the summer Schofield will continue to book gigs at more restaurants and pubs, and she plans on getting in touch with recording studios.

"I'm going to finish up the demo CD for the recording studio. There's a lot of work that goes into making it and I'm going to send it out to various recording studios," Schofield said.

Her album is influenced by leading country artists, who Schofield looks to for inspiration.

"My favorite is Carrie Underwood. I love Lady Antebellum, too. You see how they were before they became successful; they started off with nothing and through singing, they ended up with everything," Schofield said. "Miranda Lambert is also my influ-

ence because when you listen to her music, it's so powerful."

Not only do popular artists inspire Schofield, but religion and family are a source of motivation.

"God and my family motivate me because they really support me and inspire me when I sing," Schofield said.

But even with motivators, for Schofield, the criticism is a disadvantage.

"People will always say, 'wow, she just wants attention,' or 'she's not good enough.' People are always going to criticize you but you just have to accept all your flaws and yourself. You're your only judge, and it doesn't matter what everyone else thinks," Schofield said.

Through her music, she can recover from the criticism.

"Whenever I'm upset, music can always cheer me up," Schofield said. "You can always express your feelings through music that you just can't talk about."

Because of her passion, Schofield plans to continue her singing.

"I definitely want to keep performing for the rest of my life. Hopefully I can make a career out of it, and be able to help people through my singing," Schofield said.



Photo courtesy of Katherine Schofield

Junior Katherine Schofield performs a cover of a song during her performance at Ballydoyle, while her producer, Chris, accompanies her playing guitar.



A throwback to the '90s

Many kids who grew up in the '90s are moving on to college, but reminiscing about the good old days brings back great memories

Beanie Baby bliss

By Megan Hernbroth
Editor in Chief

Filling toy bins in the early '90s were the revolutionary new stuffed animals, the Beanie Babies.

Nine original Beanie Babies were created by Ty Inc. in 1993. Legs the Frog, Squealer the Pig, Spot the Dog, Flash the Dolphin, Splash the Whale, Chocolate the Moose, Patti the Platypus, Brownie the Bear, and Punchers the Lobster, later named Pincers, began Beanie Baby mania.

"I probably had like 25 [Beanie Babies]," senior Kelly Dunn said.

Each Beanie Baby was given a birthday, name, and poem inside its tag, making them relatable to every kid.

"My favorites were my three kittens," Dunn said. "One was a tabby, one looked like my cat, and one was black. I played with them with my friends all the time."

Ty Inc. expanded its marketing empire until 1999, creating Beanie Babies as memorials and testaments to world events. Princess the Bear commemorated Princess Diana's death in 1997, Decade the Bear was released in 2003 to celebrate Beanie Babies' 10th anniversary, and numerous other bears were created as remembrances to current events.

When Ty Inc. teamed up with McDonald's to make Tee-nie Beanie Babies, a smaller version of popular Beanie Babies for Happy Meals, kids and parents were filling the restaurants and asking for Happy Meals.

"The purple hippo was my favorite because purple was my mom's favorite color and I let her borrow it when she was in the hospital," senior Neil Hummer said. "I had like 25 Beanie Babies."

Although they faded from the pop culture spotlight, children of the '90s will always remember the Beanie Babies.



Before Derrick Rose, there was Air Jordan

By Amber Del Rio
Reporter

While Michael Jordan's talent may have won games, the teamwork of the Chicago Bulls in the '90s earned them multiple championships.

In the NBA finals of the '90-'91 season, the Bulls clinched their first championship title in 25 years after beating the Lakers 108-101 in Game 5 of the series.

"I'll never forget watching the shot when Jordan dribbled up the lane to shoot right then switched to his left in midair," English teacher Dave Jennings said.

The Bulls dominated in the '91-'92 season and proved that they were the NBA defending champs by finishing with a 67-15 record, the best in franchise history. The team faced the Portland Trailblazers in the finals and defeated them 97-93 in Game 6.

In the '92-'93 season, the Bulls faced the Phoenix Suns in the finals. In Game 6, the Bulls' John Paxson hit a dramatic 3-pointer with 3.9 seconds left in the game, winning them their third straight NBA title.

"I had mixed feelings of utter amazement and pride because I couldn't believe we were winning again," Jennings said.

Just before the start of the

'93-'94 season, Jordan retired at age 30. Jordan's decision undoubtedly impacted the basketball world. Despite losing their star player, the Bulls made it to the semifinals of the playoffs.

On March 18, 1995, Jordan unexpectedly returned to the Bulls after having little

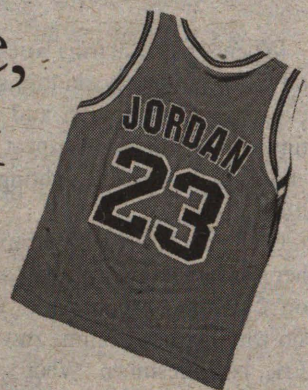


Photo courtesy of Amber Del Rio

As a child of the '90s, senior Amber Del Rio grew up watching the Bulls, and proudly sported her Bulls gear at just 3 years old.

success in minor league baseball. Jordan's late return was not enough to get the team to the finals that year.

During the '95-'96 season Jordan led the Bulls to their fourth NBA title in six years after defeating the Se-



attle Sonics. The Bulls had an overall record of 87-13, blowing their '91-'92 record out of the water.

"It was awesome because as a Bulls fan you could walk with some swagger again because no one could touch us," Jennings said.

Jordan stole the show once again in the '96-'97 season defeating the Utah Jazz in Game 6 of the series.

The chance for a repeat-three-peat came in the '97-'98 season when they met the Jazz for a second time in the finals. The Bulls managed to win the sixth title in Game 6 with 5.2 seconds left to play.

"I remember when me, my dad, and my brother sat on the court and watched them play. It was Jordan, Rodman, and Pippen coming down the court. I also remember the big intro ceremony for everything," senior Bobby Giese said.

As the decade came to a close, Jordan again retired and Phil Jackson took a year off from coaching, leaving the Bulls to rebuild their team at the start of the new millennium.

Growing up within a cartoon world

By Megan Hernbroth
Editor in Chief

Although it is said children are raised by their parents, it became increasingly apparent in the '90s that children were starting to be raised by television shows.

The early '90s marked the rise of Nickelodeon cartoons, with "AHHH! Real Monsters," "Rugrats," and "Rocko's Modern Life" streaming across television sets that seem ancient now.

"AHHH! Real Monsters" debuted in 1994,



following the life of Ickis the child monster. Ickis and friends go to school where they learn how to scare humans, taking the fright factor out of the bumps of the night for the child audience because every scare attempt always went wrong in a humorous way.

"I just remember the monsters," senior Matt Bannon said. "I also remember the one monster who held his eyeball all the time."

The most relatable Nick

cartoon for children of the '90s was "Rugrats," beginning in 1991. "Rugrats" followed Tommy Pickles, Chuckie Finster, and Phil and Lil Deville, four babies intelligent enough to walk, talk, and create a plot for a television show. Tommy's mean older cousin Angelica also appeared on many episodes, and was known for her bratty attitude.

"I remember the characters and how they always got out of their playpen," senior Kaitlyn Anders said. "I loved Angelica. All my friends watched it and that's what we

all did when we hung out."

In 1993, "Rocko's Modern Life" added some diversity to the Nick cartoon line-up. Rocko was an Australian wallaby trying to adjust to American life with his steer companion Heffer Wolfe. Rocko goes through his share of misadventures while learning about America, such as learning to use a vacuum cleaner and going to a movie theater.

From an Australian wallaby to toddlers and many more in between, '90s television shows were a way of life for many kids growing up.

Spend time, not money, in the city

Free movies in the park (June 14–Sept. 16 starting at 9 p.m.)

Chicago Park District has an annual series of movies they show every year at Belmont Harbor and Montgomery Ward Park. A variety of movies will be shown, including "The Dark Knight," "Tangled," "Salt," "Grown Ups," and many more.



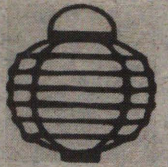
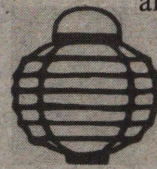
Compiled by Keyuri Parmar
Perspectives Editor

With all of the taxi fares and train tickets, shopping and pricey restaurants, spending a day in the city can add up. But it doesn't always have to be expensive. Here are just some of the many free options.

Chinatown Summer Festival (July 17 from 10 a.m.–8 p.m.)

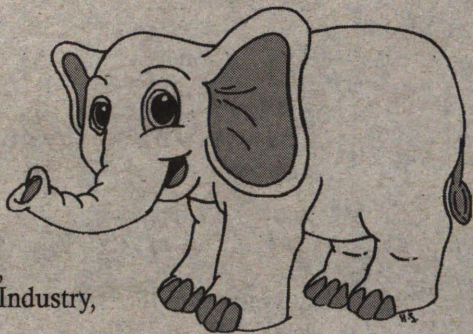
At the 32nd annual festival, the highlight will be a colorful lion and dragon dance.

Also music, dance performances, food, street vendors, and arts and crafts will be available. This event will take place at Chinatown on 2200 S. Wentworth Ave.



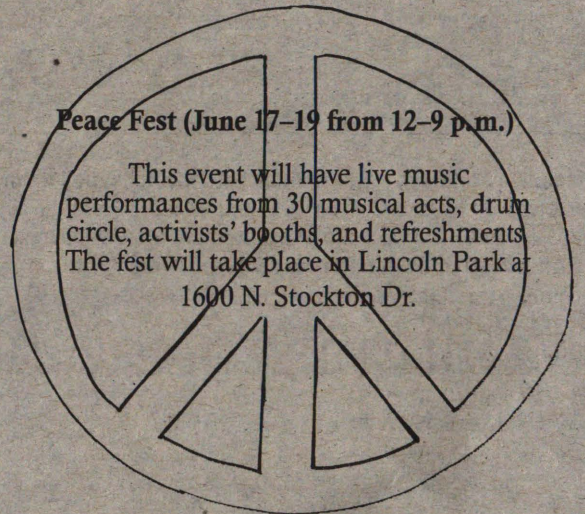
Free museum and zoo days (Various days, all-day event)

Everyone can visit the Chicago museums for free many days over the summer. Participating museums and zoos are the Adler Planetarium, Brookfield Zoo, Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Children's Museum, Field Museum, Museum of Science and Industry, and Shedd Aquarium.



Peace Fest (June 17–19 from 12–9 p.m.)

This event will have live music performances from 30 musical acts, drum circle, activists' booths, and refreshments. The fest will take place in Lincoln Park at 1600 N. Stockton Dr.



Summertime concerts for every taste of music

By Helene Sankovitch
Entertainment Editor

If relaxing at an outdoor venue listening to country music, or dancing all night to famous pop artists sounds like a perfect summer evening, then check out the wide variety of bands and music festivals coming to Chicago this summer.

New Kids on the Block and Backstreet Boys kick off the summer with an old school twist on May 25, June 17 and 18 at the United Center in Chicago.

"Glee" fans can sing along at the Glee

Tour in Chicago at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont on June 3-4.

"It would be surreal [to go] because I always see them on TV. It would be awesome to see them performing live because they are really good," freshman Samantha Quinonez said.

For B96 listeners, the B96 Pepsi Summer Bash will be at Toyota Park in Bridgeview on June 11, featuring artists like

Pitbull and Lupe Fiasco.

Rihanna lovers can sing and dance along with her hit music on June 15 at the United Center.

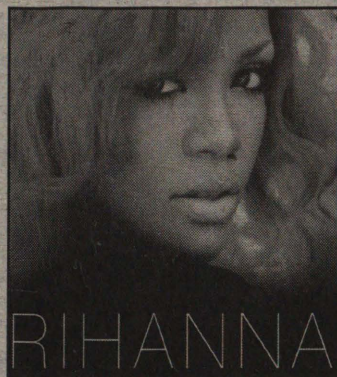
If pop music doesn't sound appealing, Australian country singer Keith Urban will perform on June 30 at the Allstate Arena.

To hear more alternative music, check out the Vans Warped Tour on July 9 at the

First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre in Tinley Park, or the Pitchfork music festival from July 15-17 at Union Park in Chicago, with bands such as Animal Collective and Fleet Foxes.

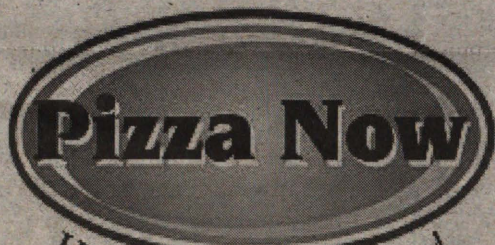
Don't miss one of Chicago's biggest summer music festivals, Lollapalooza, from August 5-7, at Grant Park in Chicago, featuring artists like Eminem, Lykke Li and Pretty Lights.

"Lollapalooza is a really fun summer experience. Seeing a bunch of great bands and enjoying the weather in the city is something I look forward to every year," junior Noah Strayve said.



RIHANNA

Photo courtesy of gomoxie.org



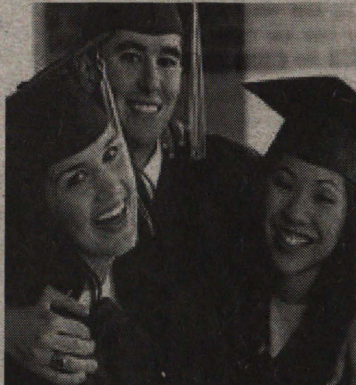
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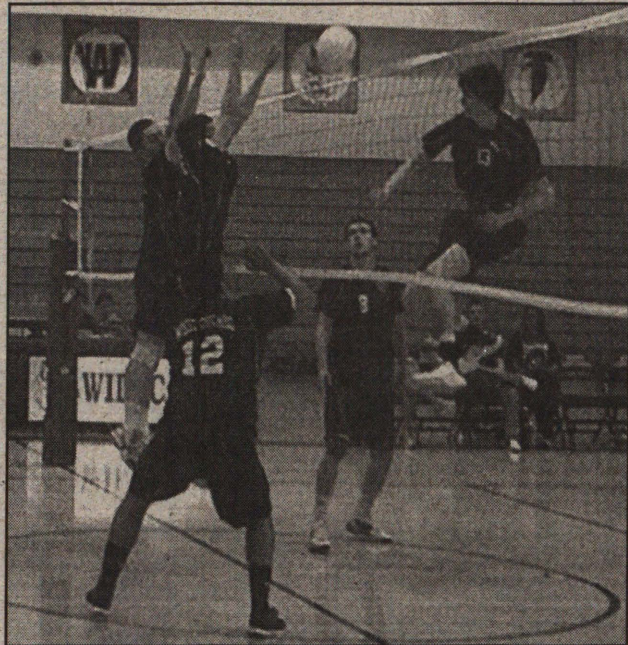


Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

Discipline and team togetherness help the volleyball team perform well in games. From left, juniors Liam Flaherty and Jim Ogorzalek put up a block against Wheaton Warrenville South as senior Adrian Porcayo (right) covers them.

Program philosophy strengthens team

By Giuliana LaMantia
Reporter

Cleaning floors may not seem like a way to build togetherness, but it works for the boys volleyball team.

According to coach Kris Hasty, all players of every level line up shoulder to shoulder on the volleyball line at 3:20, all nets set-up.

"We do towels for every minute we are late," Hasty said of the punishment where players push a towel across the floor to instill discipline.

"Towels are not a punishment; they are a way to beau-

tify our floors," Hasty joked.

Towels are only one way Hasty bonds the team.

"I meet with every player every day," Hasty said. "We line up on the volleyball court, and we all start together. It's kind of a program philosophy that I have."

The team also does a lot of peer warm-ups, in which they partner up in groups of four, one player from each level.

Hasty looks to the older players to show new players what the program is about.

"I look to our varsity team as role models," Hasty said. "The newcomers to the pro-

gram can look to returning players to hopefully get a better look at Wildcat volleyball."

As an incentive to win, Hasty promises to make the players a steak or hamburger dinner if all levels were to win their matches.

Hasty believes fun activities like this and the program philosophy help the players work together and realize everything is a team effort.

The rule on the day of a match is that all players must stay until the last match.

"They are required to stay and cheer on the other levels until the last match of the night is over," Hasty said. "It kind of promotes a program cohesiveness that I think the students have appreciated and liked."

Taking it to the next level

By Helene Sankovitch
Entertainment Editor

After six years of playing volleyball, senior Kathy Fletcher signed to play for four more years at Ashland University in Ohio.

Fletcher's athletic scholarship is almost a full ride, and is based off of her volleyball performance and grades.

She played for the high school team for four years and was captain her senior year. Fletcher also played

club volleyball for the Kane County Juniors for three years.

"I coached her freshman year and assisted with varsity her next three years. She was probably one of the hardest workers on the team. She really wanted to succeed and see her team do well," volleyball coach Pam Kavadas said.

Kavadas believes Fletcher has a lot of potential and talent, and is excited for her to continue playing.

"If you asked me at the be-

ginning of the year I would have told you I didn't want to play in college, but I realized I really do love volleyball," Fletcher said.

Fletcher spent a night at the university and practiced with the girls on the team that she will be joining.

"I'm really excited because the team and coach are so nice. I'm scared because the competition level is higher but I couldn't imagine playing with a better team or coach," Fletcher said.

Playing time is never guaranteed, only earned

By Amber Del Rio
Reporter

For boys baseball, playing time on varsity is earned and a privilege that few receive.

According to coach Daniel McCarthy, multiple JV games have been cancelled due to bad weather and have not been made up. Because of this, many juniors have not received a lot of playing time.

"It's frustrating that we've only had two or three games this year then it's a lot of sitting and no playing," junior Tyler Schoenwolf said.

McCarthy understands the frustration his players feel.

"It's really unfortunate for [the JV players]. We had 12 JV games on the schedule initially, including seven conference games," McCarthy said.

At the varsity level, players become more competitive and need to compete against each other for playing time.

"When you become a var-

sity player, it's more competitive and we're going to put the best players out there," McCarthy said.

Junior Nick Driscoll understands that playing time at the varsity level is not guaranteed.

"The person who starts over me has the right over me," Driscoll said. "He obviously has more experience so he's better than me right now."

Despite receiving a limited amount of playing time, the boys work hard at practices.

"In practices we focus on what we need to be doing better so when it comes to game time, we execute," Driscoll said.

Even though the juniors have to compete for playing time with the seniors, the boys still have close relationships with each other.

"The seniors have helped us by giving us tips and being role models for us," Schoenwolf said.

Freshmen defy the odds

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

Usually varsity track is for juniors and seniors, but freshmen Liz Carrillo and Lindsey Sayner broke that trend.

"It was kind of surprising; I didn't think I would be on it this soon, but it's awesome. At first it was kind of weird because I still had a lot to learn and still do but now that I've gotten used to it, it's not at all," Carrillo said.

For freshmen, it can be a frightening experience being on varsity.

"Sometimes it feels kind of intimidating when you look at the line up and you see all the other girls are upperclassmen and you know you're a freshman," Sayner said.

However, the girls enjoy the meets.

"I like being able to run in every meet and going in some events being the underdog. It's a team sport but you still get individual aspects," Sayner said. "You count on yourself to do well and your

team counts on you too."

Although only a freshman, Carrillo believes she has improved a lot since the beginning of the season.

"I've improved on my form a bit but I still need work on it and my times have been getting better," Carrillo said.

Before a race begins and during a race many thoughts go through a runner's head.

"I usually think that I have to run less than 2:40 and I

just have to get it over with," Sayner said. "I usually cheer for myself and say there's only so much left."

Carrillo knows that the key is to improve and is ready to reach for success.

"I have a lot to improve on like my technique, form and other things like that. Hopefully I can accomplish it soon. I am really looking forward to at least make it close to state or making it," Carrillo said.



Photo by Liz Ramos

Freshman Lindsey Sayner (right) breaks the trend of varsity being reserved for upperclassmen.

Records, schedules

TRACK

GIRLS- State qualifier:

Junior Lali Valdivia (400m)

Next meet: State begins

Thursday @ Illinois State

University

BOYS- Next meet: Section-

als Friday @ Streamwood

SOFTBALL

Record: 15-9

Next game: Regionals Mon-

day @ Glenbard North

LACROSSE

Record: 6-8

Next game: Friday @ Lem-

ont

BADMINTON:

Senior Michelle Lopez

competed at state but did not place

GIRLS SOCCER

Record: 9-7-3

Next game: Regionals Mon-

day @ Schaumburg

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Record: 15-13

Next game: Thursday @

home v. Naperville North

BASEBALL

Record: 8-18

Next game: Saturday @

home v. Plainfield South

BOYS TENNIS

Record: 2-13

Next game: Sectionals Fri-

day @ TBA

Where is the love?

By Keyuri Parmar
Perspectives Editor

Some sports are appreciated and supported by students but sports such as boys tennis don't feel the love.

"A couple parents show up to watch [their child] play but no students do. It's sad to see. Our students should support their fellow students in other student activities," coach Sione Moeaki said.

A few parents and some of the players' friends stop by to watch a match occasionally, but there never are a huge number of spectators.

Not having many viewers might be another disadvantage to having a small team.

"I think it's probably because not a lot of people play varsity, there are only six players," parent Susan Rylovicz said.

Parents encourage more

students and other parents to watch tennis matches.

"[Tennis matches] are fun to watch and don't last very long. Unfortunately it's so early I think a lot of parents can't get here," parent Beth Weist said.

The players understand why they don't get many spectators but still wish they did.

"We don't have any stands and parents come occasionally. It's not expected because we're not as [good] as other sports," junior Noe Munoz said.

Students agree that more of their peers should go out and support their tennis team.

"Students should [go to matches] because they're part of West Chicago and we should support them," sophomore Sonam Patel said.

But students also have reasons to why watching a match doesn't sound appealing.

"There's nowhere to sit, which makes watching the match difficult," sophomore Katie Yackey said.

Hard work shows in stats

By Helene Sankovitch
Entertainment Editor

After years of practicing on and off the field, senior Tyler Zaroni worked his way to the top 20 players in the Illinois High School Lacrosse Association (IHSLA).

Zaroni is ranked 8th in conference with 26 goals and five assists throughout the season so far. If his stats continue to increase, he could go all-conference at the end of the season. According to IHSLA, Zaroni ranks number 17 out of 383 players.

"I practice every day on my own. As a lacrosse player, most of the game you will pick up on your own time. If you go for a run, take your stick and ball with you and work on your cradling," Zaroni said. "The best thing

you can do for yourself is wall ball; just throwing the ball to yourself repeatedly against a wall."

Varsity lacrosse coach Chris Conner noticed Zaroni's dedication when he started



Photo by Helene Sankovitch
Taking it upon himself, senior Tyler Zaroni turns his free time into practice time.

playing for the high school.

"His dedication was evident freshman year when he would carry his stick around all day, even in school, and now he is one of our best stick handlers," Conner said. "Tyler is a guy that makes me very proud. He has put his time in on and off the field and it's great to see that paying off."

Zaroni has played lacrosse since middle school, and plans to continue improving and playing after high school through clubs.

"In order to become better at lacrosse you need to work for it. I got my skill from learning as much about the game as I could and playing every chance I could get. If younger players were to do that they will be well off in the sport," Zaroni said.

The makings of a superstar: Athlete attributes success to her team

Yasmyn McGee
Features Editor

Humbleness with a healthy amount of competitiveness helps keep senior Mary Connolly on top of her game.

"I feel confident [when playing softball] and it's fun to be successful. I love to win," Connolly said.

However, Connolly attributes her personal success to her team.

"[The season] is going well and we're looking good. With each loss we've had, we've grown from it which is essential for a team," Connolly said. "Our defense has improved which gives me confidence in throwing as a pitcher. Because of [the team] I've been a lot more successful."

Varsity coach Kim Wallner feels many factors lead to the success Connolly has obtained.

"I think what she's brought on consistently was the competitiveness and the desire to want to be successful and want to win. And the going gets tough a little bit when base runners get on with her and that's when she gets the toughest," Wallner said.

According to Wallner, Connolly shows great growth from when she started playing her freshman year.

"I think emotionally and maturity-wise she's handled things well this year. She's tried to step up and be a leader for other kids. It's been enjoyable working with her," Wallner said.

Assistant varsity coach

Whitney Rusin agrees that Connolly demonstrates good qualities both on and off the field.

Her drive is something Rusin admires and feels the team does also.

"One of the things I think she's so good with on the field is that she's a gamer. She steps up in big positions and big plays and she makes those big plays. That's one of her best qualities on the field," Rusin said. "I think her best qualities off the field are she really is committed to her softball career and she decided that that's going to be a focus for her."

Because of her passion for the sport, Connolly will continue to play for DePaul University.

After playing softball all four years of her high school career, Connolly advises future hopefuls to work hard and remain dedicated in order to reach personal and team goals.

"I would say work as hard as you can. It's easy to take practices for granted but those are the days that get you to a higher level," Connolly said. "Stick with it and it stays what you love to do. When it's not fun, it's not worth it."



Photo by Amber Del Rio

Senior Meagan Radloff is a part of the all-state team.

Birthday surprises

By Amber Del Rio
Reporter

Hard work as a team on the field and joking around after practice allowed senior captain Meagan Radloff to be named to the all-state team for girls soccer.

"I was really surprised when [coach Cesar Gomez] told me, but I think it's good to represent West Chicago and the soccer team because it doesn't happen that often," Radloff said.

The team's improvements have earned them more recognition from other coaches, according to Radloff.

"I wouldn't have been able to do what I did without the rest of the team so they were a big part of it," Radloff said.

Working as a team on the field is what enables the girls to pull pranks on each other when they're not on the turf.

According to senior captain Rachel Thomas, the team started a tradition last year of pouring a mixture of messy foods on each other for birthdays.

"Stephanie Salinas ('10) poured water on [sophomore Andie Lazzarini] for her birthday last year and we've done it ever since," Thomas said.

After only getting a splash of cold water on the head last year, Lazzarini received a stickier surprise this season.

"[The girls] came up from behind and dumped jelly, chocolate syrup, flour and sprinkles on my head and all over me," Lazzarini said.

Despite having syrup dripping down her face, Lazzarini was not upset with her teammates' prank.

"It made me laugh. It made me feel like more a part of the team," Lazzarini said.

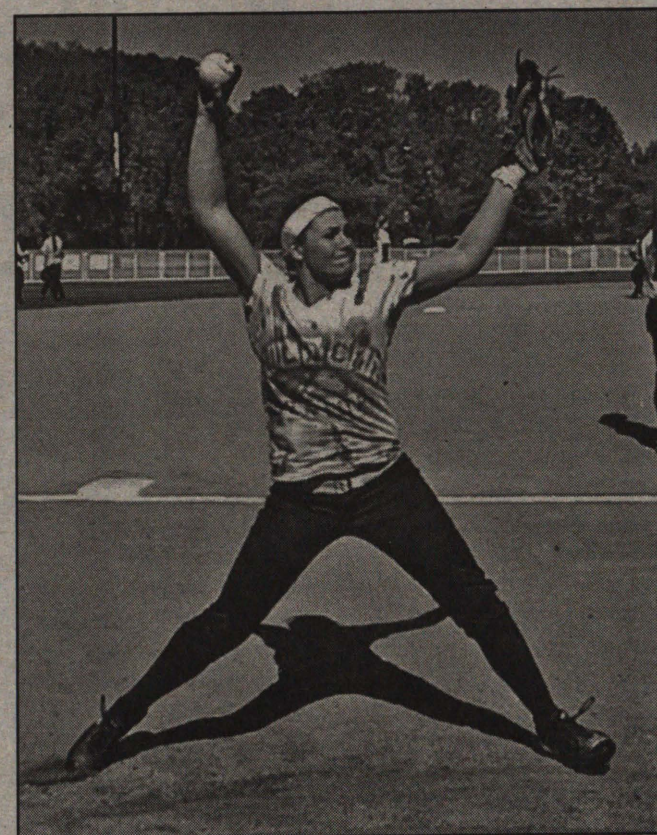


Photo by Yasmyn McGee

Hard work and a love for the game gives senior Mary Connolly the combination for success.

365 DAYS OF

Compiled by Carly Tubridy
Sports Editor

DEDICATION

Students focus on sports year round while trying to balance a social life and school work

Social life on hold

While most teenagers are out having fun, junior Jessica Quinn forgoes having a social life and focusing on school to concentrate on soccer year-round.

For 12 years Quinn has dedicated herself to improving and being the best she can be even as her schedule gets hectic.

High school season is the busiest for Quinn, as she tries to balance school and soccer.

"If I wasn't in sports, I would get a lot better grades and a lot more completion on homework. Plus I would have more time to study and sleep so I would be less tired in class and be able to concentrate," Quinn said.

Quinn has little time to put a lot of effort into schoolwork.

"On weekdays I go to school, then practice, and then I do homework which I have to stay up really late for. Then I sleep and repeat,"

Never ending dedication

Being in sports constantly is all junior Emily Warkins knows, so she doesn't feel the effects of being a three sport athlete quite as much as others.

Warkins plays volleyball, basketball, and runs track.

Basketball season is Warkins' favorite and also her busiest time of the school year.

"Basketball game days are typically the busiest. Sometimes we have to come in the mornings to watch film for the game we have later that day. I typically can go home after school for 30 minutes to an hour and then have to

Quinn said.

A social life is out of the question for Quinn.

"On weekends I try to have a social life but I like to sleep on weekends because that's the only time I can sleep," Quinn said.

While high school is the busiest for Quinn, she

continues with her hectic schedule during the off season.

"During fall and winter I have club and pre-season, so I go to school then workouts for pre-season then club practice until 9:30 p.m. Sometimes I stop to grab a bite to eat," Quinn said.

The time commitment wears on Quinn.

"The worst part is it's really tiring and time consuming," Quinn said.

Despite the chaos of her schedule, Quinn has never considered quitting in her 12 years of playing and hopes to continue on in college.

be back at the school to either catch the bus for an away game or get ready for a home game. Both JV and varsity games are typically done anywhere from 9 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so on average I get home around 9:30 p.m. or 10 p.m. I then do my homework, eat dinner, go to bed and wake up to do it all over again," Warkins said.

Despite the hectic schedule, Warkins really enjoys basketball season.

"I have been with my teammates and my coaches so long and it is usually a pretty fun time," Warkins said.

Worth the sacrifice

Three-sport athlete senior RJ Kobriger's season never ends.

Starting football in third grade and track in sixth grade, Kobriger began his love for sports early.

In seventh grade Kobriger started playing lacrosse.

"Lacrosse is definitely my favorite of the three because I can just run around playing my game and take control of what is mine. I can change the game if I want depending on my playing and it is just a true team sport," Kobriger said.

Kobriger has considered quitting before due to such a hectic schedule. He played basketball freshman and sophomore years, but due to the heavy demands and the opportunity at excelling in other sports, Kobriger quit.

"I have thought about quitting because it takes up too much time and that is why I quit basketball. I felt like I wasn't getting as much as I could out of it so I decided to lift every day instead," Kobriger

said.

Kobriger must sacrifice his time.

"The worst part is always being committed to what you do. You lose a lot of time being able to do other things but in the long run it's all worth it," Kobriger said.

The time commitment causes Kobriger to miss out on social activities.

"It affects my social life because I am not able to do as many activities after school as I would like because I have practice every day. It causes me to not be able to spend as much time as I would like with friends,"

Kobriger said. However, his team provides a different kind of social life.

"It also introduces me to new people, our team is a family and that's the way it will always be," Kobriger said.

Staying in shape is an incentive to keep Kobriger active all year.

During the summer, Kobriger keeps up his regiment to stay ahead of

his competitors.

"Over the summer I tend to lift and run every day or every other day. I don't want to be the slowest one in my sport so I want to stay ahead of the game. I try to eat good healthy meals but sometimes with such a busy schedule it's hard to do that, but I try my best,"

Kobriger said.

With all his dedication, Kobriger plans on continuing lacrosse in college.

"I plan on playing lacrosse at ISU on the club team that they have there. I'm really looking forward to it because I want the challenge that it is going to provide

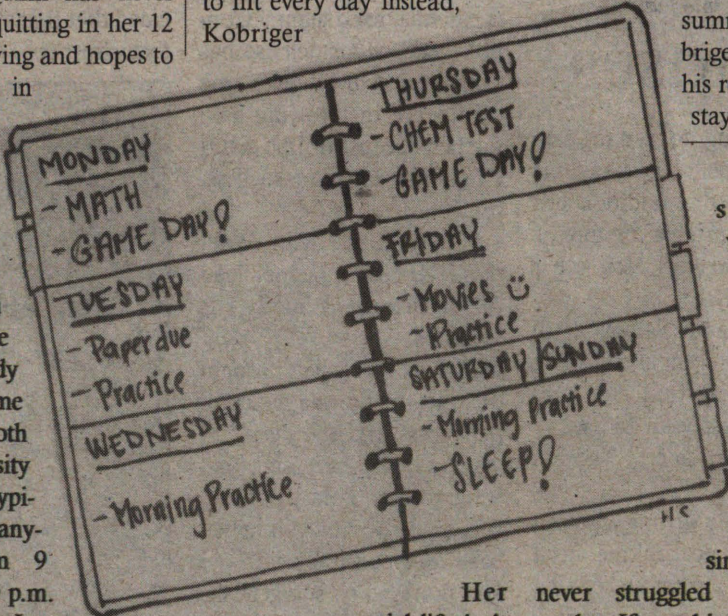
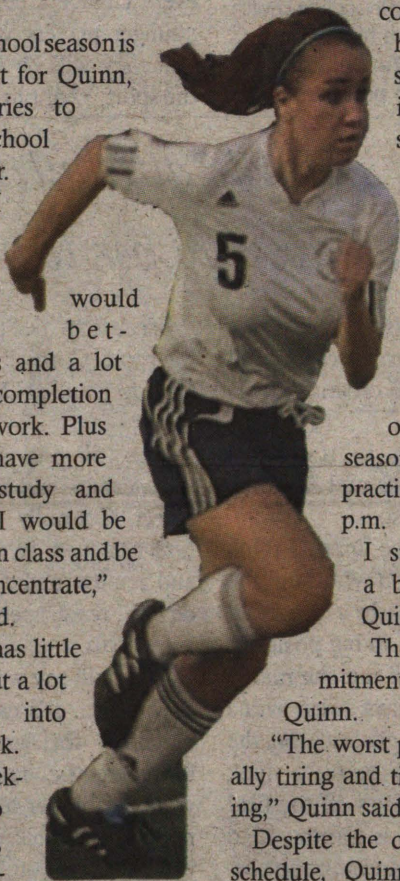
me," Kobriger said. Looking back on high school, Kobriger is happy with his sports career. "It has been fun. I wish it would have lasted longer but, I feel like I made the most out of it and put my whole heart into it," Kobriger said.

Warkins said. Warkins feels she won't be able to continue sports in college due to the competitiveness of it.

"Being a three sport athlete is a fun chapter in my life but I am looking forward to having a break for once in college," Warkins said.

While Warkins isn't continuing on, she doesn't regret spending so much time on sports.

"I enjoy each sport I participate in and every coach I have worked with. I like to think I am getting the most out of high school by being so involved and if I could for some reason re-do high school, I wouldn't do it any differently," Warkins said.



Her social life isn't affected by her commitment.

"It kind of affects my social life I guess. Practice and games are pretty much a social event since I am with my friends the whole time. However, I still have time to hang out with my friends on the weekends after games or practice," Warkins said.

Warkins' school work doesn't see neglect either.

With school work, I have never known any different so it does not affect me too much since I have

never struggled with my grades. If anything, it eliminates me procrastinating since I never have time to procrastinate," Warkins said.

Quitting has never crossed Warkins' mind.

"I have never thought of quitting any of the three sports. I enjoy being involved, especially since the three weeks I have off over the year, I sit around and accomplish nothing. I have always